

# PRS Forum Picture Sharing Guide

This guide is intended for those wanting to share pictures on the PRS Guitars forum ( <https://forums.prsguitars.com/> ). It is being produced to address the confusion and frustration experienced by many users of the forum, myself included. As a computer programmer of over 25 years who has built forums similar to this from scratch, you would think that I of all people would be able to understand and get this right, but that was not the case when I joined in February of 2021. My particular problem was, my images were not being hosted on a "secure" website. As a result, some browsers, with some settings, for some people would show the pix. Other browsers, with some settings for some people would NOT show the pix. That said, here is the take I have on the forums picture sharing best practices as of April 12, 2021.

## Why?

The forum is not what I would call user friendly for pix. In the 2 months I have been a member, I have seen at least 10 complaints about uploading pix. There are several reasons why that I know of, and I am sure there are other reasons why that I do not know of. Here is what I do know:

1. Hosting pictures uploaded by forum members is a security issue. Even though .jpg, .png and .gif images can not hold any viruses, having the upload functionality of said pictures on their site can be a liability to the security of the site as ill willed individuals may find a way to upload other things that could cause problems. As a result, when you want to share a picture on the PRS Forum, you are NOT uploading your picture to their site, you are giving them a link to somewhere else that you did upload it to, and the forum displays said image using that link.
2. Hosting pictures uploaded by forum members is a liability issue. As I am sure you are aware, lawsuits are coming from all angles these days, and if someone were to upload something to PRS's forum, that causes problems for somebody, some place at some time, PRS could in some cases be held liable for some damage. Crazy world but it is what it is.
3. Hosting pictures uploaded by forum members has a cost. Namely server space and the cost for said space. Although storage becomes less expensive on a daily basis, it is never the less a cost, and as a free forum, PRS may not want the costs associated with such functionality.
4. Hosting pictures uploaded by forum members requires both code and moderating. The site already has code that allows you to upload your avatar, but that is about all you are going to upload here. Additional code (whether from original forum code producer or customization from PRS) would be required to allow users to upload images to the site. In addition to that, you would want someone moderating the site to ensure that "bad" pix are not put up here. Be it for political reasons, sexual content, inappropriate in other ways, etc., we can all understand that someone would need to monitor these uploads, and that would require extra man hours.

5. There are surely additional reasons for them not wanting to host the photos, but these are the items that immediately come to mind, and should placate any doubt on your part that they are doing what they can do for free.

## What?

So as discussed above, PRS does NOT host your images (except your avatar), they simply point to the image using the link you give them. As a result, you need a https site you can upload the pix to, and it has to offer you a way to access those pix directly. Here are some details on what you need to do.

1. If you have a **secure (https)** website, you can upload the pictures to that website and provide PRS Forum with a link to that picture. Here is an example of a picture hosted at my secure website - [https://MoondogWily.com/images/MoondogWily\\_BW\\_Logo\\_05.png](https://MoondogWily.com/images/MoondogWily_BW_Logo_05.png) . Notice that this picture ends in the .png extension, and it is at an https site.
2. If you do NOT have your own secure website, you will need to use a service that hosts your pictures for you. The most popular one at PRS Forum seems to be imgur. I signed up for a flickr account right after I joined the forum to post some pix because none of my sites were "secure" at that time. i have since secured one of my sites so that I do not have to use flickr, but that is not what is expected of people. Here is a list of some popular image hosting sites:
  - a. <https://Flickr.com>
  - b. <https://Imgur.com>
  - c. <https://Wix.com>
  - d. <https://photos.google.com>
3. I have tried my google google account, but could not find a way to get it to work. Flickr took me some time as well considering that I had to "modify" the share path that they offered me. I did not sign up for Imgur as it was asking me for stuff I did not want to give them.
4. Once you have an account to share images from, you will need to upload pix to that site.
5. Once you have uploaded pix, you will need to copy the URL to that picture and post it in the PRS Forum using the "Image" link in the forum post editor (see details in the "How?" section below).

