

Exporting images for PDI Competitions

From the start of the 2017/2018 season, EPC will be using a new projector, which offers increased resolution as well as a brighter, more vibrant display. Because of this, the size that images need to be exported to is different to previous years.

We are now using a display resolution of 1600 x 1200 and the colour space should be sRGB.

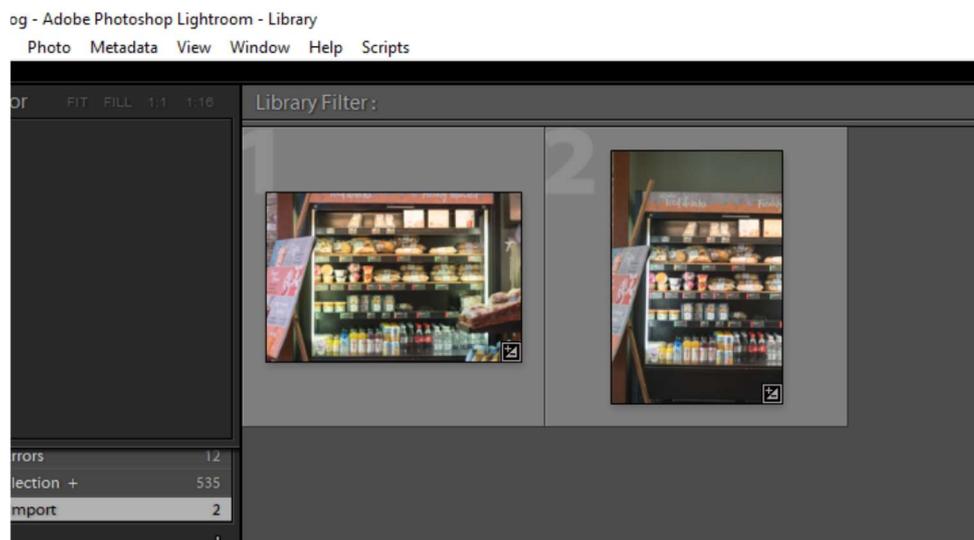
For more details and examples of exporting, please read on...

1600 x 1200 is the number of horizontal pixels and the number of vertical pixels. The relationship between this width and height is known as the aspect ratio, and in this case is 4:3, which equates to the longest side being 1.33 times the shorter.

When exporting images from software such as Lightroom or Photoshop, it'll usually adjust the sizing to keep the aspect ratio the same, so you don't need to work out both values. Instead, you can enter 1600 for the width and 1200 for the height, and let the software work it out – as long as the export option is "Resize to Fit" it should make the image 1600 x "whatever height is correct" or "whatever width is correct" x 1200, depending on the image format.

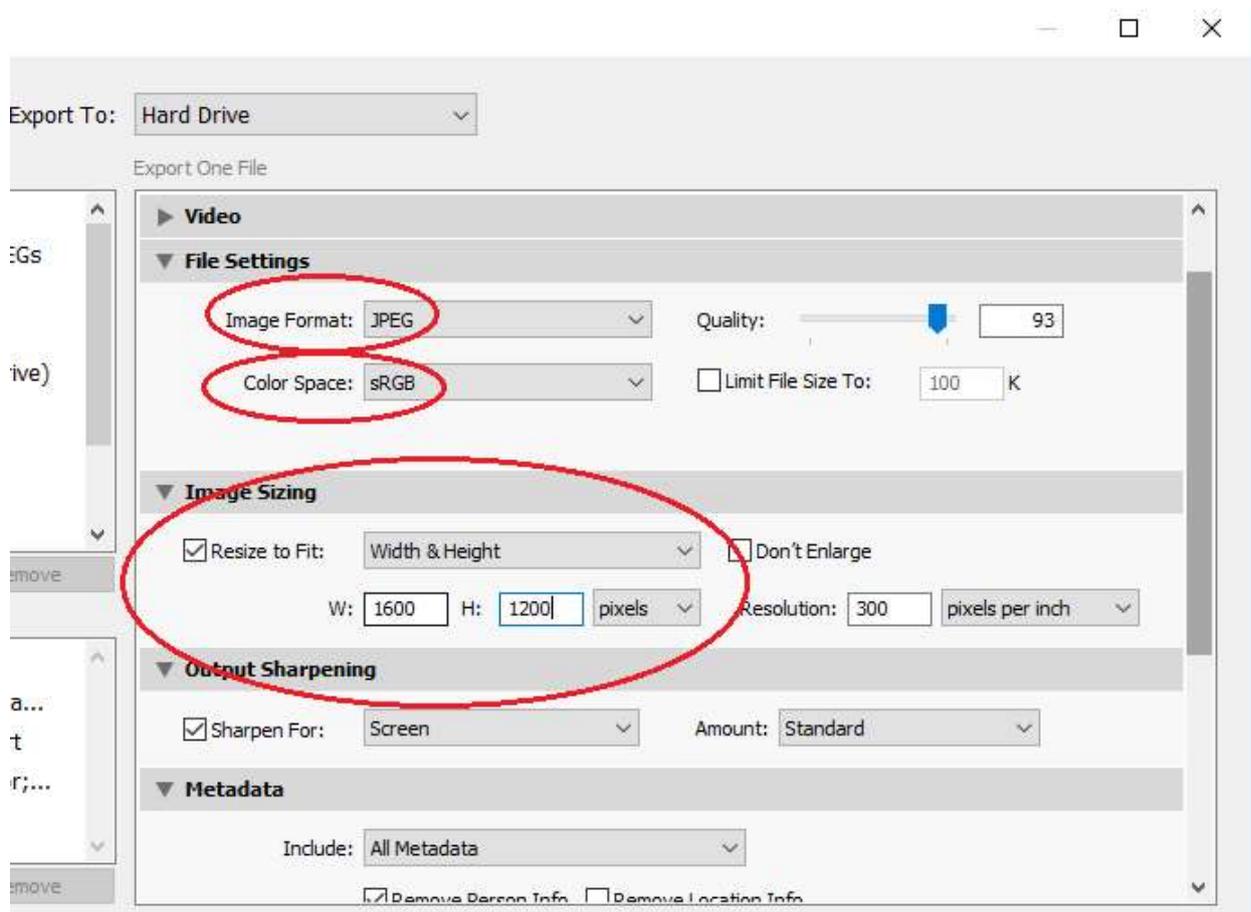
An example using Lightroom:

