

PREPARING IMAGES FOR DIGITAL PROJECTION

The Nature Photography Society uses a Canon SX60 digital projector at its meetings. The projector has an optimal resolution of 1400 x 1050 pixels and supports natively the sRGB colour space. The following should help you prepare your images to be shown at their best at our meetings.

Sizing your images:

The best image quality for projection is obtained if the width of the image is sized to 1400 pixels on the long edge for horizontal images and 1050 pixels on the long edge for vertical images, at 72dpi – in order to match the native resolution of the Canon projector. The files should be saved as jpegs. If you have a choice of colour space please choose sRGB, most digital cameras use the sRGB colour space. You don't need Photoshop or any special software to do this, what comes with your computer works fine. For Mac users there is a quick & easy how to on page 2.

File size:

The file size should not exceed 1MB.

Sharpening:

If you wish to sharpen the image, this is likely to be more effective if done after the image has been set to the final size. Take care not to over sharpen as this can give an unpleasant appearance.

Naming the file:

To assist the projectionist and ensure your images are shown consecutively please start the file name with your initials. For example an image of blue fungi by Stephen Wright would be named "SW Blue fungi.jpg" If you have two blue fungi images and want them projected in a certain order name them as follows "SW Blue fungi 1.jpg" and "SW Blue fungi 2.jpg" Please do not put the 1 and 2 at the beginning of the file name. All file names must end in ".jpg" or ".jpeg".

Media - how you bring your files to the meeting:

Image files can be accepted on any of the following media: CD, DVD, and USB flash drive. Ideally there should not be any additional files on the media. If you do have other files please make sure the images are in a clearly labeled folder.

FAQ:

Q. Can I bring my files as PNGs, PSDs, TIFs, GIFs, BMPs, PDFs, EPS?

A. We ask you bring only JPG (JPEG) files. JPEG is an industry standard for image sharing developed by professional photographers. Our system is set up to handle jpeg files. To ensure our meetings run smoothly we maintain the right not to accept files which are not jpegs.

Q. What if I have images already prepared for projection at 1024 x 768 pixels?

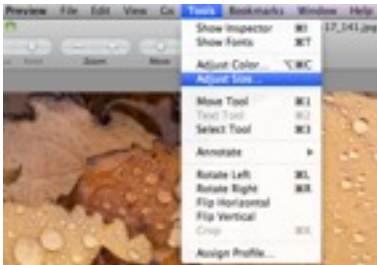
A. No problem, the size is within the 1400 x 1050 maximum size, but will not take full advantage of the projector we use, and the image will not fill the entire screen. There has been some discussion that the "standard size" for projected images internationally is 1024 x 768 pixels. This is simply not true. The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain produced a 20 page paper on projection standards in 2007 and had this to say "the most commonly used dimensions today are 1024 pixels wide by 768 pixels high. Other dimensions coming into frequent use include 1400 pixels wide by 1050 pixels high". That was 3 years ago.

Q. When I've shown square images I don't see the entire image on the screen ... the top and bottom are cropped.

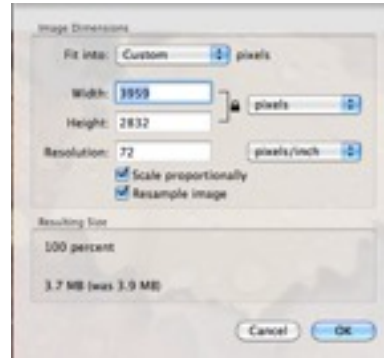
A. This may be caused by the image size being too large on the vertical axis. Check your image size is no more than 1050 pixels on the vertical edge. It may be that your software has sized for 1400 on the horizontal and the vertical. The maximum height of any image can be no more than 1050 pixels. In the case of square images they should be 1050 high x 1050 wide pixels to project correctly.

Sizing your images for projection - using software on your computer (Mac users)

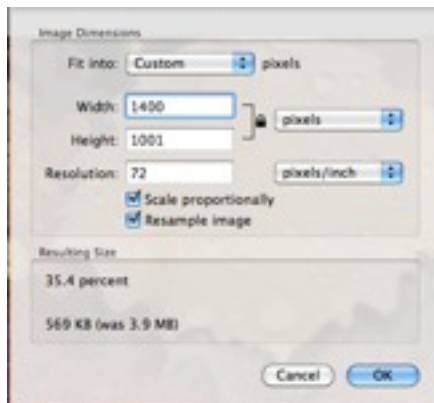
All Macs come with Preview ... great for viewing PDFs, photos etc. Preview has some elementary, but very useful image editing tools ... exposure, contrast, colour, sharpness, cropping and sizing.



1. Open your image in Preview and choose Tools -> Adjust Size



2. In this case the image is larger than it needs to be. 3959 x 2832 pixels for a file size of 3.7MB.



3. Make sure pixels is selected as the measurement, and the Scale Proportionally & Resample Image boxes are ticked, then for:

-landscape / horizontal images type "1400" in the width field (the height will take care of itself ... but check is less than 1050).

- portrait / vertical images type "1050" in the height field, the width will take care of itself.

You'll notice the file size has reduced from 3.9MB to 569KB.

4. If you wish you can check the colour space of your image and set to sRGB. Go to the Tools menu and choose "assign profile".



5. Finally save the image as a jpeg (if not so already). Select a quality setting of 9 - 10 (at the best end of the scale).



All done with what comes with your computer!
You could achieve a similar result by exporting your images from iPhoto.