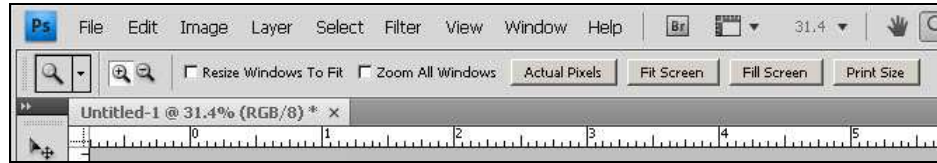


What this is about



When you select the Zoom tool (magnifying glass) in Photoshop and choose "Print Size", you might reasonably expect your picture to be displayed at actual size.

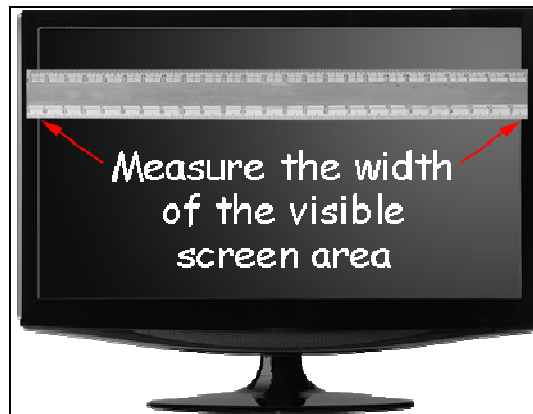
However, if you display Photoshop's rulers (shortcut Ctrl R) and measure these with a real ruler, it's more than likely they will be quite different.

Don't despair – it's easy to put this right.

The problem arises because of the (untrue) assumption that screen resolution is 72 pixels per inch. Unless you have a very old monitor, it won't be!

How to fix the problem

1. Take a ruler and measure the width of the visible area of your computer monitor. Make a note of this figure.



How to make Photoshop's Rulers measure "real" inches/cm

2. Use the right-hand button of your mouse to click on a blank area of the desktop (i.e. the blank screen). A menu will appear.
3. On this menu choose "Properties"
4. A new window will appear. Choose the "Settings" tab and make a note of your screen resolution (in pixels).



A bit of maths

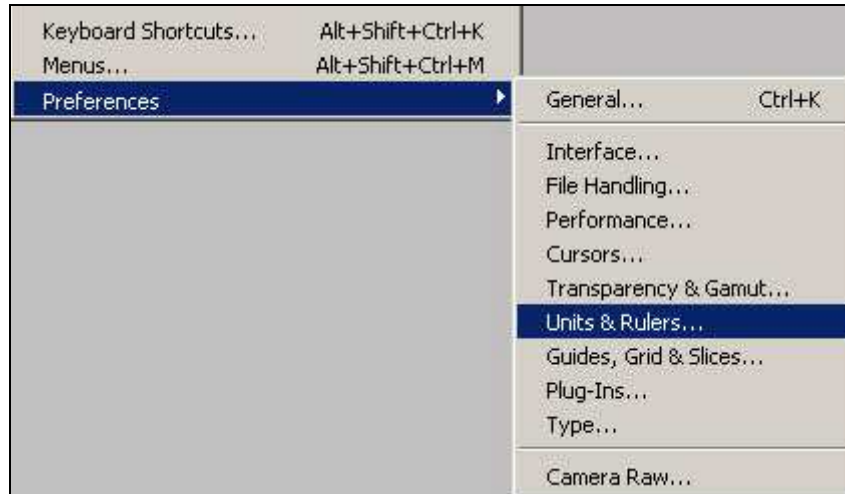
5. Divide the screen resolution pixel width by the actual width of your screen.

My monitor resolution is 1280 x 1024 pixels and the visible area of the screen is 13.6 inches.

