

# 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) →

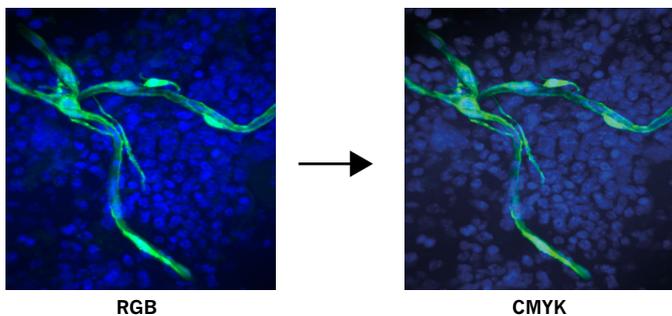
← 183 mm width (2 column) →

## 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.



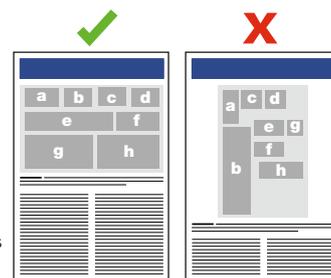
## RESOLUTION

- ▶ 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

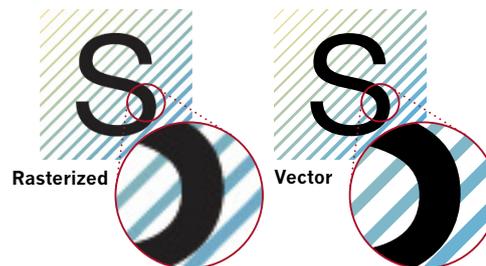
- ▶ All text should be in a sans-serif typeface, preferably Helvetica or Arial.
- ▶ Amino acid sequences should be presented in one-letter code in Courier.
- ▶ Do not rasterize or convert text to outlines, this will mean that the text isn't editable (see below).
- ▶ Separate panels in multi-part figures 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.



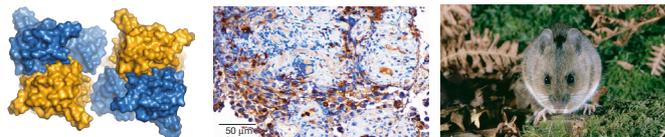
## IMAGE TYPES

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

