

JPEG info & terminology

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"Quality"

Quality refers to the integrity of the image due to file compression



Both of these two images are exactly the same dimensions (9cm x 15cm) and resolution (72ppi). However, if you look in the highlighted areas, you will see a loss in quality due to compression.

The pic on the left has low compression, therefore high quality.
The pic on the right has high compression and low quality.

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"Resolution"

Resolution refers to the number pixels within a certain area usually referred to as ppi (pixels per inch) or as dpi (dots per inch - more common, but incorrect terminology)



72 ppi
(AKA 72dpi)



300 ppi
(AKA 300dpi)

Both of these two images are made up of exactly the same number of pixels. However, the pic on the left has 72 pixels per every inch and the one on the right has 300 pixels crammed into an inch. This forces the pixels to be smaller and results in a picture with smaller dimensions. Creates the impression of more detail and better quality, but this is an illusion that is required for better quality images in litho printing

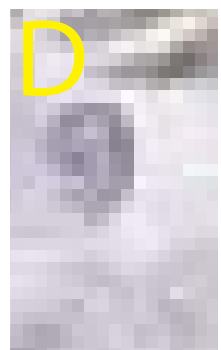
The file sizes of these two pics are identical.

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"Pixels"

Pixels are squares of colour that make up a raster image (a scan).
They have no size per se.



Both pictures A and B are at the same resolution (72ppi). However, pic A is made up of 500 x 200 pixels while pic B is 200 x 130 pixels. This means pic A has more detail than pic B, though they both have the same quality (high).

Pic C is a copy of pic A, just scaled down so it's at a higher resolution. This reduces the dimensions (not size as the file size is still the same) and gives the "appearance" of higher quality & detail)

Pic D is an enlarged section of pic B.
Because it is now at a greater scale, the resolution is lower, but the quality and file size is unchanged.