

# 1. How to get started

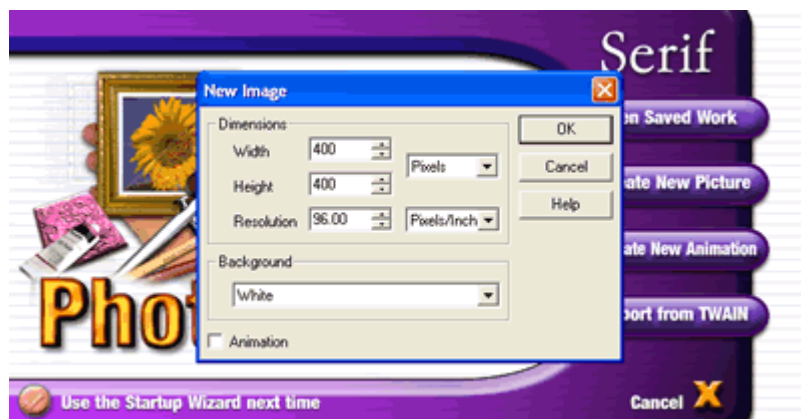
**This project will:** show you how to use Serif PhotoPlus 8 to get started on a project.

**Technical content:** create a new canvas; set the resolution and mode; open an existing image.

1

## Creating a New Picture

As you open the program you will be asked what you want to do and if you choose to *Create New Picture* you will be presented with...



a screen which allows you to choose the dimensions of your picture, the colour of your background and the resolution of your picture (explained below).

2

Set the width and height.

Now set the resolution and mode.

Image resolution is the number of pixels displayed per unit of printed length in an image. This is usually measured in pixels per inch (ppi) but can also be in pixels per cm. You are able to change the resolution of an image.

Image resolution and pixel dimensions are mutually dependent. The amount of detail in your image is dependent on its pixel dimensions; the image resolution governs over how much space the pixels are printed.

This means that we can change an image's resolution without altering the pixel data in the image so all we modify is the size of the printed image. If we want to retain the same output dimensions, changing the image's resolution requires a change in the total number of pixels.

When it is printed, an image with a high resolution has more, therefore smaller, pixels than an image with a low resolution. For example, a 2-by-2-inch image with a resolution of 72 ppi contains a total of 20736 pixels (144 pixels wide x 144 pixels high = 20,736). The same 2-by-2-inch image with a resolution of 300 ppi contains a total of 360,000 pixels. A higher-resolution image usually reproduces more detail and more subtle colour transitions than a lower-resolution image.

**A note of caution!** Increasing the resolution of a low-resolution image only spreads the original pixel information across a greater number of pixels; it rarely improves image quality.

Using too low a resolution for your printed image results in pixelation; that is, output with large, coarse-looking pixels. On the other hand, using too high a resolution (that is, pixels which are smaller than the output device, such as a printer or screen, can produce) increases the size of your file and slows down the printing of the image; besides, the device will not be capable of reproducing the additional detail provided by the higher resolution image so there is no advantage.

3

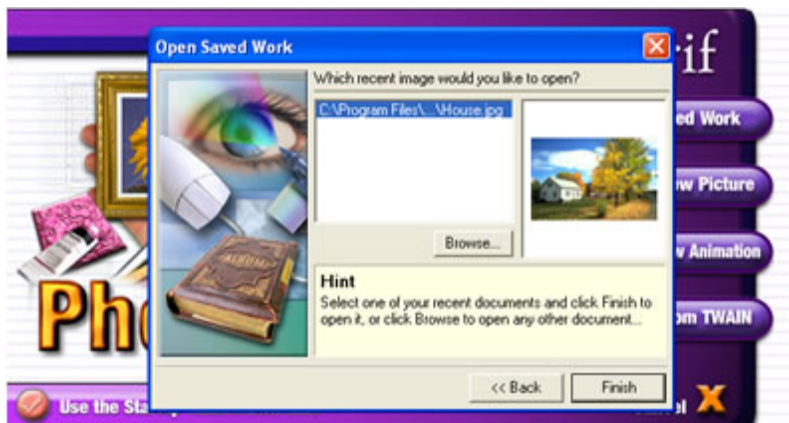
Choose an option for the contents of the background layer of your image:

- **White** fills the background layer with white; this is the default background colour.
- **Background Colour** fills the background layer with the current background colour.
- **Transparent** makes the first layer transparent; this means that it has no colour values. The resultant image will contain a single, transparent layer.

4

#### Opening existing images

As you open the program you will be asked what you want to do. If you select *Open Saved Work* you will be presented with...



a screen which allows you to navigate to your files as well as having a recently used list from which to choose from.

To return to the main menu, close this window by selecting **File > Close** from the menu bar.