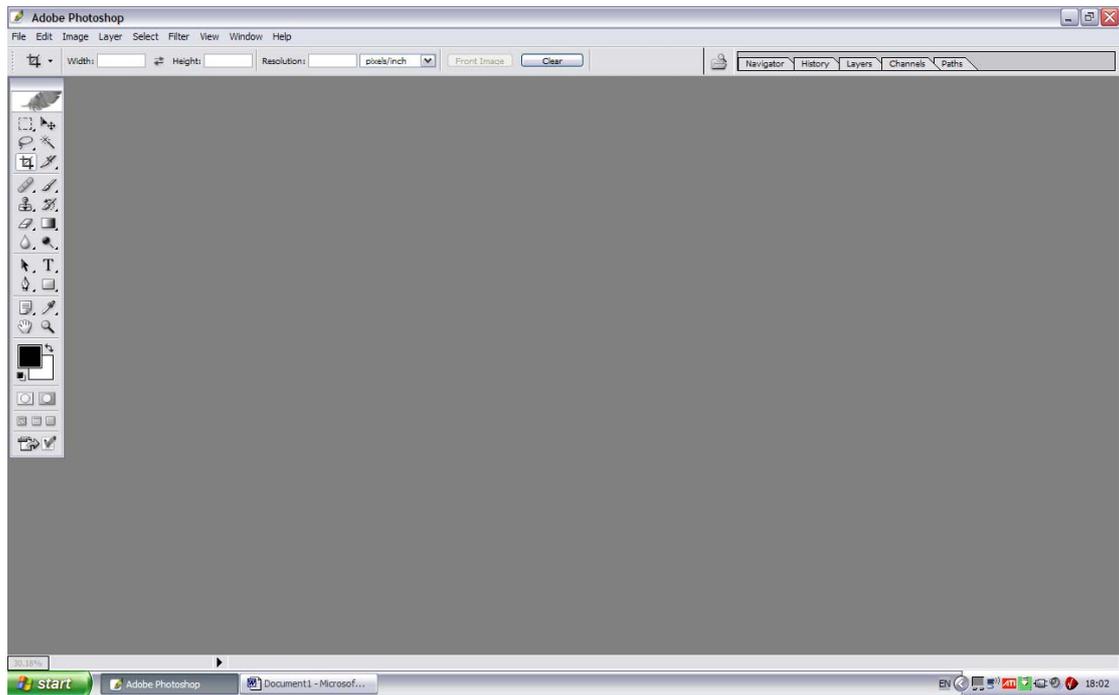


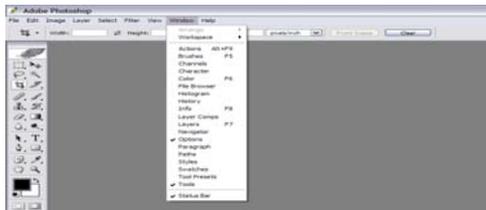
Basic Techniques in Photoshop

The Photoshop desktop should look something like this: -



At the top right of the screen is the Palette Dock. If this is not visible on your computer it is because the resolution of your screen is too low. It only appears once the screen resolution reaches 1024 pixels by 768 pixels.

When you first start Photoshop the palettes float on the desktop. Dragging them to the palette dock tidies things up. Start with a few palettes e.g. Navigator, History, Layers, Channels and Paths. The others can be closed for now. If you need any of them they can be accessed from the Window menu.



Once a picture has been opened we need to sort out a number of things such as the size of the picture, its shape, the tonal range and tidying up any messy bits that we do not want.

To ascertain the size of the picture click on – Image> Image Size

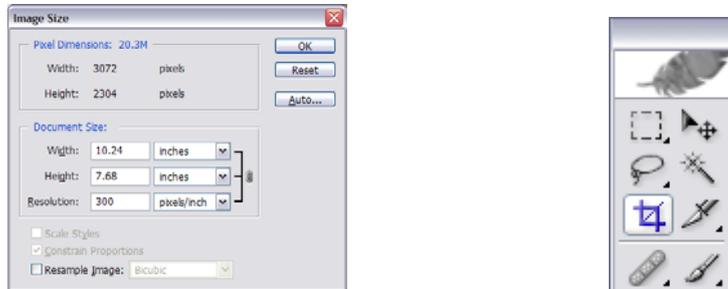


This shows us that the picture is 3072 pixels wide and 2304 pixels high. The physical size of the final picture depends on how big each pixel is. This is the resolution. In this case the resolution is 150 pixels /inch and the print size is 20.48 inches by 15.36 inches.

