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[002]

Digital Imaging Competitions

Entry Standards

NCPF / PAGB / NYSD

Version 1.2 : 19-Oct-2008

1 Document Control

1.1 Change history

Version	Date	Author	Reason for new version	Sections Affected
1.0	15-Aug-2008	Stephen Byard	New Document	All
1.1	02-Sep-2008	Stephen Byard	Include NCPF	NCPF
1.2	19-Oct-2008	Stephen Byard	Updated PAGB details received	PAGB

1.2 Amendments Made In This Version

Include updated PAGB details

1.3 References

No.	Ref.	Notes
1	NCPF Entry form (Web Site), Email	Oct 2008
2	PAGB Document (Letter from PAGB)	Aug 2008
3	NYSD Document (Letter from NYSD)	Aug 2008

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3 Overview

3.1 This Document

This document describes the standards for entries into Digital Imaging Competitions external to the Northallerton Camera Club (Specifically, NCPF, PAGB, and NYSD).

3.2 Competition Equipment

Competitions will project digital images using a laptop, projector and screen.

3.3 Calibration

Part of the standards committee at each affiliation is responsible for equipment calibration, and is outside of the scope of this document, but is included for information.

3.4 Colour Space

It is assumed that the projection process (using digital equipment) adheres to the standard sRGB colour space (defined in IEC61966-2), even if the display application uses a different colour space.

3.5 Image Standards

There is no single image standard for all competitions. Currently, each affiliation is creating its own standard without full reference to others. Each standard is based on a number of factors, not least the cost and image size of the projector.

3.6 Club Projector

The club projector's native resolution is 1,024 x 768 pixels. This will be the same or smaller than that used in external competitions. The aspect ratio is likely to be the same, even if the competition projector has a larger native resolution.

3.7 Perceived Issues

The following items are perceived as issues in preparing images, selecting images, and entering external competitions.

3.8 Projector Native Resolution

A competition may require a different (larger) native image size than that of Northallerton Camera Club projector. The aspect ratio is likely to be the same regardless of size, so images displayed at Northallerton will be in the same aspect, but may project differently than at the competition. There is no acceptable resolution to this issue.

3.9 Calibration Paths

If all image paths are calibrated (members computer display, club projector, and competition projector), then images displayed at the competition should display the same colour/contrast as the member edited them. If this is not the case (and the images need to be darker or lighter), it would be a good idea to have a Photoshop script to change the exposure or brightness of all images in a folder.

3.10 Complying with Entry Standards

There are some major (and some quite subtle) differences between all of the documented standards. No two standards are alike. Therefore, members may struggle to present images for selection that meet the required criteria for any particular competition.

4 Selection Evenings - NCPF

4.1 Overview

The NCPF projector's native resolution is 1,024 x 768 pixels, which is the same as the club's projector. The image type for files will be JPEG.

4.2 Standard for Members Images

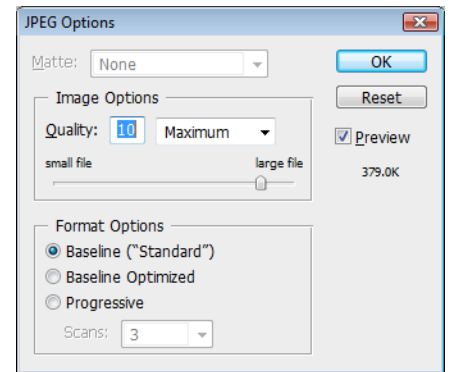
The standards for images that members present for selection at NCPF are as follows.

Property	Value	Notes
Image Width	1,024 pixels wide (maximum)	Projector native pixel size is 1,024 x 768
Image Height	768 pixels high (maximum)	Projector native pixel size is 1,024 x 768
Colour Space	Not mentioned but assumed sRGB	Members should convert images not already in the required colour space into sRGB
Image Type	JPEG	This is the standard 8-bit JPEG (not to be confused with the rarely used 16 bit JPEG)
Colour bit depth	8 bit	Saving as a standard JPEG will create an 8 bits per colour image by default
File Size	450kbytes (maximum)	Change the "Image Quality" to between 8 and 12 to get an image just less than 450k bytes.

4.3 Notes

In Photoshop CS, use the "Image Options" section of the "JPEG Options" dialog to create a file size no larger than 450kbytes. This will be anywhere between 8 and 12. It takes a moment for the file size to be calculated and is displayed to the right of the dialog.

This is more complex than the clubs JPEG standard.



4.4 Entry Details

Currently personal entries (on a [session-closed] CDR) are in the following form,

E1<minus sign><image title>.jpg

Example = E1-MyDayOut.jpg

5 Selection Evenings - PAGB

5.1 Overview

The club projector's native resolution is 1,024 x 768 pixels, whereas the competition projector will have a native issue that is likely to be larger (e.g. 1,400 x 1,050 – this will be the assumed size until the actual size is known). The image type for files will be TIFF.

5.2 Image Size

If the competition projects native size is larger than the club projector, then we have two options in handling member's images for selection and entry.

A member supplies two images, one at 1,024 x 769 pixels, and the other larger, at 1,400 x 1,050 (or whatever size is required). At the selection evening, the smaller one is used, but any selected images use the larger size.

