Exposure: 1 sec ┊ Focal Length: 16mm ┊ Aperture Value: ƒ/6.3 ┊ ISO: 100

SLIDESHOW
creating presentations of your work

You know what's harder than creating a compelling screen presentation of your work, coupled with a moving and emotionally-charged background music track? It's finding a song, TV show, or movie title that uses the word "Slideshow." By the way, I can't tell you the amount of angst the word "slideshow" has caused my beloved editor, Kim Doty, because, really, the word slideshow is two words (slide show), but in Lightroom, Adobe chose to name the module with just one word—Slideshow. Well, when the previous version of this book came out, I noticed that Kim had taken all uses of the word "slideshow" and changed it to "slide show," except when it referred to the actual module name itself. So, in this edition, I asked Kim to make it consistent and always refer to it as one word—slideshow. This didn't go over very well with Kim, which troubled me because Kim, by nature, has the happiest, bubbliest demeanor of not only any editor in the editing world, but of most people on the entire planet. So, I thought I could kind of joke around about it and Kim would change it all back to one word, and she begrudgingly said "Okay" and went back to her office. But then, as we were wrapping up the book, Kim came to my office, sat down, and I could tell something was wrong. This is a rare moment indeed, so I gave her my full attention. She went on to let me know how much the single-word thing was bothering her, and we went back and forth for about 10 minutes, until she pulled out a knife. I clearly didn't realize how much this meant to Kim, so of course, I relented and the chapter has been adjusted so the two-word "slide show" appears where appropriate. Also, the other good news is: the doctor says my stitches should be out within two weeks.
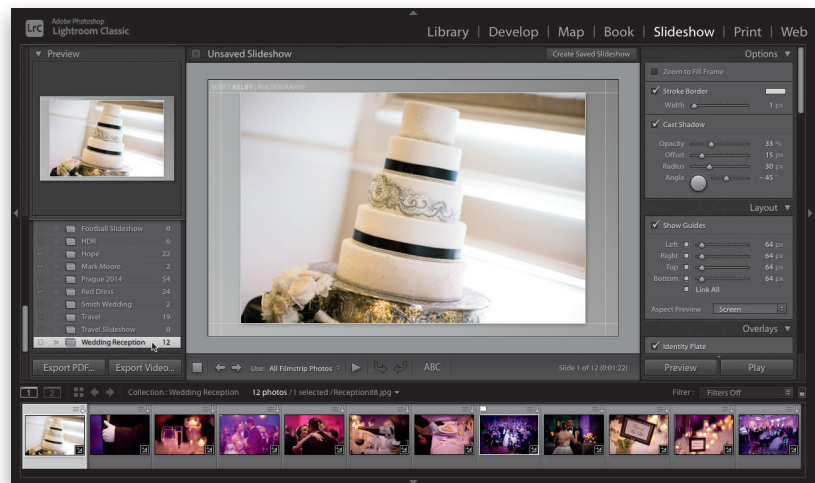
Creating a Quick, Basic Slide Show

Here's how to create a quick slide show using the built-in slide show templates that come with Lightroom. You'll probably be surprised at how easy this process is, but the real power of the Slideshow module doesn't really kick in until you start customizing and creating your own slide show templates (which we cover after this, but you have to learn this first, so start here and you'll have no problems when we get to customizing).

