

Making Slide Shows from Still Images

A. For viewing on the computer screen

A slide show is an automated presentation that shows a series of digital photos on the computer screen in sequence, possibly with background music, captions, titles, spoken narration, and video effects. Good for distributing photos to friends and family that have a computer. If you have a CD-R burner on your computer, you can copy photos and slide shows to a CD-R for easy distribution.

1. **Windows XP Picture and Fax Viewer.** If your computer has the Windows XP operating system, you can open any folder containing pictures, right-click on any one of the pictures, and select **Open with... => Windows Picture and Fax Viewer**. Click the > button to see the next picture in the folder. To see a simple slide show of all the images in that folder, click on the little movie screen icon at the bottom OR press the **f11** key on the keyboard. To stop it, press the **ESC** key.
2. **Picasa 2.** An excellent free photo organizer program. Download it from picasa.com. Has a built-in full-screen slide show mode. You can also add captions to each photo. If your computer has a CD-R burner, it can burn an **auto-play slide show CD-ROM** that you can send to friends. All the recipient has to do is to insert the CD into the CD-ROM drive and a menu of slide shows appears automatically. They can also copy the pictures to their computer if they wish. See the handout "Picasa 2 Photo Organizer" on the Digital Imaging course CD-ROM for details.
3. **DZ Slideshow** is a \$19 utility that can quickly make slide shows of all the pictures in any folder. It has the ability to show pictures full-screen and can save "stand-alone" slideshow as a single file that can be exported to other computers that have no slide show software. See "DZSlideshow.doc" on the CD-ROM for instructions on installing and using this program. Works on Windows 98/Me/2000/XP. There is a time-limited demo of this program on the Digital Imaging course CD-ROM. Full program costs \$19. See <http://www.dzsoft.com/> for more info.
4. **Photo Story 2** (\$20, in *Microsoft Plus Digital Media Edition*, for Windows XP only) is an easy-to-use program that can make professional-looking slide shows from your images. Automatically applies fade (dissolve) transitions between slides, zooming and panning effects on each slide, and can include titles, spoken narration (recorded with a microphone as you view the slides) or background music imported from sound files in MP3 or WAV format. The program saves output in WMV format that can be viewed with *Windows Media Player*. Can also burn CD-Rs in VCD format (see below).
5. **MemoriesOnTV** (\$50, <http://www.memoriesontv.com/>) is similar to *Photostory 2* but it works on Windows 98, ME, 2000, or XP, has more flexible zooming and panning effects on each slide, multiple music tracks, saves its output in MPEG format for viewing on the computer, and it can also burn VCD, SVCD and DVD disks containing multiple videos.
6. **Web Photo Albums.** To distribute pictures to distant friends and family via the internet, the best option is to use a Web photo album site rather than sending pictures via email. This avoids clogging up their email in-box with lots of pictures. Go to shutterfly.com or to webshots.com and sign up for a free account. They are free and they step you through the process of uploading pictures, adding captions, and will even send an automated email message to your recipients inviting them to click on a link to see the pictures. Recipients can view the pictures, see a slide show of the pictures, order prints and other merchandise, or download pictures to print on their own computer. (Compared to some other photo album Web sites, Shutterfly and Webshots have the advantage that they do not require the recipients of the pictures to sign in or give their name and email address in order to view the pictures).
7. **Slideshow as a screen saver.** Windows XP users can define a slideshow of their own pictures as a screen saver: right-click on the desktop, select **Properties**, click on the

Screen Saver tab, click in the Screen saver menu and select "My Pictures Slideshow. Then click the **Settings** button, click **Browse**, and navigate to any folder containing pictures that you want to show. Click **OK** three times. When the computer goes into screen saver mode, your pictures will be shown as a slide show. Other windows users can try "SlideShowScreensaver.exe" (in Software installer/Windows), a freeware screensaver that displays a slide show of your images. Just double-click SlideShowScreensaver.exe to install, then right-click on your desktop, select **Properties**, click on the **Screen Saver** tab, select Slideshow from the pop-up menu. To configure for your pictures, click **Settings**.