Alternatively, images are provided by members in the target size (1,400 x 1,050), and we perform selection on these images on the club projector (remember, the aspect ratio is the same as 1,024 x 768). There may be small differences due to inherent image resizing to the native display, but this is the simplest option, especially if moving files around different folders. It may be worth a trial with the projector at these different image sizes.

5.3 Image Type

Members supply images for selection in the correct file type and colour space. The only work required for selected images, should be to rename them to the competition standard.

5.4 Standard for Members Images

The standards for images that members present for selection at PAGB are as follows.

Property	Value	Notes
Image Width	1,400 pixels wide (maximum)	Projector native pixel size is 1,400 x 1,050
Image Height	1,050 pixels high (maximum)	Projector native pixel size is 1,400 x 1,050
Colour Space	sRGB	Members should convert images not already in the required colour space into sRGB
Image Type	TIFF	The selected PAGB standard
Colour bit depth	8 bit	Create an 8 bits per colour image
File size	Any	Images will typically be around 4-6Mbytes
Layers	1	Flatten any multi-layer images
Alpha Channels	0	Remove any alpha channels
Compression	None	Images need not be compressed

5.5 Notes

The dialog (right) displays options required when saving a TIFF in Photoshop CS. Members should ensure that their images adhere to the tabular values above before saving their images as TIFF's to the options displayed in the dialog.

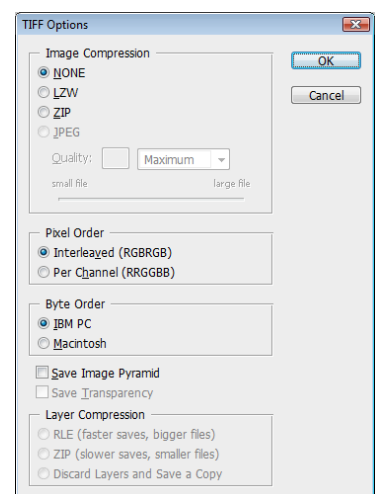
Members must "flatten" their Photoshop (or other editing) files into one layer (check also there are only RGB colour channels, and that no other masks or selection layers exist).

5.6 Entry Details

The 20 files are named as follows. A 2 digit image number (01...20), followed by an underscore, followed by the first 5 non-space characters of the competition secretary's post code in capitals (DL70T), followed by the image title which must be no more than 20 characters and no spaces.

E.g. "05_DL70T_WindyDayInTheTown".

Entry CD to contain, Name, Telephone, Club. Also write "SMALL" if a small club entry. This MUST be accompanied by a signed form provided for the competition entry.



6 Selection Evenings - NYSD

6.1 Overview

The NYSD projector's native resolution is 1,024 x 768 pixels, which is the same as the club's projector. The image type for files will be JPEG.

6.2 Standard for Members Images

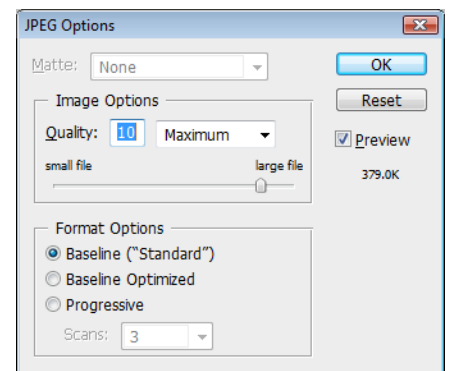
The standards for images that members present for selection at NYSD are as follows.

Property	Value	Notes
Image Width	1,024 pixels wide (maximum)	Projector native pixel size is 1,024 x 768
Image Height	768 pixels high (maximum)	Projector native pixel size is 1,024 x 768
Colour Space	sRGB	Members should convert images not already in the required colour space into sRGB
Image Type	JPEG	This is the standard 8-bit JPEG (not to be confused with the rarely used 16 bit JPEG)
Colour bit depth	8 bit	Saving as a standard JPEG will create an 8 bits per colour image by default
Resolution	96 ppi	Irrelevant to the image, but required by the standard
File Size	300kbytes - 400kbytes	Change the "Image Quality" to between 8 and 12 to get an image just less than 400k bytes

6.3 Notes

IN Photoshop CS, use the "Image Options" section of the "JPEG Options" dialog to create a file size no larger than 400kbytes. This will be anywhere between 8 and 12. It takes a moment for the file size to be calculated and is displayed to the right of the dialog.

This is more complex than the clubs JPEG standard. NYSD want to keep file sizes small, but I am not sure why they need 96ppi, which is irrelevant when displaying images on a screen. Each projector will have a slightly different pixel per inch value, but the overall displayed size is relative to the projector-screen distance. The display is simply the display. I can only assume some printing or other process they have in mind requires it.



6.4 More on Document Size

The confusion on document size (96ppi) probably relates to the way Photoshop works. In the image resize dialog, if you change the PPI from (say) 200dpi to 300dpi, Photoshop will resize the image in terms of pixels. Photoshop thinks you are asking it to do this, it is just the way Photoshop was written to work.

If you have an image sized at 1,204 x 768 and 300dpi, then save it as a JPEG, it will take exactly the same disk space as one set to 96dpi. The DPI value is simply that; a static value that tells an output device how to print the document. It has no relevance to a displayed image and is ignored when projected.

6.5 Entry Details

Up to SIX images, with no more than TWO per author.

Files for this competition are named as follows (underscore between components, spaces allowed in names),

<club name>_<author name>_<image title>