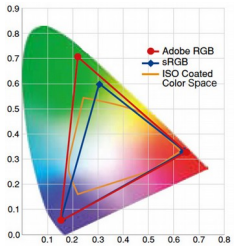
Digital Imaging – File Preparation

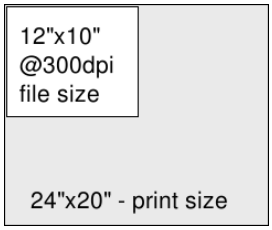
Set the colour workspace in your imaging program (Gimp, Photoshop etc.).



Your screen needs to be calibrated:
This means that it is set to a standard in terms of brightness, contrast and has a neutral colour balance.

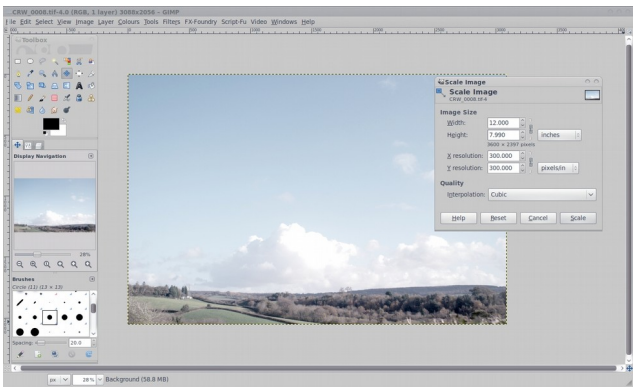
Standard Photographic lab printing

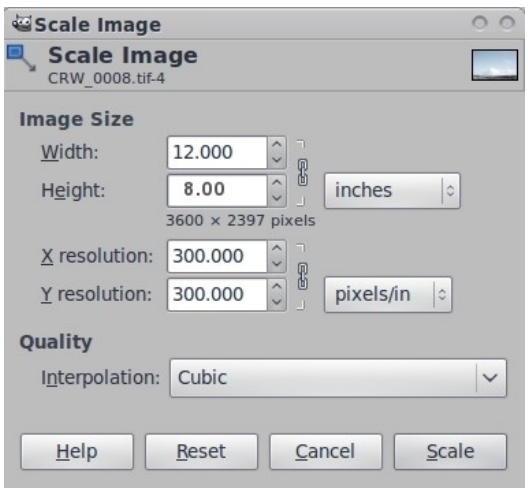
Resize the image to the print size @ 300dpi.
e.g. 15”x10” @ 300dpi.
For lab printing save as best quality .jpg (not progressive jpg) embedded Srgb profile.
Files should be RGB not grey scale and 8 bit depth NOT 16 bit.
Make sure you size to a printable paper size.



For large format printers, printing through a RIP
You can use Argb colour space or Srgb colour space
You can resize to a minimum of half size (quarter area) @ 300dpi.
e.g. for print size 24”x16” - size to 12”x8” @ 300dpi.
But do not reduce the size unless it is already bigger than the print size you need.
For wide format printing save as .tif embedded Argb or Srgb profile

Both the size and resolution are important, files should be flattened before saving for print.





The greater the level of interpolation, the lower the quality of finished print will be.
The larger your original file – generally the better the print will be.

Generally a DSLR will give better results than a 'compact' camera of the same pixel count due to the larger sensor size. A DSLR camera will usually show less digital noise.

Created by Alan Winn – more information from: http://www.theuniversody.co.uk/