B. For viewing on a television screen.

This is best for group viewing - TVs usually have bigger screens, more comfortable seating, and better speakers. Ideal for distributing slide shows to friends and family who don't have a computer.

1. **CD-R with JPEG images.** Most recent DVD players are **JPG compatible**, which means that they can read any CD containing digital photos (e.g. a *Picasa* Gift CD or a photo CD from a photo finisher) and show them on the TV screen as a simple slide show (without music or video effects such as transitions, titles, etc).
2. **VCD (Video CD) and SVCD (Super Video CD).** A VCD is a special format of CD that contains about one hour of video data. SVCD is similar but has higher video quality. They can be created on an ordinary CD-R burner, using ordinary blank CD-Rs, and played on most recent DVD players. (Older DVD players may not be able to play VCDs and SVCDs). *MemoriesOnTV* can burn VCD, SVCD, or DVD video slide shows, whereas *Photo Story 2* makes VCDs only. VCD and SVCD disks can also be viewed on a PC with *Windows Media Player 8* or later. Computers with DVD drives can play DVDs.
3. **DVD.** If you have a **DVD burner** attached to your computer, you can create DVDs that can be viewed on any standard DVD player, even older models that can't play JPG, VCDs and SVCDs. You must use blank DVD-R disks or DVD+R disks, depending upon which format your burner supports (some are dual format burners that support both formats). DVDs can hold more video data and provide higher video quality than VCDs and SVCDs. To make a series of still images into a DVD movie, you need to use a program such as *MemoriesOnTV* (\$50, <http://www.memoriesontv.com/>) or *VideoWave 7 Professional* (\$30, CompUSA) or *Windows Movie Maker*.

Note: Background music for slide shows can come from any audio CD's that you own. Just copy the desired songs to your computer's hard drive as an MP3 file (e.g. using *Windows Media Player 10*, which saves the tracks into My Documents/My Music). Select the desired song(s) when the slide show program gives you a chance to add background music. See "Ripping and burning WMP 10" on the CD-ROM.

Using *Memories On TV 3.0* to make Video Slide Shows of your Digital Pictures

Requires: Windows 98/Me/2000/XP, CD-RW drive. Web Address: memoriesontv.com

A. Downloading the latest version of *Memories On TV*

1. Open your Web browser and go to memoriesontv.com.
2. Click once on "[Try out MemoriesOnTV](#)".
3. Click once on the "Download from CNET".
4. Click once on "**Download Now**".
5. Click once on the **Save** button. The installer will be downloaded to your desktop. When the download is complete, you can close your Web browser.

B. Installing *Memories On TV*

1. Double-click on the ".exe" file that you downloaded to your desktop in the previous step.
2. The "Welcome to Memories On TV Setup Wizard" will be displayed. Click on **Next**.
3. Click "I accept this agreement" and click **Next**.
4. Keep on clicking **Next** until you get to the screen that has an Install button.
5. Click **Install**, then click **Finish**.

C. Using *Memories On TV 3.0*

1. Double-click on the "MemoriesOnTV" icon or select **Start => Programs => Memories On TV => MemoriesOnTV**.
2. Click **Evaluate**. (If you decide to purchase the program, click **Get Now** and follow the instructions).
3. Close the "Tip of the Day" window.
4. Use the file browser in the bottom half of the window to open the folder containing the pictures or video clips that you want to use. Click the Change view icon  to see pictures.
5. Drag the desired files into the top window. You can combine any number of picture or video from any folder. To delete a picture, click once on it and press the delete key.
6. You can change the order of the pictures by dragging and dropping within the top panel. Check to make sure all the pictures are upright. If any of the pictures need to be rotated, double-click that picture, click the **Transform** tab, and click the desired rotation.
7. To preview the slide show so far, click the purple **Preview** button, then click on the small thumbnail picture to view the slide show. Click the close box to cancel the preview mode.
8. If you want to add background music, click the **Music** button near the center of the window. Click the + button in the bottom left corner of the window, navigate to the "My Music" folder, and double-click on the desired music file (it must be in MP3 or WAV format). (Note: the program does not come with music; you must already have the music on your computer. You can download free music from freeplaymusic.com or you can copy songs from music CDs onto your computer using *Windows Media Player 10*.)
You can also add a bit of narration or music or a sound affect to an *individual* slide, overlaid with the background music: double-click that picture and click the **Music** tab. Click the [...] button to select a sound file, click **Open**, then click **OK**.
9. If you want to crop a picture (show only a portion of the picture), double-click that picture and click the **Transform** tab at the bottom. Click the **Crop** button on the right. Drag any of the small black squares in the corners of the picture to define the desired picture area. You can also drag the center of the area. Click **OK**.

