

Easy Ways to Share Your Digital Wedding Images

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New digital photography and imaging tools makes sharing your digital wedding images easy. The creation of your own wedding gallery web sites, multimedia slide shows, digital photo albums, scrap books and photo products from digital files has become user friendly, fun and inexpensive as the result of the introduction new products and improvements to well known versions of digital imaging software and web based solutions. Laminated digital wedding albums with wedding photos arranged as collages and printed directly on album pages creates a lifetime keepsake of your wedding moments.

Multimedia Slide Shows

You may already have simple featured multimedia slide show production capability in your digital photography software bundled with your digital camera or in your computer's operating system. Windows XP users can simply highlight and right click on selected images and open with windows fax and picture viewer, or follow the menu prompts for slide show after clicking on My Computer and you have an automated slide show. Similarly Mac users can use iPhoto to accomplish the same thing and more.

Most newer camera's software contains a basic slide show creation feature but the fun starts when you integrate audio files, transitions, motion and images to produce professional looking multimedia slides shows using free or purchased software from web based solution providers and software developers. Google's Picasa is not only free to download at www.picassa.com it contains basic image editing and file management capabilities plus the ability to produce simple slide shows with music and transitions. Microsoft Office users with PowerPoint can produce powerful digital slide shows viewable on both PC and Mac platforms but it is time-consuming and relatively expensive software.

Newer suppliers such as Photodex (www.photodex.com) have introduced slide show only software such as ProShow which is full featured and very user friendly. Their PC only Basic, Gold and Producer versions (\$35 and up) provide varying options with output choices to DVD, video CD, stand alone executable files, web sites and show sharing capability on their web site. The enhanced versions of ProShow are used in both the amateur and professional photographer community. Newer versions of full-featured digital photography software such as ACDSee (\$60) (www.acdsystems.com) and Photoshop Elements (www.adobe.com) now have good multimedia slide show production capability. Check your software supplier's web site since they are continually adding new plug-ins and upgrades for you.

Audio and Music

The explosion of personal audio products into the market place makes sourcing sound files for your slide shows easy. iTunes is downloadable for free from Apple

(www.apple.com) whether you own an iPod or not and can be used to manage all audio files on your computer and convert your music CD's to digital files. From your software just select the audio files (usually as MP3 files) and image files (usually as jpg's) and your desktop is now a multimedia studio. Editing audio sound tracks is easy with a \$25 Wave Creator software download from Blaze Audio (www.blazeaudio.com). Adding voice, music, text, transitions and motion (less is more) to your wedding images will captivate and impress your audience.

Web Solutions

There are many new web based imaging sharing solutions to help you instantly share your wedding images and slide shows with friends and family around the world. Yahoo Canada Photos (www.ca.yahoo.com) provides free unlimited image storage and you can email invitations to view your wedding gallery. Smugmug (www.smugmug.com) provide full featured photo sharing from \$35 per year. Some imaging software automates the production of excellent web sites for uploading to free web site space supplied by major internet service providers and regular fee based hosting services. With domain name ownership and hosting costing as little as \$120 annually the use of web sites with today's user friendly web publishing software is a viable option to wedding couples and consumers alike.

The digital photography revolution provides many options for consumers and they are getting easier to use. If you are using a professional wedding photographer ask if he or she can provide slide shows and web site capability or at least, provide digital files for your use in sharing your weddings moments in new and exciting ways.

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