

Photo essay software resources jan 2008

From Ken Johnson: (PC software)

One of the output options is to share your shows using the Photodex website - That is free and easy. A great way to share shows with distant friends and relatives. The "Bodie" show that I demonstrated is available to see along with three others in the series on my Eastern Sierras photo tour in 2006. They can be found at:

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

When you click to view one of these shows, you may be asked if it is okay to load the "Presenter". This is a small utility that you must allow to view the shows if you do not own ProShow Gold. Mac's with Intel Chip Sets running emulator programs such as Parallels are fully functional with the ProShow Gold "presenter" as well as the software for building slide shows as outlined below.

For those wanting to dig deeper, there are two ProShow User Forums:

1. <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/proshowgroup/>

Besides searching for answers to questions, click on "Files" for resources to curtains, masks, sounds, etc.

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

If you have not explored the N4C website, do so. You will find the winner galleries interesting. There are many useful links on the "Photography Links" page.

<http://n4c.us>

Photo Essays <http://n4c.us> to see this on the "News" page.

Now's the time to begin thinking about your photo essay including collecting images, sound bits and choosing a topic for April's annual N4C essay contest.

If you're a PC user, check the **special offer for Pro Show Gold**. Read about features here: <http://www.photodex.com/products/proshowgold>

N4C has a limited-time special price (\$56) for the on-line download.

[Click here for details of the special offer] <http://n4c.us/N4C-PSG-Discount.pdf>

Above is the information about the special offer to buy the Photodex ProShow Gold software. They also have a version called "Producer" which is \$249.96. For my use, I don't think the features are worth the difference. Especially when you can get "Gold" for \$56 after the 20% discount. You can load it on several computers. When you register it the software will display your name at the top of the application window. The registration will allow you to get all program upgrades and updates for a period of one year. My recommendation is to download it and save it to a CD rather than spending extra to get a boxed program. The manuals are on the Photodex site. Look at SUPPORT then DOCUMENTATION. Download the trial. It is fully functional except there is a banner across the bottom of the show that will be removed/disappear when you register your copy.

Ken Johnson

Alternative Software for Mac Platform

First choice:

iMovie 06 which is a part of iLife 06 is recommended. Capability of handling images very well, but does not offer layering. Includes 2 independent sound tracks and volume controls for each track including fades, cuts, and a simple interface for adjusting track placement. Allows adding narration of most popular sound file types. The iMovie program is seamlessly integrated with the iPhoto image program and iTunes music program which makes the initial steps of a slide program very easy. You can find this software on Amazon.

iMovie 08 (PART OF ILIFE 08) IS NOT RECOMMENDED—SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED CAPABILITY. Both iMovie 08 and iMovie 06 can be maintained on your Mac (the iLife 08 installer loads iMovie 08 separately).

Second Possibility:

Final Cut Pro Express. New version with reduced price from Apple (approximately \$200). Offers *multiple* sound tracks and excellent editing and placement of multiple sound tracks. Image layering is supported along with large selection of transitions. This software is more complicated to use and learn but has substantially increased capability compared to iLife or Photodex. Capabilities are equal and in some cases exceed those found in “Producer”.

Third Possibility:

Buy emulator for Mac (e.g. Parallels) that allows a Mac to run PC software. Also requires Windows XP software. The PC side of the Mac runs the Photodex software exactly as Ken described above.