

Create Your Own Icon using Irfanview

<http://www.irfanview.com/>

You don't need an expensive converting program to make your own icon. Here's how you can create an icon for free.

There are programs for sale all over the internet to convert your graphic into an icon, but this one is free and will allow you to take your picture and create an icon file (Windows .ico)

1. First, download IrfanView for free. It can also be used for slide shows, thumbnails, scanning, sending pictures to your desktop and more.
2. Open the picture you want in IrfanView. A distinct simple symbol or picture is best, because it's going to be small as an icon. It doesn't matter what size or file type it is as you will be resizing and converting it.
3. To crop a picture in IrfanView, simply left click and drag your mouse around until you have a square surrounding the part you want cropped. If it doesn't look right, start over.
4. Click **edit** and choose **crop selection**. Now you want to resize your picture into a proper icon size.
5. Click **image**, and select **resize/resample**. You will be taken to a window that shows the present size and gives options for resizing. If the width and height aren't close to an even square, crop it again.
6. Uncheck **Preserve Aspect Ratio** if it's not a perfect square, but make sure it's close because that's what you're sizing it into and it will distort if doesn't start out as a square.
7. A typical icon size is 32 by 32 pixels, so specify that where it says "**reset new size**" in the width and height area. You can make a larger or smaller icon if you want. Now you should have your graphic showing up as a small icon size.
8. To convert it to an icon, click **file** and select **save as** and in the **file type** box, click the down arrow and select the **.ico-Windows icon**.
9. If you want to save the transparent color, check that off when it prompts you.

Voila, you have an icon!

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