

WEBCC Projected Digital Image Competitions

3rd March 2010

Projected Digital Images, PDI, have replaced slides in all club activities. There are a number of issues to be noted:

1. Image use: Any member may enter up to two PDI into any internal competition. The number of entries for non competition events such as the Summer Outing may be larger.

Please note that images may not be used in club competitions as a print and as a PDI. Only one usage of an image is allowed.

2. Image submission: Images should be submitted in the correct format, fully ready for projection including a title, to the email address shown in 'Deadline dates for PDI Submissions' which will be issued at the start of the Photographic year. The preferred method of submission is by email and the time table for submission is not negotiable. It will not be possible to accept images on the competition night on media such as a CD or flash memories.

3. Image format: The Southern Photographic Federation (SPF) recommends that images saved as TIFF files are used in competitions as this format best preserves the original image. Members should note that we are no longer using the ImageComp Pro software we had previously used and our new software will accommodate both jpg and tif formats. The new competition software for optimum use requires a different naming convention to the old ImageComp Pro Format. See 'Preparing Digital Images for Projection below.

4. Images selected to represent the club in Inter-club competitions

WEBCC expects members to make available their images/pictures for inter-club competitions. If one is selected to represent the club, it is possible that it will have to be reproduced to a different size to meet the requirements of other clubs' projectors. Any changes necessary will be advised as they become apparent.

5. Colour space: SPF recommends that images are projected using the sRGB colour space, which our projector does. Members may wish to convert their images to this from any other colour space they are using.

Peter Odds, Chairman

Preparing digital images for WEBCC and interclub digital projected image competitions. March 2010

The Southern Photographic Federation (SPF) recommends that images are saved as TIFF files for use in competitions as this format best preserves the original image. When saved as a Tiff file the file extension becomes .tif. If you are preparing new images for projection you should save them as TIFF files. However, any older images that you may have saved as jpg files are still usable by our competition software.

Below is the method we have used previously to prepare PDI but, modified to include tif files.

It is important that your images are re-sized for projection otherwise they will not project correctly. The method of preparing your image is the same whatever photo manipulation software you are using. However for convenience below is how to resize your image in Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Elements.

Images must not contain layers and must be completely 'flattened' and 'sharpened' if desired, prior to being prepared. So that the re-sizing changes do not affect your original file you are recommended to make a duplicate of your image and re-size the copy as shown below.

1. Duplicating your image: To begin, open your competition image in the photo manipulation program you are using, in the example it is Adobe Photoshop. Make sure you have finished all actions to modify the image and that any layers have been 'flattened'. From the upper list of actions on the screen, click 'Image' and from the drop down list click 'Duplicate'. In Elements you have to go into 'File' and then select 'Duplicate'. A dialogue box will open with the name of your image and the word 'copy' already highlighted. Click OK. Close your original image.

2. Re-sizing your image: There are two methods you can use to re-size your image.

Method A

Click Image > Image Size. This will open the 'Image Size' dialogue box. (Figure 1) Check that the three boxes, 'Scale Styles', 'Constrain Proportions' and 'Resample Images', on the lower left-hand side are ticked. If they are not, do so now.

Under 'Pixel Dimensions' the size of your image in pixels will be shown. The maximum size for projecting a landscape image on the WEBCC projector is 1024 pixels by 768 pixels. Alter your width pixels to 1024 and your height pixels will be automatically changed in the right proportion. Check that they do not exceed 768 pixels. If they do, then they must be reduced to 768 and the width pixels will automatically change in proportion. PAGB suggests that the resolution should be 96 pixels per inch

