

Creating Posters in Mac OS X with Adobe Photoshop or Illustrator

Standard posters are created with a 3 x 5 aspect ratio. When opening a new file, this display is created by specifying an image size of 24" x 40", RGB color, and 200 dpi resolution. The file will be scaled to full poster size during printing. Exceeding the 40" size limit and the 200 dpi will not increase the quality of the final print but will create unreadable file sizes when the file is transferred to the HP RIP software of the poster printer.

Line drawings and images can be created with other applications, copied to the clipboard, and pasted in the poster file. Using image resolutions above 200 dpi will not improve the quality of the printing and can create unwieldy file sizes.

Images can be distorted by rescaling within the poster application, so it is best to create them to size within the creator application.

When the poster design is complete, simply save the file as a Photoshop document.

Creating Posters in Mac OS X with MS PowerPoint

Standard posters are created with a 3 x 5 aspect ratio. This display is created in PPT by setting the page setup to 24" x 40". Although file sizes of up to 56" are capable in PPT, larger image widths will be scaled to 40" during the creation of a rasterized PDF file that will be used for final printing. The RIP software of the printer will be scale the print file to full poster size (42"x70").

Efficient file sizes (~10MB) are obtained if you use PPT to create most aspects of the poster (backgrounds, text boxes, etc.).

Line drawings and images can be created with other applications, copied to the clipboard, and pasted into the poster. Using image resolutions above 300 dpi will not improve the quality of the printing and can create unwieldy file sizes.

Images can be distorted by rescaling within PPT, so it is best to create them to size within the parent application.

When the poster design is completed, print the file to a PDF file using the 'Save as PDF' option in the print menu.

Creating Posters in Mac OS X with other applications

The 'Save as PDF' option is available in the print menu of most OSX applications. Any of these applications can produce a PDF file that can be passed through Photoshop to create posters.

Converting your file to the PDF format

This step is not required for Photoshop files. This process is explained by our step-by-step walkthrough of the PPT2PDF conversion. Note most print jobs fail because of errors in this process. Read our instructions carefully.

Printing

Ron Atkinson will print Photoshop or PDF files. You should view the file with Ron and confirm it is ready for printing. Grants will be charged if it is necessary to reprint the poster.

Do not expect Ron to convert your file to the PDF format.

The print file must be accompanied with an M&S form that provides the following information.

1. Contact name and email address.
2. PI who has authorized the printing.
3. Budget to pay for the printing.
4. Day the poster is required.
5. Scale factor to be applied during printing if full 42" height is not desired. Allow 5 working days to have the poster printed. This time window is especially important during periods of heavy use like the weeks before Neuroscience and ARO.