

Image Preparation for A3 Printing

Monitor Calibration & Printer/Paper Profiling

1. Before processing any image for printing, it's a good idea to get your monitor calibrated. If you don't do this, it's very likely that the colours on your print will not look anything like the image you viewed on your monitor (this also applies to projected images). Monitor calibration Spyders are available from the club.
 2. To achieve the best quality prints, it is also essential that you choose the correct profile for the combination of make/type of paper you are using and the make/model of printer. Epson, Permajet and Photo Paper Direct papers are kept in stock at the club for use at the Photo & Printing Clinic group and the paper profiles have been installed on the club's PC for use with our Epson R2880 printer.
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Adding Borders to Images in Photoshop Elements

1. Note: Add borders to your image before resizing your image. If you do this the other way round, your image will enlarge and have to be resized again.
 2. Select Image – Resize – Canvas Size.
 3. Ensure Relative is ticked.
 4. Choose “mm” as measurement unit of choice.
 5. Choose width and height measurements for your image border/s. If adding only one border (1-5mm suggested), use a contrasting colour to the white paper background. If adding multiple borders, apply a contrasting colour to the outermost border.
 6. Click OK to apply changes. (Click Edit - Undo to revert).
 7. Repeat previous steps 2-5 for additional image borders.
 8. Use File - Save As to save an appropriately renamed copy of the image with borders applied.
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Adjusting Image Size & Resolution for A3 Printing in Photoshop Elements

1. Note: The following assumes that your image was initially imported in Photoshop Elements as a RAW file direct from your camera, then converted to TIFF uncompressed file format, edited/post processed to your satisfaction and the final version saved (including any borders) as an uncompressed TIFF file. If you did all this using a compressed JPEG format, the quality is unlikely to be good enough to produce a high quality A3 print.
2. Your image now needs to be resized to the correct resolution and dimensions for printing on A3 paper, whilst leaving sufficient margin on the paper to allow for attachment to a mount. A3 paper dimensions are 420mm X 297mm, hence a suggested maximum image size is 380mm X 257mm. This leaves a 20mm margin around the image to enable attachment to the mount. (You can, of course, produce a smaller image if you choose).
3. Select Image – Resize – Image Size.
4. Ensure Scale Styles, Constrain Proportions and Resample Image are all ticked.
5. Click in the Document Size - Resolution box and type 300 (pixels/inch). This ensures the image resolution is high enough to produce a good quality A3 print with no pixilation.
6. Click in the Document Size - measurement unit box and select “mm”.
7. Click in the Document Size - Width and Height boxes.
8. Type in your image dimensions (380mm X 257mm maximum) with the highest dimension applicable to the longest side of the image (IE: 380mm should be typed into the Height box for a portrait mode image and typed into the Width box for a landscape mode image. When the first dimension is typed in, the other will be calculated automatically).
9. Check that neither dimension exceeds 380mm X 257mm and adjust downwards if necessary (IE: if one side has a dimension of 380mm, ensure that the other does not exceed 257mm and vice versa).
10. In the bottom drop down menu box choose Bicubic – (best for smooth gradients).
11. Click OK to apply changes. (Click Edit - Undo to revert).
12. Optionally, run a final pass of Unsharp Mask sharpening at 25-50% to optimise the resized image.
13. Use File - Save As to save an appropriately renamed copy of the resized TIFF image ready for printing.