

Creating a Panel in Elements, Affinity and Photoshop

Preparation

Process your chosen images and save them to fit within 1600 by 1200 pixels as maximum quality Jpegs and with pixels per inch of 300. You can use other values for pixels per inch but all your chosen images should be at the same ppi. The file names should be in the form: Your Name_01, Your Name_02 etc (the numbers being the order of the images in your panel. It may be convenient to save these in a new folder for ease of access later.

To arrive at your preferred panel layout you could print the images off on plain A4 paper and arrange them until you have a layout you are happy with. Then save and number your images as above.

Elements (V16 Expert)

Step 1

Open Elements and select New, Blank file. In the Dialogue Box add the Panel name (in the form: Your Name_Panel Title e.g., Matthew Clarke_Fruits of the Forest), select International Paper, then A3 and set resolution to 300. Use White as the Background Contents. Click OK

Step 2

Create a centreline guide. Select View, New Guide. A3 is 420 mm wide so in the dialogue box select Vertical and enter 21 (cms) A central guide will appear (Make sure in View, Guides is switched on).

Step 3

Use “place” to get your images on to the paper. Select File, Place and navigate to your images. Select the top left image Click, Place and then move this into roughly the top left position, Click on the green ok tick. Repeat this for each image until you have all 6 on the page.

Step 4

Resize to suit by selecting all the image layers (not the Background) and using Image, Transform, Free Transform. Pull one of the corner handles to resize all the images to appropriate size and click on green arrow, (You can resize individual images by the same method).

Step 5

Arrange the Images to taste. The centre images can be moved to snap to the centre guideline (make sure that in View, Snap to Guides is switched on).

You can align the images by selecting the relevant layers and using the align tools at the bottom of the screen.

To move several images together use Ctrl and click on the image layers – you can then drag them together or align as required.

Step 6

If you want to change the background colour select the background layer. Then either double click on the foreground colour on the left hand side and pick a colour or use the Colour Picker tool to select a colour from your images. Use Paint Bucket to fill the background layer with your chosen colour

Step 7

Now save the image using Save to your preferred location – save as a psd to preserve the layers in case you want to return and fine tune the panel.

Step 8

Now resize the image to fit within 1600 by 1200. Select Image, Resize and Image Resize. In the dialogue box enter 1600 in the Width box.

Convert the image to sRGB by using Image, Convert Colour Profile and choose sRGB.
Select File, File Info and add your name and the panel title.
Now save the small image using Save As and selecting JPG. In the dialogue box select Maximum Quality and Save.

Affinity (V1.9)

Step 1

Create a New document – File, New. In the dialogue box choose Print, click on A3. Set DPI to 300 and choose your orientation. Click on transparent background. Then click on Create.

Step 2

When the document opens fill it with White (the colour can be changed later) using the Flood fill tool.

Step 3

Select “File” then “Place” then in the dialogue box that appears navigate to your panel images. Using Ctrl or Shift select all of the images for your panel then click on Open. The selected images will appear in a panel on the left hand side. A tool will appear on the document clicking repeatedly on the document this will place the images on the document and create layers in the layer panel

Step 4

By selecting the layers and using the move tool you can resize and move the images as you wish. If you have the snap to tool (red magnet) selected various guides will appear to help you locate the images. If you wish you can display rulers and drag out some guide lines.

Step 5

If you wish you can now change the colour of the background. With the bottom layer selected pick a colour from the Colour Panel or using the Colour Picker (eye dropper) to select a colour from your images. Using Flood Fill, click on the white area of the document. You will probably find pale colours work best.

Step 6

Now add your name and the Panel title to the metadata. Click on the Metadata panel (next to Adjustments (it may be abbreviated to Mtd). In the drop down box select file and then enter the panel title and your name.

Step 7

Now save the image. If you wish to be able to rework it, save it as Affinity’s native file type giving it a file name in the form: Your Name_Panel Title e.g., Matthew Clarke_Fruits of the Forest

You now need to export the image as a jpeg. First make sure the colour space is set to sRGB . From the Document menu, select Convert Format / ICC Profile, select sRGB from the list in the dialog and click Convert.

You can now export the image using File, Export. Select JPEG and set quality to 100. For a landscape image in the left hand size box enter 1600, then unclick the “lock” – that should set the correct height. The click Export and save the file to your preferred location.

