Competition Entries to Brechin Photographic Society – Information Leaflet

Introduction

The requirements for submissions can seem a little specific, but there are good reasons for this. This leaflet will provide all the necessary information.

Some competitions require the submission of PDI (Projection Digital Images) only, and this is specified on the programme. Others require the submission of physical prints – but we also require PDIs for making up the slideshow for the judging night. The PDIs should match the prints accurately.
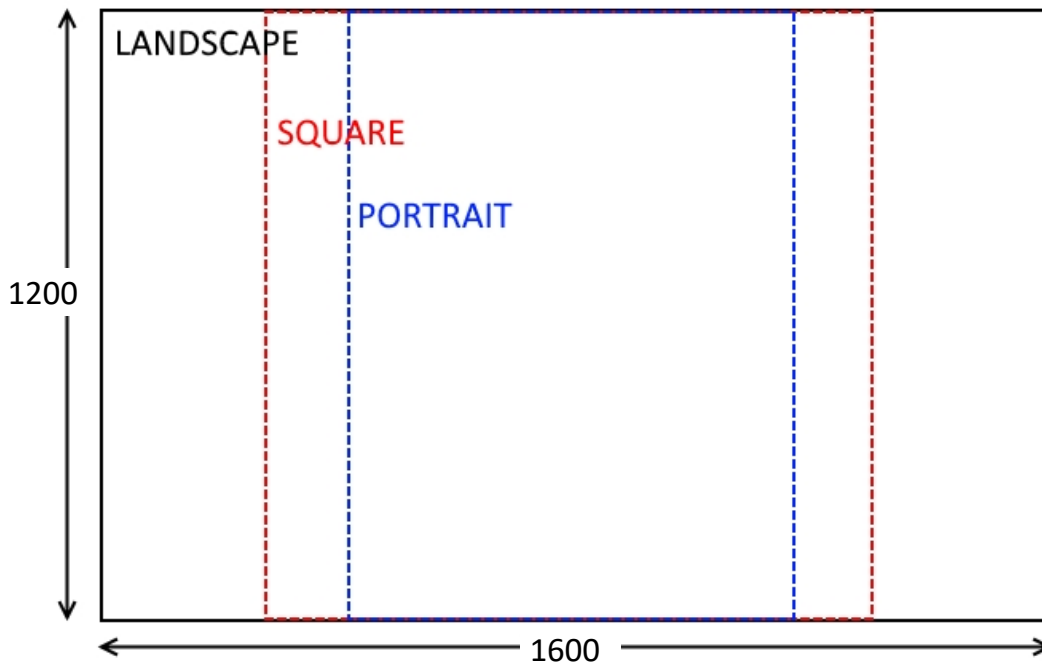
A good habit to get into is to keep three copies of your competition entries –

> (1) the RAW file, which allows for future editing - your image might do really well, but you might want to tweak it following a judges advice and use it again in another competition;

> (2) a full resolution jpeg file, which will allow you to print the image with the best quality possible;

> (3) a correctly resized PDI for use in camera club competitions.

(Where things do get slightly confusing is external competitions and inter-club competitions, where the computer/projector equipment may have a different resolution. This is always specified in entry instructions, and if you've kept the three copies of the image mentioned above, it's a doddle to prepare a new PDI for a different purpose. The club are keen to encourage participation in external competitions, so this is important to bear in mind – we might come asking to use your images)

PDIs (Projection Digital Images)

These must be in jpeg format, and should be resized to suit the laptop and projector that the club uses. This is 1600 pixels wide by 1200 pixels high.

Images can be resized in all the various photo editing software. In Lightroom, when images are exported, there is an 'image sizing' that allows you to choose the dimensions and the resolution. In Photoshop and Elements (and many other programmes) there is an 'image size' option in the 'Image' menu (or similar).

These programmes use quite complicated algorithms to resize images to make them physically smaller whilst maintaining image quality. The software that the laptop and projector use to display the images does not. If we project an image that is not sized correctly as per the above requirements, the image quality that is displayed at the club will be poorer – potentially significantly so. In competitions where entries are by PDI only, the judge will be assessing a poorer quality image too.

The filename you choose should identify the title of the image and your name clearly.

For example – "Butterfly_Ben_Freeman.jpg" or "RainbowFredaBloggs.jpg"

