



## Top tips for great poster design

1. **Layout**
2. **Colour**
3. **Text style and font**
4. **Visuals**
5. **Summary**

### 1. Layout

The layout is vital to a successful poster.

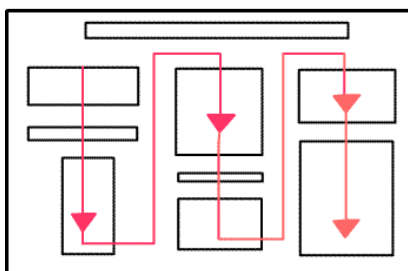
You need to make sure that there is the right balance of information, the viewer needs to understand what the poster is telling them, in order to respond to it. Too much information will bore them and too little won't make sense! Bullet points are always helpful to get the information across quickly and effectively.

Sort all the Information into separate sections, this will allow you to keep all the relevant information in and filter out unnecessary parts.

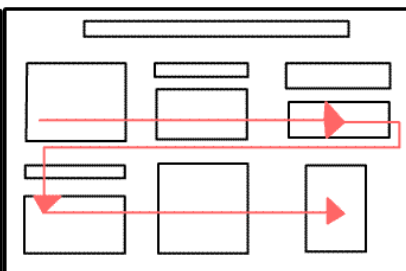
When creating an effective layout it's a good idea to cut out all the information you want to display and lay it out onto a piece of paper so that you can move things around easily and see where the sections look best.

To make it easier for your customer to read, the information needs to flow across the page

#### By column



#### By row



This technique will allow the viewer to take in all the information in the order that you want it to appear. A numbering system will also help create an order.

Finally, make sure you have a clear brand name and contact information on the poster. In order for the public to respond to your poster, they need to know who you are, or how to contact you.



## 2. Colour

Be careful not to use too much colour on your poster, as it will detract from the information and can be visually off putting.

- Remember less is more!
- Make sure there is plenty of “white space” on your poster, this will make the poster gentle on the eyes and ensure the information stands out.
- Choose colours that complement each other.
- Use a foreground (text) colour that is easy on the eye and complements the background colour.
- Test your colour scheme. Many yellows and shades of red can be a strain to read, so test different colours and shades, to make sure that the writing is easy to read.

For example:

This combination is easy on the eye

This combination strains the eye and is unpleasant to look at

This combination is also easy to read

This combination also strains the eye and is hard to read

- It will generally always look better and be more effective to use a darker colour for your foreground (text). Black is always a good choice as it will stand out from any colour.
- By using a **bold** lettering you are again ensuring that the writing will “POP” from the page.

Here are some examples of successful colour schemes used in poster design.





### **3. Text size and font type**

A good poster is one where the main information and genre of the poster can be understood from 6 meters away, to ensure this is the case the font needs to be clear and the size needs to be accurate.

When looking at the poster on a computer screen or on an A4 template, remember the finished result will be at least 2/3 times bigger.

The font type needs to be clear and easy to read.

Although some fonts are easy to read, this font (courier) can be considered old and boring.

*Italic fonts are not always easy to read. Especially when reading from a distance.*

#### **CAPITALS ARE ALSO CONSIDERED HARDER TO READ**

Choose a font that is simple and clear. This will communicate with your audience far better. If your poster is not easy to read, then all your hard work was for nothing.

- If the font is too **big**, then it will just waste space
- And if it is too small, then it will not attract people to read the poster

This is a general guideline for font size in posters

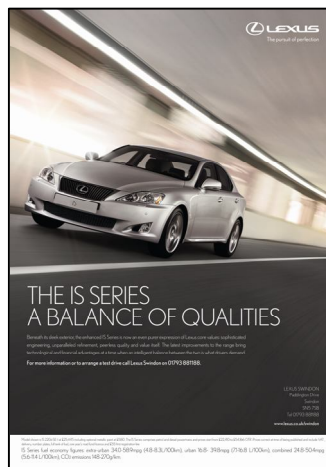
Main title	100pt	Around 4-6cm
Subheadings	50pt	2-3cm
Body text	25pt	1-2cm

These sizing's will allow the text to stand out in order of importance, different size guidelines will apply to different size posters, however there must be an obvious difference between them.



#### 4. Visuals

Photos, Graphics and charts are vital components to your poster, they will illustrate the point, and hopefully attract your audience to the poster and cement your poster in their minds.



- Try not to use too many visuals in your poster as it will look cluttered and overpowering.
- Enlarge and crop visuals to only show the relevant bits.
- Make sure that your visuals are clear and of good quality.
- When using diagrams and charts - Design the diagram with a software package that has been designed for graphics and diagrams, such as Corel Presentations, CorelDraw, Photoshop, etc.
- Use a high quality digital camera or scanner when adding photos.
- This ensures that the picture will look clear and not out of focus.



## **Summary**

When creating an effective poster it is very important to remember that less is more

- Try not to clutter your poster and make it look too busy.
- Keep the writing as short and to the point as possible
- Choose a simple colour scheme and stick to it
- Do not overpower the poster with graphics and posters

Always try to test everything that you use, try out different font styles and sizes and ask for other people's opinion.

When you have decided what information and graphics you want to use cut them out and lay on to the poster, so you can move them around until you think it looks right. This way you can see what it will look like when finished, and not just on a computer screen.