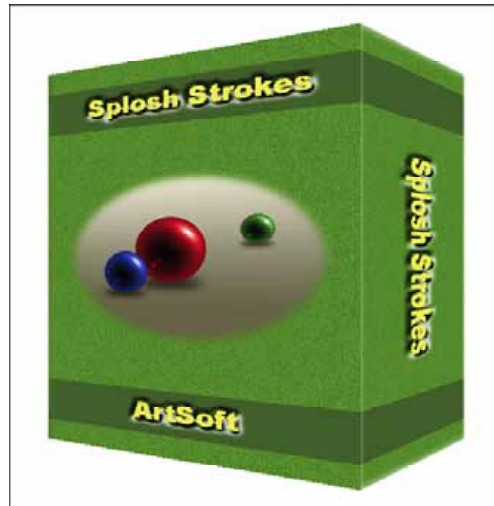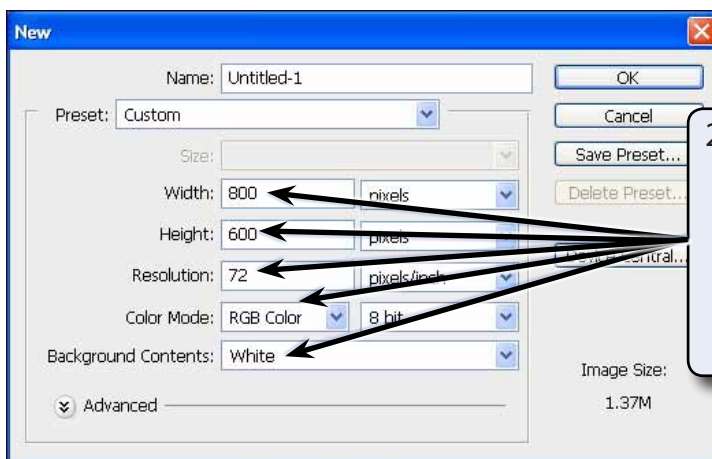# Creating Accurate Shapes

Photoshop provides the tools to create accurate shapes. Let's say that you have been contracted by the software producer, ArtSoft, to produce an image of the box for their recently released graphics program, Splosh Strokes, so that it can be placed on their web site. The following image will be produced:

Starting a New Document

1   Load Photoshop or close the current files then display the FILE menu and select NEW.
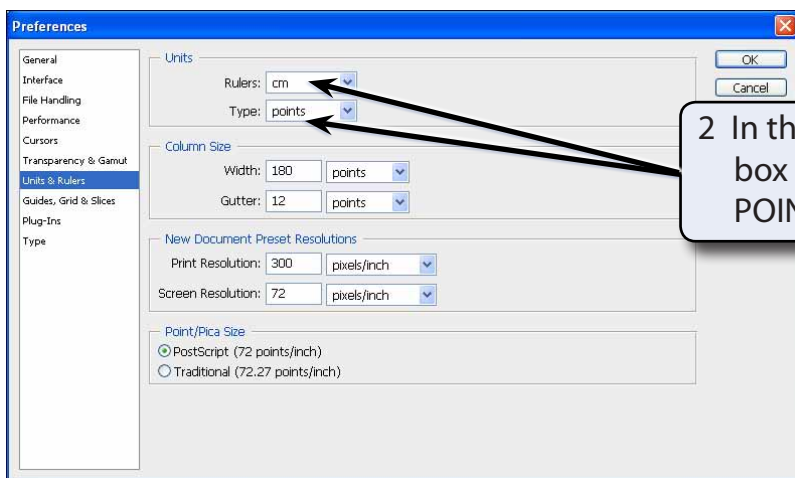

2   Set the WIDTH to 800 pixels, the HEIGHT to 600 pixels, the RESOLUTION to 72 pixels/inch, the COLOUR MODE to RGB COLOUR, 8 BIT and the BACKGROUND CONTENTS to WHITE.

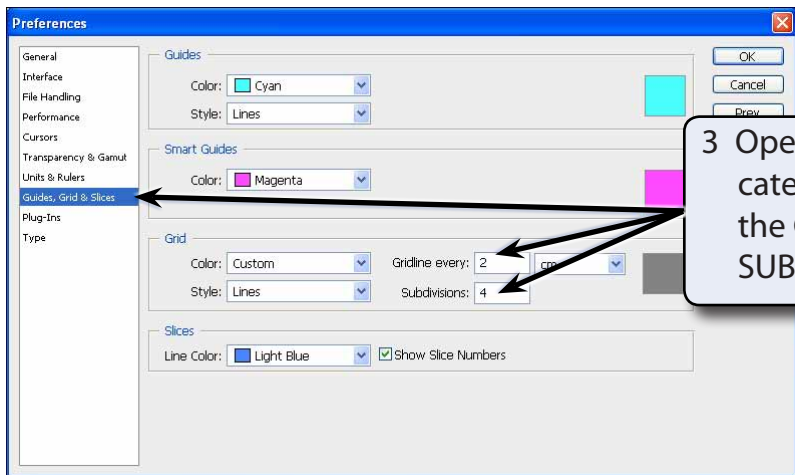3   Select OK to start the document and set the zoom to FIT ON SCREEN.