Examples screenshots from Lightroom CC and Photoshop CC showing image resizing are shown overleaf.
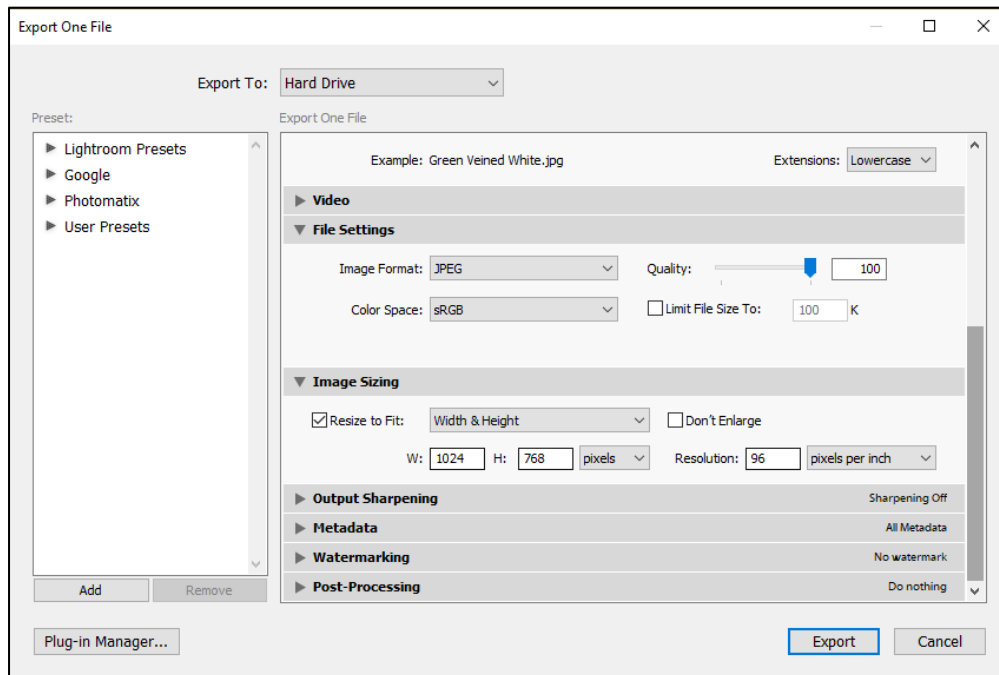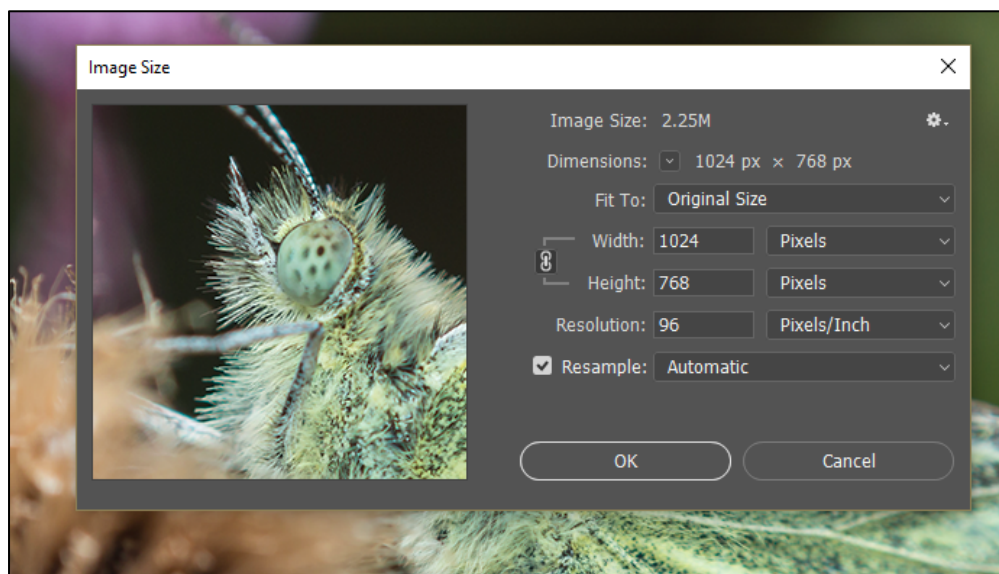
Export menu in Adobe Lightroom CC

Image Size window in Adobe Photoshop CC

Prints

Printing should not be something to fear. The process of printing images is very productive – to create an image from start to finish. However, home printing can be expensive, and many members do not do their own. There are a number of options, from high street outlets like Boots and Asda offering a service, to specialist printers like Forfar Photo Centre for example (http://forfarphotocentre.co.uk/) where Bruce offers a small discount for club members. Various online services are also available, for example Photobucket or Photobox.

Prints should be larger than A5 sized - 148 x 210mm or 5.8 x 8.3 inches, and should fit on a mount no larger than 400 x 500mm or 15.7 x 19.7 inches.   Normally prints are around about A4 size – 210 x 297mm or 8.3 x 11.7 inches, but it's up to you entirely how you want your image to look, within the above parameters.

Mounting Prints - printed Images should be fixed to a mount, held firmly in place with mounting tape or similar. There are several ways to do this. Photos can simply be mounted (glued or using double sided-tape) on top of a mount, or the mount can be cut with a window and the print mounted behind it with tape.

Many art and printing supply shops sell pre-cut mounts, but this means you have to prepare your print to fit. It is therefore useful to be able to cut your own mounts to fit the print accurately. The overall size of the mount should not exceed 400 x 500mm or 15.7 x 19.7 inches.

Mounting board can be bought from any decent art store (Hobbycraft sells A1 sheets for about £3 each, which will provide up to 4 mounts)

Prints should include the title of the image on the back (ideally in the top left corner) – this can be on a piece of tape or in pencil if you want to re-use the mount later, but should be clear. **Your name should be included on a separate sheet or on a piece of removable tape**, so that the judge can be given the images anonymously – please don't write your name directly onto the mount.

Submission

Prints should be handed in on, or before the deadline at the club. A box will be provided at the back of the room for this. It is advisable to bring them in a bag, in case of rain on your way in but please be considerate and don't put wet bags in the box – put them under the table or take them home.

PDIs should be emailed to the competition secretary at **bpscomps@gmail.com**, and should arrive by midnight on the deadline.

When preparing PDIs for print competitions – please have a check to make sure they are the same as the print. Mounting prints - especially with pre-cut mounts – can obscure parts of the periphery of the image, so the PDI might not match. You can always crop the PDI in Lightroom, Photoshop or similar programme to match – again a good reason to keep a full resolution jpeg as mentioned at the outset. Good practice is therefore to prepare the PDI as the last stage of the process.

Finally

It seems a lot, but we've tried to cover all the details here that should answer any questions that arise. However, please don't let this put you off – it becomes routine very quickly. If you have any questions or would like any help at all with any of this, please ask the competition secretary or any member of the committee. We are all here to help you get the most out of your photography.