

HOW TO: Panorama -Photomerge



Boring Landscape ©2004 Heather Protz

1) shoot 3-5 images to merge (stitch together)

For best results when shooting pictures for a Photomerge, follow these tips:

***Use a tripod, and ensure that it is level before shooting.** (video people have you ever used a center column leveler?)

*If you can't use a tripod, lock your arms and legs and pivot your torso to capture all the shots.

*The camera should be kept level throughout the shooting sequence. Level to the horizon as well as front to back -try a Hot Shoe Double Bubble Level

*Line up the markings in your viewfinder with the horizon to help you keep your shots aligned when you don't have a tripod.

***Capture between 20 to 30 percent overlap between images.** Overlap depends upon lens choice, -telephoto less overlap, -wide angle more overlap

***Do not change your exposure settings from one exposure to the next.** Set exposure to Manual, use the same exposure for every frame. What exposure would be best for the whole scene? Set your White balance as well. daylight ect. **-Take the camera off auto white balance Shoot scene from left to right** (thats how the software will attempt to merge the pano)

*Avoid using the flash in some pictures and not in others.

*Focal length and lenses **-Use a consistent focal length.** Avoid using the zoom feature of your camera while taking a series of images for use with Photomerge. Avoid using lenses, such as fish-eye lenses, that cause noticeable distortion to the image. Small amounts of barrel distortion (found in many cameras at the wide-angle setting) are tolerated, but strong distortions interfere with the automatic registration process.

***Turn auto focus off.** But do focus. Set the focus and leave it unchanged between frames.

*Do not use a polarizer

*Avoid scenes with moving objects in them.

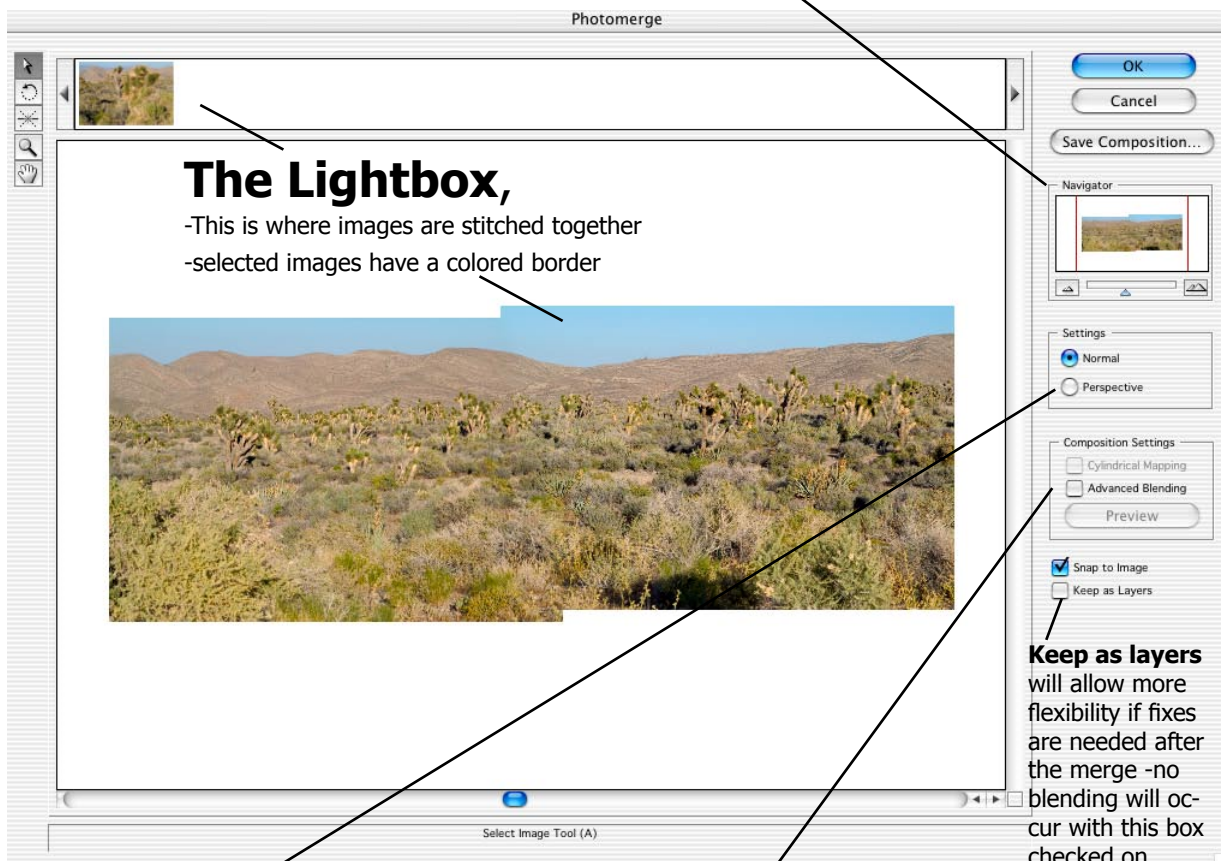
*Say something with your image. Why do you need a pano vs a 3:2 proportion?