Step One:

Start by jumping over to the Slideshow module by pressing **Command-Option-5 (PC: Ctrl-Alt-5)**. There's a Collections panel in the left side Panels area, just like there is in the Library module, so you have direct access to the photos in any collection. First, click on the collection that has the photos you want to appear in your slide show, as shown here. (*Note:* If the photos you want in your slide show aren't in a collection, it will make your life a lot easier if they are, so head back to the Library module [press the letter **G**], and make a new collection with the photos you want in your slide show, then jump back over to the Slideshow module, and click on that collection in the Collections panel.)
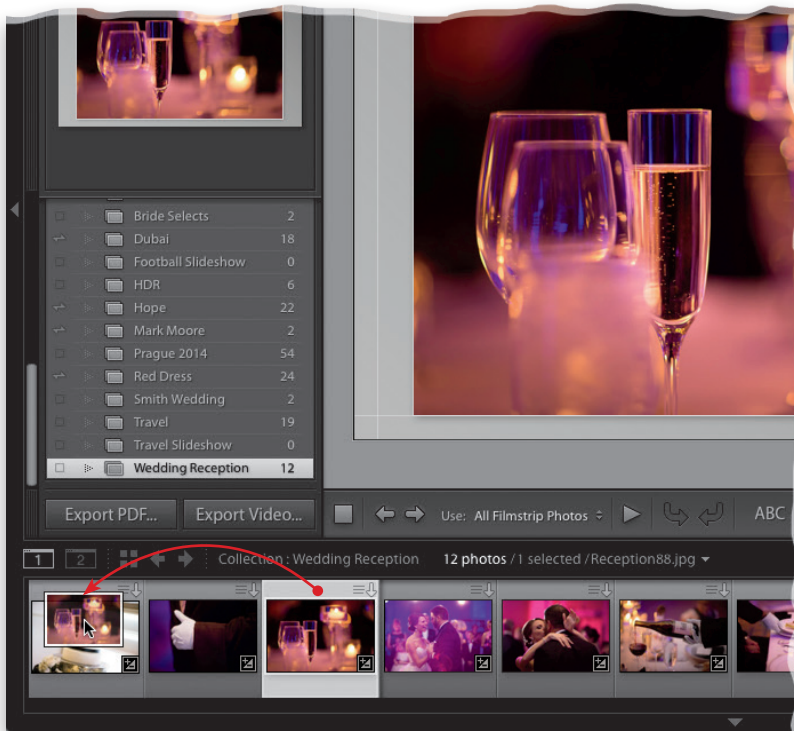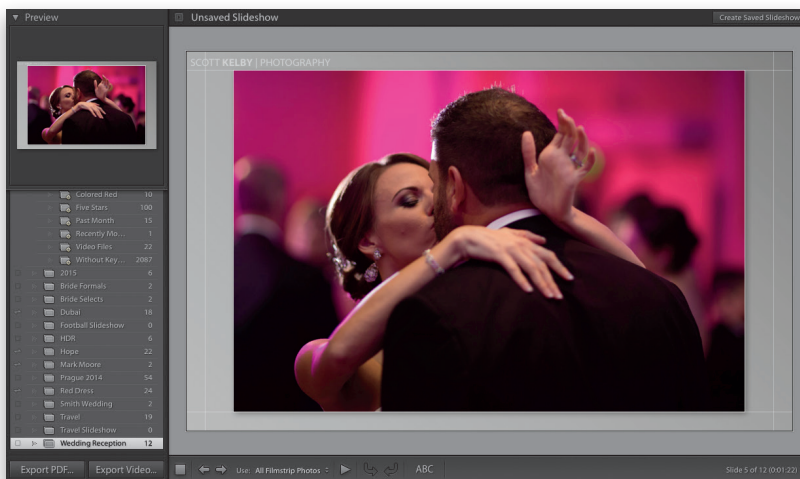

Step Two:

By default, it's going to play the slides in the order they appear down in the Filmstrip (the first photo from the left appears first, the second photo appears next, and so on), with a brief dissolve transition between slides. If you only want certain photos in your collection to appear in your slide show, then go to the Filmstrip, select just those photos, and choose **Selected Photos** from the Use pop-up menu in the toolbar below the center Preview area (as shown here). As you can see, you can also choose to have just flagged photos in your slide show.

