

Preparing for printing...

To allow for retouching, Photo CD scans are not artificially sharpened. Before printing apply PhotoShop's 'Un-Sharp Masking' (USM). The amount will vary according to image size and appearance required. For A4 try settings of: 180 - 300% / Radius: 0.6 - 1.0 / Threshold: 2 - 10 (Greater smooths grain & skin tones). Always assess the effect with the on-screen view set at 100%.

RGB to CMYK conversions...

If you have opened your file as Apple RGB for imaging and inkjet proofing you need to convert to CYMK before placing into a page layout application for four colour separations. (You should leave as gamma 1.8 Apple RGB for Photo Posters, Dye Sublimation Printers and Archival Inkjet Printers).

Ask your print house for their preferred CMYK colour space settings and apply them to your 'Colour Settings' dialogue panel in PhotoShop. Most printers still use 'PhotoShop 5.0 default CMYK' with 15% dot gain.

CMYK Images look slightly flat and desaturated onscreen - this is normal! Monitors can only display RGB accurately - Do not be tempted to "tweak" the image by increasing the saturation or adjusting levels after converting to CMYK as you will oversaturate the ink coverage during printing!

For info on other services contact Digital Masters Australasia on
(02) 9960 3911 or eMail: info@digitalmasters.com.au

For info on calibration, colour profiles, links to Kodak Photo CD support
and to download our illustrated Imaging Guide and Photo CD
tutorial visit the DMA website: www.digitalmasters.com.au



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**HOW TO GET THE BEST IMAGES FROM
YOUR PRO PHOTO CD SCANS**

Oct 2003: PhotoShop 5.0 to 7.0.1

Don't 'Double Click' Photo CD image files: Pro Photo CD files are .pcd multi-resolution, 'ImagePac' files which can be 'Opened' in all imaging applications. **If you have not used Photo CD before you should open your imaging application and navigate to the 'IMG000x.pcd' file from your 'Open' menu.**

PhotoShop Provides ICC colour management. Make sure that your PhotoShop, 'Colour Settings' dialogue box is configured for 'Apple RGB' (Even on a PC) or Adobe RGB for PRINT imaging. (If it has never been configured it defaults to sRGB - a limited colourspace for web work). Full information on our website!

When you open a '.pcd' file you will be asked to select a 'source' and 'destination' colour profile. Choose "Photo CD 4050 E6 " (Our 4050 Photo CD scanner) as the 'Source' colour profile and '8 bit RGB" as the destination profile. (These settings work perfectly with every film type) **Don't use the amateur, 24bit, 'PHOTO CD' Profile for portraits - it is designed for snapshots and is over saturated and too contrasty for professional imaging!**

Image DPI should be selected: 72dpi for a screen image, 200 - 250dpi for photos up to A3 and 100 - 150dpi for posters. (300dpi is only needed for fine text)

Which size to choose from the 'ImagePac' file: You can choose one of five image sizes from a standard Photo CD ImagePac and six from a Pro Photo CD ImagePac. The smallest is a thumbnail and the largest is poster size! The CMYK print process measures resolution values as 'Line Screen Ruling' e.g. Magazines are usually printed with a 133 'Line Per Inch' screen ruling and brochures go up to 150 LPI screen. Adobe recommends that, to maintain good image detail, the dpi (dots per inch) of your image should be 1.5 times greater than the LPI screen ruling. If you multiply a 133 line screen by 1.5 we find that we need 200dpi as the final resolution and if we multiply the 150 line screen by 1.5 you get 225dpi. Easy!

Using 225dpi as our benchmark for a 150 line screen brochure we see that the Photo CD 'ImagePac' will give you the choice of print sizes listed below...

Photo CD File	File Size	Pixel Size	Image Size @ 225dpi (150 line screen)
1/16 Base	72 KB	128 x 192 pixels	0.57" x 0.85" or 1.5cm x 2.2cm
1/4 Base	288 KB	256 x 384 pixels	1.13" x 1.71" or 2.9cm x 4.3cm
Base	1.1 MB	512 x 768 pixels	2.27" x 3.41" or 5.8cm x 8.7cm
4x Base	4.5 MB	1,024 x 1,536 pixels	4.55" x 6.82" or 11.6cm x 17.3cm
16x Base	18 MB	2,048 x 3,072 pixels	9.1" x 13.66" or 23.1cm x 36.6cm
64x Base	72 MB	4,096 x 6,114 pixels	18.2" x 27.3" or 46.2cm x 69.1cm

For intermediate size images choose the higher resolution and sample the file down using PhotoShop 'Bicubic' interpolation. (You may have to sharpen slightly afterwards).

Full Imaging Guide on our website!

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