



Cutting the Fat

Reduce Bulky Graphics with Adobe Photoshop

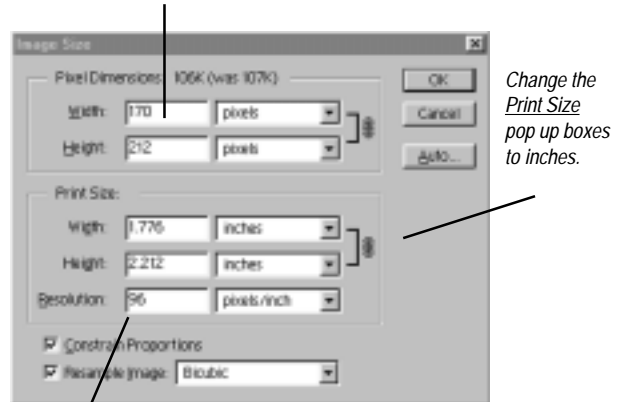
Great graphics can take eons to print, hog up excessive hard drive space, exhaust RAM and crash software. Make unweildly graphics more efficient with Adobe Photoshop . . .

Decrease the Image Size

Most programs automatically resize an image to fit on a screen or button. However, using an larger than necessary image wastes hard drive space, chokes older machines and creates bulky files that fail to fit on a floppies. So use the smallest physical size possible or shrink images with Photoshop.

How to do it: Go to the Image Menu. Choose Image Size. Check the Constrain Proportions box to maintain the width-to-height ratio. To preserve resolution, check the Resample Image box. Enter new numbers in width and height fields. Click on OK. *Note: To restore the image to original size, hold down Alt/Option and click Reset.*

Pixel Dimensions tells you the size of the file. This number changes as image size, resolution or color mode changes.



Keep Resolution to a minimum unless you are printing. Images viewed on Macintosh screens should be 72 ppi and 96 ppi for Windows.

Decrease the Resolution

Use Photoshop to reduce high resolution clip art. Resolution is the number of pixels in an image. High resolutions create detailed images with numerous pixels and result in gigantic files. Keep file sizes small. Use the lowest resolution possible, unless you are planning to print. When the the image is primarily viewed on-screen (i.e. in IntelliPics or Web pages etc.) adjust the resolution of the image to 72 ppi on Macintoshes and 96 ppi for Windows.

How to do it: Open the image in Photoshop. Go to the Image Menu. Select Image Size. Check the Resample Image box and the Constrain Proportions box to preserve the picture's width and height. Type 72 (MAC) or 96 (WIN) into the box to the right of Resolution. Click on OK (or press enter/return on the keyboard.) Save the file.

Change the Image Mode

Change simple color graphics to Indexed Color mode to dramatically reduce file size. Photoshop displays pictures in eight different modes. Indexed Color uses a maximum of 256 colors. Programs like KidPix Studio from Broderbund only import graphics in 256 colors mode, so anything more is a waste. Be aware that Indexed Color mode may compromise some graphics because many photographs require thousands of colors to appear vivid.

How to do it: Open the image in Photoshop. Go to the Image menu. Choose Mode. Make sure the image is in RGB Color mode. Choose the Image menu again, select Mode and choose Indexed Color. Click OK. Click OK. If you plan to use the image across platforms, another step is needed. If you are crossing from Mac to Windows, Choose System Windows under the pop-up window before closing the dialog box.