



A Review of Adobe Photoshop album 2.0 - US\$49.99

Wow! A PC program that does so much for photos that I just had to try as many functions before this review as possible. I can honestly say now that this program gives its user ample “bang-for-the-buck” from beginner to intermediate level photographer. Future versions of this software can only improve and enhance the product to the point that even technical experts will place it at the top of their must-have list.

As a beginner in photography, I am one who has used a number of Adobe and other companies' art software packages. This review will cover only one aspect of the numerous capabilities found within the album. These aspects include: creating an album, slideshow, greeting card, web photo gallery, video CD, eCard, calendar, Photo Book, Atmosphere 3D Gallery, printing, ordering prints, online sharing, email, mobile phone and handheld transfers. So, let's continue with my experience in creating an album for a video CD.

Following my wedding of January 8, 2005, I posted almost fifty of our wedding pictures on my personal Web site. It seemed a natural next step to make a video slideshow CD in order to send copies to various members of our families and close friends. This CD would include some one hundred pictures.

First, I started by importing the pictures in album and cropping and identifying each by the persons' names or actions. I found that I needed to revise the sort order of the layout I was trying to accomplish by changing the time shown within that image. Second, I did the one-click fix for better lighting, color and focus. Several close-up pictures were taken at the wedding of the flower arrangements, so I decided to use them as the title and separator pages to show changes of location to the dinner and dance. The next step entailed setting up the transfer from the album to video CD for burning to the disc.

Placing the new CD in my wide screen TV, I then viewed it. The process worked very well except that some of the pictures taken holding the camera vertically had the person's head cut off! A few pictures taken with the camera held horizontally cut off those persons on both ends of the pictures. Therefore, I changed the view on the screen and still lost parts of the longer text descriptions and body parts. The contrast on some of the pictures was not as clear as others'.

With this in mind, I redid the whole set and created another CD which solved most of the problems but not all. I have since decided that my cropping and thus creating different dimensional-sized pictures is a bad thing to do for clarity and content.

Note: Do NOT delete your original pictures like I did before seeing how your work will turn out.

One other item I must mention that came up: When I moved the curser pointer to a picture from the top of the page to the middle or bottom picture, the page would sometimes scroll for an unknown reason. Maybe a bug?

Having done another CD with some original pictures of a different topic, I was able to complete that project to a satisfactory conclusion.

In conclusion, this overall application with its many facets is a real winner and worth the cost. My review should help beginners bypass my mistakes and end with a positive result.

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