Here are our two beautiful competition winning images of some drinks in a coffee shop, where I happened to be writing this:



We'll first export the first (landscape / horizontal) format image.

In Lightroom, go to File > Export. You will see a screen like the below:



The important parts are circled.

Image Format: Leave on **JPEG**. The Quality setting can be whatever you like, anything above 90 is fine, setting it to 100 will just give you a bigger file with very little difference in quality.

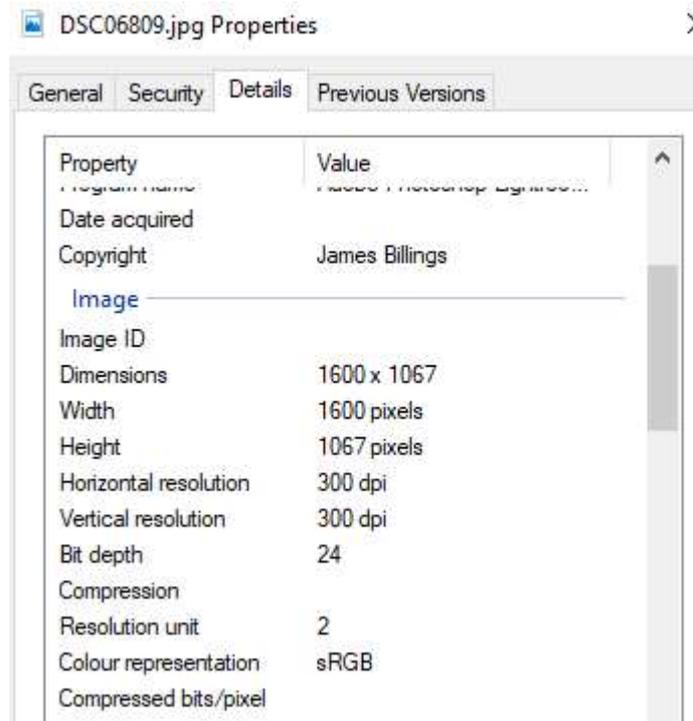
Color Space: This should be **sRGB**. Color Space refers to the range of colour values held within images. sRGB is designed for displays such as monitors, and is also what is used for our projector. The other common value you will see here is AdobeRGB and although this colour space can hold a wider range of tones, the projector cannot display them correctly, so you could end up with strange results. AdobeRGB is generally used in printing, and occasionally online print suppliers will request this format. For most purposes though (especially sharing images online where people will be viewing them on a screen of some sort), sRGB is the one to use.

Resize to fit: Set this to **Width & Height** and enter the resolution of the projector in both boxes – **1600 and 1200**. As mentioned above, the Resolution can be ignored.

Sharpen For: I didn't circle this as it's more personal preference. You can tick this and select "Screen" followed by an amount of your choice, however many people prefer to sharpen before export using their preferred method.

Resolution: This is also not circled as it doesn't matter. Settings related to pixels per inch or dots per inch are only relevant to printing. When exporting to set pixel sizes as we're doing, the option has no effect. If you need to put something in it, then the default of 300 is fine though.

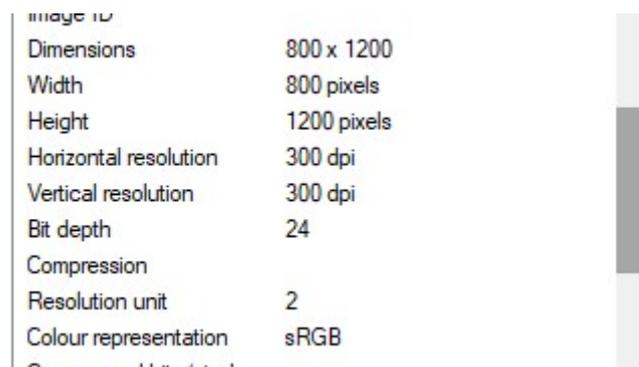
Once happy with all the entries, you can export the file. Once done, you can go and check the properties:



You will see the dimensions of the image are 1600 x 1067. Wait, shouldn't this be 1600 x 1200? No! My camera outputs images natively at 7952 x 5304, which (allowing for a decimal point or two) is a 3:2 aspect ratio, not 4:3 which the projector uses. This means my images are slightly wider (or not as tall) as the projector image. But Lightroom has correctly taken my desired dimensions and altered the image final size to fit within these. Lightroom has done the job and set the image height to 1067 which fits within the 1200 height the projector shows.

What about the other image?

For the vertical (portrait) format image, the process is exactly the same. What happens when we export this? Let's check the properties:



This time the image is 800x1200 – so it will display at the full height of the projector display and is the right width to keep the image shape correct. We can't use 1600x1200 in this case because we'll end up with an image that's too large

In summary

Enter 1600 for width & 1200 for height, and ensure that "Resize to Fit" is checked.