

# Sherborne Bradford Abbas Camera Club

## Resizing Digital Images for Projection and the Internet

Images that are going to be projected, or displayed on the Internet, need not be as large in terms of pixel dimensions and resolution as images that are going to be printed.

In general terms, for printing, the more pixels the better: for digital projection (including the Internet) the fewer pixels the better.

Our club projector displays images 1024 pixels wide and 768 pixels high. This is fine for our purposes for the size of our meeting venue and to display images taken by members. There are commercial projectors that will display very much larger images but they are very expensive and not appropriate or necessary for our camera club.

So, images for projection only need to be a minimum size of 1024 x 768 pixels = 786kb. This is a great deal smaller than the original file size created by most digital cameras and it means that it is much easier to email the images and upload them to our website.

Resizing images is easily done in programs such as PhotoShop, PhotoShop Elements and Irfanview. To resize an image in PhotoShop, click:

1. File, Open to open the image you want to resize (either .JPG or .TIF).
2. Image, Resize, Image Size: a dialogue box will show the dimensions and resolution of the image file. For the purposes of this exercise, the resolution does not matter but it should be at least 72 pixels per inch.
3. Make sure that both of the boxes 'Constrain Proportions' and 'Resample Image' are checked.
4. If the image is landscape orientation, change the width of the image to 1024. The height should resize automatically. If the height comes out to less than 768 that means that the aspect ratio of the image is different from 3:4 but that's OK: the image will display in the correct proportions.
5. If the image is in portrait orientation, change the height of the image to 768. The width should resize automatically.
6. Click OK. The image on the screen will now have been resized.
7. Decide whether you need to sharpen the image before you save it. Dramatically reducing the pixels can blur the image slightly and sharpening may improve the appearance.
8. File, Save As to save the image. DO NOT OVERWRITE THE ORIGINAL IMAGE. Change the name of the file now, otherwise you will overwrite the original image. If you want to change the format from TIF to JPG, do so now. 'Image Quality 7' is fine for projection on JPG format.
9. The resized file is now ready to be emailed or copied to memory stick etc.

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10. If you want to do any further manipulation of the image, go back to the original file rather than make any changes to the resized image because small files can quickly degrade when saved again.

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If you have a large image and you want to project only a cropped portion of it, click on the crop tool in PhotoShop and, on the menu bar at the top, change the width to 1024 px and the height to 768 px (don't forget to add the px because it may default to cm or in!), or whatever dimensions you want.

Open up the image as above and use the crop tool to select the portion of the image you want to save. Use your judgement as to how small a portion you can crop without losing resolution.

When you have the crop you want, sharpen and save as in 7 – 10 above.

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If the image is to be displayed on the website, the requirements for size can be even less. Small files are preferable because they load faster into the user's browser and take up less webspace on our server.

For our website, the minimum size is usually 400 pixels wide, 72 pixels per inch resolution and JPG format. But, if you can supply a 1024 x 768 JPG image that is preferable because we can display a thumbnail of 400 px width and then when the user clicks on it, the full image will display on the screen.