

TECHNIQUE

Resizing images

Change the size of your digital images to make them easy to e-mail to a client for approval or ready to submit to a stock library

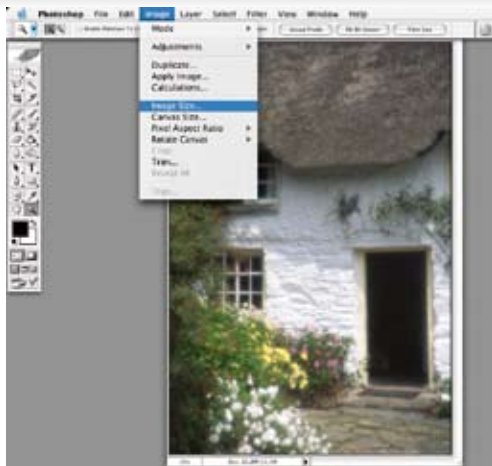
RESIZING DIGITAL images is an important part of freelance life. You may need to reduce the size of an image to e-mail it to a potential

client or increase it to meet the file size requirements of stock libraries. Either way, these changes are made using the same dialogue box on Photoshop. Here's how.



TO REDUCE AN IMAGE IN SIZE

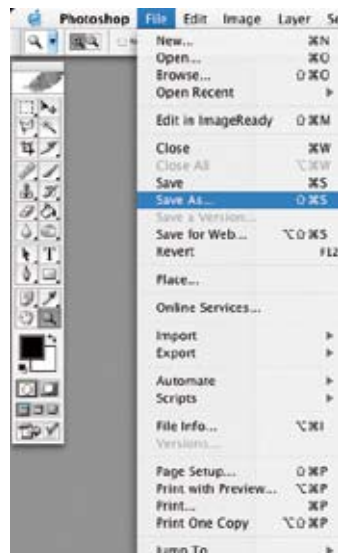
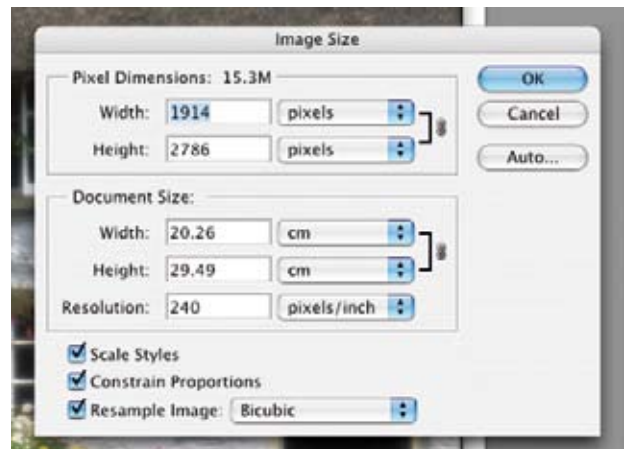
1 OPEN THE IMAGE. Once the image is open, select Image>Image Size to open up the dialogue box. At the top of the window you'll see the file size and pixel dimensions, in the centre is the document size and resolution, while at the bottom there are three tick boxes.



3 FINE TUNE. Ideally, you want the new Pixel Dimensions to be smaller than 1Mb. If changing the Resolution alone hasn't done this, go to the Document Size part of the window and type in a smaller Width or Height measurement. The other measurement will change accordingly. Click OK, then choose File>Save As so the original file remains untouched.



2 REDUCE IMAGE SIZE. If you're e-mailing images to a client, make sure that all three tick boxes are checked at the bottom of the window, then move to the Resolution box and change it to 72 pixels/inch. This is fine for a client to view the image on screen. As you type the new resolution in, you'll see the Width and Height values change, along with the Pixel Dimensions.



READER TIP

★ Following the Technique piece in Issue 3, FPME subscriber Dave Fletcher contacted us to offer a useful extra piece of advice that can save a lot of time when adding keyword and copyright information to your digital images.

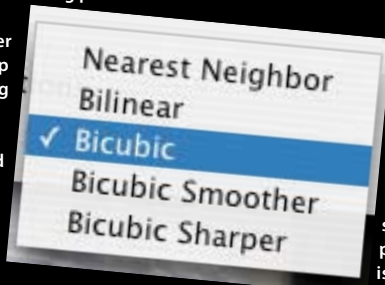
With the File Info box open in Photoshop CS, type in all the details, just as we directed in our tutorial. Once all the information is in, open the window's fly-out menu by clicking on the black triangle in the top right hand corner of the box. In this menu, select Save Metadata Template, give the template a name and hit Save. Open the File Info window in your next image, access the fly-out menu again and choose your saved template. All the information will then be flowed in, saving you having to type it all over again.

