

Visions Photographic Prints

Print Requirements:

Image Opacity:

The choice of color level determines the opacity of the final glass product. Determine the location and viewing position of the piece before choosing a level of opacity. Traditional printing of graphics on a white media – such as white paper - leaves the white areas of the image blank, allowing the white of the media to show through the print. However, this is not the case when printing on glass. Any regions of an image that are left blank in the design phase will appear as blank – that is to say, clear – glass, when printed. Therefore, it is important to specify which areas, if any, need to be transparent, opaque, clear or a combination of all 3.

Please note that darker colors tend to be less transparent than lighter colors (e.g., a print containing black or dark purple will be nearly opaque, while prints with light blues and yellows remain very transparent). Transparent images are equally visible from either side of the glass; please keep this in mind when printing transparent images with words, and specify which side is to be the primary viewing side. Your Tristar representative can help you choose the correct opacity. Please call for more details.

Choose Your Size:

Before the image is selected, it is important to understand the size of the glass to be used and how the image is to be positioned on the glass. Knowing the size, location, and viewing direction of the glass will ease the image selection process by eliminating photos and graphics that are too small or too grainy/pixelated to fit on the desired piece of glass. If the glass is small, a large high-quality image (typically harder to come by) might not be necessary.

Single Panel:

Single panels of Tristar Visions glass are limited to the block dimensions listed below. For images that exceed the maximum size, multiple panels may be used (see “Multi-panel” below). Single panel images can be cut to any shape using the latest in CNC technology. Talk to your Tristar sales representative for more information.

Max Glass Width	60"
Max Glass Height	125"

Multi panel

Images can also be stretched across multiple panels of glass. Please provide an image that measures the full span of all the glass panels it will cover, as well as each of the image’s sections, already cropped to fit each panel. Please number the sections of the image, starting from 1 and beginning at top left panel and working from left to right, top to bottom. If you need assistance, Tristar is ready to help.

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Image 1: Example of a multi-panel print using one image

Finding your Art:

Choosing a properly formatted image is critical to how the image will appear on the final product. Use these tips below to help find the right image. Please note that Tristar WILL NOT PRINT ANY TRADEMARKED OR COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL WITHOUT CONSENT FROM THE OWNER OF THE IMAGE.

Introduction to Image Size and Quality:

Before choosing an image to place between the glass, it is important to understand image size and resolution.

Definition: Resolution is a measurement of image quality, usually in units of *pixels*, *dots*, or *lines* per inch. The units vary according to the intended output device. [PPI](#) (pixels per inch) refers to screen resolution, while [DPI](#) (dots per inch) refers to print resolution.

Example: A 1"x1" image at 100PPI blown up to 12"x12" will still have 100PPI. Observe what happens when we double the size of a 300PPI image of the Tristar Glass logo. The pixels contained within the image remain the same but the size of the image doubles, resulting in an image that is "pixelated" and grainy. (See Example 1 on following page)

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Example 1: The effects of enlarging a low-resolution photo

While we may have enough pixels to build a nice image on the computer screen, in order to print a presentable image on glass we require a **MINIMUM OF 72DPI** (dots per inch) at **100% IMAGE SIZE***. The higher the resolution is in DPI, the better the quality of the final image printed.

*100% image size means that the image in question is being viewed on the computer at the actual size of the final print.

Tristar Visions artists and photographers:

Provide your own design or browse some of ours. When it comes to design we want you to have options. At Tristar Visions we work with a broad range of artists and photographers in the hopes that we may meet any and all of the design demands that may arise during a project. A small selection of graphics may be found on the "Artists" portion of the TristarVisions.com website. These images and more contained on the Artists' and photographer's personal websites can be a great starting point for finding a graphic that will work for you. Don't see exactly what you want, but like the style? Custom contract work is available on request.

Images from the Internet:

Images found on the web typically have a resolution of 72 or 96 PPI (pixels per inch) because that is approximately what most monitors can display. These images look good on your computer screen, but when blown up to size to fit on a piece of glass they can become blurry, grainy, and pixelated (see image 1).

High-quality stock images can be found on the Internet but may come at a price. Here is a list of photo sites that provide both free and for-purchase images:

- www.gettyimages.com
- www.istockphoto.com
- www.creativecommons.org

Please note that just because the image has been purchased there is no guarantee that it is the correct size or quality required to print the image to the correct size of the glass.



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Logos:

Printing company logos between glass is a great alternative to traditional signage. To properly print the logo, the **ORIGINAL** file used to create the logo should be submitted to Tristar. Logos typically contain solid colors with sharp, crisp lines. To maintain this look when blown up to size on the glass, it is important that the logo be sent as a **VECTOR** image in the original file type in which it was created (.AI or .EPS file types are preferred).

Customer Photos:

Customer photos are a great source for images because they already own the rights to that image. Please do not compress the image for transmitting purposes, as this can lower the original quality of the image. Digital photos may vary in size depending on the quality of the camera. The larger the initial image is, the greater the size to which it can be expanded. As the print dimensions increase, the resolution of the image decreases, thus reducing print quality.

Depending on the opacity of the print, it may be important to note the orientation of the image. It is important that images to be viewed from only one direction be flipped so that they are properly oriented when looking through the glass. Please contact your Tristar sales

Handling your Art:

File types:

When at all possible **VECTOR-BASED** files are preferred. These files can be expanded to any size without affecting the image. Common examples of vector-based file types are listed below:

- .AI
- .EPS
- .SVG
- .CDR
- .DXF

If the file is not vector based, such as a photograph, we prefer that the file be sent as a .TIFF or as a Photoshop file.

Image Adjustments/Corrections:

Images should be provided to Tristar **READY TO PRINT**. Images that require the work of a graphic artist to bring them up to photo quality will be billed for that time.



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How to get the image to Tristar:

Images can be sent to robertc@tristarglass.com. Images may also be transferred to a USB drive and delivered to Tristar Glass directly. For more information on sending your image, contact Robert Carlson at the above email address.