

# 1. Adobe PhotoShop Elements 3.0 – Guide To Slideshows

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If you have despaired of the options provided by the “Simple” and “Custom” slideshows, then before you jump ship to a different slideshow package take a look at the pros and cons of each method in the table below and find out why “Photo Books and Album Pages” may be your best option for computer based slideshows.

## 1.1. Methods of Creating Slideshows

	Simple Slideshow	Custom Slideshow	Photo Books and Album Pages. First set: “Full Photo” (includes “No Borders” & “No Borders Book”)
<b>Primary purpose</b>	Showing & sharing good quality images easily and quickly (so little configurability).	Sharing a (made for TV) movie using photos with text, music & narration. Lower quality than original photos.	Showing and sharing a good quality slideshow with an arrangement of 1-4 photos per page and wide range of text options.
<b>NOT good for</b> (i.e. reasons not to use this type) :	Not for: Re-editing the show; anything more than a sequence of single full-screen slides; distribution to TV.	Not for: Viewing your images at their best resolution (i.e. anything above 800x600); distribution via PDF.	Not for: Music sound track; custom transitions per slide; distribution to TV.
<b>Features summary</b>	Shareable PDF, not re-editable show, full resolution images, few adornments, no soundtrack.	Shareable WMV, lower resolution, re-editable, overlay text, soundtrack, narration.	Multiple photos per page. Full resolution images. Overlay text. Shareable PDF. Re-editable. No soundtrack.
<b>Comments</b>	Easy and simple, but you need to select the right photos before you exit. A simple-to-use option but the inability to re-edit the show makes it less useful. However, if you make a Simple Slideshow from a Collection then it is the Collection that preserves the set of photos that are in the show. Use the Collection’s notes field to hold other data about the show.	Excellent if you only want to produce TV movies and distribute via DVD/CD. See if Microsoft Photo Story 3 (free-of-charge), or Adobe Premiere Elements (for additional cost) provide extra benefits. Photo Story 3 and Premiere Elements can do Ken Burns style panning and zooming of still images. Calling it a “Slideshow” is a bit of a misnomer.	Should probably treat this as your default method to produce traditional computer based (i.e. not for TV) slideshows for anything but a simple one-off generation that the Simple Slideshow can do. This is not an obvious decision from browsing the Creation options.
<b>Primarily saved as</b>	PDF slideshow file only.	Creation in Organizer	Creation in Organizer
<b>Optional exports</b>	none	Windows Media Video (WMV) file	PDF Can optimize for: Viewing on screen – small size, poor quality if printing Printing – compromise between the two Full Resolution – but largest file size
<b>Editable when finished?</b>	NO. Not saved as a Creation, so you lose all your settings and selected files and cannot edit later	YES – saved as a creation	YES – saved as a creation

	<b>Simple Slideshow</b>	<b>Custom Slideshow</b>	<b>Photo Books and Album Pages.</b> First set: “Full Photo” (includes “No Borders” & “No Borders Book”)
<b>Visible in Organizer</b>	NO	YES – the original Creation and the WMV if produced. WMV is identified with a film-snippet icon. The Creation is identified with the “Create” icon that is identical to the icon used for Album/Book. You have to right-click and notice that it offers “Output as WMV”.	YES. But, the Creation is identified with the “Create” icon that is identical to the icon used for Custom Slideshow. You have to right-click and notice that it offers “Share”.
<b>Viewing show on own PC</b>	PDF: With Acrobat Reader: full screen (press ctrl-L) windowed (press ctrl-L or ESC)	Use Full Screen Preview in the Creation. But it exits back to the editing window, so not suitable for general use. Run the WMV file that you save. Either in Elements’ own movie viewer, or in Windows Media Player (use Explorer to launch it since you can’t launch Media Player from within Elements)	see “Simple Slideshow” column
<b>Viewing on other’s PC (i.e. without Elements)</b>	PDF	WMV	PDF
<b>Sending to others</b>	Send the PDF	Send the WMV	Send the PDF. Option on last step of Creation to email the PDF.
<b>Printing on own PC</b>	From the PDF.	NO. (unless you can print the WMV from Windows Media Player)	YES – from the Creation. Don’t need to create PDF first. But you may have a mismatch between page size of the book you created and the page size of the printer, leaving you with more white space around the edges than it appears from editing the book. See below for changing a Photo Book/Album’s page size.
<b>Can other person retrieve/print the files?</b>	YES. From the PDF. Using the Picture Tasks toolbar in Acrobat Reader to export and print. Can also send to online printer and online photo album	no	see “Simple Slideshow” column
<b>Can other person re-do the slide show?</b>	YES. Picture Tasks toolbar has “Export to slideshow”	no	see “Simple Slideshow” column
<b>Does exported slideshow have extra features?</b>	YES. Background music.	n/a	see “Simple Slideshow” column
<b>Can exported slideshow be better controlled?</b>	NO : Lost ability to loop back to start. It also provides its own control bar instead of the one in Adobe Reader 7.	n/a	see “Simple Slideshow” column