10. If you want to manually control the panning and zooming effect on any picture, double-click that picture and click the **Pan/Zoom** tab at the bottom. Use the **Zoom** slider and drag the picture to define the *start* of that frame, then click the little > button and use the **Zoom** slider and drag the picture to define the *end* of that frame. Click **OK** when finished.
11. If you want to add a title or text label to any picture, double-click that picture and click the **Text** tab. Click the + button, then double-click the blue line. Select the desired font, size, and color, and type the text. Drag the text to the desired position on the picture. Click **Done**. To add another text label to the same slide, click + and repeat. When you are finished adding text labels that that picture, click **OK**. (Optional: You can also assign animation effects to each text label, like *Powerpoint*. To do this, double-click any slide that has text labels, then edit or select the items under the column heading "Start Time", "Effect", "Duration", "Effect Duration" to choose text effects and set timing for that label).
12. If you want to change the transition effect between the slides, click the **Import** button near the center of the window and then click the Timeline button  near the top of the window. This displays the slide show in timeline mode. Click on the little icons between two slides and select the desired transition from the pop-up menu. To preview the effect, click the previous slide and click the Start button (triangle in the circle). You can also change how long each slide is displayed by editing the number displayed below each slide.
13. If you want to add more pictures, click the **Import** button near the center of the window and drag more pictures into the slide show. If you want to have another group of pictures that has different background music, click on the small + button at the left center of the screen and select **New Track** from the pop-up menu. Then add pictures and music as before. Tracks play sequentially without pause. (When you play it on a DVD player, you can skip to the next track by pressing the **skip** or **next** button on the remote control).
14. If you want to make *another slide show video on the same disk*, click on the small + button at the left center of the screen and select **New Album** from the pop-up menu. Each slide show is called an "album". They are initially named "Album 1", "Album 2", etc, but you can re-name them by clicking on the name in the top left panel and typing a new name. You can have up to 12 separate albums on one DVD. Each album will be displayed on the DVD menu as a little thumbnail picture that can be selected and played independently.
15. *You should save your project often*, just in case it freezes or crashes, so you won't lose all your work up until then. Select **File => Save**, give it a suitable name, and click **Save**. The default save location is the "My Documents" folder. You can open up the saved project later, edit it in any way (add or delete pictures or change anything), and generate a new video and burn a new video disk (but you can't edit the disk itself after it's burned).
16. To create an MPEG file of your video (for viewing on a computer screen or Web page), click the **Burn** button, click "**Generate new video**", click the **Options** button, and click "Generate MPEG files only". Finally, click the **Start** button. No CD-RW burner is required. The MPEG files will be stored in My Document/MemoriesOnTV/untitled/.
17. To burn a disc to view on TV, click the **Burn** button, click **VCD, SVCD, or DVD** at the top of the screen, and click "**Generate new video and burn onto disc**". Put in a blank CD-R (or DVD-R) disc into your CD-RW (or DVD-RW) drive, select that drive from the **Disk Writer** menu, and click **Start**. Once you have burned the first disc, making additional copies is very quick; just put a blank disc in, click on "**Burn existing video onto Disk**", and click the **Start** button.