

## A Panel of Three - A Guide

I've used Photoshop Elements 6 to produce this guide. It should still be OK for other versions of Elements, Photoshop CS3, 4 & 5 and other imaging programmes that use layers although some of their terminology may be slightly different.

The method used is not the only way of achieving the result and, if you experiment a bit, you might find easier ways of producing a Panel of Three.

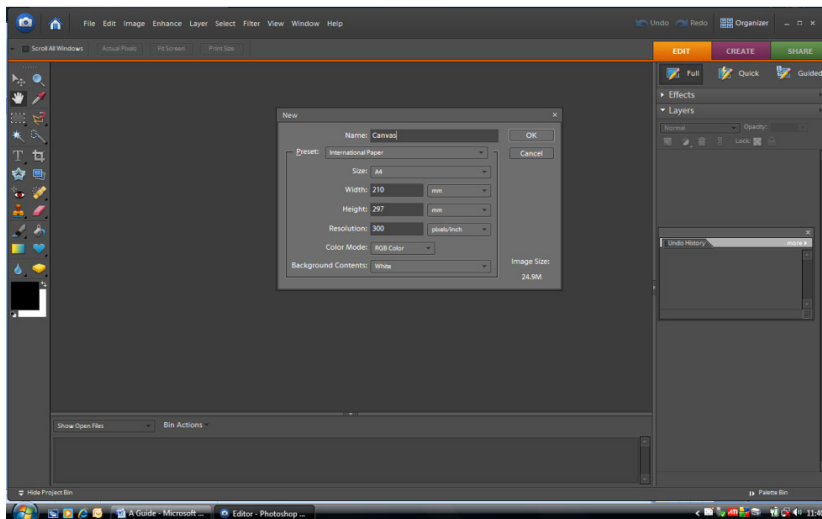
### Method

Select three images that have some link or the same theme.

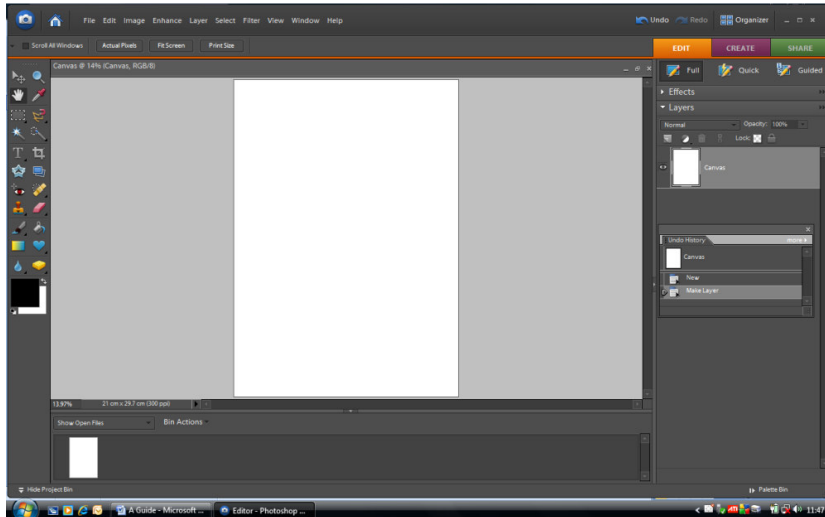
Complete any image manipulation and save as a jpeg file.

If you shoot RAW, convert to an 8 bit image and flatten any layers before saving as a jpeg file.

In Photoshop Elements open a new document by selecting File>New>Blank File. In the dialogue box select International Paper in Preset and then A4 in Size and I've given it the name Canvas but it's your choice. Click OK and a new Background layer appears in the Layers box on the right hand side of the screen.