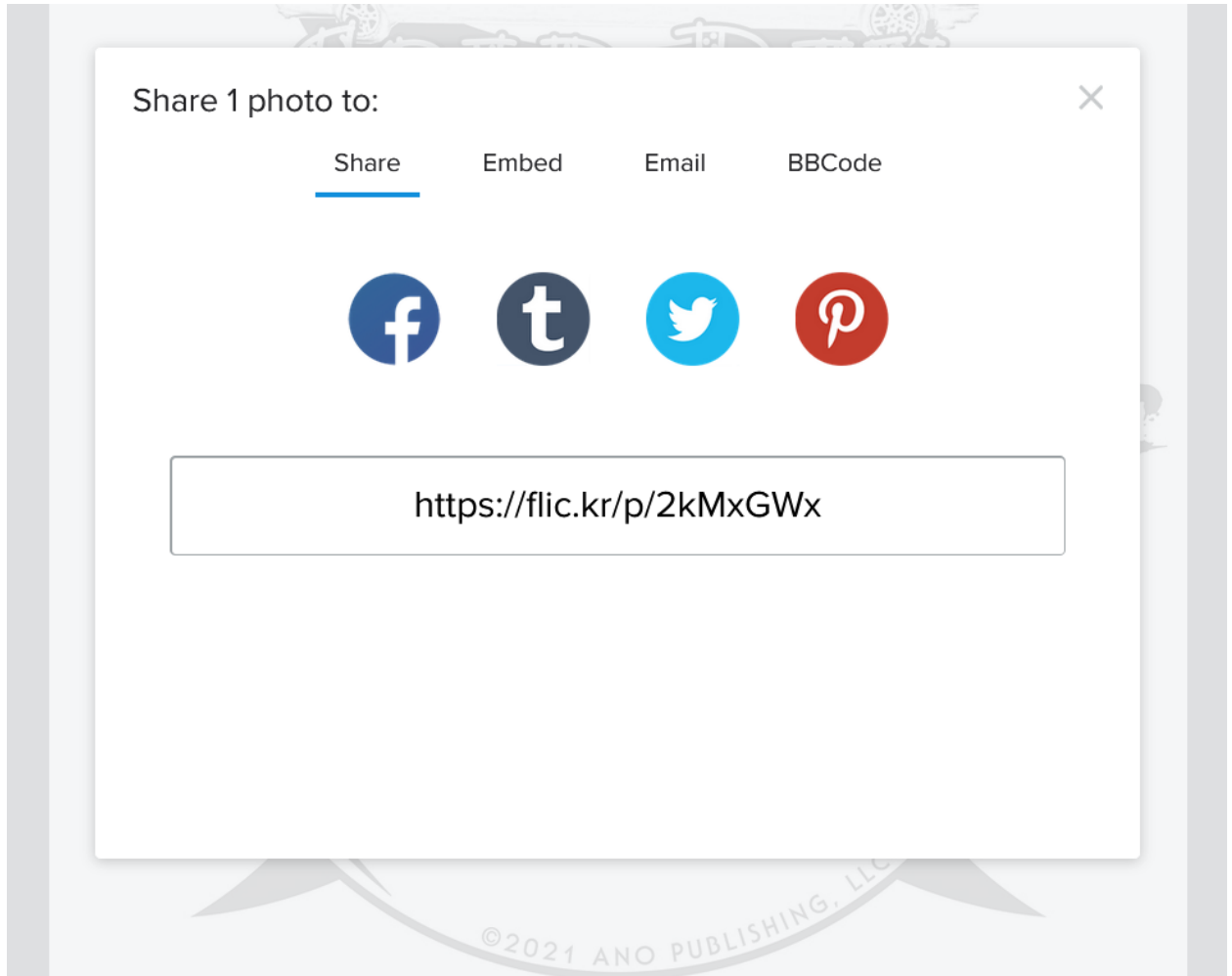
## How?

1. As mentioned above, you will first need to upload your pix to a secure website.
2. The instruction below relate specifically to Flickr. For instructions on imgur, here is a link to a post that was done for that platform  
<https://forums.prsguitars.com/threads/posting-images-with-imgur-your-computer.44205/>

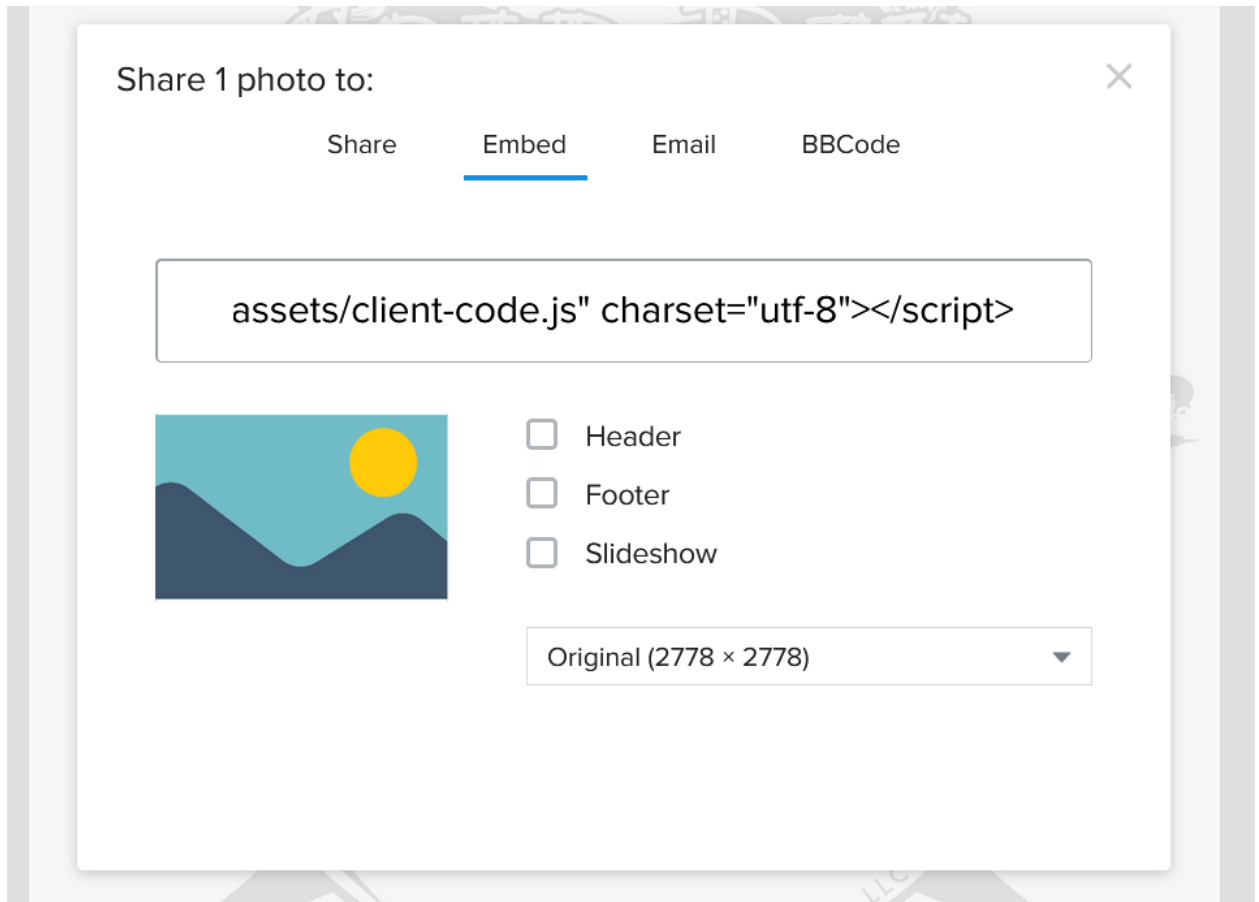
3. Once you have done so, you will need to get a link to that specific picture. In the case of Flickr, I uploaded a pic, clicked on the "Share" icon in the lower right:



4. Once there, I need to choose "how" I want to share the pic. None of the default options give me what I need (which is just a plain link to the image like this.com/image.jpg). See here what the default share option looks like:



Notice that this does NOT give us a link ending in a .gif, .jpg or .png file path. Therefore it will NOT work on the PRS forum. As a result, I have found you can use either the "Embed" option or the "BB Code" option, but you will still need to pull the image path from that option. Here is what the "Embed" option screen looks like:



What you will do is, copy the entire contents of the box that ends with `</script>`. To do so, SINGLE click in that box and it should select all in that box. If it does not select all, then use `Ctrl + A` on your keyboard to select all. Then copy that code using "Edit > Copy" or `Ctrl + C` or your preferred method of text copy.

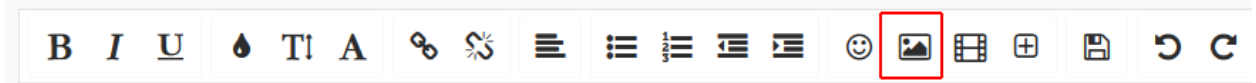
5. Paste that information into a text editor like notepad. Be careful when pasting it into an email or word document or other applications as they may try to alter what you have pasted and "embed" this in your email or document. Here is what your pasted code should look like:

```
<a data-flickr-embed="true"
href="https://www.flickr.com/photos/192456882@N05/51054899651/in/date
posted-public/" title="ColdDayInSummer_2778x2778"></a><script async
src="//embedr.flickr.com/assets/client-code.js" charset="utf-
8"></script>
```

Notice that there is a lot of stuff there. Way more than you need. We just want the part that ends in `.jpg` in this case (you might want the part that ends in `.png` or `.gif` if that is the type of image you are sharing). So the part we need is

`https://live.staticflickr.com/65535/51054899651_dcaf6efa79_o.jpg`

6. So from your text document where you pasted the embed code, grab just that part of this that ends in the file extension.
7. Go to the PRS forum post that you would like to share an image in.
8. In that box, there is a set of "format" options along the top. You can choose font size, color, centering, insert link, insert image, etc. You will want to click on the "Insert Image" icon which is the one outlined in red here:



A box will pop up and you will past in your link (in this case, the link is [https://live.staticflickr.com/65535/51054899651\\_dcaf6efa79\\_o.jpg](https://live.staticflickr.com/65535/51054899651_dcaf6efa79_o.jpg) .

9. After you click the "Insert Link" button, you should immediately see your photo appearing in your post. If you do not, something is not right.

## Conclusion

This may all seem very confusing, and I feel your pain. It is however, not impossible, and you can do this. Feel free to contact me with specific questions if you are still having troubles. I have also produced a video showing these steps that may help. If you do need help, be sure to include as many details as possible. These include, but are not limited to, computer operating system and version, browser operating system and version, what the problem is, what caused the problem, what you have already tried, etc. The more information I have, the more quickly and easily I can help.

All that said, members of the PRS Guitars forum LOVE pictures of these incredible instruments, so please share so we can drool!

If interested, you can check out some of my music at <https://MoondogWily.Bandcamp.com>. I am also available for web consulting and work ;~))

Cheers  
Moondog Wily