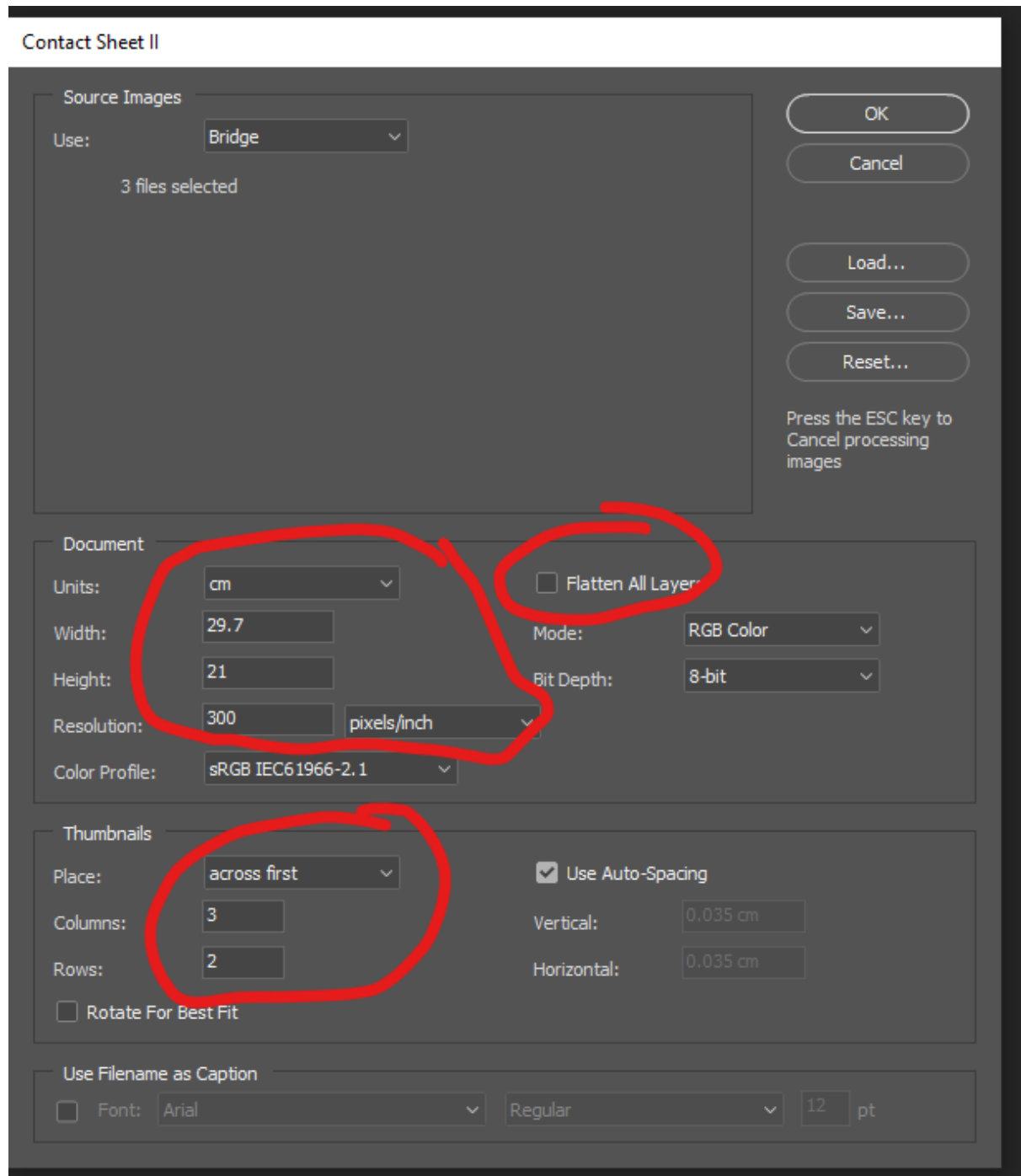
Photoshop CC (V22)

Step 1

It is easiest if you start in Bridge. You can either use “Load Files as Layers in Photoshop” or use “Contact Sheet II”. Contact Sheet II is convenient as it also creates a background layer.

Select all your panel images then select Tools, Photoshop the Contact Sheet II. Make sure “Flatten All Layer is **UNTICKED**. Click Ok – Photoshop will open with your images on a white background with your images in layers and they will be in the order 1 to 6.

If you haven't used Contact Sheet II before the settings will be different to those I showed in the demonstration. You will need to change the settings to those shown on this screen shot:



The settings should be as shown in the screen shot above - you need to change the areas circled in red. This is set up to put 3 images across in two rows on landscape paper. If you want to put 3 images down on a portrait sheet reverse the width and height dimensions and change the thumbnails to 1 column and 3 rows. You can move the image around to taste afterwards. Make sure Flatten All Layers is unticked - also untick Rotate for Best Fit and untick Use Filename as Caption.

Step 2

You can either expand the canvas (Image Canvas Size) or select all the images layer (not the background) and use Edit, Transform, Scale to reduce the size of the images to taste. You can then move the images individually (PS will show helpful lines to help you position the images) to suit. If you want to change the background colour select the background layer. Then either double click on the foreground colour on the left hand side and pick a colour or use the Colour Picker tool to select a colour from your images. Use Paint Bucket to fill the background layer with your chosen colour

Step 3

Now resize the Image using File, Automate, Fit Into. In the dialogue box enter 1600 in width and 1200 in height Click Ok.

Step 4

Now change the colour space to sRGB. Select Edit, Convert Profile and in the dialogue box set sRGB Click OK

Step 5

Save the image File, Save As and select Jpg. Give the image a name in the form: Your Name_Panel Title e.g., Matthew Clarke_Fruits of the Forest and save in your preferred location.

Step 6

Return to Bridge and navigate to your saved image – go to Metadata and enter the Panel title and your name in the usual places.

Submitting the Images

However you create your panel and individual images they should be sent to **dpicompsec@idps.org.uk**

You need to send the Panel Composite image **AND** the six (or 3 for Roslyn) individual images.