Continued

Step Three:

If you want to change the order of your slides, just click-and-drag them into the order you want them. (In the example shown here, I clicked on the third photo and dragged it over so it was the first photo in the Filmstrip.) So, go ahead and do that now—click-and-drag the photos into the order you'd like them to appear in your slide show. (*Note:* You can always change your mind on the order any time by clicking-and-dragging right within the Filmstrip.)

Step Four:

When you first switch to the Slideshow module, it displays your photos in the default slide show template, which has a light gray gradient background and your Main Identity Plate in the upper-left corner in white letters (now this is not to be confused with the Default template in the Template Browser, and yes, it usually looks pretty bad, as seen here, but we'll deal with that later on). Click on any other photo in the Filmstrip to see how that slide will look in the current slide show layout.
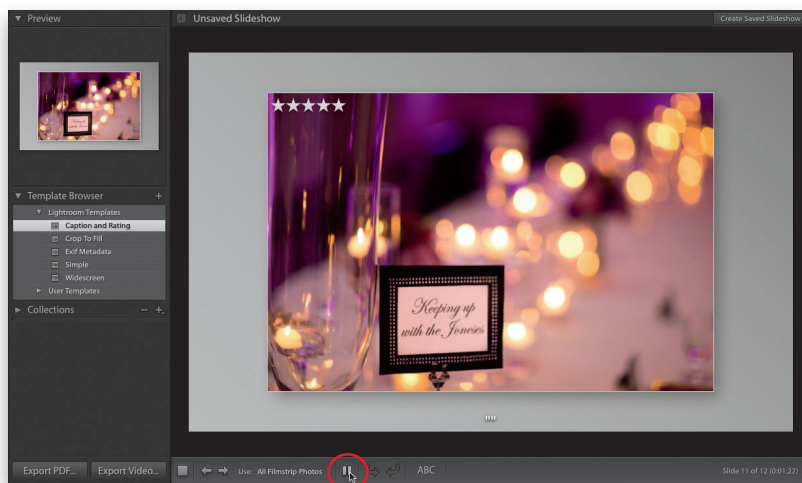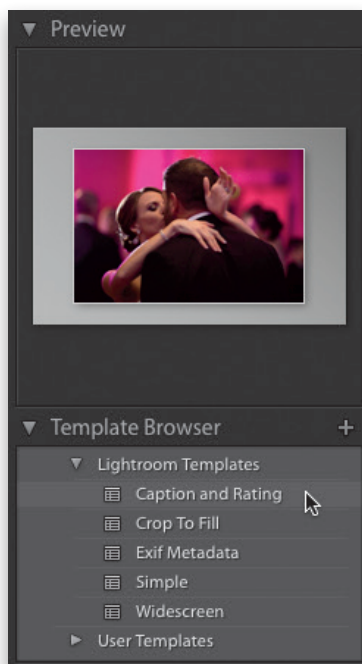
Step Five:

If you want to try a different look for your slide show, you can use any of the built-in slide show templates that come with Lightroom (they're in the Template Browser in the left side Panels area). Before you start clicking on them, however, you can get a preview of how they'll look by just hovering your cursor over their names in the Template Browser. Here, I'm hovering over the Caption and Rating template, and the Preview panel shows that template has a light gray gradient background, and the images have a thin white stroke and a drop shadow. While this is similar to the default template, with this template, if you've added a star rating to your photo, the stars appear over the top-left corner of your image, and if you added a caption in the Library module's Metadata panel, it appears at the bottom of the slide. Let's go ahead and try this one.

