

Creating a Photography Slideshow

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My Opinion About Photography Slideshows

- Photography slideshows are unique in that the presenter and the audience are photographers who want to share their photographs.
- Slideshows of other types and for other audiences will have different purposes and may use different approaches.
- I want to see and present shows that highlight the photographs and give sufficient time to enjoy the photograph.
- Anything that does not support enjoying the photographs is an annoyance.
- Music can enhance the viewing experience.

Outline

- All I know I learned from the master.
- View a slideshow and discuss.
- Slideshow software options
- Considerations in the time of Zoom
- Gather resources
- Putting the show together

Gary Kelly's Teachings

- Gary Kelly is a master photographer in the Dallas Camera Club and *Emeritus Director of Field Trips and Dinners*
- Gary presented a short talk on making slideshows to the Dallas Camera Club in 2012.
- It has taken eight years but I'm finally getting the hang of it.
- His handout can be found in the "Training Material 2021" section on each club website.

Making a Digital Show with Proshow Gold.

View the Slideshow - *Trees*

and

Trees v2

Slideshow Software

- Many choices
- **NCH Software *PhotoStage*** [LINK](#)
 - Pro version \$70 now \$49.99
 - Home \$50 now \$34.99 (cannot insert video clip)
 - Renders 4K video
 - I can vouch for it
- Wondershare DVD Slideshow Builder Deluxe suggested by Nock Wong
- Movavi [LINK](#)
 - Yearly subscription
- Photopia [LINK](#)
 - Recommended by Photodex who made Proshow Gold
 - Subscription
- PowerPoint
- If you have one you like and can vouch for, please put it in the Chat and I'll post.

Considerations in the Time of Zoom

- Sharing videos over Zoom offers a new set of challenges.
- While being able to stay connected is great, the quality of what we see is not as good as in person sharing.
- Photo clubs have quality projectors from HD to QHD and the images we see are very good.
- The same show viewed via zoom is far from very good.
- It is good to understand the process.

The Zoom Process - Tentative

- The presenter shares their screen and the video is played.
- If the presenter has a very high-resolution monitor and the source video is of lower resolution, the video is scaled up. Strike 1.
- Zoom then captures the screen image, compresses it and transmits it. Strike 2.
- Zoom sends the video out to all the attendees at 720p who scale it up on their local monitors. Strike 3.
- The image you see is of far lesser quality than the original.

Zoom Recommendations - Tentative

- Record at a high resolution so the presenter has the best image regardless of the resolution of their monitor.
 - Recommend 4K 3840X2160 (aka QHD)
- Attendees can view the video in a less than full screen image.
- Minimize motion in the slideshow
 - No pans or zooms
 - Simple transitions

Gather Resources

- Decide on a theme
- Gather photographs
- Sequence the photographs
- Find appropriate music

Decide on the Theme

- Without a theme, the show will be disjointed and uninteresting
- A place
 - A national park
 - Your backyard
 - Downtown Dallas
- A subject
 - Birds
 - Red tulips
 - Trees
- A concept
 - Sam's *Photographing Photographers*
 - Frank's *The Day the Earth Stood Still*

How Images Do You Need

- Ideal display time is 6 to 7 seconds with about a 2 second transition.
- For a 3 minute show, you need 25 photos.
- Gather more than you think you need.

Gather Images

- Create a collection and make it the target collection
- If you are dedicated keyworder, use keywords to help you.
- You can also go shoot image to support a concept theme.
- Otherwise go through your catalog and find your best images supporting the theme.
- When you find one, type “B” to put it in the collection.
- Create a collection and make it the target collection
- If you are dedicated keyworder, use keywords to help you.
- You can also go shoot image to support a concept theme.
- Otherwise go through your catalog and find your best images supporting the theme.
- When you find one, type “B” to put it in the collection.

Sort Images

- Export all the images in the collection to a temporary file in the target format.
 - 3840 X 2160 jpeg
- Look at each image full screen.
- Mark the images that are worthy of the show with “1 Star”
- Filter by “1 Star”
- Do you have the right number for your show length?
- If not, go through the “1 Star” images and bump up the best to “2 Stars”
- Keep going until you get to the correct number of photographs

Sequence the Photographs

- Sequencing is the hardest part to master but a well sequenced show (or photography book) is much more interesting.
- Group images by subtheme
 - Color palette
 - Color vs black and white
 - Horizontal vs vertical
 - Other characteristics
- Use the Lightroom grid view to facilitate this.
- Move them around until you have the subthemes in a sequence that flows from one to the next.

Organize the Photos into a Work Area

- I have a folder “Miscellaneous Slideshow”
- Under that folder create a folder for this show, e.g. “Trees 2020”
- Under “Trees 2020” create folders “Images” and “Videos and Music”
- Rename the sequenced images e.g. “Trees - Seq No”.
- Move the renamed images to the “Images” folder.
- You can now delete the temporary folder that has images that didn’t make it.
- But keep the collection since it doesn’t take up much room.

Find appropriate music

- I don't worry about videos posted on our site. They may come for us some day, then I'll worry.
- If the show is for external use or will be posted on YouTube or some such service, you need royalty free music.
 - Google "Music for content creators"
 - YouTube has a service [HERE](#)
- Your personal music library is the best source
 - Sometimes you already know what song you want.
 - Search for music supporting the theme such as "Trees". Find something the right length and audition it.
 - Sort by length and look for a likely suspect.
- After you find it, copy to the "Video and Music" folder

Put the Show Together

- Start a New Project in *Soundstage*
- Add sequenced slides to the timeline all at once
- Add title slides and text
- Add selected music to the soundtrack
- Synchronize music and slides

Render the Video and Watch It

- Suggest MP4 at 4K (3820 X 2160)
 - PPC Projector is 4K so make use of it.
 - Shows better on Zoom
 - Can be downscaled if needed. Less gratifying to upscale HD.
- Watch the video. You will likely find some problems
 - Sequence doesn't work at one spot.
 - Too many/few slides
 - Title slide and credit side too long/short
- Repeat

Demonstration of
Putting It Together

Next Time