Creating a Slide Show with Background Music in Adobe Lightroom
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Adobe Lightroom is widely used by many photographers for image organization and editing. If you are already using Lightroom and are familiar with the Lightroom interface, you'll find it is not difficult to make a professional looking slideshow without additional software. This tutorial will get you started creating your own slide shows with background music. If you decide you want more advanced slide shows with fancy special effects, you will need different software.

Slideshow Content:
A slideshow can be any subject you want. Typically it's a collection of images with a topic or theme. Examples are: Travelogue of a location or a trip; An event such as a ceremony, celebration, performance or process; Photo essay that has a point to make about a subject; Personal projects, portfolios or favorite subjects-- ideally a collection of your very best work.

Choosing Images:
The first step is to select the images you want to include.
1. The strategy for choosing images depends on the theme of the slideshow and the target audience. A general audience will enjoy a presentation with a variety of eye-catching images whereas an audience of specialists probably will expect more detail--images that inform them about the topic.
2. Give a lot of thought to the attention span of your audience. Don't choose 5 nearly identical images when 1 or 2 will represent the subject. Remember K.I.S.S.
3. Scrutinize your images carefully. Ask yourself if the audience will be able to identify what the subject is in 5 seconds or less.
4. The number of images will also depend on the topic and the expected attention span of the audience; Error on the side of fewer rather than more. Ask yourself if that extra image adds anything to the presentation. Also, consider how long you want the show to run. Put a single image on your screen and count; 1000 one, 1000 two, … in general I think about 5 seconds is adequate to view each image. If there are titles, captions or other readable material, you may want to increase that to 6 to 8 seconds. Do the math. Sixty images x 6 sec = 6 min. slide show. Depending on the audience and purpose of the slide show, you may decide a longer view is better. This is only a rough guide to help you with image selection. More on timing when I cover "fit to music" later. Leave your audience wanting more rather than thinking "thank goodness it's over!"
5. In the *Library module*, mark, tag or key word the selected images as you make your choices. You have multiple options in Lightroom: key words, flags and color labels.

6. Add titles or captions in the Metadata panel on the right side if you want them on the projected images.

Preparing Your Images:
To proceed with the slideshow, the images should be in a **Collection**. In the Lightroom *Library Module*, use your tagging strategy to find them***** then "**select all**" from the '**Edit**' menu. Select '**new collection**' from the '**Library**' menu. Name your collection. It will show up in the **Collections** panel on the lower left. To add more images to the collection, select a new image and drag it onto the collection name. To remove an image, right click on the photo to bring up an actions menu. At the bottom use "**remove from collection**". This will not remove it from the catalog, only from the collection.

Creating a Slideshow using Lightroom Templates:
Now you should have your thumbnail images in the main screen as well as lined up in the "film strip" at the bottom. Proceed to the *Slideshow Module.*
1. Selecting images. You may decide you don't want all of the images from the collection in the slide show. You can select only those you want to use and from the pop up "**Use**" menu below the screen image choose "**Selected Photos**". The default is "**All filmstrip photos**". Unwanted images can also be deleted (**Delete or Backspace**). They are removed from the collection but not from your catalog.
2. Arranging your images. In many cases you will want to rearrange the order of the images. Do this by clicking on an image (or selecting multiple images) in the filmstrip and dragging to a different location.
3. The left hand panels.
       a. Preview
       b. Templates. Lightroom has several built in templates for slide show layouts. Hover over each to see what it looks like in the "**Preview**" panel above. These can all be modified to create your own custom template.
       c. The list of your collections appears as the final panel on the left side.
4. The "**Tool Bar**". Below the main image view is the "**Tool Bar**".
       a. The gray square will take you to the first slide or stop the slide show.
       b. The arrows will go to the previous slide or advance to the next one.
       c. The "Use" menu determines what images from the filmstrip will be used in the slide show.
       d. The triangle is the "**preview slideshow**" button.
       e. The rotation arrows are used to rotate custom text.
       f. The **ABC menu** is for adding text to your slides. Click on **ABC** and a Custom Text box appears. Whatever is typed will appear on every slide. Use the little arrows to choose additional options such as equipment, date, etc. These will be specific to each image as found in the metadata. The text box that appears over

the image can be sized and relocated on the screen. It will appear for each slide. To remove it, click on the text and hit delete. If you want multiple overlays they need to be selected one at a time.

       g. Slide sequence. At the far right of the tool bar you see Slide x of y (0:00:00). This tells you what slide you have on screen out of the total number and the duration of your slide show. Move the cursor over this and it becomes a little hand. Move the hand and it advances the slides.

At this point you have a basic slide show without music. Before making additional tweaks you can preview the show Full Screen. Simply click the "**Play**" button at the bottom right. To get back to Lightroom, hit **ESC**.