Step Six:

To see a quick preview of how your slide show will look, go to the toolbar below the center Preview area, and click the Preview button (it's a right-facing triangle—just like the Play button on a DVD player). This plays a preview of your slide show within that center Preview area, and although the slide show is the exact same size in that window, you're now seeing it without guides, with transitions, and with music (if you chose to add music, which we haven't covered yet, so you probably haven't, but hey, ya never know). To stop your preview, press the square Stop button on the left side of the toolbar; to pause it, press the two vertical lines where the Play button used to be (as shown here).
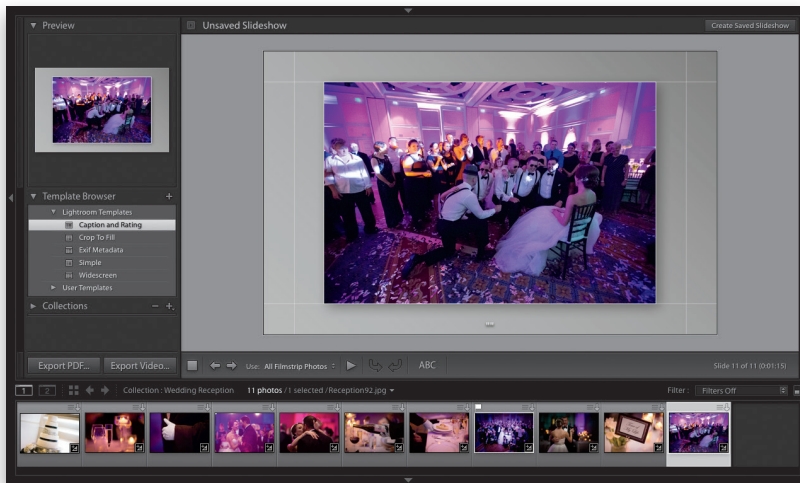
TIP: Life Is Random

Your slides play in the order that they appear in the Filmstrip, but if you want your slides to appear in a completely random order, go to the Playback panel in the right side Panels area and turn on the Random Order checkbox.
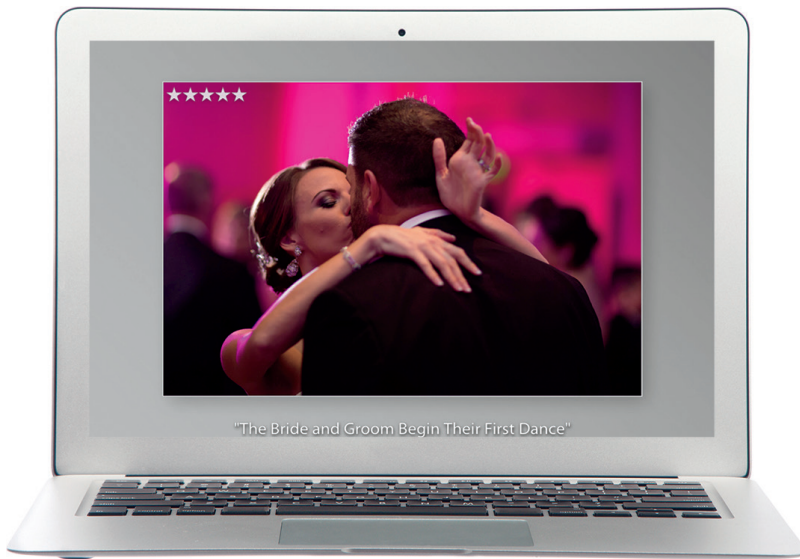
Continued

Step Seven:

If you want to remove a photo from your slide show, just remove the photo from your collection by clicking on it in the Filmstrip and pressing the Delete (PC: Backspace) key on your keyboard (or choose Selected Photos from the Use pop-up menu in the toolbar and just make sure you don't select that photo). Here, I removed that photo shown in Step Six from the slide show by hitting the Delete key, so the next photo in the Filmstrip is now displayed. By the way, this is another advantage of collections vs. folders. If you were working with a folder here, instead of a collection, and you deleted a photo, it would actually remove it from Lightroom and from your computer. Yikes!

Step Eight:

When you're done tweaking things, it's time to see the full-screen final version. Click the Play button at the bottom of the right side Panels area, and your slide show plays at full-screen size (as shown here). To exit full-screen mode and return to the Slideshow module, press the Esc key on your keyboard. Okay, you've created a basic slide show. Next, you'll learn how to customize and create your own custom slide shows.

