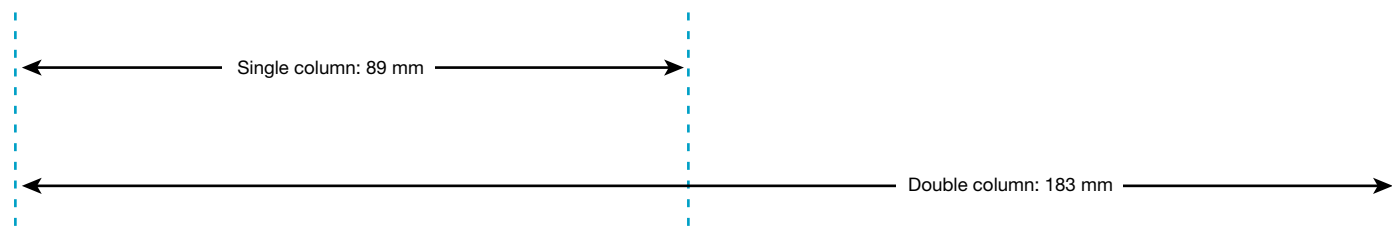


# Guide to preparing final artwork

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 a column-and-a-half where necessary — 120 mm or 136 mm



## Line weights

- Lines and strokes should be set between 0.25 and 1 pt
- Do not rasterize or outline these lines if possible

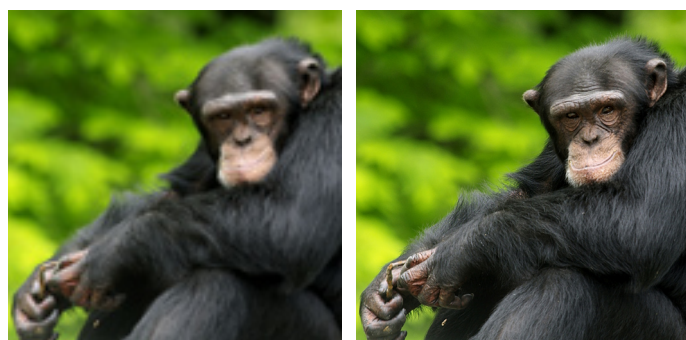
————— 0.25 pt ————— 1 pt

## Lettering

- 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
- 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

## 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)



72 dpi

300 dpi

## Arrangement

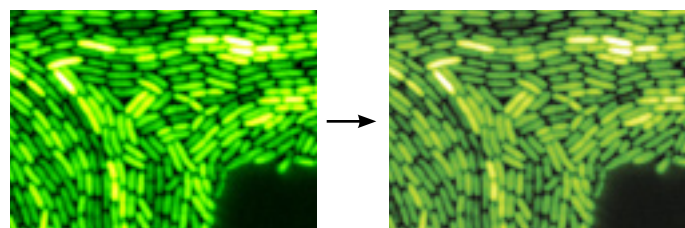
- Try and keep white space to a minimum where possible
- *Nature* will be guided by your suggested layout of parts within figures, but may rearrange parts if necessary
- Essential layout features should be indicated when submitting, for example particular alignments of panels within a figure

## 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: Canvas, DeltaGraph, Tex, ChemDraw, SigmaPlot — convert these files to PDF, EPS or postscript formats before submission
- For further help and advice, e-mail our art editors at [art@nature.com](mailto:art@nature.com)

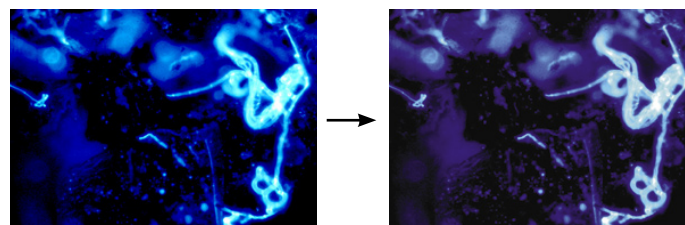
## Colours

- Full colour artwork should be provided in CMYK format; please ensure that you are happy with the conversion before submission of final artwork
- The examples below show the shift in colour between RGB and the equivalent colour shown in CMYK — subtle details are often lost during the conversion



RGB

CMYK



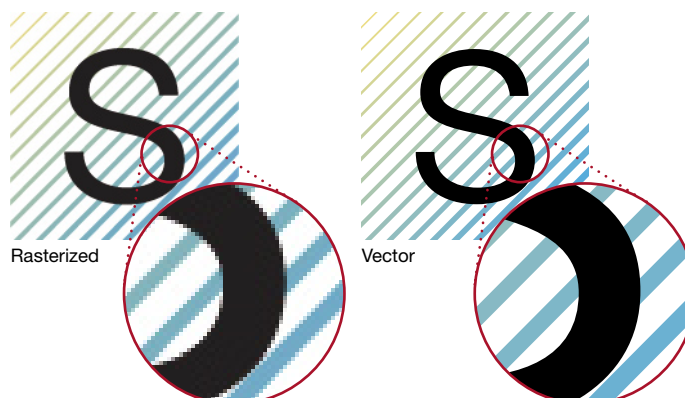
RGB

CMYK

## 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 (also called bitmapped images) and line (or vector) art.

- 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



Rasterized

Vector