Resize image to fit canvas - Gimp

Asked 11 years ago   Modified 2 years, 3 months ago   Viewed 52k times

▲

27

▼

🔖

🕘

I'm currently using Gimp to resize some images. I'm a web developer but I don't really use image manipulation software much as most of the images are provided by designers so the Gimp tool is very unfamiliar to me. I've looked through all of the tutorials and help guides on the Gimp site but I cannot find the answer to the simplest of questions:

How do you resize a layer to fit within the current canvas whilst maintaining the aspect ratio?

I'm essentially setting a fixed size on my Canvas and importing an image as a layer into my project. What I then wish to do is scale this much larger image down so that is can fit within the Canvas with the aspect ratio preserved. I have found a way of scaling the Canvas to fit a layer but this is not what I am looking for.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

`gimp`

Share Improve this question Follow

edited Mar 2, 2022 at 18:48

Braiam
4,496 ● 11 ● 49 ● 82

asked Jan 9, 2014 at 10:45

jezzipin
4,244 ● 14 ● 55 ● 97

4 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default) ⇕

▲

30

▼

🔖

🕘

That feature is not in gimp for some reason. An alternative without any scripts is:

```
Layer -> Scale Layer
```

Share Improve this answer Follow

answered Aug 26, 2015 at 16:02

Weston Ganger
6,702 ● 6 ● 43 ● 39

Upvoted, but noting that using imagemagick convert on the CLI is much faster than GIMP. – Nagev Jul 6, 2022 at 8:57

This is easy to do, but among the hundreds of possible options to be put on the program UI, it was not "elected" to be there.

14

The way out is to use the program's scripting capabilities to perform the action: what have to be determined programatcially is whether the ratio of the image/layer is larger on the width or height, and use this ratio to scale tha layer, and then center the layer.

For your convenience, I wrote some Python code for this in a single line, in a way you can just copy and paste on the python console (filters->python->console) to apply the effect on the top layer of the most recent open image.

```
img = gimp.image_list()[0]; layer = img.layers[0]; factor = min (float(img.width) /
layer.width, float(img.height) / layer.height); layer.scale(int(layer.width * factor),
int(layer.height * factor)); layer.set_offsets((img.width - layer.width) / 2,
(img.height - layer.height) / 2)
```

Since this can be done, but is not practical, even more because it does not allow you to pick the image or layer to resize, I formated it as a python-script for GIMP as well. Just check your edit->preferences->folders->plug-ins for your plug-in directory, paste the contents bellow as a file there (if on Windows, the file must have the ".py" extension. On Linux and Mac OS, any extension would work, but you have to give the file the "exectuable" property").

After restarting GIMP, you will have the new command conveniently located on your Layer menu:

```
#! /usr/bin/env python
# coding: utf-8

from gimpfu import *

def scale_layer_to_canvas_size(img, layer):
    pdb.gimp_image_undo_group_start(img)
    factor = min (float(img.width) / layer.width,
                  float(img.height) / layer.height)

    layer.scale(int(layer.width * factor), int(layer.height * factor))
    layer.set_offsets((img.width - layer.width) / 2,
        (img.height - layer.height) / 2)
    pdb.gimp_image_undo_group_end(img)

register("scale-layer-to-canvas-size",
    "Scale layer to canvas size",
    "Scales the layer to canvas size, keeping the aspect ratio",
    "João S. O. Bueno", "Public domain", "2014",
    N_("Scale layer to canvas size..."),
    "*",
    [(PF_IMAGE, "image",        "Input image", None),
     (PF_DRAWABLE, "layer", "Input drawable", None), ], [],
    scale_layer_to_canvas_size,  menu="<Image>/Layer/",
    )

main()
```

Note it is the same code than above, but "img" and "layer" are now suplied by GIMP when picking the action from the menu, and there are two extra calls so that both scalignand centering are "undone" as a single action - the remaining code is justtheneeded boiler plate to register the function with GIMP

Share   Improve this answer   Follow

answered Jan 9, 2014 at 23:22

jsbueno
110k ● 11 ● 157 ● 232

▲

9

▼

After shrinking my canvas using `Image -> Canvas` (and centering the layers as desired), the `Layer -> Layer to Image Size` did the trick (without scaling the image). This is with gimp 2.8.16

Share   Improve this answer   Follow

answered Dec 22, 2015 at 20:08

duanev
964 ● 13 ● 17

▲

1

▼

Layer > Scale Layer worked beautifully for me.

Share   Improve this answer   Follow

answered Feb 9, 2021 at 0:28

Brent Raymond
11 ● 3

1   A screenshot would be useful here I think – Dilip Muthukurussimana Feb 9, 2021 at 1:32