TIP: Creating an Instant Slide Show

I mentioned this in the book, but you can create an impromptu slide show anytime without even going to the Slideshow module. Whichever module you're in, just go to the Filmstrip, select the photos you want in your slide show, then press **Command-Return (PC: Ctrl-Enter)**, and it starts—full screen.

Customizing the Look of Your Slide Show

The built-in templates are okay, but after you create a slide show or two with them, you're going to be saying stuff like, "I wish I could change the background color" or "I wish I could add some text at the bottom" or "I wish my slide show looked better." Well, this is where you start to create your own custom look for your slides, so not only does it look just the way you want it, your custom look is just one click away from now on.

Step One:
Although you might not be wild about Lightroom's predesigned slide show templates, they make great starting points for creating your own custom look. Here, we're going to create a vacation slide show, so start by going to the Slideshow module's Collections panel (in the left side Panels area) and click on the vacation collection you want to use. Then, go up to the Template Browser and click on Exif Metadata to load that template (seen here, which puts your photos over a black background with a thin white border, info about your photo in the top right, bottom right, and below your photo, and your Identity Plate in the upper-left corner).

Step Two:
Now that we've got our template loaded, we don't need the left-side panels anymore, so press **F7** (or **Fn F7**) on your keyboard to hide them. The first thing I do is get rid of all the EXIF info (after all, people viewing your vacation slide show probably won't care what your ISO or exposure settings were), so go to the right side Panels area, to the Overlays panel, and turn off the Text Overlays checkbox (as shown here). Your Identity Plate is still visible, but the info in the upper- and lower-right corners and below the photo is now hidden.
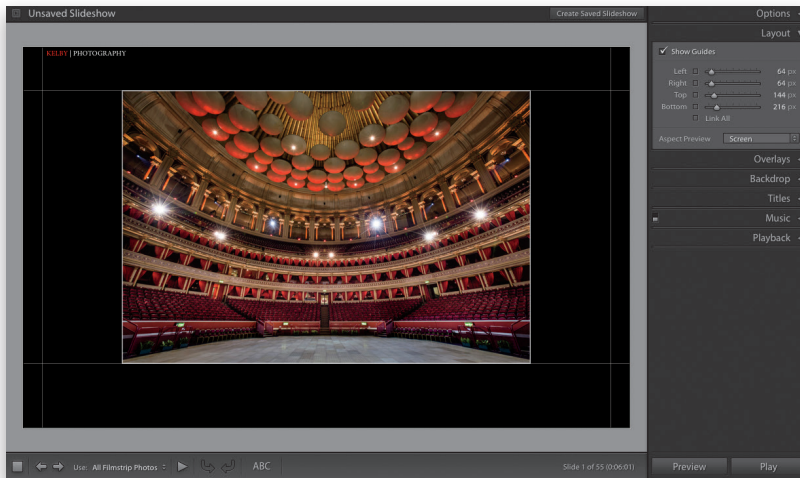

TIP: Resizing Custom Text
Once you create custom text, you can change the size by clicking-and-dragging the corner points outward (to make it larger), and inward (to make it smaller).
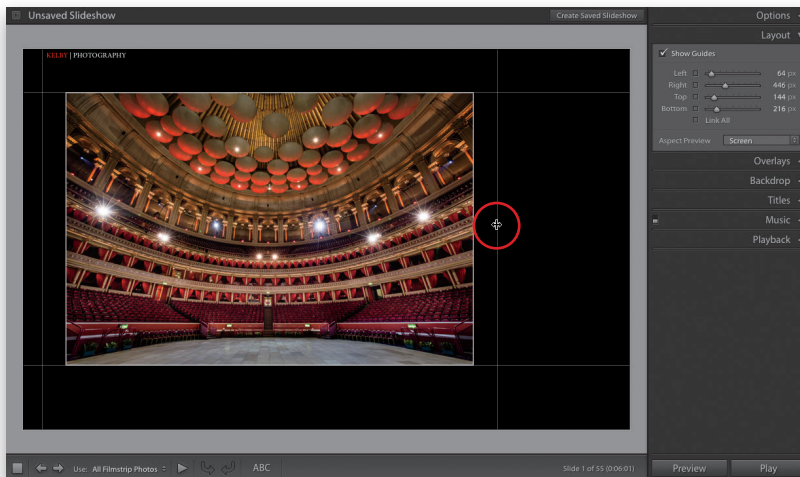
Continued