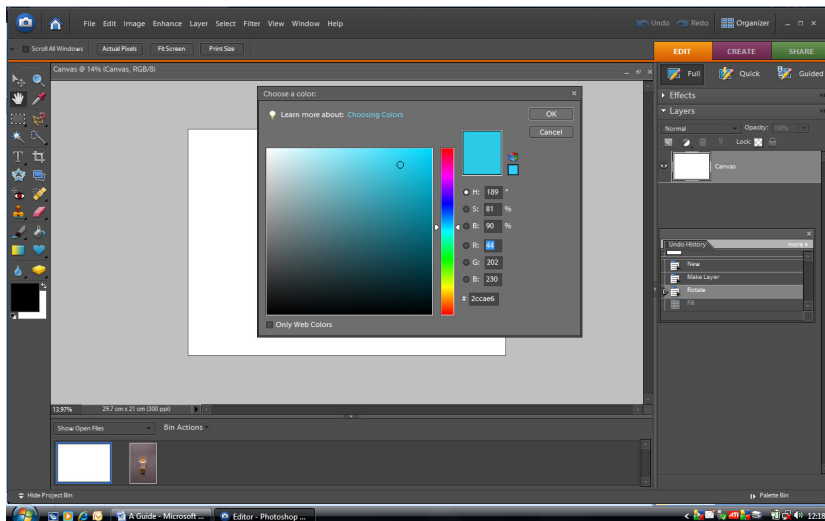


Double click on the word Background in the Layers box and name it by typing in Canvas or a name of your choice and click anywhere on the desktop.



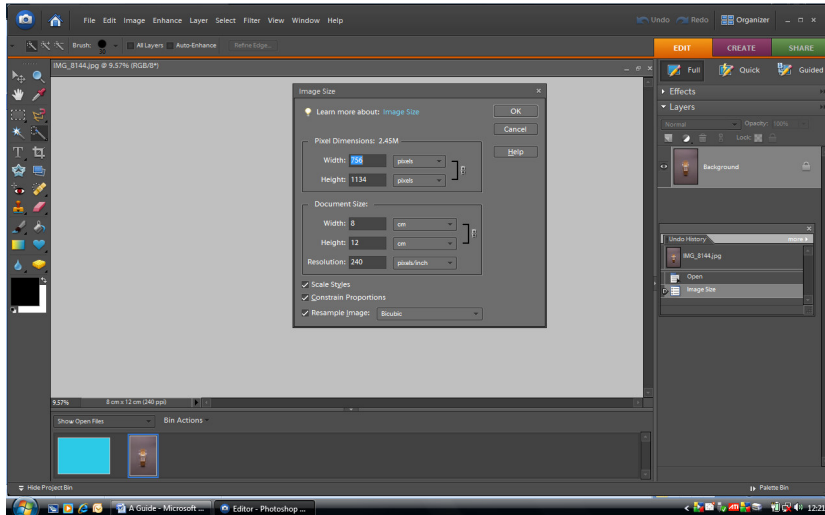
Go to Image>Rotate>90° Left to turn the Canvas into landscape mode.

Go to Edit>Fill Layer and in the dialogue box click on Use and in the drop down box click on Color. A colour palette opens. Click on the vertical coloured bar at a point where you think the colour will be suitable and then click into the main colour palette to select your final colour choice. Click OK and click OK again. The canvas will change to your chosen colour.



Open the first of your saved jpeg files that you want to use

Since we are working with an A4 (29.7 x 21.0 cm) Canvas you need to roughly resize the image so that three of them will fit into the canvas. I'm resizing to about 12 x 8 cm by opening Image>Resize>Image Size and entering the dimensions into the Image Size box. You don't need to be accurate with this sizing. Click OK.

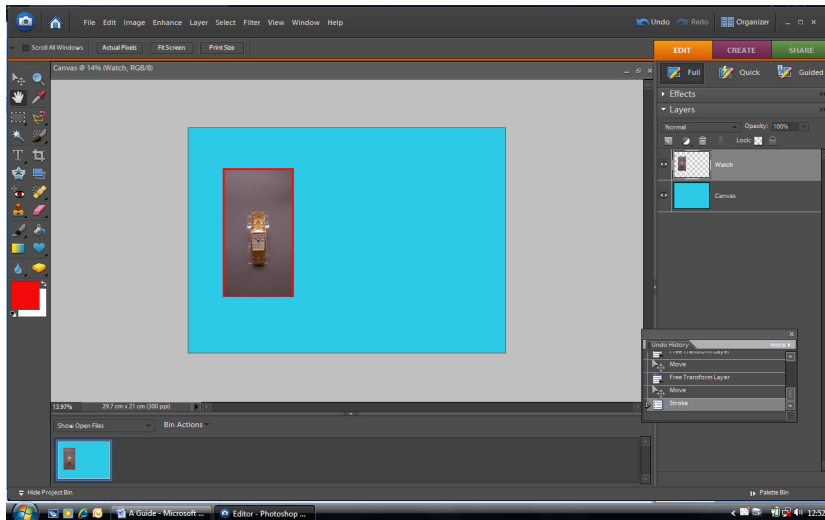
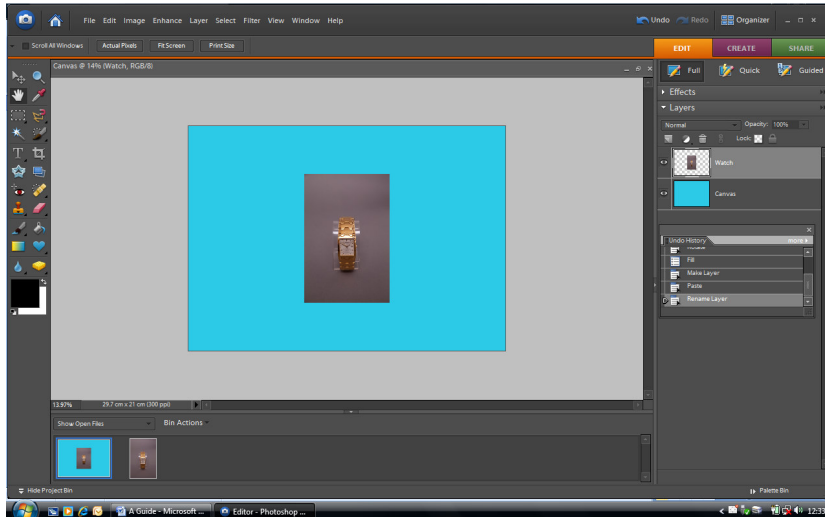


