

# BMP (Windows) Header Format

Windows BMP files begin with a 54-byte header:

| offset | size | description  |
|--------|------|--|
| 0      | 2    | signature, must be 4D42 hex                            |
| 2      | 4    | size of BMP file in bytes (unreliable)                 |
| 6      | 2    | reserved, must be zero                                 |
| 8      | 2    | reserved, must be zero                                 |
| 10     | 4    | offset to start of image data in bytes                 |
| 14     | 4    | size of BITMAPINFOHEADER structure, must be 40         |
| 18     | 4    | image width in pixels                                  |
| 22     | 4    | image height in pixels                                 |
| 26     | 2    | number of planes in the image, must be 1               |
| 28     | 2    | number of bits per pixel (1, 4, 8, or 24)              |
| 30     | 4    | compression type (0=none, 1=RLE-8, 2=RLE-4)            |
| 34     | 4    | size of image data in bytes (including padding)        |
| 38     | 4    | horizontal resolution in pixels per meter (unreliable) |
| 42     | 4    | vertical resolution in pixels per meter (unreliable)   |
| 46     | 4    | number of colors in image, or zero                     |
| 50     | 4    | number of important colors, or zero                    |

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