

Guide to preparing artwork for Nature Publishing Group

This guide is to assist authors whose manuscripts have been accepted for publication by Nature Publishing Group. It will help you to prepare artwork so that it will be processed as quickly and smoothly as possible, and give the best possible results in the final printed version. Please follow these instructions carefully.

Electronic file formats

We prefer:

Format	Resolution/Notes
Adobe Illustrator (*.AI or *.EPS)	For composite images: minimum resolution of 300dpi at final printed size. Fonts to be included.
Photoshop (*.PSD)	Please supply with layers intact.
CorelDRAW (*.CDR)	CDR files should be converted to ps format.
Freehand (*.FHx)	FHx files should be converted to ps format.

We can accept:

Format	Resolution/Notes
TIFF	Minimum resolution of 300dpi (72dpi files are not useable) at the size the image is to appear in print. If the figure contains text minimum resolution is 400dpi and 600dpi where it contains small text or other fine detail. Compress file size if large.
EPS	For composite images – minimum resolution of 300dpi at final printed size. Fonts to be included.
MS Word	Minimum resolution of 300dpi for halftone images and 1000dpi for line art. Generate postscript files by using 'Print to file'. To do this, open the image in its native application, go into the 'print' menu and change the destination from 'printer' to 'file' (or click on 'print to file'). This will write a Postscript (.ps or .prn) file.
MS PowerPoint	Minimum resolution of 300dpi for halftone images and 1000dpi for line art. Generate postscript files by using 'Print to file'. To do this, open the image in its native application, go into the 'print' menu and change the destination from 'printer' to 'file' (or click on 'print to file'). This will write a Postscript (.ps or .prn) file.
MS Excel	Minimum resolution of 300dpi for halftone images and 1000dpi for line art. Generate postscript files by using 'Print to file'. To do this, open the image in its native application, go into the 'print' menu and change the destination from 'printer' to 'file' (or click on 'print to file'). This will write a Postscript (.ps or .prn) file.
JPEG	Minimum resolution of 300dpi (72dpi files are not useable) at the size the image is to appear in print. If the figure contains text minimum resolution is 400dpi and 600dpi where it contains small text or other fine detail. Compress file size if large. Please supply the highest possible quality (between 10 and 12) to prevent reduction of quality.

Acrobat PDF	Use Print PDF or Press PDF settings. Always use embed fonts option in the job options setting (fonts tab). For composite images – min. resolution of 300dpi at final printed size. Fonts to be included.
PICT	Minimum resolution of 300dpi (72dpi files are not useable) at the size the image is to appear in print. If the figure contains text minimum resolution is 400dpi and 600dpi where it contains small text or other fine detail. Compress file size if large.

We cannot accept: CorelDRAW before version 8, DeltaGraph, TeX/LaTeX, SigmaPlot

Image types:

Raster formats (bitmapped images): Best for photographs and scans (Photoshop or TIFF files are preferred)
Line (or vector) formats: Best for graphs and schematic diagrams

Colour artwork:

The colour printing process requires files to be in CMYK format.

We prefer authors to convert their artwork to CMYK format before submission – this means that the author can approve any change in colour that occurs during the conversion process.

However, conversion from RGB to CMYK is very critical and depends upon profiles, so if you are not well versed with conversion, please supply the RGB files. We will convert these with standard profiles, so as to minimize the loss in colours.

Presentation of figures

Lettering should:

- Be in a sans serif typeface (preferably Helvetica or Arial)
- Be in the same typeface throughout
- Not be placed directly over images or shaded areas
- Be bold upright (not italic) and lowercase when labelling multipart figures
- Be in one-letter code in Courier for amino acid sequences
- Be between 6 and 8 point for labels

Figure sizing should:

- Be as small as possible (for reasons of space in the journal)
- Be supplied in a comparable size to similar figures in printed issues of the journal
- Be able to fit into a single column of the printed journal wherever possible (single column width is 86mm; double column is 178mm)
- Be able to be reduced significantly without loss of quality wherever possible
- Ensure that lettering will remain readable after reduction (avoid large type or thick lines) – we recommend that lines are between 0.5 and 1 point

Note for users of E-Journal Press

The formats listed above are those preferred/accepted by our production department. However, if you are submitting .AI, .FHx, .CDR, PICT or .PRS files, the conversion engine may be unable to accept them. Instead, if a failure to convert occurs, you will be able to upload a PDF version of the original source file.