

## CPS : How to Enter Our PROJECTED DIGITAL IMAGE Competitions

*REVISED 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009*

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**HOW OUR COMPETITIONS WORK** - For 2009 we change from THREE digital competition each year to FOUR. There will be THREE League Competitions and a FINAL or ANNUAL. For the ANNUAL you can only enter images which you have already entered in the three LEAGUE comps this year.

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.

For 2009 there are three changes:-

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.

As usual the images need to be 1024 x 768px, 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.

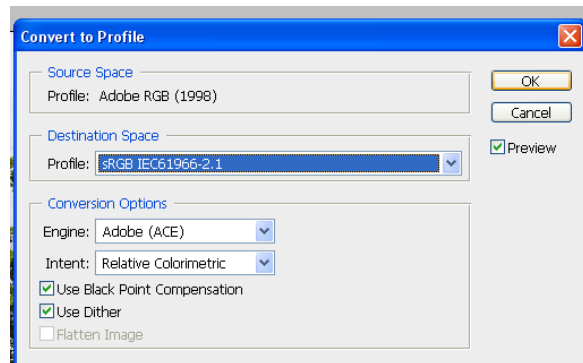
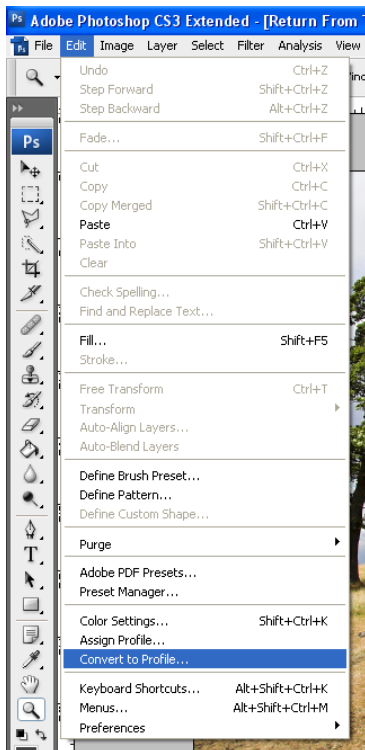
Firstly, do all the imaging work on your picture that you need to and save it as a PSD or TIFF.

**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. A recent recommendation on the L&CPU Forum was *Fastone*. I have not tested this fully but it seemed to work quite easily.

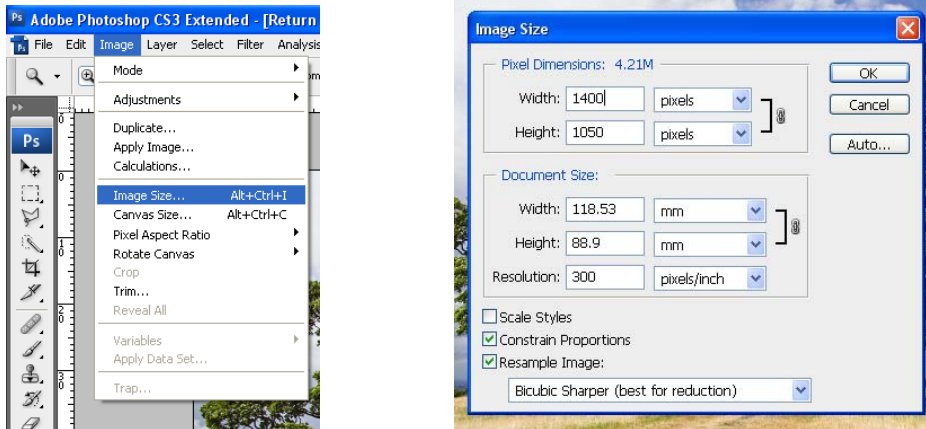
First, check that the image is in sRGB mode. Just click on the EDIT tab and see if it says sRGB and then some numbers. If not, convert it. Not doing this is not a Cardinal Sin but it will make more certain that your image appears on the projector looking something like as you intended.



The next steps ARE important....

To RESIZE. . .

Select IMAGE>RESIZE. Make sure RESAMPLE and CONSTRAIN PROPORTIONS are checked (ticked) and Bicubic Sharper.



Change WIDTH to 1024 pixels. If the height is now greater than 768 pixels, change that to 768, your width will now be less than 1024 - 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 1024x768 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 1024px WIDE by 768px 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 1024 x 768px it is a good idea to fill in any space with black.e, just go to IMAGE>CANVAS SIZE, then enter 1024 x 768 pixels. Make sure the canvas colour is set to black. A black border will now

appear around your image. Its size is now exactly 1024px WIDE x 768pixels 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 2009.*

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).

I prefer to get them by email - if you have followed the instructions the total file size will be less than 3 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 2009