

Creating Slideshows

One or two images can be limiting when you're trying to tell a story. Put together a whole set of images and the effect can be dramatic.

Content

Pictures should go together to tell a story

They should all relate to that story – my vacation, my family, son's game, etc.

Pictures should have variety. Try not to use pictures that all look alike.

The less alternating between vertical and horizontal pictures, the better.

Titles, captions,

Guidelines for good slideshows

Timing is essential. Keep the length to a minimum. It should be no longer than it takes to get the story across to the viewer. No matter how excited you are about the topic of your slideshow, chances are, most viewers are not as passionate about it. Even with travelogue slideshows, viewers will lose interest after a few minutes.

If you don't plan to talk during the slideshow, music is a must.

Limit the photographs you use to the minimum necessary to tell the story. If you have many images of the same event or sequence, pick the best of the best and move on to the next sequence.

Add titles and/or captions. If you're planning to send the slideshow to someone or you won't be with them when they view it, titles and captions help tell the story.

Use transitions if possible when advancing from one image to the next.

Transitions

Improve impact and professionalism

Keep it simple; don't use several different transitions

Carefully choose duration of each image and of each transition. Give viewer time to see the image, 5-8 sec and consider smooth (slow) transitions of 2-3 seconds

Fade to black – create a square black (or whatever color you like) image in Photoshop. Add it as a picture

Use panning and zooming sparingly. Adding it to every image can be distracting and get annoying to some viewers

Adding music

Adds impact and drama; can affect the viewer's emotions

Easier for others to watch

If there is any hint of using the slideshow to make money you can't use copyrighted songs

Search for royalty-free music if necessary (www.smartsound.com). Some programs create music

Creating a playable version

DVD for home DVD player

Mpg file for playback on a computer

Creating Slideshows

Streaming for Internet; YouTube video
PDF format

Several different applications are available

Capable of adding music:

ProShow Gold – many features; automatically resizes your photos, etc.
FotoMagico – Apple computers only
Pinnacle Studio
Slideshow Studio Deluxe

Without music

Photoshop Elements or full Photoshop – output to web site or PDF
Adobe Lightroom – output to web site or PDF