

## Photo Essays & ProShow Gold Tips

Following my workshop on Photo Essays at Springbrook 2008 (using Photodex ProShow Gold) I had questions about resources for shows such as curtain images, sound effects and tutorials. This is a handy list of the most valuable information I have found. *Ken Johnson*

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The features of this software can be found on the company site:

**Software Specs:** <http://www.photodex.com/products/proshowgold/>

*This software only runs on computers with Windows operating system. Mac users cannot use this with the Macintosh operating system. The features are similar to iMovie on the Mac.*

**Product Manuals:** <http://www.photodex.com/support/resources>

There is a lot to learn by watching the shows of others and adapting ideas to your own photography.

**For all Photodex Shared Shows: Right-Click on the show and select "Full Screen" (Esc to exit).**

**Spotlighted Shows:** <http://www.photodex.com/sharing/spotlight>

**Contest Winners:** <http://www.photodex.com/sharing/contest/>

### USER GROUPS

There are two ProShow User Groups that contain a lot of helpful information. I believe you must create your own login account to access the files of these groups.

#### 1) Yahoo Group

**Proshow Gold:** <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/proshowgroup/>

**Proshow Producer:** <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/psproducer/>

On the Yahoo group, click on the "Files" link on the menu along the left border of the home page. This is full of stuff such as tutorials, curtains, sounds, etc.

#### 2) Proshow Enthusiasts Group

<http://www.proshowenthusiasts.com/>

### SOUNDS:

<http://www.findsounds.com/>

<http://www.freeplaymusic.com/>

<http://simplythebest.net/>

### Recording narration for slide programs.

I use the Windows "Sound Recorder". You should have it on your computer, but it is rather hidden. In Windows XP, Click Start and choose the "All Programs".

Look for: Accessories > Entertainment > Sound Recorder.

If you are going to be using this often, you might want a shortcut to it on your desktop. When it comes up on the "Entertainment" menu: With the RIGHT mouse button click on "Sound Recorder" and hold the mouse button while you drag the 'Sound Recorder' to an vacant area on your desktop. Release the mouse button and choose "Copy". CAUTION: Do NOT do this with the LEFT mouse button or you will MOVE the shortcut to your Desktop.

If you don't find a microphone jack on your computer - usually next to the earphone jack - look at the back of the computer and find the sound card. That should be where your speakers plug in. The microphone jack is usually the pink colored one.

If you Google for ---- windows sound recorder ---- you will find other recorder software  
<http://teach.fcps.net/trt15/Sound/WSR.htm> Some good instructions on using Sound Recorder  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sound\\_Recorder\\_\(Windows\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sound_Recorder_(Windows))

If you use ProShow software, I like to make short narratives that I can add to the show as "slide sounds". This links the narration to the start of a slide - however it can span several slides if you choose that option. You can also use "offset" (negative or positive seconds) to start the narration before or after the slide starts. Your background sound track continues to play behind the slide sounds. You can control whether to lower the background sound during the slide sounds. ProShow gives lots of control over volumes.

## TUTORIALS:

- There are many tutorials on the user group sites
- Example tutorial - Creating PNG images (with transparent areas)  
<http://www.photodex.com/sharing/viewshow.html?fl=2731691&alb=124292>
- More of Dale's excellent tutorials:  
<http://www.photodex.com/sharing/viewalbum.html?alb=121312>
- Photodex tutorials. Caution: Some of these tips require ProShowProducer rather than ProShowGold. <http://www.photodex.com/training/library>
- I found a ProShow Gold 3 Training CD by Stan Ashbrook to be very comprehensive and to see it demonstrated is so much easier to digest than reading a manual. This is for v3.0. There are 10 lessons covering the fundamentals, using Layers, Editing, Motions, Captions, Adding Sounds, & Output. Photodex has changed the user interface a bit recently in v3.2. Still, I feel this is a good buy at \$25 and the concepts are easily adapted to the newer versions.  
See website below and scroll toward the bottom of the page  
<http://www.computerphoto.org/pages/videos.html>
- Proshow Producer Tutorials:  
<http://www.mycityphotoguide.com/Tutorials/Tutorials.aspx>

Ken Johnson's Photodex Proshow sharing site:

<http://www.photodex.com/sharing/viewalbum.html?bm=119515>

## SIMULATE A FLASH PHOTO

The white flash you see is a brief (0.1 second) white slide with the camera sound wave attached. The transition between each of the photos is the Starburst-Out.

The sequence is:

Starburst Out transition at .1 sec

White slide set at 0.1 sec (with camera sound)

Starburst Out transition at 0.1 sec

Photo

Starburst Out transition at 0.1 sec

White slide at .1 sec (with Camera sound)

New photo...

etc.

## IDENTIFYING PEOPLE IN GROUPS & FAMILY PHOTOS

A Tutorial - Identifying people in a group with PSG

<http://www.photodex.com/sharing/viewshow.html?fl=2778682&alb=0>

This is written for using with ProShow Producer that has "key frames" That is the "KF" she is talking about. But you can do the same thing with PSG using multiple copies of the same slide.

This show has a lot of names as captions:

<http://www.photodex.com/sharing/viewshow.html?fl=2738759&alb=0>

I'm sure it was done with Producer. Still some good ideas.

This show would probably be better as a PowerPoint so the viewer could change slides at their own pace. It takes time to study the names and photos.

This is one of the most beautiful family shows I've seen.

<http://www.photodex.com/sharing/viewshow.html?fl=2890375&alb=0>

The colorizing of the photos is great.

<http://www.photodex.com/sharing/viewshow.html?fl=2962923&alb=0>

Here are two more of his shows:

<http://www.photodex.com/sharing/viewshow.html?fl=2960410&alb=0>

<http://www.photodex.com/sharing/viewshow.html?fl=2798351&alb=0>

### **TIPS FOR BETTER SHOWS**

- Use special effects sparingly. Don't distract the viewer from the message.
- Too much panning and zooming will make the audience dizzy
- Make movements slowly to give the audience time to view the scene
- Transitions – the effect and the timing – can enhance a show or be a distraction.
- Start out strong and end strong. (Put your best photography at both ends of the show.)
- Don't duplicate. Don't use the same photo or a very similar one a second time.
- Look for images that make interesting fade transitions from one to another.
- Avoid changing from portrait to landscape to portrait, etc. Use transitions or complimentary backgrounds to make them flow from one to the other.
- Think about the show while shooting so you have all the shots to tell the story.
- If you have a sign that tells the location, don't duplicate it with a caption.
- Don't bore the audience with too much of the same thing. Add variety.
- Give the viewer time to read captions
- Music background is very important to set the mood and may become difficult to select.