

# Making Larger Signs Than Your Printer Thinks It Can



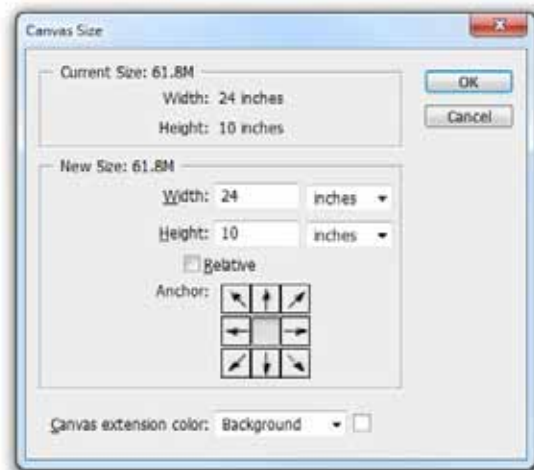
Your printer may think it can only make signs that are 8-1/2"x11" like the sign at the far right of this photo. Well, it's right, kind of, so let's humor it. The sign we *want* it to print is three times as wide: 24" (like the sign that's pasted atop the yellow sign at the right).

Not every computer can do this trick I'm about to show you. You need software that will let you change "canvas size" or "work area" or something like that. I use Photoshop (any version you're running now will work).

If your software has a dialog box like the one below, you're set. You can make signs any size you desire. I like to make my signs in multiples of 8x10" (or 10x8") because it helps me when it comes time to print them. In our example, we're going to make a 24"x10" sign

as shown in the example above.

I just created a new Photoshop document 24" wide and 10" tall and put the text in as I wanted it to appear on my sign. I could have added a logo or any other illustration I wanted. My sign will look exactly like what's on my computer. I **SAVE** this.

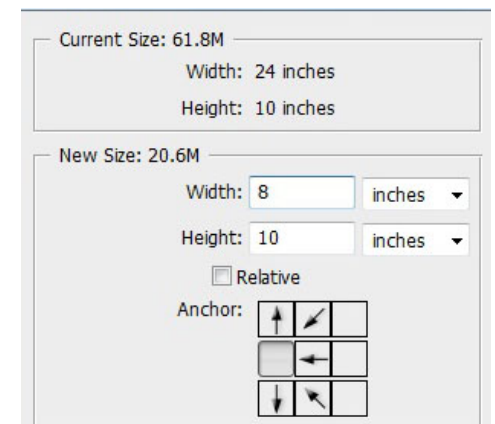


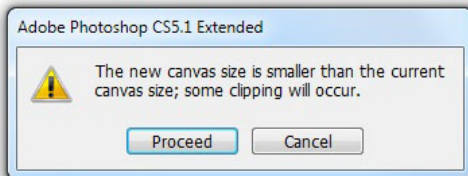
OK, you say, now how can I persuade my printer to print a document this wide?

Obviously, we'll have to print it in three panels and tape the panels together. Let's send the left third to the printer first.

Go up to Image and drag down to Canvas Size (or use the shortcut: Control/Command - alt/option - c). Of those nine squares you see, click on the left square. We're going to temporarily crop off everything to the right of that third. In our example, we don't have to crop anything off the top or bottom, so we'll stick with a Height of 10" and tell it to give us a width of 8"

Just ignore the warning dialog





box that tells you that some clipping will occur. We already know that. We're asking it to do the impossible. Just click Proceed.



Your Print dialog box (left) will show you what you're about to print - just the left third. Tell it to go ahead and print. You're smarter than your printer - you know what you want it to do.

Oh, NO! Looking at your Photoshop document, you see that you've lost the right two-thirds of your sign!

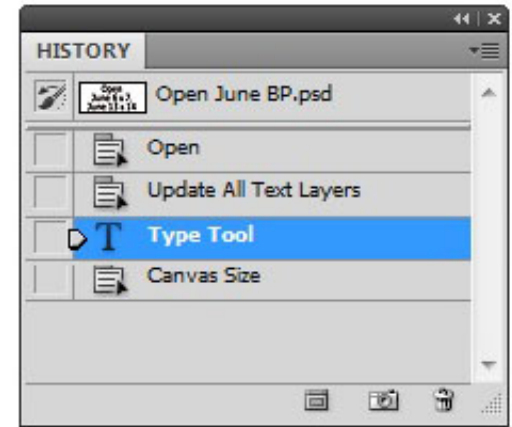
Go back into your history panel (second from bottom left) and select the time in history just prior to (above) when you changed the canvas size.

(Whew!) The lost two-thirds of your sign have re-appeared!

In the meantime, the left third of your sign is coming out of your printer.

Now go back into Canvas Size (bottom left) and select the **middle** square and tell it to be 8" wide instead of 24" (just as you did with the left panel). Click Proceed through the warning dialog box and **Print** the center portion.

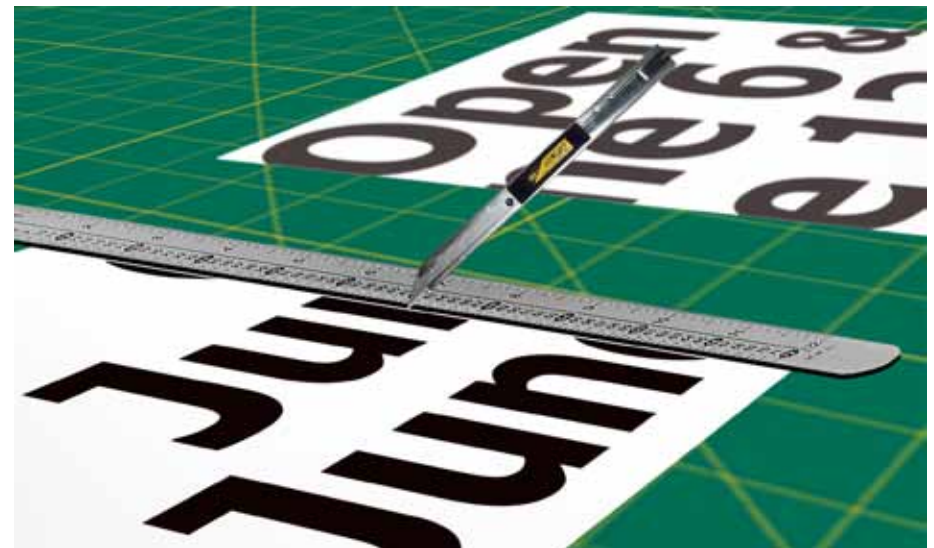
Now you know what to do



next: You've lost the outer two-thirds of your sign, so you need to go back in History as you did before and select whatever is before your Canvas Size change.

Now the center section of your sign is coming out of the printer and you're ready to change canvas size again, this time clicking on the right square and telling it to be only 8" wide. **Print**. You now have the three sections of your sign ready to tape together.

They will need a bit of trimming. I use a razor/hobby knife and a metal straight edge. Then I tape them together on the wrong side.



Copyright © 2015 Bruce Philpott

Please do share this PDF, but include this copyright notice. Thanks.

