

CPS : How to Enter Our PROJECTED DIGITAL IMAGE Competitions

REVISED September 2010

The change for the 2010-11 season is that images must be 1400x1050px, not 1024x768px as they were before. There are no further changes for 2011-12

HOW OUR COMPETITIONS WORK - There are three LEAGUE COMPETITIONS. You can enter up to three images in each. Best two scores in each count towards your LEAGUE TOTAL. In case we have too big an entry you are asked to PRIORITISE your entry. Towards the end of the year we have a fourth competition; the ANNUAL or FINAL. Only League images from that year may be entered.

The author of the best image in the Final will win the coveted JIM HARRISON TROPHY and there will be an award for the LEAGUE WINNER too.

RULES -Read the Crewe PS Rules about competitions. This handout is NOT a substitute for them.

1. There will be a GENERAL and a NATURE section. You can still enter 3 images but must designate them G for general and N for nature.
2. After each League competition your BEST TWO scores go to your League total. G & N pictures are added together.
3. You have to prioritise your images; 1, 2, 3. This is in case we have too many entries, when your third choice will not be entered - but you can use it next time.

Now the images need to be 1400x1050px, sRGB, jpeg.

NAMING THE FILES - Because of the changes above and the fact that we are going to use new software to run the competitions we are asking you to name your files in a different way....

1_Sunrise at Southwold_G_33

This is member 33's first entry, entitled "Sunrise at Southwold" and they want it in the General section. The _ is an underscore and is the key next to zero on your keyboard. They would go on to add one or two more images...

2_House Sparrow (Passer domesticus)_N_33

3_Bridgewater Hall_G_33

The first competition is very early, so if you have not had the opportunity to join and have no membership number yet - just put your name in place of the membership number.

Then email them or put them on CD.

RESIZING - If you have entered these competitions before there is no need to read beyond here.

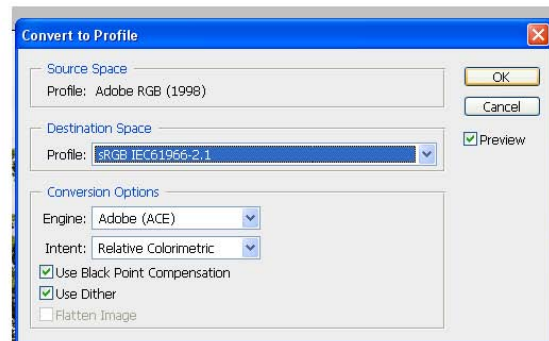
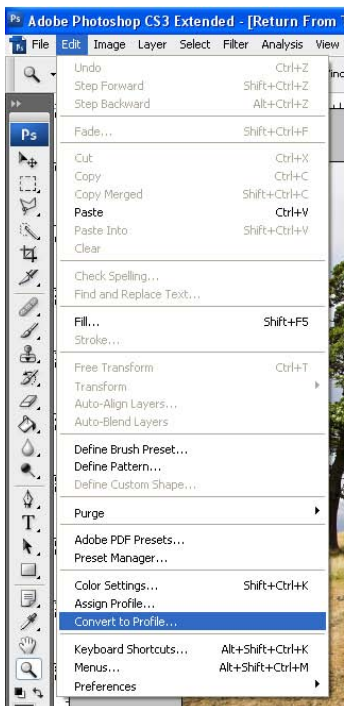
Firstly, do all the imaging work on your picture that you need to and save it as a PSD or TIFF.

DO NOT ALTER THE SIZE OF THE IMAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE FINISHED WORKING ON IT.

