

PREPARING IMAGES FOR FEPS DIGITAL COMPETITIONS

Whether you get your images straight from a digital camera, scanned slide or print or put onto a disk by the processor, all images entered for competitions need to be standardised into a certain size and format. N.B. The Competition Secretary will not do the re-sizing etc for you.

Stage 1. Check image contrast.

The projector will have a high contrast ratio, which will bring out all the detail in the image but you must make sure that your original has detail in the highlights and shadows. If not, use levels or curves to adjust the image so that you can see detail everywhere.

Stage 2. Check colour balance.

It is recommended that you use sRGB mode as this is the setting used by the projector and is likely to produce the nearest colours to those shown on your screen. If your image was taken in another mode other than sRGB, you can change it using image, mode, in either Photoshop or Elements.

For stages 1 & 2, if you wish to check your monitor is displaying the complete range of colours and shades of grey, a suitable grey scale and colour bars can be downloaded from the Electronic Photo Imaging Centre at <http://www.epi-centre.com/charts/charts.html>.

This website also gives other useful advice about calibration and saving images to CD.

Stage 3. Resize your image.

The projector will project an area that is 1024 pixels wide by 768 pixels high (that is a ratio of 4:3). Most images will not have been taken in this ratio, so you may have to crop or accept that one of your dimensions will not be at the maximum.

You need to make sure that your image will fit within the dimensions or it will not be shown completely on the screen. To resize click on image, adjust, resize. Your screen may show the dimensions in inches, cm or pixels. Make sure you choose pixels from the drop down menu by clicking on the down arrow at the right hand end of each box. Make sure that the constrain proportions box is ticked so that your image stays in the same proportions. Pixels per inch is irrelevant.

Change the width by typing in 1024 and check what figure has been calculated for the height. If it is less than 768 pixels your image will fit on the screen. If it is more than 768 you need to make a decision.

- a) either crop the original image so that the height is smaller or
- b) make the height 768 and accept that the width will be less than 1024. See examples of acceptable sizes

1024 pixels wide
by 560 pixels
high

768 pixels
by 768
pixels
square

768 pixels
high by 500
pixels wide

Remember that the image must fit into the space 1024 by 768 so if either of your dimensions is bigger than this, it will disappear off part of the screen.

Stage 4 – Save your image.

However you are going to send your image to the competition organiser, it will need to be saved in the agreed format.

Use save as, choose jpeg from the drop down menu and give it a title. This must be in the format TITLE IN CAPITAL LETTERS by your name in lower case.jpg. For example BLUEBELLS by another.jpg or CIRCLES by val walker.jpg

From the next screen choose 7 or above to save the file in high quality jpeg in your hard drive, usually C:\ drive. It is best to choose the highest quality to prevent pixelation.

It is suggested that you set up a folder called “Digital Comps” so that you know where your images are stored amongst all your other files.

Once safely stored you can close your original image on the screen.

Stage 5 – Sending your images.

Later you can send your jpeg file as an attachment to an e-mail directly to Chris Wallace or save your entry to CD or DVD. As a guide your image should not be more than 2 mb.

Chris’s e-mail address is : chris-feps@wallaceprime.com

Remember that the disk or emailed images must be submitted a week before the competition evening and no entries will be allowed on the night. The CD or DVD must contain no other images or files except what you are submitting.