

We'll show you step by step how to create the perfect photo montage for any occasion.

Step 1: Gather the photos.

For a 10-minute slide show, you'll need approximately 70 photos and 3 songs. Be sure to grab a diverse range of photos, and if possible (and appropriate), include a smattering of photos with the guest(s) of honor pictured with guests who will be present at the event.

Smilebox



Share life's moments in minutes!

Before you move on to the next step, you'll want to choose an application for creating your slideshow. On the Mac, iMovie is an excellent tool for creating a professional-quality photo montage, complete with titles, graphics and music. If you're using a PC and you like to keep things simple, you might want to use PowerPoint to create your presentation. If you don't have a slide show or movie application (and you don't care to invest in one), there are many web-based free sites you can use, such as [Smilebox](#).

Step 2: Choose uplifting music.

Regardless of the occasion, inspiring or uplifting music (as opposed to slow or weepy ballads) will always be more suitable for captivating your audience. If you're creating a slide show as a memorial, don't feel you are limited to hymns or sad songs – while you probably would not opt for a peppy dance number, you can still choose music the deceased would have appreciated. Make it personal, make it special, and everyone will appreciate your thoughtfulness. When you've selected the appropriate music, you can go to iTunes.com or Amazon.com to purchase whatever songs you need (unless you already have a copy) in MP3 format.

Step 3: Scan or import the images.

Once you've chosen the images you are ready to load them up (technically speaking). Generally speaking, 4x6 photos should be scanned at a minimum of 300 dpi, while 3.5x5 photos should be scanned at a minimum of 400 dpi. Any photos 3x3 or smaller should be scanned at 600 or 720 dpi. You'll likely only use about 65 photos, but when you begin scanning, you may find that some photos are blurry or unusable, which is why it's a good idea to have a few extra pics already scanned.

Step 4: Create your slide show.

Now comes the fun part. Once all your images are scanned or imported, you can open the application you plan to use and create a new project. Choose the order for your photos and choose a transition style – this simply refers to the style in which the photos transition (fade out and fade in) from one to the next. “Ken Burns effect” is a very popular transition as it is smooth and seamless, yet varied enough to hold the viewer's attention. Once your slide show has been created, follow the instructions in the application you're using to add the music and then burn your show to a DVD.

Step 5: Get a review (or two).

While it may be tempting to want to keep the photo montage secret or hold it as a surprise for everyone, it definitely pays to get an opinion or two before you roll the footage. A fresh set of eyes can see things you didn't notice, or offer a fresh perspective, and it's unlikely that you would need to do anything more than tweak one or two photos, but as the old saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

OK, you are ready to get started – have fun putting together the perfect photo montage, and when you're ready to show the final product, be sure to get your projector rental here at [Projector123.com](#) where quality, ease and service are always our top priorities.