

Workflow for preparing images for PDI competitions

The following workflow is based on using Photoshop Elements 6 or 7, with variations for Photoshop CS4. As a starting point it is assumed you have prepared your image, and that it is of a typically large size (larger than 1400x1050). As this document may occasionally need to be updated, we will add a link to the latest version on the web site.

Note that there are alternative ways of achieving most of the following steps, so if you have one that works for you, that you are confident in, and that achieves the required result – by all means stay with it!

1. Resize image (large à small)

The Canon SX7 projector used by APS has a native resolution of 1400x1050 pixels (WxH) and all images must fit within this to be correctly displayed. This means that square images can be no more than 1050x1050 pixels

The best way to resize is as follows–

Image à Resize à Image Size ... (Elements) or...

Image à Image Size ... (Photoshop CS)

Ensure: 'Resample Image' is ticked

Select: 'Bicubic' from the drop-down

Ensure: 'Constrain Proportions' is ticked

Set: width <= 1400 and ensure Height <= 1050, *and if not*, set Height <= 1050

Click: OK

2. Check Colour Depth and Mode

Check for RGB mode, which is required for correct colour rendering, and that the image has 8 bits/channel (colour), which is needed to save the image as a JPEG.

Check: Image à Mode à RGB Color is ticked – *if not, click it*

Check: Image à Mode à 8 Bits/Channel is greyed out – *if not, click it* (Elements) or...

Check: Image à Mode à 8 Bits/Channel is ticked – *if not, click it* (Photoshop CS)

3. Check the Colour Space

It is vital, if the colours in your image are to be rendered as expected by the competition software, that the colour space be set to sRGB. Check or change this as follows.

In Elements:

Check: Image à Convert Color Profile à Apply sRGB profile is greyed out – *if not, click it*

In Photoshop CS

Check: Edit à Convert to Profile à check the source space profile is sRGB – *if not:*

Select: sRGB as the Destination Space Profile à click OK

4. Apply output sharpening (optional)

Because the resizing software attempts to preserve overall detail by using information from every pixel, sharp transitions can become blurred and slightly indistinct. If necessary we can try to visually restore these transitions by applying a small amount of sharpening to the resized image.

View à Actual Pixels (to view the image at 100%)

In Elements:

Enhance à Adjust Sharpness ... (or Unsharp Mask...)

cont...

In Photoshop CS

Filter → Sharpen → Smart Sharpen ... (or Unsharp Mask...)

[in both cases, typically use: Radius=0.5-1.0; Amount=40-100%; Remove: Gaussian Blur]

5. Save the Output file

All files for internal PDI competitions MUST be saved in the JPEG format with a .jpg extension and should be saved at the maximum quality. The competition software REQUIRES the file to be named in a very specific way:

TITLE IN CAPS by Your Name.jpg

- The **TITLE** must be in caps,
- the **'by'** must be in lower case with a space either side
- **Your Name** can be in mixed case

For example-

STRANGE TREE by Ray Franklin ARPS.jpg or

ANOTHER STUNNING LANDSCAPE by Roger Longdin.jpg

Some punctuation is allowable in the File name, but exactly what may well vary with which mail clients are being used, so it's generally best avoided.

To save the file–

File → Save As...

Format: select JPEG from the drop-down

File name: Type a filename using the format above

Save in: Select a suitable destination to attach the image to an email (e.g. the desktop)

Click on OK

At this point the jpeg options dialogue box opens up–

Check that the Baseline ("standard") Format Option is selected.

Under Image Options set the Quality slider to the maximum (12)

Click on OK to save the image file.

6. Sending your Masterpiece

The preferred method of delivery is by email. You should attach your saved image files to the email directly– don't be tempted to use an email or image editing program feature to 'send images as email attachments' as they often re-size and re-name them without warning. You should email your entry to:

pdi@amershamphotosoc.com.

In ALL cases receipt of your images will be acknowledged, either as accepted, or rejected for you to rework. If you do not get a receipt within a reasonable time, check for reject emails, check the spelling of our address and try re-sending the email.

If email is not possible, images can be delivered by hand on CD or memory stick. All the above rules on image preparation still apply.