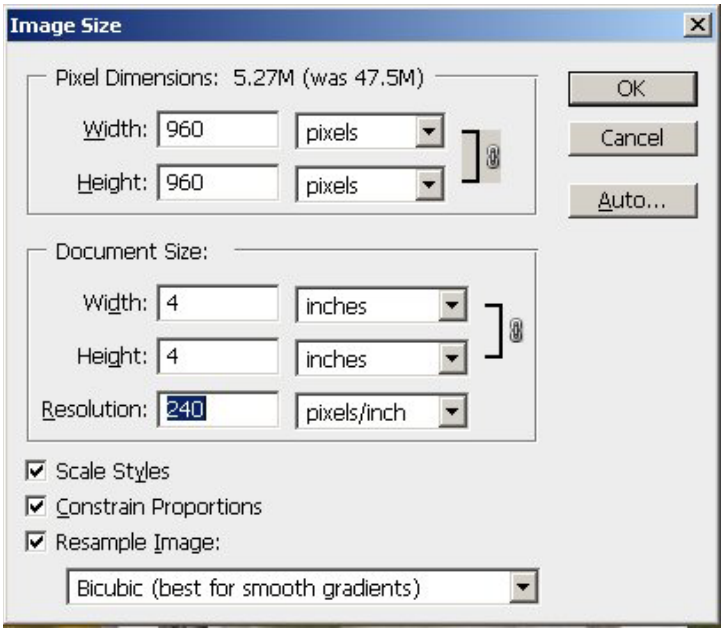
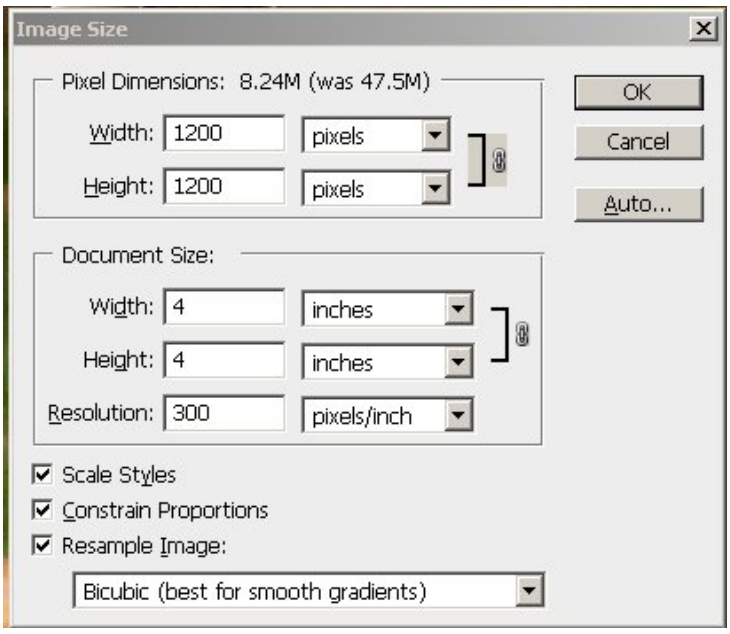
Digital Diva

Sizing for Compositing, Collaging, Cloning and Pasting

A friend was recently doing a project where ten different images were to be placed on the same document, all the images were to be the same size. She made a grid on the new document as a placement guide, opened her images and sized each to the same dimensions. She then dragged them on to her grid and was horrified to find that they were all different sizes, some too big, some too small, and like Goldilocks, some just right. What went wrong? Well, while resizing her images to the same physical dimension she neglected to take note of the resolution of each as well as the resolution of her target document, the one with the grid. If you drag an image that is 4"x4" @300ppi (pixels per inch) on to a space in the grid that is 4"x4" @240ppi, the image will occupy too much space as it's pixels will be spread out at the lower resolution.
In the examples below you can see that the file that is 4x4 @300 has a pixel dimension of 1200x1200, whereas the file that is 4x4 @240 only has 960x960.





Send your questions to **noonum@verizon.net** and I will answer them in this column

When placing 1200 pixels on to a 960ppi space, the extra pixels will take up more space than they did at the higher resolution. So, no matter what method you are using to take pixels from one file to another, be it dragging, pasting or cloning, make sure your active document and your target document have the same resolution before you start.

Happy pasting,

Susannah