

Resizing Images for the Web with Photoshop CS4

Photoshop CS4 allows you to resize images quickly for use on the Web. This document will address the basics of image resizing.

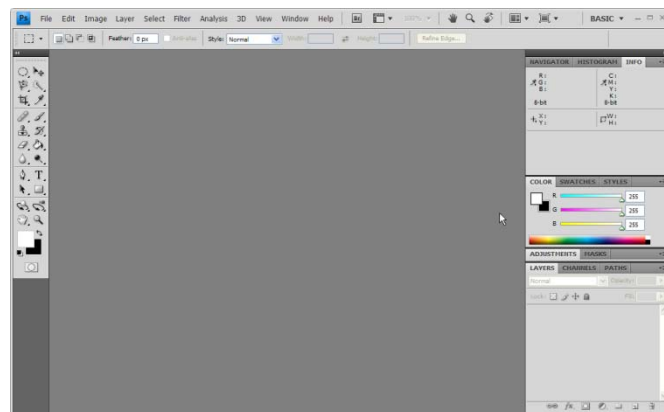
About Image Formats

Not all image formats work well on the World Wide Web. Only three formats are acceptable. JPEG images are best suited for photographs while GIF and PNG are intended for line art and images with blocks of color, such as drawings and logos. Depending on the actual image you intend to use, you may find that a “wrong” format may work best. For instance, some drawings with color fades, similar to what can be found in a photograph may look better as a JPEG than as a GIF. Be sure to test you image and use the best format for the task.

In this Photoshop Tip we will use a photograph in JPG format. But the basic principles are accurate for both GIF and PNG files.

Getting Started

Open Photoshop CS4. The program will start and the Photoshop CS4 workspace will appear on your screen. It may resemble the image on the right.



NOTE: The Tool Bar and Layers pallet should be displayed. If they are not, click Window on the Menu bar. A drop down menu will appear.

Click Tools. The Tool bar will be placed on your screen.

The Pallet must be displayed on your screen. If it is not in the workspace, **click** Window on the Menu bar and **click** Layers. The Layers pallet will appear. It will resemble the image on the right.

Click File on the Menu bar. A drop down menu will appear.

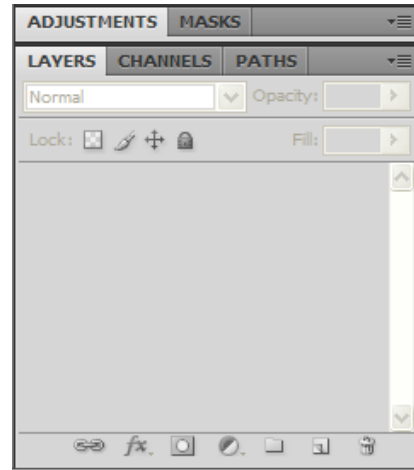
Click Open from the drop down menu. The Open File control panel will be displayed.

Navigate to the image you want to resize.

Select the image.

Click Open. The image will be placed in the workspace. To demonstrate the steps discussed here, a photograph in JPEG format will be used.

NOTE: JPEG is a "lossey" format. This means that with each save the data in the image is compressed. The more the image is saved, the more it is compressed and the more data is lost. After a few saves the quality of the image will deteriorate.



Layers Pallet

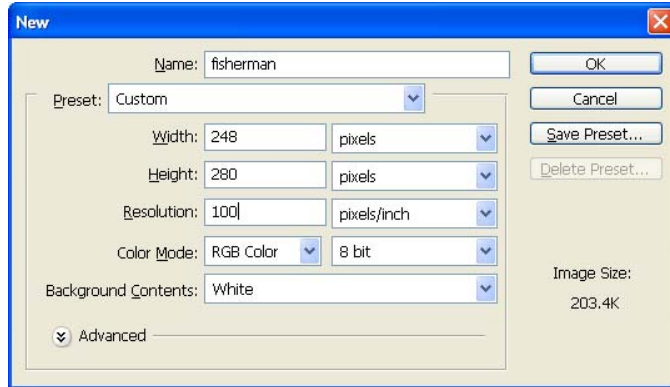


You may either use the selections on the Menu bar to convert an image, or use keyboard shortcuts. The shortcuts are faster. To convert a JPEG image, or an image in any other format, using keyboard shortcuts to a Photoshop image follow these steps:

Press Control+A on the keyboard to select your entire image. The famous Photoshop marching ants will appear around the border of the image. This is illustrated on the right.

Press Control+C to copy the selected area to the computer's clipboard.

Press Control+N to open the New Image control panel. This panel is shown on the right.



Name the image. In this example we are calling the photo “fisherman.”

Set the Resolution to a pixels per inch value of 72 to 100 if the resolution already displayed is high than 100 pixels per inch.

NOTE: Very old PC monitors have a display resolution at 72 dots per inch. Newer monitors have display resolutions up to 100 dpi. Older Macintosh monitors will have display resolutions of 78 dpi. Specifying a resolution higher than 100 dpi will not improve the display quality of the image. It will, however, make the file sizes larger and cause download times to be longer. You should test your image. Some images will look perfectly fine when the dpi setting is as low as 72. Others will look better when the resolution is higher. Strive for a balance between adequate display quality and reasonable download times.

