

PREPARING PHOTOS for PRINTING

GENERAL WORKFLOW

- Open a PSD file
 - SAVE AS... a TIFF File
- Resize to Printer Resolution
 - using **IMAGE SIZE**
- Sharpen with Layer Sharpen
- Add a Black Border
 - using **CANVAS SIZE**
- Set the Printing Limits
 - use a **CURVES** Adjustment Layer
- Check the Layer Stacking Order
- do a Final Save As...
- Make a Print using the Export Plug-in

OPEN a PICTURE FILE

Open a file that has been tweaked to perfection (or tweak it now, first)

open the PSD file

do not use a file that has been 'saved for web' or 'saved as jpeg' for Crit purposes

you need a full-size file at 300 ppi

make sure the file opens in the Adobe RGB (1998) Color Space

if not, use **EDIT > ASSIGN PROFILE...**

or Run Bridge and set the Color Settings for the entire Creative Suite

create a final 'printing file'.

immediately do a **SAVE AS...**

save the image as a new file using

FILE > SAVE AS...

[CMD] [SHFT] S

use the TIFF file format from the drop-down **FORMAT** menu

click on the **EMBED COLOR PROFILE: Adobe RGB (1998)**

save the file again after each step in this process!

RESIZE

Bring the image down to its final printing size and resolution.

open the **IMAGE SIZE** dialog box

IMAGE > IMAGE SIZE...

[CMD] [OPT] I

start at the bottom of the box and work upwards

turn on **RESAMPLE IMAGE**

use the **RESAMPLE** option: **BICUBIC SHARPER** (*best for reduction*) at the bottom

turn on **CONSTRAIN PROPORTIONS**

set the **RESOLUTION** to 300 ppi

set the **IMAGE SIZE** to an optimum of 4.5 x 6.75"

(*or whatever the longer side works out to be*)

or -

a maximum of 5 x 7.5 inches

on an 8.5 x 11" sheet,

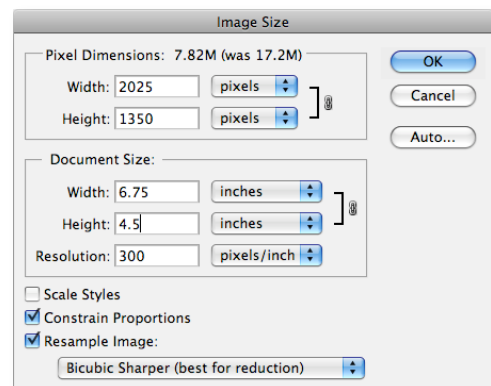
or -

a smaller size, e.g. 2 x 3 inches

USING the RULER

show ruler **[CMD] R**

change units hold **[CTRL]**,
click inside ruler



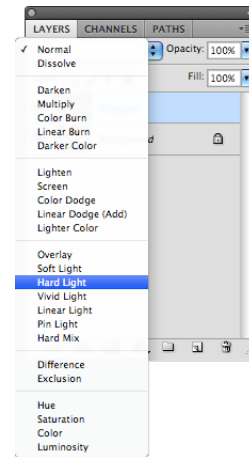
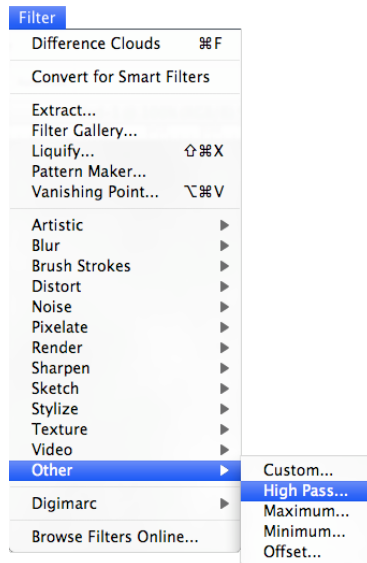
PREPARING PHOTOS for PRINTING, cont'd

LAYER SHARPEN

Printers are inherently softer than computer screens. A Sharpening Adjustment Layer should be added to compensate. This recipe makes a Sharpening Layer that can be continuously fine tuned with the Opacity slider at any time.