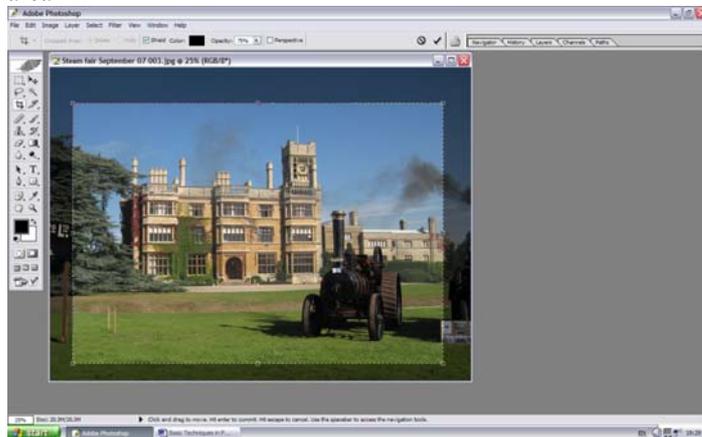
Basic Techniques in Photoshop

If we increase the resolution to 300 pixels/inch (ensuring that “Resample Image” is **Not** ticked) we notice that the physical size of the image is reduced to 10.24 x 7.68 inches.

For the moment we are more interested in the shape of our picture than its overall size. In the case of this image I think it would look best with some parts left out. To achieve this we use the “Crop” tool.



We click on this and drag it over the image. Areas of the picture outside the selected area go dark. Dragging the little squares around the edges of the picture can alter the size and shape of the cropped area



When we are happy with the shape we press enter and the crop is made.



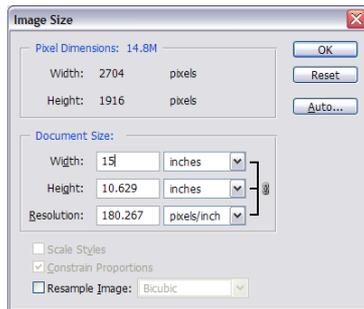
If we are unhappy with it we can click on the “History” palette to undo it.

Now we have the shape we want we can check the size again just like before.



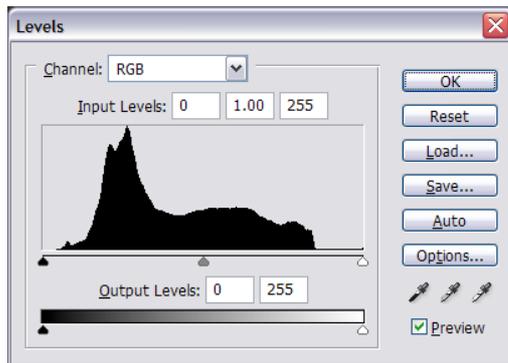
Basic Techniques in Photoshop

We now find that at 300 pixels/inch the image is 9.013 inches by 6.387 inches. Lets assume that we want to print the image on A3 paper 15 inches wide. We can type this figure into the width box.

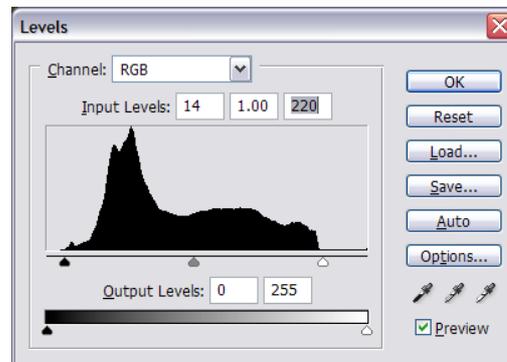


We now have an image 15 inches wide just over 10.6 inches high and at a resolution of 180.267 pixels to the inch. This is a high enough resolution for printing. Generally speaking you are safe with resolutions down to 150. But try it for yourself and see if you are happy with the final result.

We now need to check the tonal range of the image to do this click Image > Adjustments > Levels. This brings up a histogram showing the distribution of tones.



The left hand side of the histogram shows the dark tones and the right side the light tones. Try dragging the little triangles to the edge of the histogram.



We have now set the shadow density and the highlight density.

The mid tones can be adjusted with the middle triangle. These adjustments are a balance between objective and creative decisions.



Basic Techniques in Photoshop

We now notice that there are some wooden sticks on the left of the picture and the remains of a notice board on the right. It would be best to lose these and we do this with the clone tool.



We find a part of the picture that will cover the bits we do not want and Alt + Click on it. We then click and drag over the parts we do not want. This will make them disappear.