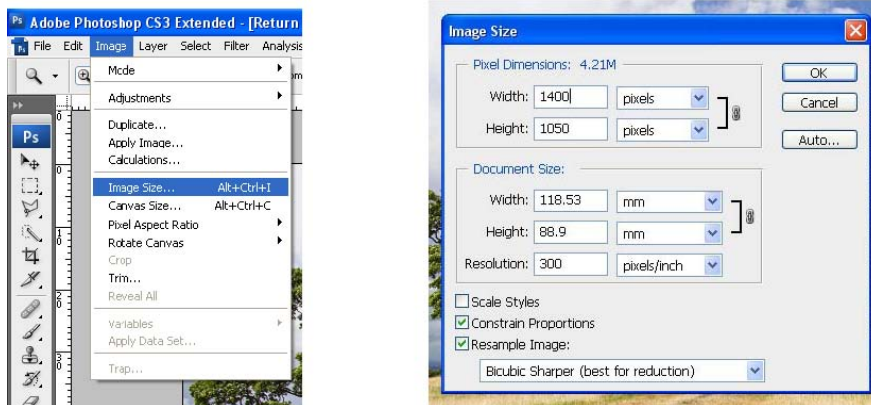
HEALTH NOTE! Your picture is acceptable in any form if you are new to our competitions and find this a struggle.

All these instructions relate to Photoshop but you will find similar functions in any imaging software. There are also programs you can download for free which can be used. My favourite is Irfanview, which is excellent but a bit daunting to use at first.

First, check that the image is in sRGB mode. Just click on the EDIT tab and see if it says sRGB and then some numbers. If not, convert it. Not doing this is not a Cardinal Sin but it will make more certain that your image appears on the projector looking something like as you intended.



The next steps ARE important..... To RESIZE. . . Select IMAGE>RESIZE. Make sure RESAMPLE and CONSTRAIN PROPORTIONS are checked (ticked) and Bicubic resizing is on



Change **WIDTH** to 1400 pixels. If the height is now **greater** than 1050 pixels, change that to 1050, your width will now be less than 1400px - don't worry!

If your image is **PORTRAIT** orientation (taller than it is wide), set the 768 first.

It does not matter what it says in the **Resolution** box.

Click **OK** and your image will appear smaller. Use **MAGNIFYING TOOL** and **FIT ON SCREEN** to get your image back to size **IF YOU WANT TO**. If your image gets **BIGGER** after resizing **DON'T ENTER IT** - it must have been smaller than 1400x1050px and will not be of best quality.

You can view it at 100% too, you will now see the image as it is going to appear on screen and you could apply a little sharpening if you want - but **DO NOT OVERDO IT**.

So, THE MAXIMUM SIZE FOR THE IMAGES IS 1400px WIDE by 1050px HIGH. If you get this wrong your image will be accepted but it will not look as good as you are expecting when it is projected.

Finally, if you image is smaller than 1400x1050pxpx it is a good idea to fill in any space with black, just go to **IMAGE>CANVAS SIZE**, then enter 1400 x 1050 pixels. Make sure the canvas colour is set to black. A black border will now

appear around your image. Its size is now exactly 1400px WIDE x 1050 pixels TALL.

Now **SAVE**. Go to **FILE>SAVE AS**, select **JPEG**, enter in your title. When the quality slider appears move it up to the highest quality setting.

Look back to the first page to see how to name your image for Crewe PS competitions in 2011-12.

You can copy a jpeg as many times as you like on to a disk, email or whatever without the slightest change in quality but you will lose quality every time you save it from your imaging software. So, always start with your full size image.

You can now save your pictures on to CD or email them to me (you will have my email address if you have given me yours). Most people email it is quick and easy BUT DO NOT ALLOW YOUR MAIL SOFTWARE TO RESIZE THE PICTURES.

I prefer to get them by email - if you have followed the instructions the total file size will be less than 6 Mb and is easily manageable on broadband. I WILL NORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGE ALL SUCH ENTRIES WITHIN ONE DAY - so ring if you don't get a reply.

It is our intention to get the greatest possible number of people to enter these competition so, if you are uncertain about anything ASK - I will do everything I can to help you short of taking the pictures for you and doing the basic manipulation work! EVEN IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A DIGITAL CAMERA or SCANNER you can enter - ask me how!

John Royle CPAGB, September 2010, small corrections September 2011