

Photoshop - 26a: Adding extra canvas to your photos for Digital Projected Images

There is a system in Photoshop called 'Canvas Size' where-by you can add an extra bit to the sides/top/bottom/all edges of your photo.

When you resize your images to competition size, one side may not fully fit, even though the other side does.

By extending the edges (making the canvas bigger) you add a border around the outside of your photo, to make the size up to the competition size.

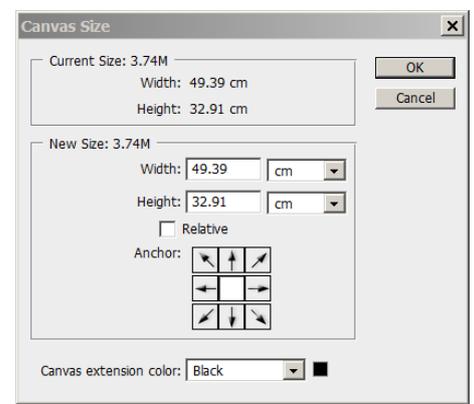
Normally it is added to just one side, as the other should already be the correct size.

This saves your photo from being 'stretched' or 'shrunk' to fit the projector resolution, therefore keeping your photo sharp and in the correct proportions.



1. Open your photo in Photoshop. Adjust your photo, and add any border.
2. On the top Menu bar, go to Image → Image Size
(or press Alt+Ctrl+I). Resize your Image to the competition size.

3. Next, on the top Menu bar, go to Image → Canvas Size
(or press Alt + Ctrl + C). A new window appears.



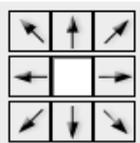
In the top box, it will show you the current size of your canvas.

When you then change the size in the box below, this 'Current Size' box is useful for comparison.

Underneath 'Current Size' box is a 'New Size' box. This is where you make your changes.

3. **First** you go to Anchor:

The white square represents where your photo will be on the new canvas. Make sure the white square is in the centre. (Some programmes it is not white, but a grey box with a dot in)



This will add extra canvas to all of the outside edges of your photo.

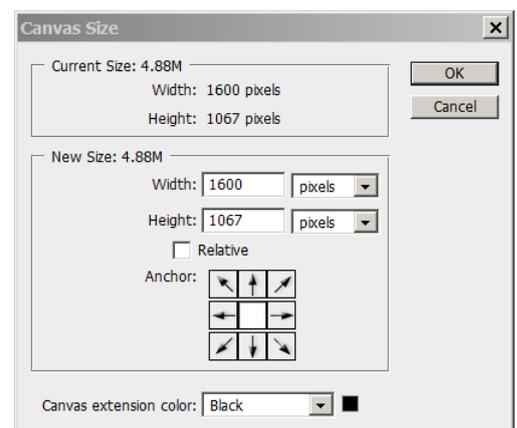
3a. Make sure the Relative box is un-ticked. Just click in the square to switch on and off.

4. Still in the New Size box, now go to either the **Width** and/or **Height** boxes, and click on the drop-down arrow. Select '**Pixels**' as the measurement scale. The numbers will automatically change to your resized image size.

5. Click in either the Width or Height box and change the number to the competition size.
 - For Landscape Images which have already been changed to the width, you change the height.
 - For Portrait Images which have already been changed to the height, you change the width.

My example: for 1600px x 1200px competition sizes I would need to change just the Height to 1200px, as the Width is already correct at 1600px.

Once changed, the final sizes in the 'New Size' section should be the competition sizes. (Eg 1600 x 1200)



5. Now choose your extension colour (the colour of the added bit of canvas!).

Competition Projected Images are projected using a black background, so change the Canvas Extension colour to black. The black canvas will merge into the background when projected, so that only your Image shows. Click on the drop-down arrow and choose 'Black'.

6. When you are happy with all your selections, click on OK. Your photo will now have a black border and its size will be the full competition size. "Save as..." another file.