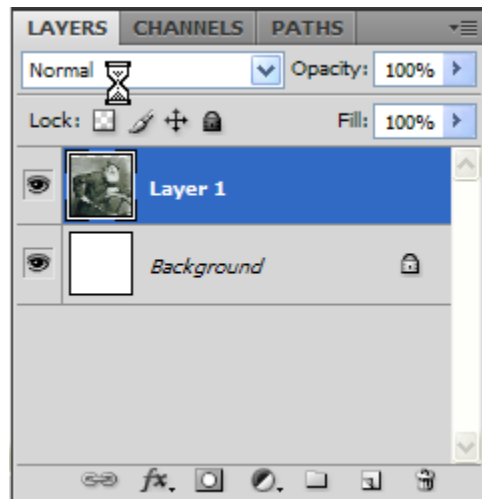
Set the Mode to RGB Color.

Set Background Contents to White. This will cause the background color to be white.

NOTE: When an image, portion of an image, is in the clipboard, the New Image control panel will open with the dimension of the image already specified. In the illustration above, the dimensions are 209 pixels wide and 214 pixels high. All Web dimensions for images are specified in pixels. Be sure that the New Image control panel is set to display dimensions in pixels.

Click OK. A new blank image will appear on the screen.

Press Control+V to paste the image in the clipboard into the new blank image. A new layer will be created and will be shown in the Layers pallet. This is illustrated on the right.



The new image is now in Photoshop CS4 format.

Now is a good time to save the image as a precaution.

Click File on the Menu bar. The dropdown menu will appear.

Select Save As from the menu.

Navigate to the folder in which you want to save the image.

Check that the format is Photoshop PSD.

Click Save.

Changing the Size of Your Image

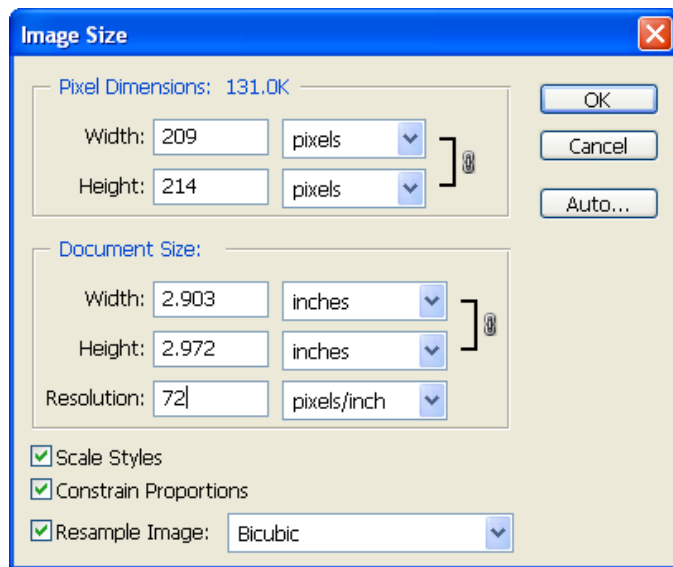
Changing image size is a fairly straightforward procedure.

Click Image on the Menu bar. A drop down menu will appear.

Click Image size on the menu. The Image Size panel will be displayed. The panel is shown on the right.

Because you are using the image on the Web, you will specify dimensions within the Pixel Dimensions section in pixels.

Check the Constrain Proportions box at the bottom of the panel. With the box checked, when you change one dimension, the other will also change. The image will retain its original width-to-height ratio.



If you need to change only one dimension, or if the ratio must be different, **uncheck** the Constrain Proportions box.

Notice that as you modify the dimensions, the file size will change if the Resample Image box is checked. The file size is displayed at the top of the panel. In the illustration above, the file size is 131k. If the Resample Image box is unchecked, the image dimensions will change, but the file size will not. This is more appropriate for print applications than Web work.

NOTE: Always check image size if you change resolution and before you click OK. Changing resolution of an image will cause the pixel dimensions to change. Correct the sizes if necessary.

Click OK if you are satisfied with your changes. The image will change size on the screen.

Make any further modifications as necessary.

Saving Your Image In A Format Suitable for the Web

Now you must save the image in JPEG, GIF, or PNG format so that it can be used on a Web page. Saving the image in PSD format first, as you did earlier, is a good a safety precaution. But now is a good time to save the file in PSD format again. This is another safety precaution in case you have to return to the image to work on it later. Use the steps outlined previously.

Now you will make the final save.

Click File on the Menu bar. The drop down menu will appear.

Click Save As on the menu. The Save As control panel will be displayed.

Navigate to the folder in which you want to save the image.

Specify the format in to which you want to save the image. **Select** the format from the drop down list.

Check the file name to see if Photoshop has inserted the word "copy" into the file name. In our example, the file was automatically named "fisherman copy.jpg."

Change the file name if necessary.

Click Save. A series of panels will be displayed. Depending on the format you have selected, you will be prompted to choose options such as, compression, layer flattening (always "yes" to reduce file size), colors, optimization, and so on.

Specify the details as required. When you are finished the image will be ready for placement in a Web page. Remember, if you choose .jpg, the more compression you select, the more colors will be removed from the image