Step Three:

Now let's choose how big your photos are going to appear on the slide. For this design, we're going to shrink the size of the photos a bit, and then move them up toward the top of the slide, so we can add our studio's name below them. Your photo is positioned inside four page margins (left, right, top, and bottom), and you can control how big/small these margins are in the Layout panel found in the right side Panels area. To see the margins, turn on the Show Guides checkbox. By default, all four margin guides are linked together, so if you increase the left margin to 81 pixels, all of the other margins adjust so they're 81 pixels, as well. In our case, we want to adjust the top and bottom separately, so first click on Link All to unlink the margins (the little "lights" beside each margin go out). Now, click-and-drag the Bottom margin slider to the right to 216 px and the Top margin slider to 144 px, and you'll see the photo scale down in size inward, leaving a larger margin below the photo (as shown here).

TIP: Moving Guides

You don't actually resize the photos on your slide—you move the margin guides and your photo resizes within the margins you create. You can do this visually (rather than in the Layout panel) by moving your cursor over a guide, and you'll see it change into a "moving bar" cursor (by the way, I have no idea if "moving bar" is its official name, but it is a double-headed arrow), and now you can click-and-drag the margins to resize the photo. If you move your cursor over a corner (where two guides intersect), you can drag diagonally to resize those two guides at the same time.
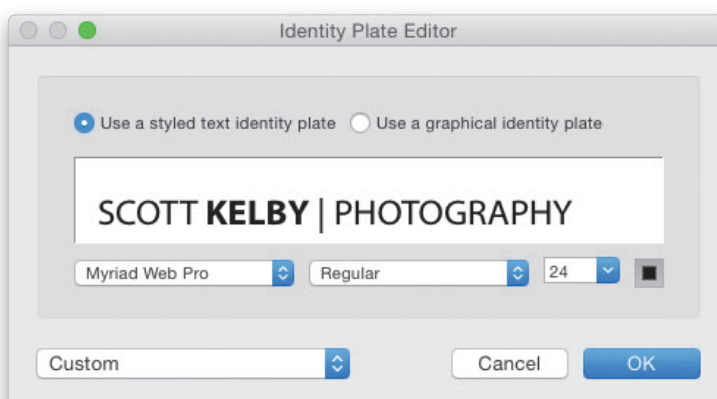
Step Four:

Now that our photo is in position, let's move our studio name Identity Plate below the photo. Click on it (up in the top-left corner of your slide) and drag it so it appears under your photo (when you drag it, it does this weird Spiderman thing of clinging to the edges. This is supposed to help you center your text by having it snap to the edges. At least, that's the theory).
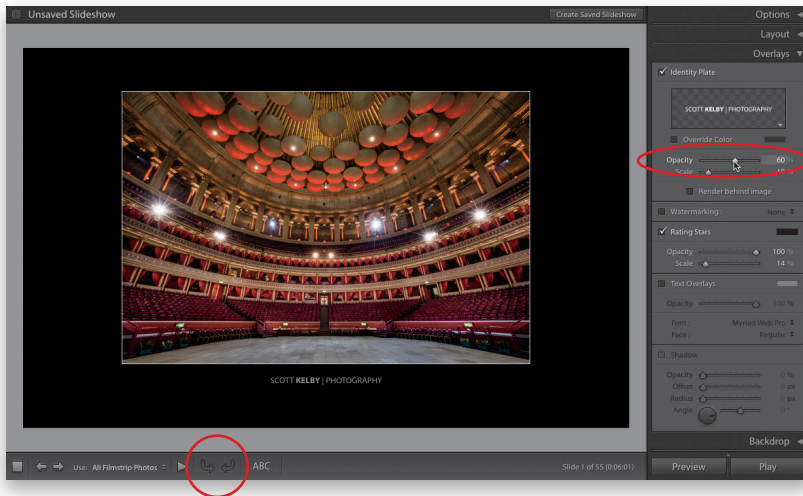
TIP: Zoom to Fill Frame

