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-- Heather Champ

Panographies: Panoramas on Steroids

14

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Do you ever look up at the sky, a towering office building, or an expansive landscape and wish your photos could capture everything you can see with your eyes? We do.

Our pal Maren does this neat thing she calls panography. Taking dozens of photos of a scene, she assembles a patchwork of images that more accurately represents what your eyes see when you're not looking through a viewfinder.

Call it super wide-angle panorama or call it panography, we think it's awesome.

Read on to learn how you can make one yourself!

Panographies are wide-angle pictures composed of several individual photos manually stitched together. When these component photos are assembled, they give the impression one would get standing in one place, looking around and unconsciously putting the pictures together in one's head.



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The 360 Spinner

A 35mm film camera that spins a complete 360-degrees for epic panoramas. [More →](#)

Flickr

"Take Photos?
You Need this
Newsletter."

-- Jim Heid
Columnist, Los Angeles
Times

"I'm the kinda guy
who unsubscribed
from every email
list I was on in
1999... But their
excitement was
contagious, and
before I knew it, I
was plunking
down my
address."

- Derek Powazek
A List Apart

Before we get started, here are a few samples so you know what you're shooting for:



(Click any image to see it larger.)

STEP 1: SETUP

Go out into the world and find something interesting to shoot. Once you've found something, pick your point of view and make sure you can see everything you want to shoot without moving from your position.

Manually set the white balance, focus, f-stop, and shutter speed on your camera. This ensures that it doesn't light meter every shot and your photos aren't all differently exposed. If you want your panography to consist of many individual photos, zoom in a bit. If it's your first try, you may want to stay zoomed out so you'll have fewer shots to assemble at the end.

NOTE: The more photos you take, the more RAM your computer will need to make the panography. Also, some cameras don't give you the option of manually setting the f-stop and shutter speed. Sometimes one of your preset modes (for example, landscape mode) will keep your settings relatively uniform. Give it a try... if all else fails, automatic mode still works, the effect is just a little different.

STEP 2: TAKE YOUR SHOTS

Point and shoot. Don't move from your position, but do move your lens in all directions. Try tilting your camera to different angles to soften the straight panorama look. And keep in mind that the more your shots overlap, the easier it'll be to assemble your panography later.

Make sure you cover every spot with at least one picture. We tend to only photograph



Photojojo! The Book

Finally! A book as awesome as we are and chock full of insanely great photo projects and DIY ideas. [More →](#)



The Fuji Instax Instant Cam

A modern addition to the instant cam family that prints mini film. [More →](#)

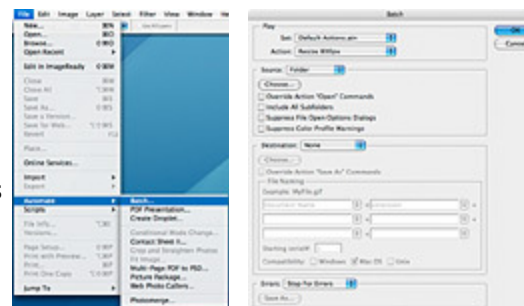
"I'm never disappointed by Photojojo."

-- Dave Johnson
PC World

the interesting spots, like lines and busy areas, and oftentimes forget to get the plain areas. Leave a shot out and you'll be left with a hole in your final piece with no way to fill it!

STEP 3: PREPARE YOUR FILES

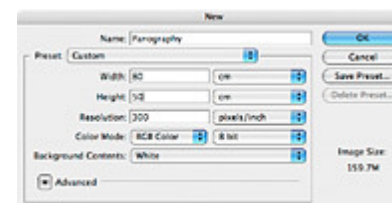
Unload your camera and, using Photoshop, resize your photographs (try width or height of 800 pixels). It's tedious to do this manually for each photo; so to expedite the process, record the resizing and saving of one photo as a new Photoshop Action. Then go to File > Automate > Batch to select the new action and apply it to your entire folder of panography photos.



NOTE: If you want to save the originals, don't forget to duplicate your folder before you resize.

STEP 4: PREPARE YOUR CANVAS

Create a fairly large new RGB canvas to work on. If it turns out the canvas is too small, you can always add some space later (Image > Canvas). Copy the new 800px versions of your images into your canvas—5 to 10 images at a time ought to be manageable.



STEP 5: ASSEMBLE YOUR PANOGRAPHY

Set the opacity of each photo to about 50%. Using the Transform function (Ctrl/Apple+T), start rotating each photo to fit the ones next to it. Be careful to make sure you're rotating (you should see a curved arrow tool when you're near a corner) and not skewing the photographs. Now go photo by photo and assemble your panography like



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Chalkboard Speech Bubble

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a puzzle. It will take a while to get it right, so be sure to save your work as you go along.



STEP 6: FINALIZE YOUR PANOGRAPHY

When you're finished assembling the photos together, make final color, contrast, and levels adjustments. Go to the layer palette and add a new adjustment layer of any kind by clicking the round black/white symbol.

To share your panography or post it online, just combine all the layers (Shift+Ctrl/Apple+E), and resize your image. Be sure to save this file separately instead of overwriting the original, which you'll want to keep in case you want to make changes later.



Congratulations! You just made your very first panography!

MORE RESOURCES

Submit your creations to the [Panography group on Flickr](#). But be sure to follow the rules if you do:

- Individual images are not to be skewed or rescaled.
- The base color is white.
- The sides are not to be cropped, even if there is one long strand of shots standing out.
- The images should all have similar color or contrast adjustments for an even look. This is not Techno.

Related Flickr groups:

- [Hockneyesque](#)
- [The Masterpiece Cleaners Photo Collage & Joiner Association](#)



[Mareen Fischinger](#) is a photographer/designer in Duesseldorf, Germany. ([Portfolio](#),



The Dreamy Diana Lens

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