

Make slide shows the easy way

Program: ProShow Gold 4.51

By Photodex

\$69.95; Upgrade \$44.95

Rating: ★★★★★

This newest version of ProShow Gold creates a slideshow by combining photos, videos, and music on your computer and then outputs it to CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, online websites such as YouTube, and other devices.

But slide shows are no longer a static series of pictures. Slides slide by in a timed sequence to music you can add, which produces the rhythm and feeling of the show.

Between the slides are “transitions” that control how the slides blend together, change, and appear or disappear. They can be zoomed in or out and panned to provide video effects. You can layer them and add backgrounds that move and that viewers can see through. You also can add captions, sound effects, and recorded commentary.

ProShow Gold has more than 140 slide styles (pre-made effects and animations) and more than 390 transitions built in. The wizard includes more than 530 effects and 14 themes including weddings, birthdays, and celebrations.

The program begins with a Wizard, which will make a quick, slick slide show if you pick the theme and add your slides.

Follow these three tips when using this program:

- Put all the slides in a single folder. While the slides are still in the folder, you can view, sort, and delete them, which is more difficult once they are in the program.
- Ensure all slides are jpg, psd, tiff, gif, etc., but *not* raw files.
- Do not move the folder you put the slides in. If you later start cleaning house and moving folders around, the program will not be able to

run the show or find your files without a lot of trouble.

The Wizard will give you an idea of the power of this program and the variety of cool effects it can generate. You can, however, start from scratch and construct your slide show using hand-picked choices.

The online manual is good (better than the last one) and includes videos to watch, but, as usual, the best way to learn a program is to play with it.



From within the program you can access your own photo editor such as Photoshop or Music editor. The program will also burn music from a CD for use in the program.


ProShow Gold 4.5 is a fine program for making a creative slide show. I have used it during the past two years and find this new version easier to use. I would suggest, however, that the program needs more directions on how to prepare

photos for the show, that is, size and resolution to use, and how to organize the pictures.

I usually reduce the resolution to 100 and resize the photos to fit, depending on whether it is for a TV screen, projector screen, or computer monitor. This way, the size of the picture is appropriate and the show does not become too big.

—Reviewed by Barbara Hansen, GGCS

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