If you see a gap between the edges of your photo and the margin guides, you can fill that gap instantly with a very cool feature called Zoom to Fill Frame. Turning on this checkbox (found in the Options panel at the very top of the right side Panels area) increases the size of your photos proportionally until they completely fill the area inside the margins. Give this a try—you'll probably use it more than you'd think.

Step Five:

To customize your Identity Plate text, go to the Overlays panel, click on the little triangle in the bottom-right corner of the Identity Plate preview, and choose **Edit** to bring up the Identity Plate Editor (seen here). Type in the name you want to appear below each photo (in my case, I'm using one of my studio Identity Plates, where I typed in Scott Kelby | Photography in the font Myriad Web Pro at 24 points—you get that little bar by typing Shift-\ [backslash] on your keyboard. I clicked on the color swatch here and changed the font color temporarily to black, to make it easier to see), and click OK. Choosing the right point size isn't so critical, because you can change the size of your Identity Plate by either using the Scale slider (in the Overlays panel), or by clicking on your Identity Plate text on the slide and then clicking-and-dragging any corner point outward (which scales the text up).
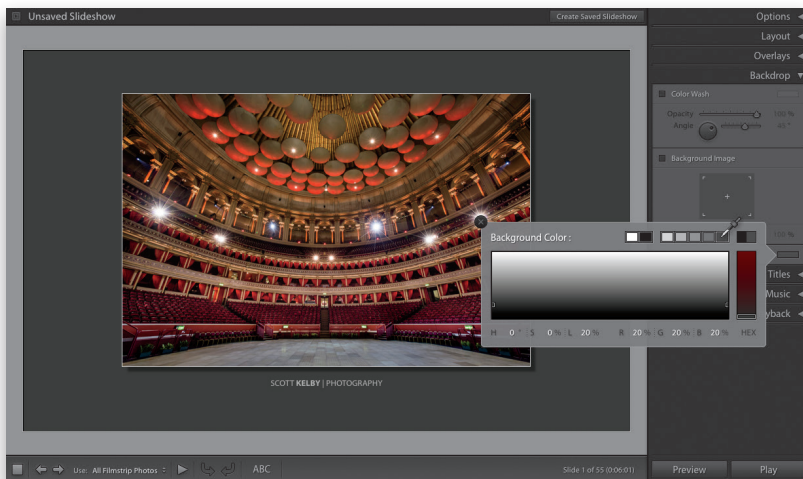
Continued

Step Six:

Let's take a look at how our custom slide layout is coming together by hiding the margin guides—press **Command-Shift-H (PC: Ctrl-Shift-H)**, or you could go to the Layout panel and turn off the check-box for Show Guides. If you look at the text below the photo, you can see it's not bright white—it's actually a very light gray (I like that better, because it doesn't draw the eye as much if it's not solid white), and to get this more subtle light gray look, you just lower the Opacity amount up in the Identity Plate section of the Overlays panel (here you can see I've got the Identity Plate Opacity lowered to just 60%). Also, if you want to rotate your Identity Plate text, click on it first, then use the two Rotate arrows found down in the toolbar (I've circled them here in red for you).

