

Transcript: Banner Image Creation

In this particular tutorial I'm going to show you how to take a very large image and resize it and make it appropriate to be used as a background image in a banner that you might have on your web page.

As you can see here I've got an image open in Photoshop CS4. Currently the image is about 28 megabytes in size, far too large for any picture we'd ever want to put on our web page.

The very first thing I'm going to do with this is get it to be the right size.

I go to my image menu, I go to image size-- it tells me that currently this picture is about 3600 pixels wide, 2700 pixels tall. But the key thing is that you'll notice the resolution is at 180 pixels per inch. Now I've checked my computer monitor and it has told me that it is sitting at 92 pixels per inch, which is fairly common for most PC types of monitors. So I've gone ahead and adjusted the image to be the right resolution for use on a computer monitor.

The next thing I'm going to do is, I could leave this at full size but I'm going to alter it just slightly, I'm going to take it down to about 1800 pixels, and it automatically adjusts the height. So at this point, even though I've changed some settings, that's going to be for the best. So I'm going to go ahead and click okay, you'll notice that the image now reduces, and because that is kind of small I think what I'll go ahead and do is increase its size just a little bit, maybe take this up to about 25%. There we go, that's a little bit easier to see.

The next thing I want to do is make sure that this image is going to fill just the space that I anticipate for my banner. So you'll notice over here on the side I've already displayed my rulers and what I'm interested in is this part of the picture right here that it has the Colorado River in the bottom of the Grand Canyon being viewed, as well as this rock outcropping and then the rest of the image of course shows the canyon.

So I'm going to start over here at about my 8 inch mark, and then as I draw my cropping tool down that would be 2 inches right there, that would be 3 inches right there, and that's probably pretty good. So I'm going to go ahead and select that particular piece of it; I'm going to hit enter to complete the crop.

So there it is, full-width but now only about 3 inches tall. The next thing I wanna do is get this ready to actually be used on a web page. So I'm going to go to my file menu and I'm going to choose 'Save for Web and Devices'. It brings it up into this view, it shows me that it is optimized, I get to see the entire picture as it exists. There we go. So as you can see it's fairly wide and this tall.

All right. Looking over here on the right, it says that I'm currently saving the picture as a jpeg which is fine. Its compression is quite low, its quality is 20, and the actual file size, which is really quite hard to see but let me see if I can adjust it for you, is 39-- er, 34.9K. That's about perfect. So what I'm going to do, though, is rather than accept this I'm going to tweak it just a bit. I'm going to take this to about 22% quality, and as I do so you'll notice that the image has changed to 36, and I can go ahead and tweak that until I get it to about right where I want it. And the maximum for the class is 40K for any image that is going to be preloaded. So that's at 38.8, that's pretty darn close. I'm going to go ahead and live with that.

So at this point, I've got the image the right size, I've got it set up in terms of its physical dimensions as well, and so the last thing that I'm going to do is go ahead and save this, so I come down and I click my save button. It brings up this dialog box, I say 'Okay, I'm going to save this', I'm going to save it on my desktop right now, and I'm going to call it my banner. And click save.

So now it's done, it now returns me back to the original, which I am finished with. I can go ahead and close out Photoshop, I'm not going to save the original. And now I've got a new image banner-size, and it's the right size to be putting in the background, which I'll show you how to do in the next video.