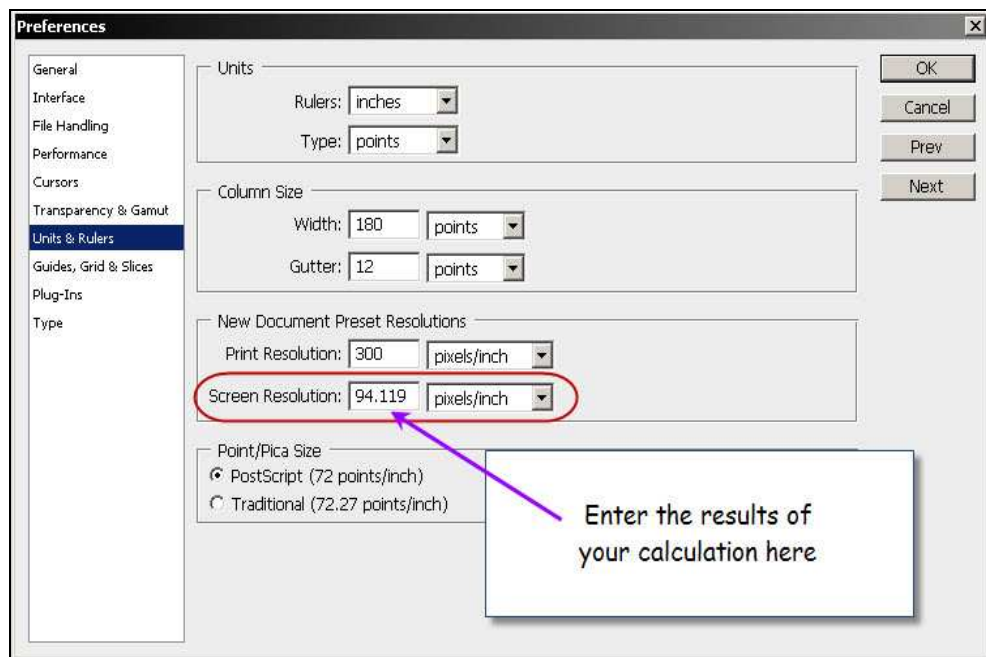
$$1280 \div 13.6 = 94.12 \text{ (approx.)}$$

How to make Photoshop's Rulers measure "real" inches/cm

Tell
Photoshop the
truth



6. In Photoshop, choose "Edit" > "Preferences" > "Units & Rulers"

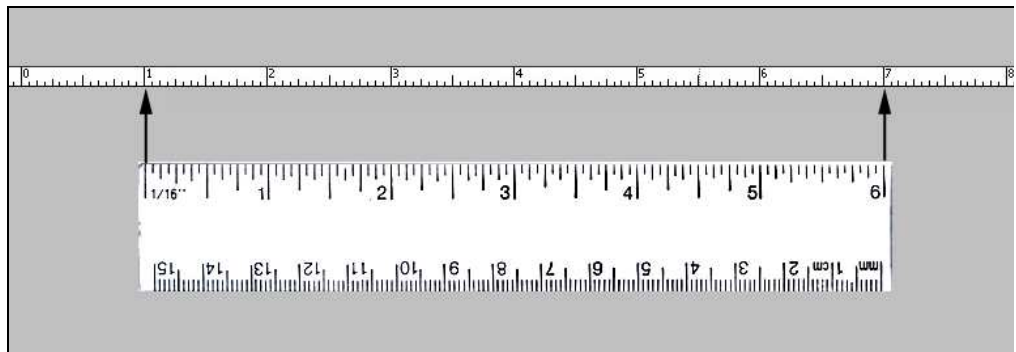


7. Enter the results of your calculation in the "Screen Resolution" box, Then click OK.



How to make Photoshop's Rulers measure "real" inches/cm

The proof of the pudding is in the measuring.



If you select the Zoom tool, click the "Print size" button, turn on the rulers (Ctrl R) and measure on screen things should be a lot nearer now.

Change the ruler's units

If you would rather work in centimetres, millimetres, percent or other units, simply right-click on Photoshop's Ruler and choose from the drop-down.

