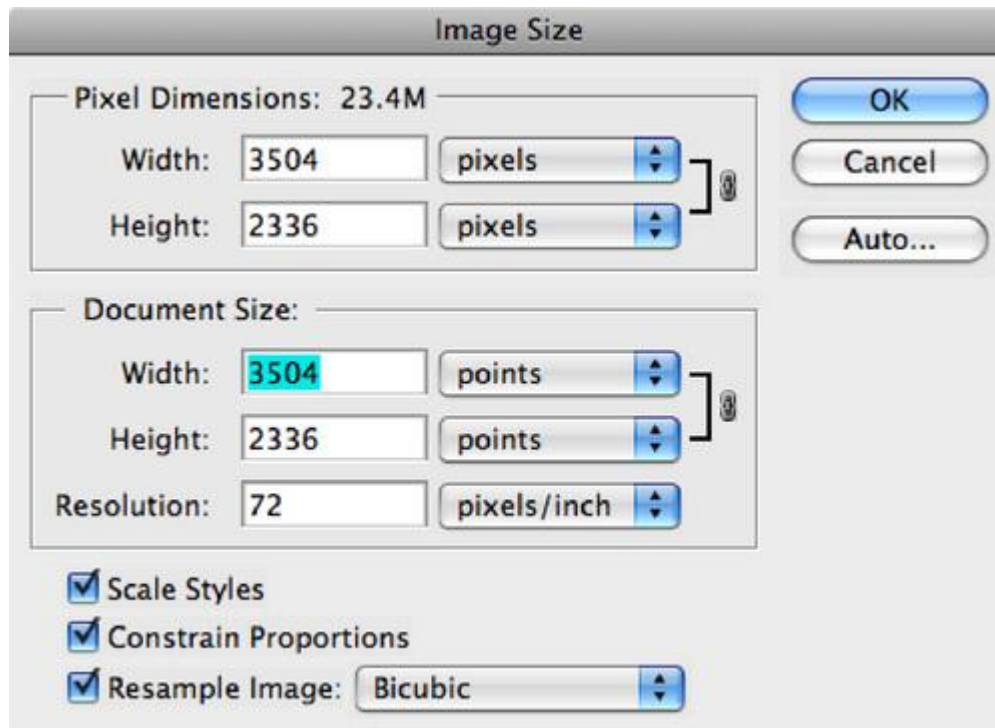


Resizing Images for Digital Projection

To resize an image in most versions of Photoshop we can use Image>Image Size or Resize Image. (The names of commands vary between versions of Photoshop.)



The screen shot shows the typical Image Size dialog box in Photoshop. Start by checking the Resample Image box, and choose Bicubic from the drop down menu. At the top we have the actual dimensions of the image in pixels. This was an 8 megapixel camera image. If necessary the units can be changed to pixels using the scroll down menus alongside. Note that the locks that link the width and height numbers are set by checking the Constrain Proportions box near the foot of the panel. This must be checked for the resizing process to work correctly for our purposes.

. The resolution can be set at 72 or 96 pixels per inch, which displays the image at about normal size when viewed in Photoshop at 100% on your monitor.

Make your changes in the Width and Height boxes under the Pixel Dimensions heading. Don't worry about the Document Size boxes. Don't worry about the Scale Styles box.

The Easy Way: Just try some numbers

The image frame on our projector is 1280 pixels wide and 800 pixels high. (Not all projectors are the same; if you are preparing your image to be shown on a different projector, you should find out the size of its image frame.)

Just type 1280 in the Width box, and the number in the Height box will change to keep the same proportions. If the height figure is 800 or less then your resized image will fit within the frame. If the figure in the Height box comes out at more

that 800 pixels, then type 800 in the Height box, and the figure in the Width box will reduce to less than 1280 pixels, to maintain the same image proportions.

Once you have a satisfactory combination with the width less than or equal to 1280 and the height less than or equal to 800, click the OK button and then save your new image.

Alternatively – use the Crop command in Photoshop

A different approach is to crop your image in Photoshop, before you start to manipulate it, so that it suits the aspect ratio of the projector. Our projector has an image aspect ratio of 8 wide x 5 high. Select the crop tool. Above your image, at the top of the screen, you'll see two boxes labelled Width and Height. Just enter 8 in the width box and 5 in the Height box (you don't need to put any units of measure – you are setting the **proportions**, not the **size**). This ensures that after you have finished preparing your image it will have the right proportions to fill the frame when it is projected. But you must not feel constrained by the aspect ratio – if your image demands a letter-box format, it will display perfectly well, but there will be some black space above and below it.

Check and save

Remember that the width must be 1280 pixels or less and the height must be 800 pixels or less. Once you have a satisfactory combination of height and width you should click OK.

Save a copy as a maximum quality JPG. Note that Photoshop (.psd) documents are NOT suitable for projection.

Produced by Anthony Macdonald Smith, based by kind permission of Michael Wood on his notes for Wilmslow Guild Photographic Society. Feb 2009