

# Upscale Cheat Sheet

Lesson 3 · Upscaling: Make It Crisp

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## The Workflow

**DRAFT** → **SELECT** → **UPSCALE**. Never the other way. Upscale is the *LAST* step, applied only to winners.

## Which Scale Do I Need?

- **2x** — social media, web, client previews. Enough for 95% of cases.
- **4x** — big screens, print, cropping into the image afterwards.
- Video upscale is slower and pricier than image upscale — final picks only.

## Quick Rules

- An upscaler adds intelligent detail (skin, hair, fabric) — it is not just stretching pixels.
- Never upscale drafts — you burn credits on images you will delete.
- Upscale will NOT fix warped hands or melted faces. Fix the source first.
- Garbage in → sharp garbage out.
- After upscaling, zoom to 100% and check eyes, hands, text, edges.
- Keep both versions: original for re-editing, upscaled for delivery.

## Quality Checklist Before Publishing

- Faces and hands look natural at 100% zoom
- No flicker or shimmer introduced in video upscale
- Resolution matches the platform (1080p+ for YouTube, 1080×1920 for Reels/Shorts)
- Final file plays smoothly start to finish