

GUIDE TO PREPARING FINAL ARTWORK

When preparing figures, authors are advised to refer to printed copies of *Nature* to get a sense of general size and style points. The aim of this guide is to show you the main things to look out for when submitting final production-quality artwork.

FIGURE SIZING

- ▶ Provide files at about the size they are to be printed. *Nature's* standard figure sizes are 89 mm (single column) and 183 mm (double column). The full depth of the page is 247 mm.
- ▶ Figures can also be 1.5 columns where necessary – 120 mm or 136 mm.

← 89 mm width (1 column) →

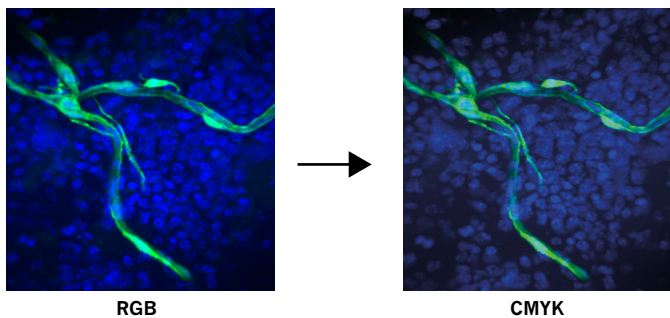
← 183 mm width (2 column) →

FILE FORMATS

- ▶ Acceptable formats include: AI, Vector EPS, layered PSD, postscript, PDF, PowerPoint, Word, Excel and CorelDraw (up to version 8).
- ▶ We cannot use the following formats: JPEG, TIFF, png, DeltaGraph, Tex, ChemDraw, Canvas, SigmaPlot - convert these files to PDF, EPS or postscript formats before submission.

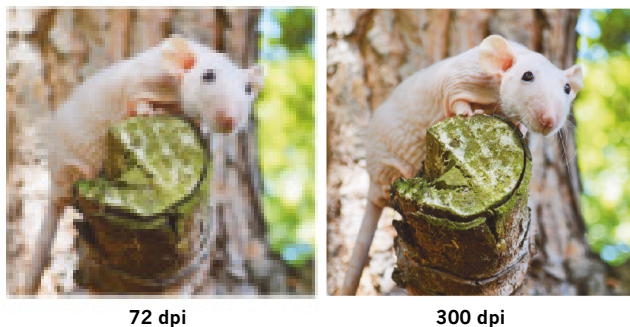
COLOURS

- ▶ We recommend supplying your artwork in the RGB colour spectrum. This provides a wider gamut than the CMYK print format and allows more faithful reproduction of fluorescent colours when viewed digitally.
- ▶ Your artwork will be automatically converted to CMYK to be printed in the journal but the online PDF will retain the RGB colour space.
- ▶ You can supply your artwork in CMYK instead, if you wish to ensure the printed figures are replicated faithfully.
- ▶ The example below shows the shift in colour between RGB and the equivalent colour shown in CMYK—subtle details are often lost during the conversion.



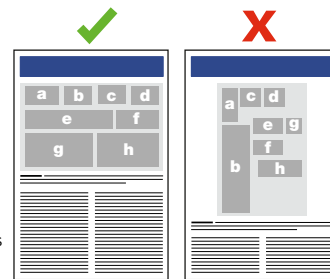
RESOLUTION

- ▶ All photographic images must be supplied at a minimum of 300 dpi at the maximum size they can be used.
- ▶ Artificially increasing an image's resolution in an artwork program will not improve its quality.
- ▶ The example below shows the difference between a low-resolution image and the same image at 300 dpi (the differences are more apparent the further you zoom in).



ARRANGEMENT

- ▶ Try to keep white space to a minimum where possible.
- ▶ *Nature* will be guided by your suggested layout of parts within figures, but may rearrange parts if necessary.
- ▶ Essential layout features should be indicated when submitting — for example, particular alignments of panels within a figure.



FONTS AND LABELS

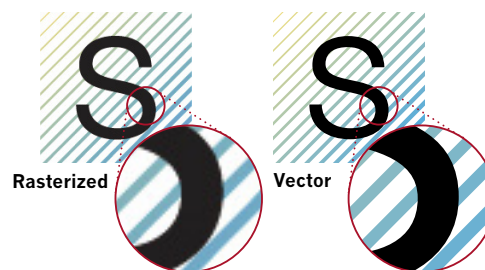
- ▶ All text should be in a sans-serif typeface, preferably Helvetica or Arial.
- ▶ Amino acid sequences should be presented in one-letter code in Courier.
- ▶ Do not rasterize or convert text to outlines, this will mean that the text isn't editable (see below).
- ▶ Separate panels in multi-part figures should be labelled with 8 pt bold, upright (not italic) **a, b, c's...**
- ▶ Maximum text size for all other text: 7pt.
- ▶ Minimum text size: 5pt.



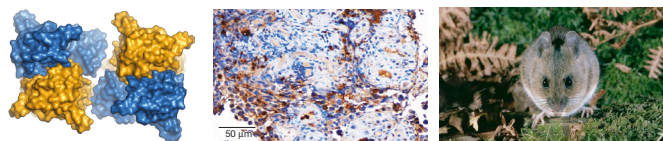
IMAGE TYPES

The best format for any particular figure depends partly on what sort of images it contains. Images fall into two basic categories: rasterized images (flattened image) and line (or vector) art which is in a layered format.

- ▶ Do not rasterize line art or text in submitted figures.
- ▶ Wherever possible please supply editable, unflattened vector artwork.
- ▶ The example below shows the difference in quality between text and lines that have been rasterized and text and lines that are still editable.



Typical examples of raster artwork



Typical examples of vector artwork