Setting the Ruler and Grid Units

You will be using RULERS and a GRID to accurately create the box, so the settings need to be checked.

1   On the Windows system display the EDIT menu, highlight PREFERENCES and select UNITS & RULERS. On the Macintosh system display the PHOTOSHOP menu, highlight PREFERENCES and select UNITS & RULERS.

2 In the UNITS frame set the RULERS box to CM and the TYPE box to POINTS.
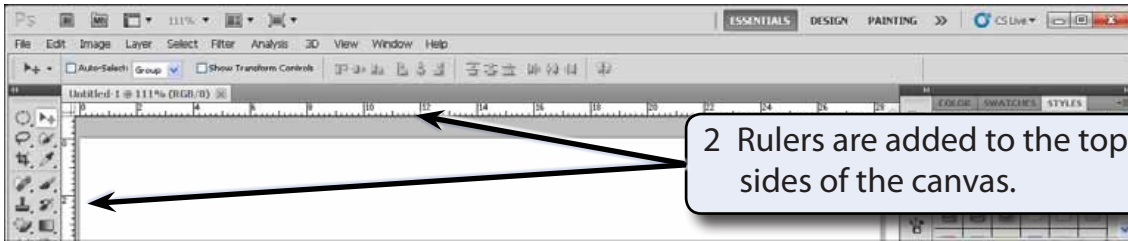
3 Open the GUIDES, GRID & SLICES category and, in the GRID frame, set the GRIDLINE EVERY box to 2 cm, the SUBDIVISIONS to 4 and select OK.
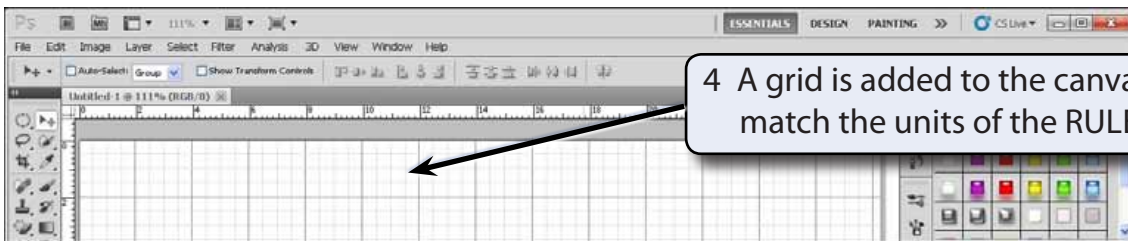
NOTE: You can also use the GUIDES, GRID & SLICES section to set the colour of the grid and guide lines.

Turning on the Rulers and Grid
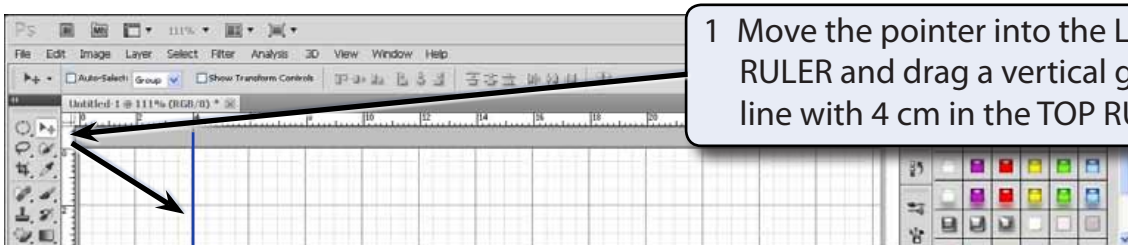
1   Display the VIEW menu and select RULERS.

