

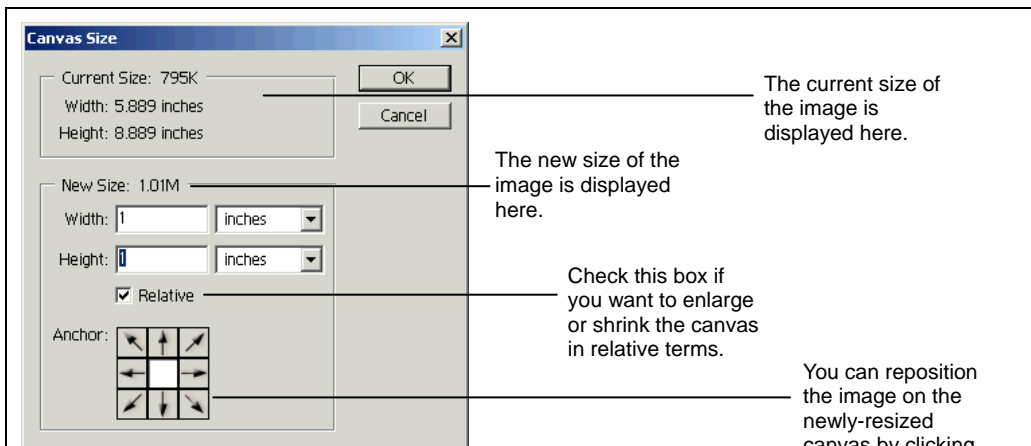
## Lesson 4-8: Changing the Canvas Size

**Figure 4-15**

The Canvas Size dialog box.

**Figure 4-16**

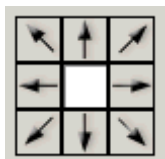
The image before and after the canvas is enlarged.



**Figure 4-15**



**Figure 4-16**



**Anchor boxes**

Imagine you're an oil painter. You fill your entire canvas with a wonderful landscape. But when you're done you decide there's something missing: your favorite tree was off to the right somewhere and you didn't have room to fit it into your painting. You decide to start over with a larger canvas.

The same concept applies in Photoshop. All the images you create or edit are sitting on an electronic canvas. The canvas is, by definition, the area where you work, sometimes called the "live" space or the editable area. You cannot edit or create any new images outside the canvas. You can, however, choose to change the size of your canvas.

**1. Navigate to your practice folder and open the **Old Image** file.**

Ask your instructor if you can't find your practice folder.

There is more than one way to change the size of the canvas. This lesson shows you how to use the Canvas Size command. You can also use the Crop tool, which is the focus of another lesson.

**2. Select **Image** → **Canvas Size** from the menu.**

Photoshop displays the Canvas Size dialog box. The first thing you should notice is the current size of the image, displayed at the top of the dialog box. When you change the canvas size, you change the size of the image, both in physical terms and in terms of storage size. Enlarging the canvas adds more canvas pixels; shrinking the canvas removes canvas pixels.

There are two ways to change the size of the canvas. You can change the canvas size in absolute terms. In other words, if the canvas is 10 inches by 10 inches you can tell Photoshop to make the canvas 20 inches by 20 inches. To do this you would enter 20 in the Width text box and 20 in the Height text box. You choose the units.

You can also change the canvas size in relative terms. Let's do that now.

**3. Check the **box** next to the word "Relative."**

Photoshop is ready for you to change the canvas size in relative terms. In other words, you can tell Photoshop to add one inch to the width and one inch to the height.

**4. In the **Width** text box, type **.5**. In the **Height** text box, type **.5**.**

Make sure the units are set to inches. You just told Photoshop to add one inch to the canvas' width and height.

**NOTE:** You can enter a negative value to shrink the canvas size.

When Photoshop enlarges the canvas, it automatically centers the image in the new canvas. But you can use the Anchors to move the image so it's flush with the edge of the canvas, or in one of the corners. The Anchors are the arrows at the bottom of the Canvas Size dialog box.

**5. Click the **bottom-left anchor**.**

You just told Photoshop to move the image so it's flush with the left edge of the canvas and the bottom edge of the canvas. Now let's see your work.

**6. Click **OK**.**

Photoshop displays the image inside the newly-resized canvas. Sure enough, the image is positioned in the bottom left corner. The area around the image is the new part of the canvas you added. Photoshop defaults to the background color when it adds new canvas pixels.

As much as you like having more canvas space, you decide you were really happier with the original canvas size. You can trim the canvas using the Trim command.

**7. Select **Image** → **Trim** from the menu.**

Photoshop displays the Trim dialog box. When you trim a canvas, you are asking Photoshop to make a judgement call. The software uses color to determine which part of the canvas you might want to trim. In this scenario, it's a no brainer. The program trims out the part of the canvas you added.

**8. Click **OK** in the Trim dialog box.**

You're right back where you started.

**9. Select **File** → **Revert** from the menu.**

You can change the canvas size in relative or absolute terms.

**Quick Reference**

To Change the Canvas Size Using the Canvas Size Command:

1. Select **Image** → **Canvas Size** from the menu.
2. Enter the new canvas dimensions in absolute or relative terms.
3. Decide where you want to position the image on the canvas using the **Anchors boxes**.
4. Click **OK**.

To Change the Trim Command:

1. Select **Image** → **Trim** from the menu.
2. Use the Trim dialog box to tell Photoshop how to trim the canvas and click **OK**.