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Firstly, **<u>measure the aperture of your mount.</u>** Do not assume the size is what is printed or written somewhere as it may vary. Retain these measurements as you will need them. (Different suppliers will cut different size actual apertures).

Important: For pre-cut apertures, you need to consider the measured (as above) aperture size <u>when you crop</u> and then print your image, to ensure it fits neatly into the aperture. <u>This will NOT apply if you are ordering or printing a borderless A4 or A3 print</u>. However, do consider how much of your A4 or A3 borderless print is lost behind your particular aperture.

In order to produce a correctly sized print for your mount your will need to firstly **crop your image** to achieve the correct proportion then (a second step) **resize your image**.

1. **Cropping**. Set a custom crop in your crop tool in your image editor to fit the exact ratio of the aperture in use (this will help when resizing the image later to exactly fit your aperture). If you are printing a borderless print then you are likely to be able to choose a provided pre-set crop ratio for either A4 or A3. Ensure the (DPI) resolution field (if present) is blank so no change is made if possible.

2. **Resizing**. Resizing should be carried out as a single action (i.e. do not resize, then resize a second time – do this in one go) as this best preserves the quality in your final image therefore please read the whole section rather than follow it as a step by step guide though an attempt has been made to make it so.

   Check 1. When up/down resizing your image for printing in your image editor set the resolution appropriate for your printer (300dpi for Canon/HP printers or 360dpi Epson). Then ….

   Check 2. Change any displayed sizing (mm or cm) to the same format as your aperture measurement as above (millimetres(mm) is recommended).

   Check 3. When resizing ensure to constrain the proportions of your image to prevent distortion.

   Consider. <u>If you don't want a white border</u> showing around the image when mounted, you should add 10mm to the measured aperture of your mount on each side to allow for a 5mm positioning overlap all around. You can reduce this but it may be difficult to position your print and you risk the white showing.

   Consider. <u>If you want a white border</u> all around your printed image (this is harder to position accurately in the aperture but can enhance your image) then decide on the width of this (in mm). **Recommendation**. Around 5 - 7 mm border can look nice. If 5mm is chosen, then the dimension

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(size) will need to be 10mm less (2 x 5mm) on each dimension so subtract this from the measured aperture size.

Action. Enter your final calculated print size into the appropriate fields. The sizes are usually listed as width x height so enter the largest measurement first if you are printing to landscape format and for portrait the smallest.

If you have cropped correctly as in step 1, you will only need to change one dimension when resizing and the other dimension should automatically change to what you want.

Action. In order to preserve detail, use the recommended resampling method (or AUTO) for either enlarging or reduction depending on whether you image is getting bigger or smaller.

Action. Resize your image. You are likely to see your image get larger in your display or (less likely) get smaller. This is normal.

3. **Printing**.

Action. Choose your paper type (surface/weight etc) carefully and use a paper manufacturers paper profile (downloaded from their website for your printer) if at all possible otherwise choose the nearest you can find.

Action. Choose the correct size of paper i.e. A4 or A3

Action. If present then choose 'Preview' as this is a final sanity check that your image looks correctly sized or positioned on your paper.

Warning. When printing **do not allow your printer to 'stretch your image to fit', 'fit to view' or any other dimensional change**. If you have the option of normal printing – set it to this and the printer should print an image to your exact sizes. Printers are precision instruments and can print to exceedingly fine tolerances. If you allow 'fit to page' or any other change to be made by your printer driver software, **your printed image WILL NOT FIT your aperture**.

Disclaimer. This guide is provided as an aide and is not specific to any image editor or printer. The intention of the guide is to help you produce a correctly sized image where an aperture mount is used. It does not mean the colours of your print will be correct or as bright as you would wish (which is down to a colour managed workflow and monitor and paper/printer profiling). Additionally, viewing a print when fully dry (after an hour) under daylight or a daylighted lamp will enable a better assessment of your work.