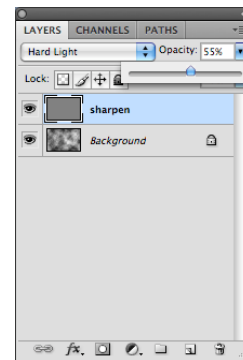
Create the Sharpening Layer

select _____ the Background layer
duplicate _____ the Background LAYER> DUPLICATE LAYER [CMD] J
double-click _____ on the layer name and
 rename _____ the Layer "sharpen"
run _____ the High Pass Filter FILTER> OTHER...> HIGH PASS
 set _____ the Radius to
 0.3 ... 0.5



change _____ the LAYER BLENDING MODE to 'Hard Light'
(use 'Soft Light' for portraits, etc.)

adjust _____ the OPACITY slider
 55% ... 33%



The Opacity slider becomes the 'intensity control'
for this layer and the sharpening that results.

PREPARING PHOTOS for PRINTING, cont'd.

ADD a BORDER

Most professional photographers make their prints with borders. This emulates the look of Darkroom prints made with a filed-out negative carrier that proves the image is a full-frame image and has not been cropped. This visual device also serves to keep the viewer's eye contained within the picture space.

open the CANVAS SIZE dialog box

IMAGE > CANVAS SIZE [CMD] [OPT] C

set the CANVAS EXTENSION COLOR to BLACK

from the drop-down menu

click on the RELATIVE button

so the dimensions specified will be added to or subtracted from the image

set the Width and Height

[note: the dialog always defaults to inches]

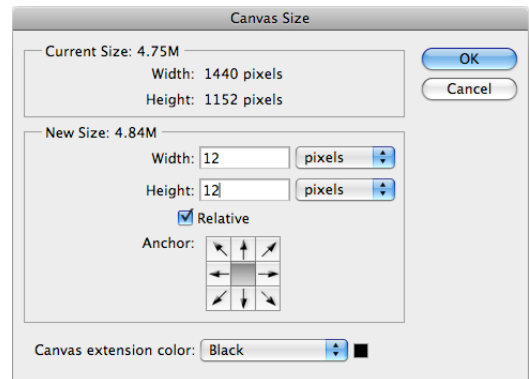
generally use 6 ~ 24 pixels or more for an even heavier border

use 10 pixels = 1/32nd inch hairline, or -

use 18 pixels = 1/16th inch

always use even numbers

because this is being added to both sides



*note: if the background color cannot be selected,
the background has probably been converted into a 'regular' layer.*

correct with ___ Layer > New > Background from Layer...

PREPARING PHOTOS for PRINTING, cont'd.

FIND the PRINTING LIMITS

It is important to know the maximum black and minimum white your brand of paper will produce. There are grey scale test prints on the wall above printer 05. Find your paper and write down the maximum and minimum values.

If your paper is not there:

open the grey-scale test print picture file

Art Folder > Maintenance Folder > blackWhiteGrey_test_x232_flat.tif

or open the same file from the berk-edu site

make a print

visually find the max and min values and circle them

post the print on the wall for everyone else to use

SET the PRINTING LIMITS with a CURVES ADJUSTMENT LAYER

There should always be some small amount of black ink in the brightest highlights and some very small amount of white in the darkest shadows.

