

MAKING A DIGITAL SHOW USING PROSHOW GOLD

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By Dennis Fritsche adapted with permission from Gary Kelly

I. Choose a theme or a purpose, some idea that unifies the entire presentation.

A. The purpose can be entertainment, documentation, education, social, nostalgia, enlightenment, etc.

B. Some suggestions include a trip, a place, similar subjects, information, family events, an idea, etc.

C. Think about background music and sound effects.

II. Gather all the pictures you plan to use into a single directory and convert them to jpegs. Size the images to the size of the projector or display. I make a subdirectory called video and audio to keep images and the others separate. Copy the music and sound effects you may use into this subdirectory. Sound effects and music are readily available on the internet or use the music on your computer.

III. Select a logical sequence or arrangement for your show.

A. Suggestions: chronological; by type of image; type of activity depicted; size orientation (wide, medium, close-up).

B. Tip: if you show too many alike images together, the show gets static and boring. Conversely, if you go from one type to another too frequently the show can get schizophrenic and confusing. Avoid constantly switching back and forth between horizontals and verticals.

IV. Start the ProShow program, give the show a working title. Begin loading in the pictures.

A. Insert blank images at the start and the end.

B. Find a good intro image and a good ending image.

C. Reduce the length of the transitions.

V. Enter the captions. Select the locations and enter them on blank slides, photographs or one of the available special effects designed for titles and captions.

- A. Intro or title slide.
- B. Segue captions.
- C. Sign-off or ending slide.
- D. Credits for the producer and the music.

VI. Enter transitions, special effects, motion effects and timing.

A. As a general rule, since these are shows about still photos, excessive motion and too many splashy transitions can detract the viewer's attention away from the photography.

B. The use of motion should be for a specific purpose such as implied movement or to focus the viewer's attention on a particular detail within the image.

C. Special effects should be for a purpose, and the images in a panel should have a central idea. The way each effect works is explained in the directory.

VII. Enter the background music or sounds.

A. Check the time length of the program. Compare it to the music you have selected, and decide how to apply it.

B. Enter the music into the system. If it's more than one piece, enter them in the appropriate sequence.

C. Use the "edit fades and timing" to pare down the music.

D. Use the "sync audio to selected slides" to sync the slides and music.

VIII. Review the entire program and make editing changes.

IX. Save the show and output it in the needed format.

Proshow Gold is by Photodex (PC only) at <http://www.photodex.com/> \$69.99 and you can usually find discounts.