

Truro Camera Club

Covid Panel Worksheet

Introduction

This short worksheet is to help members prepare their images for the Covid Panel Competition. The image size has been chosen so that the panels may be projected at optimum quality at a club night some time in the future.

These guidelines cover the three most popular editing software packages; Photoshop, Photoshop Elements and Lightroom. If you currently use other programs then you may find some guidance from on-line tutorials.

Please note that I am very much a novice when it comes to editing software. The steps outlined below have worked for me but there are probably better and simpler ways to achieve the same results. If you have a different system that works for you then please stick with it!

Basic requirements

Your panel needs to fit inside a 'window' 1600 pixels wide and 1200 pixels high.
The colour space of your image should be sRGB.
The file format must be JPEG.

Photoshop

- (a) Open Photoshop
- (b) Create a new file. File>New
- (c) Set the dimensions to 1600 x 1200px
- (d) Fill the background of this new file with your colour of choice.
(Most commonly black)
- (e) Now copy and paste or drag the six images into this background and arrange in two rows.
- (f) Each image is on a separate layer and can be moved independently.
- (g) Once the images are arranged to your satisfaction flatten the image and save as a JPEG.

Photoshop Elements

- (a) Go to the Editor workspace
- (b) Create a new file File>New>Blank File
- (c) Give your new file a name eg Panel 1
- (d) Set Width to 1600px and set Height to 1200px
- (e) Set Colour Mode to RGB Colour
- (f) Set Background Contents to Background Colour
- (g) Click OK
- (h) Select all the rectangle and fill with whatever colour you want as the background at 100% opacity. Black is often the most appropriate colour.

- (i) Open your first image File>Open - Select image
- (j) Go to Photo Bin (bottom left of screen), select your blank canvas and drag the first of your images from the Photo Bin onto the blank canvas. Once the image is on the background the image file can be deleted.
- (k) Resize and reposition the image on the background.
- (l) Repeat steps (i) – (k) for the remaining five images.
- (m) Each image is on a separate layer and can be resized and repositioned at will.
- (n) When you are satisfied with the appearance of your panel, flatten the image:
Layer>Flatten
- (o) Finally Save your panel.

Lightroom

- (a) Open Lightroom
 - (b) Create a Collection eg 'Covid Panel'
 - (c) Drag 6 images into this Collection. (*)
 - (d) Order the 6 images to form the panel.
 - (e) To see what the final panel will look like display in Survey mode
(View>Survey)
 - (f) Enter the Lightroom Print module
 - (g) Print>Content>Use All Filmstrip Photos
 - (h) In the Layout section (RH Side of screen) select 2 rows and 3 columns.
Use Cell Spacing, Margins and Cell Size to adjust the display.
 - (i) In the Page section (RH Side of screen) check Page Background Colour.
Black is often the most appropriate colour but choose whatever you fancy.
 - (j) In Image Settings (RH Side of screen) Zoom to Fill should **not** be checked.
If you want each image to have a border check the Stroke Border and select a colour and width
 - (k) In Print Job select JPEG File from the Print to: option
 - (l) Click Print to File (bottom right) to save to wherever you keep your files.
 - (m) Import the image back into Lightroom and Export the panel as you normally would for any image to be used in a TCC competition (1600 x 1200 px).
- (*) Note: Once the panel is created in Lightroom the individual images cannot be resized or cropped. Ensure that the images are cropped to the shape you require before adding them to the Collection.