*Can you shoot the camera vertically and create a pano?

- 2) Download your images to the computer
- 3) Open the 3-5 images to be merged
- 4) Evaluate the images -correct for any exposure or color differences before merging.
- 5) *File - Automate - Photomerge* (this can be accessed from the File Browser or the Main Menu. If using the File Browser you can select the images here to merge)
- 6) A dialogue box opens asking what you want to merge. Make your choice of images. Check the *Attempt to Automatically Arrange* check box to *on*, and click *Open*.
- 7) A merge will happen. Hopefully
- 8) The merge may not happen. A dialogue box pops up saying Photomerge could not automatically merge the images together. Click *OK*. We can attempt to merge them by hand.

Move
Rotate
Vanishing Point
Zoom
Hand Tool

The **Navigator** allows you to zoom in and out to examine your image. You must zoom to see if everything lines up



Perspective
This defaults to normal. After placing your images, click Perspective and choose the Vanishing Point Tool. Click on an area of the image, explore what happens.

Advanced Blending, helps to blend the images together. But remember before importing the images into Photomerge take the time to match color and exposure
The **Cylindrical Mapping** option adjusts a perspective-corrected image so that it is more rectangular in shape.

Keep as layers will allow more flexibility if fixes are needed after the merge -no blending will occur with this box checked on

9) Manually drag the images into the work space with the *Arrow Tool*. Make sure the *Snap to Image* check box is turned on. Rotate the images if necessary to line them up (the images will go transparent when moving to make lining them up easier) If a common overlap is visible to Photomerge it will snap to place and blend the lines together.

Selecting the, Use **Perspective** box will instruct Photoshop to use the first image placed into the layout area as the base for the composition of the whole panorama. Images placed into the composition later will be adjusted to fit the perspective of the base picture.

The Cylindrical Mapping box adjusts a perspective-corrected image so that it is more rectangular in shape. The Advanced Blending option will try to smooth out uneven exposure or tonal differences between frames. By clicking the Preview button Cylindrical Mapping as well as Advanced Blending can be reviewed.

10) Use the *Navigator* slider to zoom in and check the positioning.

11) The final panorama file is produced by clicking the OK button.

12) After the merge

If needed, crop your image to a rectangle or show the combo.

The Final Fix

-You may need to use your retouching skills to touch up seam areas (Clone Tool, Healing Brush, Patch Tool) Maybe even color correct areas or dodge and burn. In some instances, it is easier to select, copy, and paste a complete version of the damaged subject from the original source image and paste it into the flattened panorama, use a layer mask to fine tune your selection.

-If your overlap is too great and you have lines in your sky, try cropping your source images and re merge.

Good luck, have fun, explore

Optional Supplies:

-ArcSoft Panorama Maker

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

-Tripod Accessories

Bogen Compact Leveling Head 3502

Bogen Leveling center Column 554, 555, 556

-Bogen / Manfrotto 337 2 Axis Flash Hot Shoe Double Bubble Level -Price : \$ 36.95 B&H

-Pano websites

<http://www.bophoto.com/lessons/pano-by-hand.html>

<http://www.creativepro.com/story/feature/12727.html?origin=story>

<http://harrysproshop.com/Tripods/panorama/panorama.html>

http://studio.adobe.com/us/tips/tip.jsp?p=1&id=101941&xml=phscs2at_photomerge

