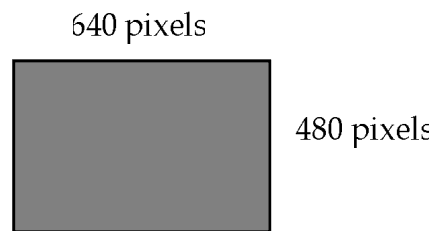# Adobe® Photoshop® 5.5

The Basics

Before you start working in Photoshop you need be aware of some of the technical aspects that will effect how you work.
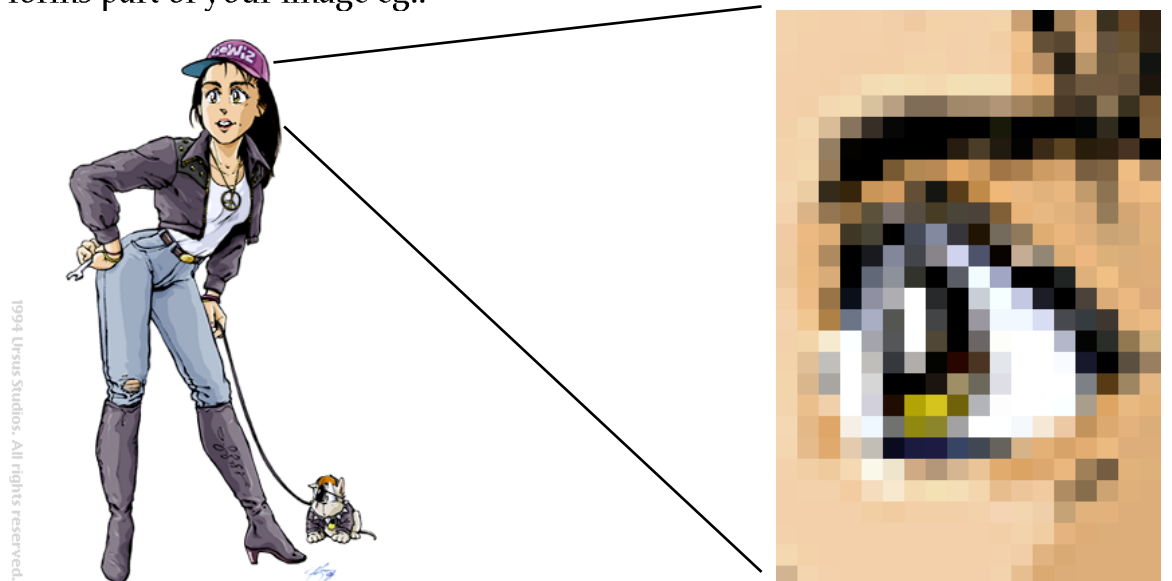
The MOST important thing to remember when working for screen as apposed to print is the size of the screen and the resolution of the screen. What I mean by this is that it is no good designing for A4 because the size of a computer screen isn't A4.

Most computer monitors differ in size but retain the same aspect ratio, and that is 4 x 3 (4 times the width and 3 times the height). Whenever we design for screen we always use the same size work area (equivilant to the paper you draw on) and that is **640 x 480 pixels.**

640 pixels

480 pixels

Pixels.....what the hell are Pixels?
Pixel is short for Picture Element and this is basically a square of colour that forms part of your image eg..

The reason for using 640 pixels X 480 pixels is because it is the size of a 15″ monitor, the bare minimum size monitor most people have. No point in designing for a nice 17″ monitor because all those people who have smaller screens won't be able to see your work.

Earlier I mentioned Resolution, and this refers to the number of pixels found in 1 inch. The more pixels you have per inch the clearer the image is going to be. If you where working for print your image resolution would be somewhere between 225 and 300 pixels per inch (dpi or ppi) but when you work for screen the resolution is only **72 dpi**. The reason for this is that the computer screen can only show a maximum of 72 dpi, anything higher than that looks exactly the same.

When working in Photoshop just make sure that the work area resolution is set to 72 dpi.
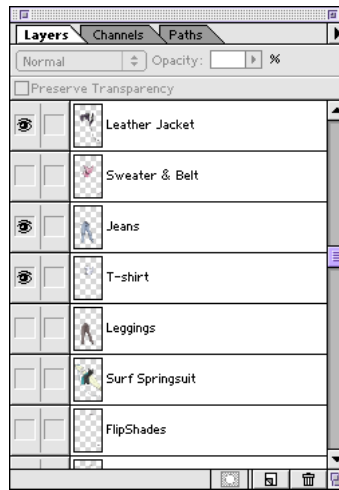
When you are working towards a printed image then you tend to use a work area that is made up of CMYK colours (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow & blacK) because the printers use the same colur scheme. When you are working towards a screen based image you use **RGB** (**R**ed, **G**reen & **B**lue) because the cathode ray that shines on the monitor screen is composed of these colours

Photoshop is an image editing package that allows you to build up images by compositing. In other words the image that you generate on the screen is made up from many layers of images. For an example of this we can use the cartoon image if Liz...

The image that you see appears to be flat but is in fact made up from lots of different layers.

This can be seen in the Layers window...

The Layers window can be opened (if it's not already) by going to **Window** ⇨ **Show Layers**.

Photoshop will allow you to do just about anything with images that have either been scanned into the computer or created fresh inside photoshop. By using the built in Filters you can create weird and wonderful effects, you can use tradition photographic tools to dodge and burn images, create duotoned images similar to old Sepia toned photos, the list is endless and is only restricted by your imagination.

When you've finished your pictures they can then be taken straight into Director where they can be intergrated into your multimedia programme.