2 Rulers are added to the top and left sides of the canvas.

3   Display the VIEW menu again, highlight SHOW and select GRID.

4 A grid is added to the canvas to match the units of the RULERS.

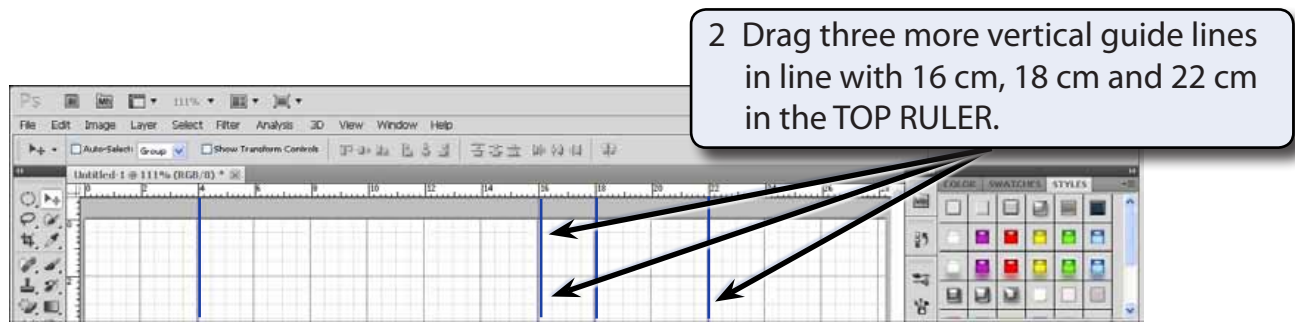**NOTE: You can RIGHT+CLICK or CONTROL+CLICK on the RULERS to quickly change their units**
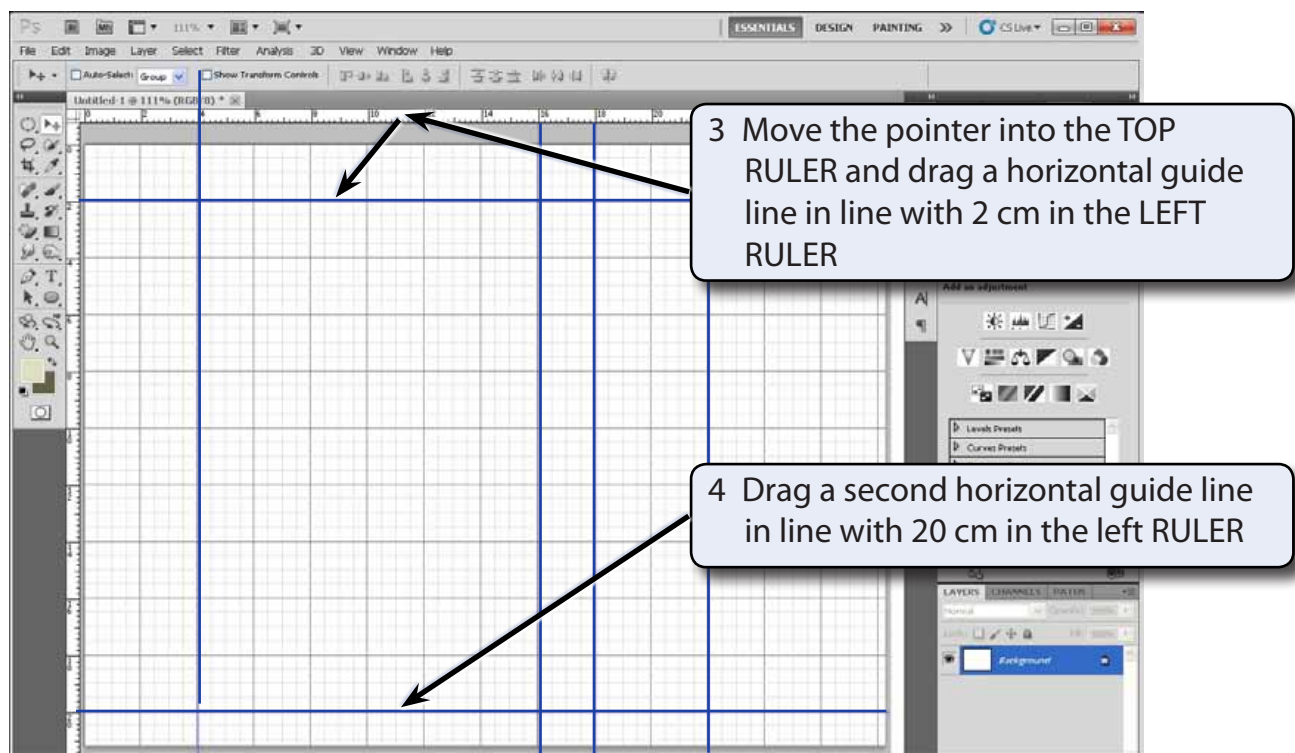
Setting Guide Lines

You can add guide lines to the canvas to help you layout a sketch. In this case guide lines will be needed for the front and side of the box.

1 Move the pointer into the LEFT RULER and drag a vertical guide in line with 4 cm in the TOP RULER.

2 Drag three more vertical guide lines in line with 16 cm, 18 cm and 22 cm in the TOP RULER.

NOTE: You can move guide lines to new positions by selecting the MOVE TOOL, moving the pointer over the guide line until it changes to parallel lines with arrows and dragging the guide line to a new position. Dragging a guide line back to its RULER removes the guide line from the screen.

3 Move the pointer into the TOP RULER and drag a horizontal guide line in line with 2 cm in the LEFT RULER

4 Drag a second horizontal guide line in line with 20 cm in the left RULER

Creating the Front of the Box

A Setting a Green Rectangle

A rectangular selection frame will added to the canvas and filled with green so that it has no border.

1 Start a new layer, rename it FRONT then select the RECTANGULAR MARQUEE TOOL and set the BACKGROUND COLOUR box to WHITE.

2 Drag a selection frame between the guide lines from 4 cm in the top Ruler and 2 cm in the left Ruler (4,2) to 16 cm in the top Ruler and 20 cm in the left Ruler (16,20).