

# Using digital camera images in print

Digital cameras continue to fall rapidly in price and increase in capability. If you are planning on purchasing a low-cost digital camera, you will have your choice of one, two, three, or four “megapixel” cameras. (A four megapixel camera captures approximately four million pixels of data in each shot).

All digital cameras capture sufficient detail if you plan on using your photos exclusively on the Web. However, if you want to use the photos for quality offset printing or color copies, consider the following:

- Images from a *1 megapixel* camera can be enlarged to approximately 3.6 x 4.8 inches without any loss of quality.
- Images from a *2 megapixel* camera can be enlarged to approximately 4.5 x 6.0 inches without any loss of quality.
- Images from a *3 megapixel* camera can be enlarged to approximately 5.8 x 7.7 inches without any loss of quality.
- Images from a *4 megapixel* camera can be enlarged to approximately 6.4 x 8.5 inches without any loss of quality.

Some types of images will allow you to occasionally bend these rules somewhat. A natural scene with a lot of texture, such as a field of wheat, will not show jagged, pixelated edges as quickly as hard-edged, mechanical objects.

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