

05 Canvas Setup Cheat Sheet

Pick the canvas before you draw, not after. Resizing a finished painting upward never adds detail back.

Table 1 · Canvas presets

Preset	Pixels	PPI	What it is for
Screen work	3000 x 2000	72	Anything that will only ever be looked at on a screen. Big enough to crop into.
A4 print	2480 x 3508	300	Standard printer paper, portrait. The default for anything you might print.
A5 print	1748 x 2480	300	Half of A4. Cards, postcards, small prints.
A3 print	3508 x 4961	300	Twice A4. Posters. Heavy - your machine will feel it.
Display-native	1920 x 1080	72	Exactly the Artist 12 panel. One canvas pixel = one screen pixel, so nothing is scaled.

Table 2 · File formats

WORKING - what you save while you draw

.psd

Photoshop's own format. Keeps every layer, blend mode, group and mask. ArtRage reads and writes it too - this is the bridge between the two programs.

.ptg

ArtRage's own format. Unusual: it stores how much paint is sitting on the canvas and how wet it is, as well as the layers. Nothing else can read that.

ArtRage exports raster images as JPEG, PSD, BMP, TIFF, GIF and PNG (File > Export As Image).

DELIVERY - what you export when it is done

.png

Lossless, supports transparency. Best default for finished digital art. Bad at: large photographs - the files get huge.

.jpg

Small files, everyone can open it. Bad at: hard edges and flat colour - it smears them, and every re-save damages it a little more.

.tif

Lossless, high quality, print shops like it. Bad at: file size, and the web - browsers will not display it.

“Always use Save to save your paintings, don’t be tempted to use Export as if it was Save.”

- the ArtRage manual

Export makes a flat picture. Save keeps the layers. Do both, every time.

Naming

project_v01.psd

project_v02.psd

project_v03.psd

Two digits, so v10 sorts after v09 instead of after v01. New version whenever you are about to try something you might regret. Disk space is cheaper than redoing four hours of work.