	<b>Simple Slideshow</b>	<b>Custom Slideshow</b>	<b>Photo Books and Album Pages.</b> First set: “Full Photo” (includes “No Borders” & “No Borders Book”)
<b>Viewing on TV / other?</b>	no	1. Burn a video CD while editing, or right-click within Organizer. 2. Launch “Creation”, choose “Video CD” choose the custom show or the WMV. Can concatenate multiple shows onto one CD. Mine failed to find the WMVs and only found the custom show in spite of hinting that I should use a WMV for speed. When I tried to create a PAL DVD size WMV in the custom show, Elements 3 crashed.	no
<b>Highest video resolution</b>	n/a	WMV : 800 x 600	n/a
<b>Output to Video format?</b>	no	Windows Media Video (WMV) Low quality (160x120 15fps, 16kHz audio) to Proof quality (800x600 30fps, 44.1kHz audio) Video CD – NTSC (352x240, 29.9fps, 48kHz) or PAL (352x288, 25ps, 48kHz) DVD – NTSC (720x480, 29.97fps, 48kHz) or PAL (720x576, 25fps, 48kHz) Custom – use any windows media encoder profiles (*.prx)	no
<b>Automatic advance?</b>	YES – in full screen PDF. Using Adobe Reader’s facilities.	YES in full screen preview and WMV	see “Simple Slideshow” column
<b>Loop back to start?</b>	YES	YES, in Windows Media Player. NO, in full screen preview	YES
<b>Manual advance?</b>	YES. Using Adobe Reader’s facilities.	Not in the traditional sense – just control of the movie that gets played, but can’t control separate slides.	see “Simple Slideshow” column
<b>Preview before finalising?</b>	no	YES In window or full screen Playable from any position.	NO. You see the pages but cannot preview the sequence as a show.
<b>Selecting Photos</b>	Initial selection from Organizer Can then add photos from current organizer display, or can select from within whole catalog, a collection or a tag. Options to show favourites/hidden ones.	Initial selection from Organizer Can add photos from Organizer or folders when editing the show	see “Simple Slideshow” column
<b>Re-arrange order of photos?</b>	YES. Drag & drop. Can see the sequence.	YES. Can drag and drop on the timeline.	YES. Drag & drop. Can see which page they will end up on.

	<b>Simple Slideshow</b>	<b>Custom Slideshow</b>	<b>Photo Books and Album Pages.</b> First set: “Full Photo” (includes “No Borders” & “No Borders Book”)
<b>Arrangement on page</b>	n/a	n/a	Can reorder on page. But which photo is on top of which when they overlap is set by the photo order and not selectable on the layout page. So it is a bit tricky to get

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	Simple Slideshow	Custom Slideshow	Photo Books and Album Pages. First set: “Full Photo” (includes “No Borders” & “No Borders Book”)
<b>Add overlay text?</b>	no	YES. Any number of separate single-line text items. Anywhere on slide. Selectable font, colour, size, alignment (of little use for a single line), orientation. No underline or strikeout.	YES. Title on title page. Caption per photo (uses photo’s caption). Header per page (can set same on every page, or different per page). Footer per page (can set same on every page, or different per page). Any number of additional text items All above are multi-line text, positionable anywhere on the page, have selectable font, colour, size, alignment, orientation, underline, strikeout. Page numbers. Fixed size & position (smallish in the bottom right), can only switch on or off. All text items overlay the photo.
<b>Photos per page</b>	1	1	1-4. Selectable per page (can change at any time and photos shuffle along). Only 1 photo on the title page.

## 1.2. Control of a PDF Slideshow With Adobe Reader

This applies to Adobe Reader version 7, but most of this also appears in version 6.

Once you have generated a PDF, you view your slideshow with Adobe Reader in full screen mode. You use View\Full Screen, ctrl-L, or the full-screen button (in version 7) to switch between the normal window view and the full-screen slideshow view.

Adobe Reader provides facilities to control the slideshow. Use Edit\Preferences (ctrl-k) and choose the “Full Screen” category to see these options:

- Number of seconds after which to advance the page
- Whether to loop after the last page
- Whether Esc key exits full screen mode
- Whether left-click and right-click moves forward and back.
- Whether the navigation bar is visible (in version 7 this is a discrete couple of arrows in the bottom left that fades out of view after a while). Might be missing from version 6.
- Whether to do transitions.
- A default transition (from a set of 30). Includes fade.
- Whether to hide the mouse cursor or not, or after a delay.

### 1.3. Changing the Page Size of a “Photo Book and Album Page” Creation

This is unsupported and done at your own risk. Take a backup of any files you modify.

Note that books that you can “Order Online” may fail or give bad results (which you will still have to pay for) if you actually try to order them online after editing their templates.

The “Photo Book and Album Page” creations come with a fixed page size as follows:

Style	Name	Page Size (inches) width x height
Full Photo	No Borders	11 x 8.5
Full Photo	No Borders Book	10.25 x 9
Full Photo	Full Bleed Book	10.25 x 9

While fine for printing and for users of USA Letter size paper, you may want to try a different paper size if you want to be able to fill your computer screen or print to any other size paper.

To do this you can edit the template file that defines the creation. Find the template files (adjust for your own PC):

No Borders Album: C:\Program Files\Adobe\Photoshop Elements 3.0\shared\_assets\templates\album\adobe\_dynamic\_keyline\_album.tpl

No Borders Book: C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\Adobe\Photoshop 8 Elements\Organizer\Author\Templates\album\ofoto\_no\_borders\_alb.tpl

You can change the No Borders album page to match a full screen of 1024 x 768 pixels (11.33” x 8.5”), or an A4 page (11.69” x 8.27”).

Open the TPL file in a text editor.

Look for the definition of the page size, which for 11x8.5 looks like this:

```
<layout>
  <param name="sheetHeight" value="612pt" />
  <param name="sheetWidth" value="792pt" />
<svg2pdf>
  <param name="pageHeight" value="612pt" />
  <param name="pageWidth" value="792pt" />
```

Either convert the inches you need to points (11” = 792pt and 8.5”=612pt), or to fit to a screen resolution just scale the sheetWidth variable to the value needed.

So to convert to 1024x768 pixels (so that a full-screen slideshow has no black borders) keep the sheetHeight fixed and scale the sheetWidth by 11.33/11. So change it to a new value of  $11.33/11 * 792 = 815$ .

You will also need to search-and-replace 792 with 815 in the rest of the file.