



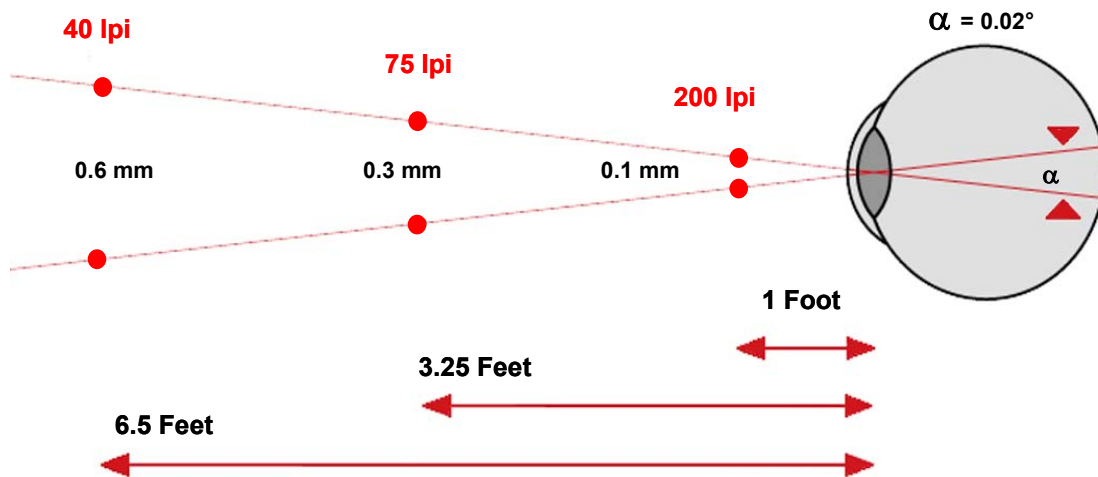
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What line count should I use?

The proper line count will depend on the viewing distance that the print will be viewed. It is important to understand that higher line counts don't always equate to better looking prints at the desired viewing distance. A halftone actually simulates a continuous tone image (photograph) by breaking the image into various sized dots. At the proper viewing distance, the human eye cannot distinguish adjacent dots because they do not impinge on two neighboring retinal cells (rods or cones). The dots become indistinguishable when their images fall on the same or two adjacent retinal cells. The minimum angular resolution of the human eye is approximately 0.02° .

In lay terms, the closer the viewer is to the subject, the finer the dots must be to provide this illusion. The opposite is true as the viewing distance increases. Realistically, it is best to critique prints at the viewing distance they are meant for.

The diagram and chart below provide a general guide for proper line counts at given viewing distances.



Recommended line counts in relation to the viewing distance.

Viewing Distance	Dots per inch
< 20 inches	>90 lpi
2 – 3 feet	46-61 lpi
3 – 10 Feet	38-51 lpi
6 – 16 feet	31-46 lpi
10 –30 feet	31-36 lpi
>10 – 65 feet	<31 lpi