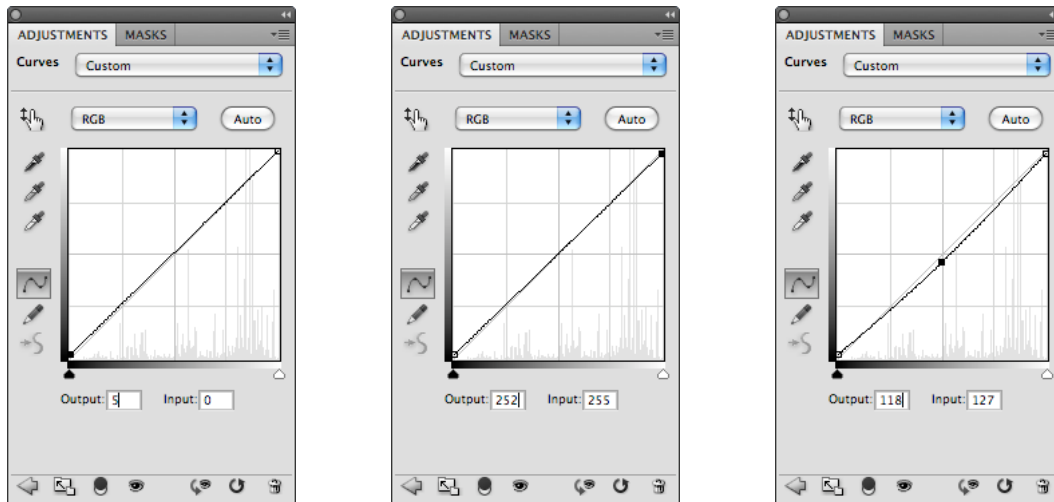
If there is no detail, then there is no information and therefore no photograph.

a.k.a. the photograph is poorly if not incorrectly printed.

The exceptions are spectral highlights and shadows at night.

add a **CURVES** adjustment layer at very the top of your **LAYERS** palette

double-click on the name and rename it 'Printer'



set the maximum black shadow level

to the highest amount of ink the paper can hold and still show detail

[Output level is typically around 2 ~ 5 for Input level = 0]

set the maximum white highlight level

to the smallest amount of ink that still shows detail

[Output level is typically around 248 ~ 252 for Input level = 255]

set the 'gamma' midtone level to middle grey

if you can determine which ink level is indeed closest to middle grey

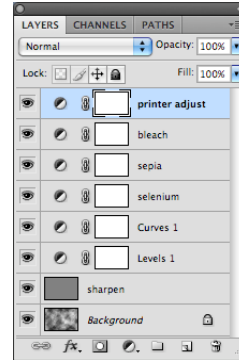
[Output levels varies widely for Input level = 127]

note: This is what the paper profile is supposed to do,
but here we are taking control for ourselves.

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LAYER STACKING

Make sure the Adjustment Layers are stacked in the proper order.
Higher Layers affect all the layers below
the order is important
for all the desired effects to happen.



SAVE AS...

Create a final 'printing file'.

save the final image once again **FILE > SAVE AS...** [CMD] [SHFT] S
use the TIFF file format from the drop-down **FORMAT** menu
click on the **EMBED COLOR PROFILE: Adobe RGB (1998)**
if **sRGB** comes up you have been working in the wrong color space
this should have set this as soon as the file was open
setting the color profile now will flatten the image
and delete all of the adjustment layers – be careful
a **TIFF OPTIONS** dialog box will open
click on **LZW** under image compression
this will make the file smaller, and easier to transfer to the Art Folder

MAKE a (series of) TEST PRINT(s)

Adjust the size and position in the **PRINT PLUG-IN** dialog box.

open the **PRINT PLUG-IN** dialog box **FILE > EXPORT > CANON iPF5100 PRINT PLUG-IN**
adjust the **SIZE** of the image to about 1/3rd the width and height of the paper
e.g. approximately 2.5 x 3.75 inches
drag the corner of the print to resize
approximate sizing is okay since this is just to test the tonal range
this size will allow the printing of at least 9 images on one sheet of photo paper
position the image in the top left corner of the page
drag from the center of the image
approximate positioning is okay since this is just to test the tonal range

set all other attributes

note: the paper profile can make a big difference in print appearance
make the print

check the tonality of the print to see if it is satisfactory
if not adjust the image and make another test print

position the next test print in a different location on the paper