

SIZING DIGITAL IMAGES FOR COMPETITION

This brief guide explains the objective, how to size images correctly in Photoshop or Elements, and gives some practical examples. Screenshots are taken from Elements V9, but the general principles are valid for all Photoshop versions

The objective is to produce an image to exact dimensions of 1600 pixels wide by 1200 pixels high, without changing the proportions of the original picture. This means that images in portrait format will be 1200 pixels high and those in landscape format will be 1600 pixels wide - provided the height of the image does not exceed 1200 pixels.

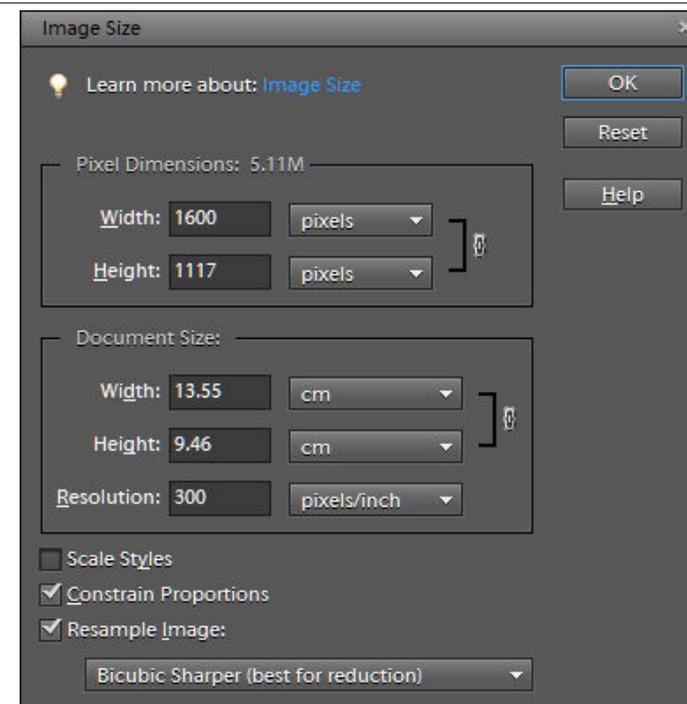
It is probable that a landscape image, and inevitable that a portrait, will not match the exact proportions, so to achieve the requirement a black background is added for purposes of projection.

N.B. Before following these steps, you may wish to flatten the image under Photoshop layers, otherwise after resizing Photoshop will prompt you to Save Changes, in which event you should respond No or much of the detail in the original file will be lost.

STEP 1

In Photoshop (or Elements) use the Resize > Image Size option (Windows shortcut keys are Ctrl+Alt+I) to set the width to 1600 (or in the case of a portrait the height to 1200) and ensure that neither the height exceeds 1200 nor the width exceeds 1600 before pressing OK.

- N.B. Before entering any number, ensure the **CONSTRAIN PROPORTIONS** checkbox is ticked, otherwise the proportions of your picture (i.e. the aspect ratio) will alter. Also **Scale Styles** should be unchecked.
- In the case of a landscape: normally you would enter a width of 1600 and find that the height does not exceed 1200, as seen in this example; if, however, the format has been cropped towards square then the height would exceed 1200, so you should overwrite the height to 1200 and let the width reduce below 1600
- In the case of a portrait: enter the height of 1200 and the width will be significantly less than 1600
- For best results, choose the "...best for reduction" at the bottom of the dialogue box
- The resolution does not matter - provided it is 72 pixels or above - as modern screens and projectors optimise correctly.

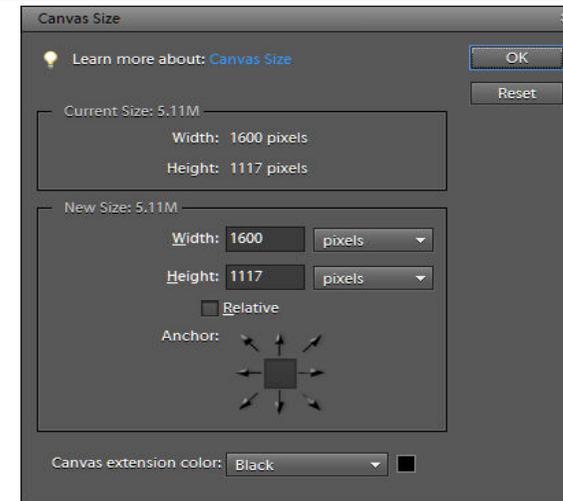


STEP 2

In Photoshop (or Elements) use the **Resize > Canvas Size** option (Windows shortcut keys are **Ctrl+Alt+C**) to complete the process.

- The width and height will default to that selected when resizing the image (see above)
- In the example on the right, the height must be changed to 1200
- In the case of an image where the full height of 1200 has been set, it would normally be necessary to change the width to 1600
- Ensure the Canvas extension colour is set to Black, for purposes of projection.

Note: In any instances where the image height is exactly 1200 and the width 1600, this second step may be ignored.



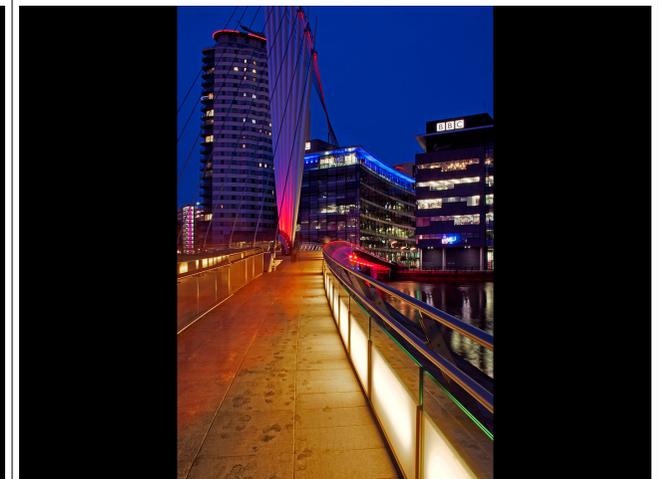
HERE ARE SOME PRACTICAL EXAMPLES



In this example, the width of 1600 has resulted in a height less than 1200 pixels and the black canvas is visible in the submitted image



In this example, a width of 1600 would have resulted in a height of over 1200, so the height was input and the canvas is applied to the width.



This is an example of an image in portrait format, where the input height of 1200 has resulted in a large canvas area, applied to the width.