Customizing a Slide Show Using the Right Hand Panels

1. <u>Options</u>.
       a. Zoom to fill frame. Unsuitable if your images are anything but a certain aspect ratio. Try it and see.
       b. Stroke border. This will add a line around your images. Check the box and click in the black rectangle. A color palette will pop up. It starts as black and white. Click in the small strip on the right to view the color spectrum. Use the eyedropper to pick a color for your 'stroke'. The slider controls its width. This is especially useful if you have a solid black background and images that have a black background; it delineates the edges of the image.
       c. Cast shadow. If you are using a light background, a cast shadow gives some dimensionality by making your images appear to float above the background. Check the box and play around with the sliders to see what the effect is.

2. <u>Layout</u>
You can determine the space your images will occupy using the Layout. Click the box "Show Guides". Move any of the sliders. By default they are linked. Click the "Link All" box to unlink them and play with the position of your image again. This can be a way to give more space on the screen for captions or simply to offer an unusual off-center view. Be advised it will appear the same for every image. Examine the "Aspect Preview" menu and check what each choice does. Most likely you will want to stay with the default "Screen".

3. <u>Overlays</u>
       a. Identity Plate. This text will appear on all slides. Typically professionals will use it to promote their brand. You might add it to give a polished look and identify yourself as the maker. Check the box and pull down the tiny menu arrow at the bottom right of the box. Choose "edit" to bring up a dialog box in which to

create your Identity Plate. The "Overide Color" box will bring up a spectrum selection again in which you can choose a color for the Identity Plate exactly as you choose a color for the Stroke border. Play with Opacity and Scale to see what you prefer. You can drag the Identity Plate anywhere on the screen.

b. Watermarking. This will add your watermark to each image. You may prefer this rather than the Identity Plate. Or do both. Open the menu with the tiny arrows. A dialog box will let you create or edit a watermark.

c. Rating Stars. If you use the star system to rate your images, checking this box will show the stars on screen. Your decision.

d. Text Overlays. This pane provides options for the overlays created in the **ABC menu**. Click on one of your overlays and the sliders become active. Shadow obviously will not be visible on a black background.

4. Backdrop

a. Color Wash. Use the color-picking rectangle to select a color wash. Play with opacity and angle to get the look you like.

b. Background color. Another color-picking rectangle to play with.

5. Titles

a. Intro Screen. Checking this box gives you a first slide on which you can add a title to your slide show. You can select a color with the color-picking rectangle.

b. Add Identity Plate. This will place text on the Intro Screen. The default is your Identity Plate. If you click the little arrow in the preview you get a menu. You can choose "edit" to create a title for the Intro Screen. A dialog box will pop up with choices for the text.

c. Ending Screen. This will add a slide at the end of your slide show on which you can add text. Works like "Add Identity Plate".

6. Music

Choose your background music by clicking on the +. Your directory will come on screen. Go to the folder that has your music files and select one or more. [Older versions of Lightroom (5 or less) will allow only one. It will repeat if your slideshow is longer than the music.] To remove a selection, use the – sign.

7. Playback

a. Slideshow Mode. I use "Automatic". Leave "Sync Slides to Music" unchecked. [play with it sometime to see the effect]. You can choose the length of time a slide is on screen and the crossfade time using the sliders. Alternately you can select "**Fit to Music**" which will automatically set the times.

b. Audio Balance. If you are including video clips and want the sound to override the background music, the slider should be left of center. Play with it to

see what you prefer. The default position toward video will let some background music through.

　　　c. Pan and Zoom. This is sometimes known as a Ken Burns effect. Check the box and play with the slider to see if it is appropriate for your images. It's the only real 'special effect' you get with a Lightroom Slideshow. It is more effective if your images are displayed for longer times.

　　　d. Repeat Slideshow. This does exactly that. At the end it starts all over again.

　　　e. Random Order. The default is to show the images in the order they appear in the filmstrip. Checking this box will show them randomly.

　　　f. Quality. I leave this at standard.

8. <u>Preview and Play</u>. **Preview** will give you the playback in the Lightroom interface. **Play** will go to full screen.

9. <u>Save</u>

When you are satisfied with your work, click the box above the image "**Create Saved Slidesho**w". I suggest clicking the box "**Inside a Collection Set**" and choose "**Collections**". Ignore the Options. If you do not Save it, all of the optimized settings you just created will be lost if you create a different slide show. When you move on to another slide show, by default all the last settings will appear. Thus any changes you make to a new slide show will be applied if you come back to this set of images. You should also save the template of optimizations you have created. Click the + at the top of the Template panel and add a name in the dialog box. It will appear in **User Templates**.
Now you have a slide show that can be shown from your computer.

10. <u>Export</u>

On the lower left are two boxes; **Export PDF** and **Export Video**. A PDF will run in Adobe Reader but will not include your music. Video export brings up a dialog with choices for quality and explanations of each. It will typically take quite a while to complete the export process. Files are hundreds of MB.

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* _Lightroom uses a system of multiple "filters" which can be used to identify groups of your images. For example: If you have tagged all of your antique auto images with the keywords "antique" and "auto" you can use the **Text** filter to find them. Likewise if you have tagged all your chosen slideshow images with a blue label, you can use the **Attribute** filter 'blue' to find them all._