Use the keyboard shortcut Ctrl+A to select the image and Ctrl+C to copy the image. You can then close the image. There's no need to save the changes unless you wish to.

Open the Canvas image and using Ctrl+V paste the copied image onto the Canvas. This gives a new layer in the Layers box above the Canvas layer. Give this new layer a name as described above. I've called mine Watch.

Click on V to select the Move tool and, with the watch layer highlighted in the Layers box, drag it to the position that you want it to be in. At the same time you can resize it using the handles at the corners of the image. Hold down Shift at the same time to retain the correct image proportions. (Note that you may not need to hold down Shift in all programmes.) When you're happy with this move press Return and accept the changes. Note use Ctrl+Z at any time to go back a step.

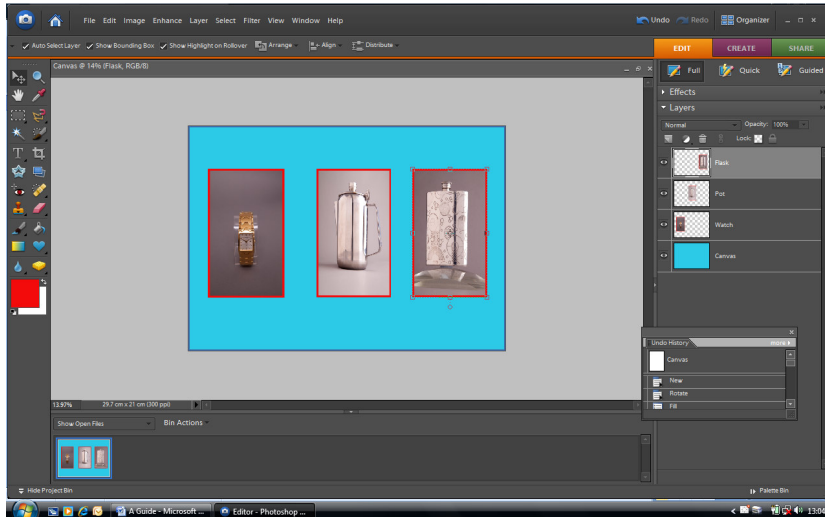
I've put an (optional) border round my Watch image. With the layer highlighted, go to Edit>Stroke (Outline) Selection. Click on the Color box to bring up the colour palette and select a colour as described before. Click OK. In the dialogue box, put in a value for pixels. I've chosen 20. I've also clicked on the Inside button. Try the others to see what happens. Click OK. Note to make sure that you can use this same colour again, note its value – in my case f30b0b - so that you can input it in the colour palette box for the other layers.



Now open your second image and repeat the process and then again for the third image.

Each image will be on its own layer, one above the other. Each layer can be worked on separately but make sure that you select that layer in the Layers box to do any work on it.

Use the grid (View>Grid) to help with image alignment. In some programmes you can pull Guide lines out of the Ruler bar to help with alignment. View>Snap To Grid (or Guides) may also be helpful.



When you are satisfied with your Panel of Three it needs to be resized to the normal sizes used in club competitions.

Flatten the image to get rid of the layers using Layer>Flatten Image

Then resize with Image>Resize>Image Size to 1024 x 768 pixels in landscape format and save as a jpeg.

If you wish to save your work to come back to later then save as a psd file before flattening the image and this will preserve the layers.