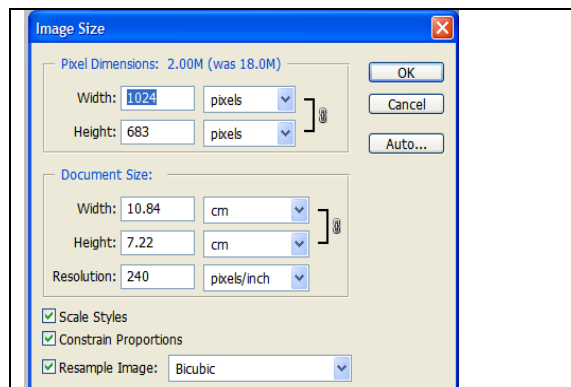


Figure 1

Figure 2

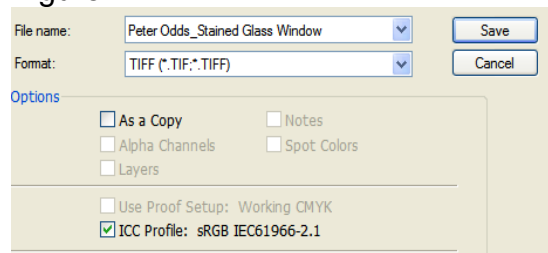
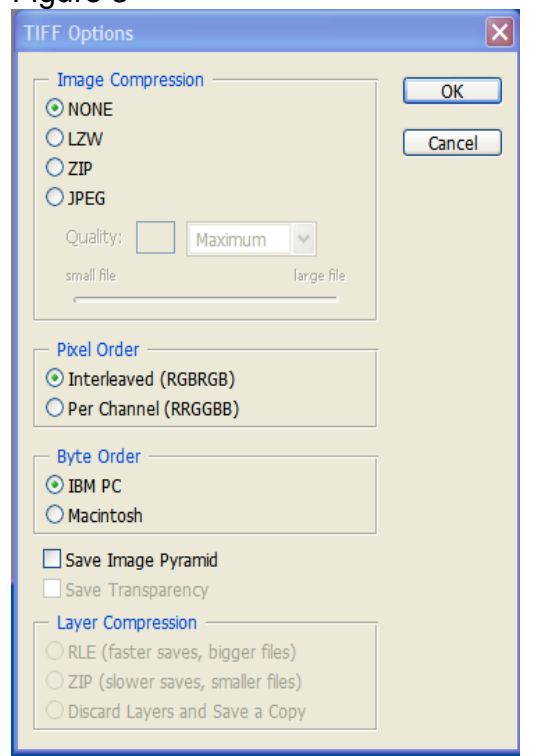


Figure 3



although they also suggest that it is not critical. Click OK. If your image is portrait shape then you will have to resize it so that the height is no more than 768 pixels. This does mean that portrait shaped images are smaller on the screen than landscapes.

Method B:

With this method the cropping tool is used. Select the Crop Tool from the Tool Box. Look for the dialogue box at the top of the screen (see Figure 4). Type in the pixel dimensions and the resolution as shown and then use the cropping tool in the normal way. However the size of the crop will be limited to the dimensions that have been set in the dialogue box. This enables you to be creative in re-sizing your image.

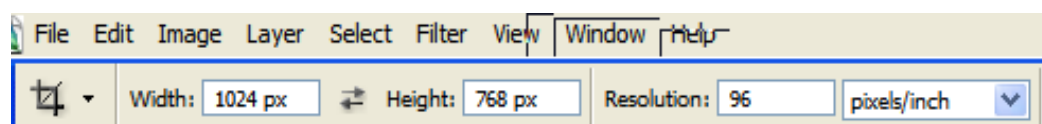


Figure 4.

3. Once you have re-sized your images you should click on 'Save as...' under 'File'. The 'Save As' dialogue box gives you the opportunity to decide where you want to save the image, what to name it and what format to use. Wherever you choose to save it, make sure that it is somewhere you can easily find it again! The file name is very important as unless it is done in the following way it will not be recognised by the software we will be using for the competition.

4. Re-naming the image: (Figure 2)

Type in your name followed by an underscore and then the title of your image. As you are still in the 'Save As' dialogue box, you then have the choice of which file format the image is saved in. It is recommended that the image is saved as a TIFF image. On the 'Format' line click on the drop-down arrow and select TIFF. The file extension will automatically change to .tif However jpg files will also be projected correctly if you prefer this format.

5 Your re-named image should now look like this example: Peter Odds_Stained Glass Window.tif Click 'OK'. Photoshop then offers you some options for saving the image. In the TIFF Options dialogue box (Figure 3) accept 'no compression' this will retain the quality of the image. Make sure that the Byte Order is IBM PC. Click 'OK' and your image is ready for projection.

6. Enter the image into the competition: Send your images to me as an e-mail attachment using p2odds@gmail.com as my address.

It is important that I receive the images by the deadline set for the particular competition or your entry will not be included. Usually, this will be seven days before the competition evening.

Peter Odds, Chairman.
3rd March 2010.