

Printing Using Photoshop Elements

Jim Skeen, May, 2004

Key Steps for printing a photo

- Before entering print preview mode, set your picture's resolution & print dimensions
- Choose paper size & image orientation
- Choose quality setting & paper type
- Print!

Notes

- Allow at least 0.25" bleed edge. Photoshop Elements cannot override the borders settings for your printer's unprintable areas.
- 200-300 DPI is great for ink-jet printers. Larger DPI is wasted, takes longer to print.
- During printing with PE2, you can change the print dimensions, but not the print resolution
- It takes time to transmit photos from your computer to your printer. You may want to flatten large photo files before printing them.
- Maximum print size: divide horizontal pixel count by the desired resolution. For example, 1656 pixels / 300 ppi resolution = 5.5" max. horizontal size. Similar calculation for maximum vertical resolution.

Experiment with Print Preview

1. Click on Print Preview (inside the File menu). Note that CTL + P is a shortcut.
2. In the **Position** sub window, uncheck *Center Image*. Then move the image within the display window.
3. Check *Center Image* to recenter it.
4. In the **Scaled Print Size** sub window, check *Scale to Fit Media*. What happens?
5. Uncheck *Scale to Fit Media*. Make sure that *Show Bounding Box* is checked. Then grab a corner to the image in the display window. Vary the size of the image. Also, try manually changing *Scale, Height, and Width*.

6. Click on the **Page Setup** button. Change the orientation of your print. Choose the paper size. Try both small and large paper sizes. Experiment with printing at different sizes.
7. Back on the **Print Preview** window, heck the **Show More Options** button. Make sure that *Output* is displayed.
8. Change the Background color. Note that the background color only appears when printed – it doesn't change your actual photo.
9. Add a caption. It always prints at 9-point Helvetica plain type. You can't change this. Note: to add a caption, you must first go to **File → File Info**.
10. Add a border
11. Add corner crop marks.
12. Experiment with printing your image, using the above listed possibilities.

Create a Test Strip (See instructions from Mikkel Aaland's excellent book, *Photoshop Elements Solutions*)

Create Postcards (see instructions from Lisa Matthews' book, *Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0 Idea Book*)

Walk – thru of printing on Jim’s HP Deskjet 990c printer

Note: Printer Options Vary Widely!

Your printer will likely have different options, named differently.

Be sure to read your printer’s manual for recommended settings.

1. I calibrated my monitor, using the Monitor Calibration Wizard.
2. I saved the photo using the ICC sRGB standard profile.
3. I cropped the photo to 4x6 inches, using 200 dpi.
4. In **Print Preview**, I selected *Show More Options* and then *Color Management*. I then selected *Profile* to be the same ICC sRGB profile as I used in step 2, above. For *Intent*, I selected *Perceptual*.
5. Under **Page Setup**, I select *4x6 Card Stock* and *Landscape* mode.
6. Under **Advanced Options** for my printer, I selected *Best Quality* and set the **media** to *HP Photo Paper*.
7. I set *ICM Method* to *ICM Handled by Host System*.
8. I put a sheet of Kodak High Gloss inkjet paper into my printer, after first adjusting the tray.
9. I then printed the picture. It took about 5 minutes to print at 200 dpi, 6 minutes at 300 dpi.
10. After printing, compare colors to those seen on your monitor. Recalibrate your monitor if necessary.