TOP TIPS

★ **Understanding interpolation**

Interpolation is a mathematical term that, when related to Photoshop, is essentially a posh way of saying 'adding or removing pixels from an image'. When you make an image bigger or smaller, Photoshop does this by assessing all the pixels in the image, then either adding new ones and assigning a colour to them (to increase an image size) or by removing them (to decrease a file size).

To confuse matters slightly, a variety of interpolation methods are available in Photoshop, all of which can be accessed by the drop down menu next to the Resample Image tick box. You can also change the default interpolation method through Photoshop preferences. With the program open on a PC go to Edit-Preferences-General, on a Mac choose Photoshop-Preferences-General. Which method should you use? Here's our guide:



NEAREST NEIGHBOR. The most basic form of interpolation because it considers pixels on an individual basis and adds to them, effectively just making the pixel bigger. OK with illustrations, but it's not recommended with photographs.

BILINEAR. Medium quality interpolation where pixels are assessed in groups of four. Better than Nearest Neighbor, but still not the best on offer.

BICUBIC. The default Photoshop method that assesses groups of sixteen pixels. Recommended as it produces the smoothest results and is less likely to require sharpening than Nearest Neighbor and Bilinear.

BICUBIC SMOOTHER. The best method when you're enlarging images. It works using the same method as Bicubic, but offers even smoother tones. Try this and Bicubic to see which does best.

BICUBIC SHARPER. The best method when you're reducing the image size. Be careful that it doesn't over-sharpen some areas of your images, though.



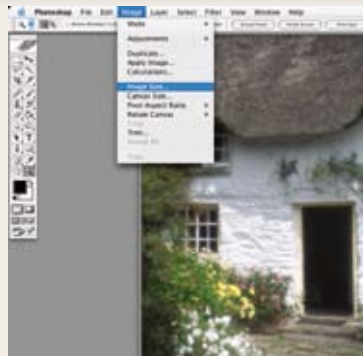
★ If you have Photoshop CS, there's an even easier way to resize your images. Selecting Help-Resize Image opens the Resize Image Wizard that guides you through the process in three simple steps. Naturally, you have less control over what Photoshop is actually doing but it does make the task very easy.

★ If you've increased your file sizes to meet the needs of a publisher or stock library, check with them if they like any sharpening to be applied to the image. Many prefer the image to be untouched. Furthermore, it's worth confirming if they're happy for images to be resized using interpolation in the first place – some aren't.

TO INCREASE AN IMAGE IN SIZE

1 OPEN THE IMAGE.

With your image open, choose Image-Image Size to open up the dialogue box. For shots to be published in FPME, we request images to be 300 pixels/inch (or dpi) at roughly A4 size, so that's what we're going to do with this shot. Other publishers or libraries may have different requirements, often based on file size.

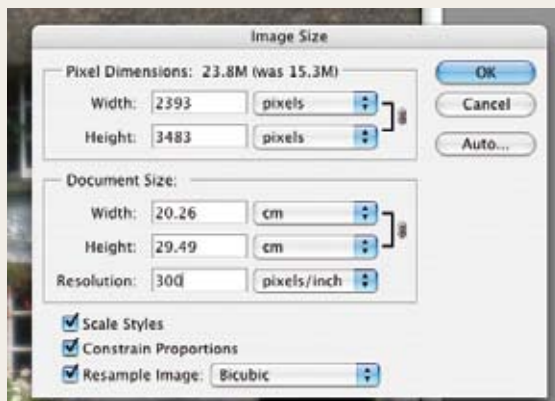


2 CHECK THE SIZE.

Looking in the Document Size part of the window, you can see that the width and height of the image (this is a scan from a 35mm transparency) are approximately A4 size, so we'll leave these alone.



3 CHANGE RESOLUTION. Make sure that the three boxes at the bottom of the window are all ticked and then highlight the Resolution and change it to 300. As it's typed in, you'll see that the Width and Height measurements stay the same, but the Pixel Dimensions and file size increase.



4 SAVE IT. Click OK and Photoshop will add pixels to your image. As well as increasing the file size, this process can also reduce the sharpness of an image. For this reason, the image may require sharpening. To do this, select Filter-Sharpen-Unsharp Mask. Leave the Threshold at 0, the Radius at 1.0 and alter the Amount slider to obtain a satisfactory result. When you're done, choose File-Save As to save the image.

