Digital Imaging – File Print Preparation

Your screen needs to be calibrated:
This means that it is set to a standard in terms of brightness, contrast and has a neutral colour balance.
Work in a comfortable ambient light (not a darkened room)
Set the colour workspace in your imaging program (Gimp, Photoshop etc.)

Photographic lab printing
Work in Srgb colour space
Files should be RGB not grey scale and 8 bit depth NOT 16 bit.
Resize the image to the print size @ 300dpi.
e.g. 15"x10" @ 300dpi
For lab printing save as best quality .jpg (not progressive jpg) embedded Srgb profile
Make sure you size to a printable paper size.

Large format or photo quality inkjet printing
You can use Argb colour space or Srgb colour space
Resize the image to the print size @ 300dpi.
For wide format printing save as .tif embedded Argb or Srgb profile

For large format printers, printing through a RIP
You can use Argb colour space or Srgb colour space
You can resize to a minimum of half size (quarter area) @ 300dpi.
e.g. for print size 24"x16" - size to 12"x8" @ 300dpi.
But do not reduce the size unless it is already bigger than the print size you need.
For wide format printing save as .tif embedded Argb or Srgb profile

Both the size and resolution are important, files should be flattened before saving for print
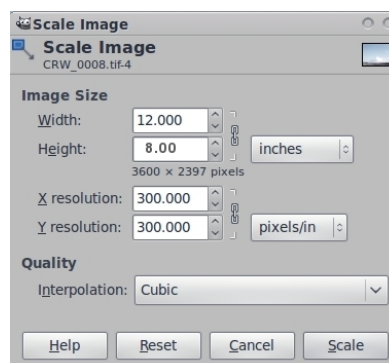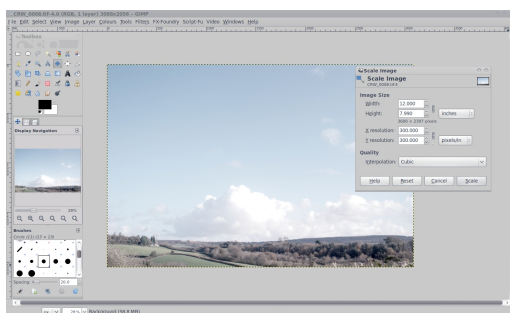
Scanning resolutions from film
35mm film - Scan at 1200 dpi = 6"x4" at 2400 dpi = 12"x8" at 4800 dpi = 24"x16"
6cm x 6cm film - Scan at 1200 dpi = 9.5" x 9.5" at 2400 dpi = 19" x19" at 4800 dpi = 38"x 38"

The greater the level of interpolation, the lower the quality of finished print will be.
The larger your original file – generally the better the print will be.

The image quality from a 'full frame' DSLR will potentially be better than than one from an APS-C
cameras, because the chip is over twice the size. An image from an APS-C camera will potentially be
better than than one from a compact camera because the chip is approximately 12 times the size.

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