Step Seven:

You can change the background color of your slide to any color you'd like, so let's change it to a dark gray. Go down to the Backdrop panel, and to the right of the Background Color checkbox, you'll see a color swatch. Click on that swatch and the color picker appears, where you can choose any color you'd like (I chose a dark gray from the swatches at the top of the picker, as seen here). For more on customizing your background, go to the next project.
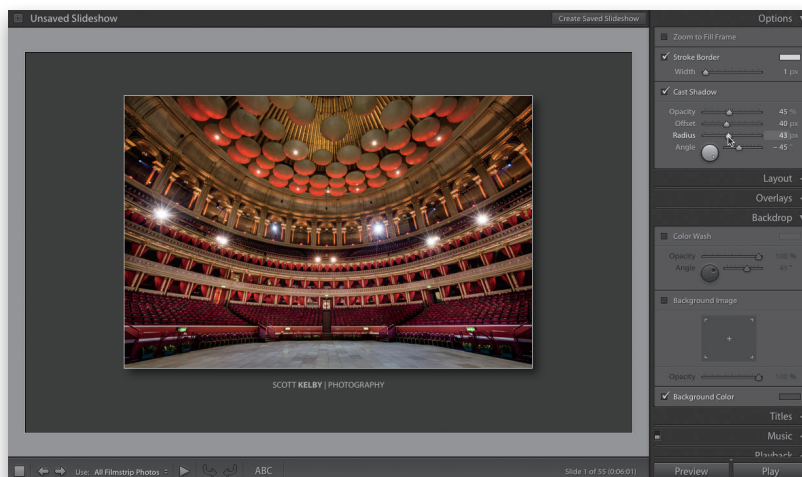
TIP: Add a Shadow to Your Identity Plate Text

If your slide has a lighter background color, you can add a drop shadow to your Identity Plate text. Just go to the bottom of the Overlays panel and turn the Shadow checkbox on. You can now control the opacity, how far offset your shadow is from your text, the radius (softness) of your shadow, and the angle (direction) of the shadow. *Note:* As of the writing of this book, this feature is not available in the PC version of Lightroom.
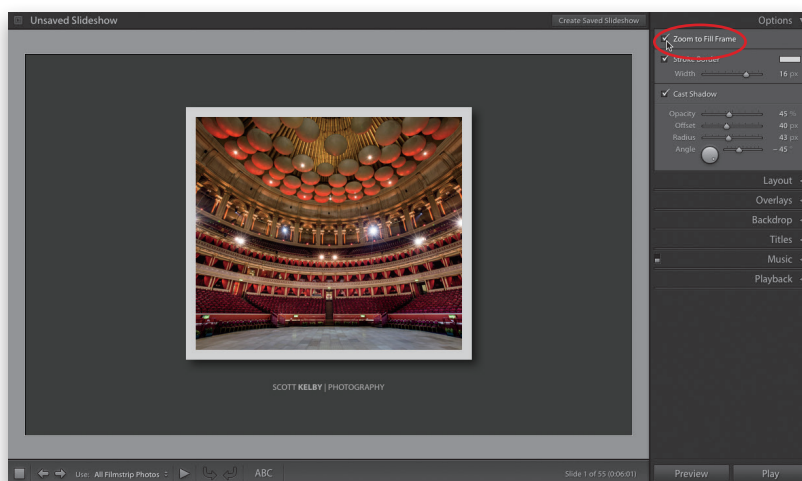
Continued

Step Eight:

Now that we're on a gray background, rather than black, you can see that this Exif Metadata template actually has a drop shadow on the image included in the design, but of course you can't see it when you're on a solid black background (which makes you wonder why Adobe had that feature turned on in the first place, eh?). Anyway, you can control the size, opacity, and direction of the drop shadow (see page 20 for more on drop shadows) in the Options panel, but for now we'll just increase the Radius to soften the shadow and increase the Opacity a bit to give us the look you see here.
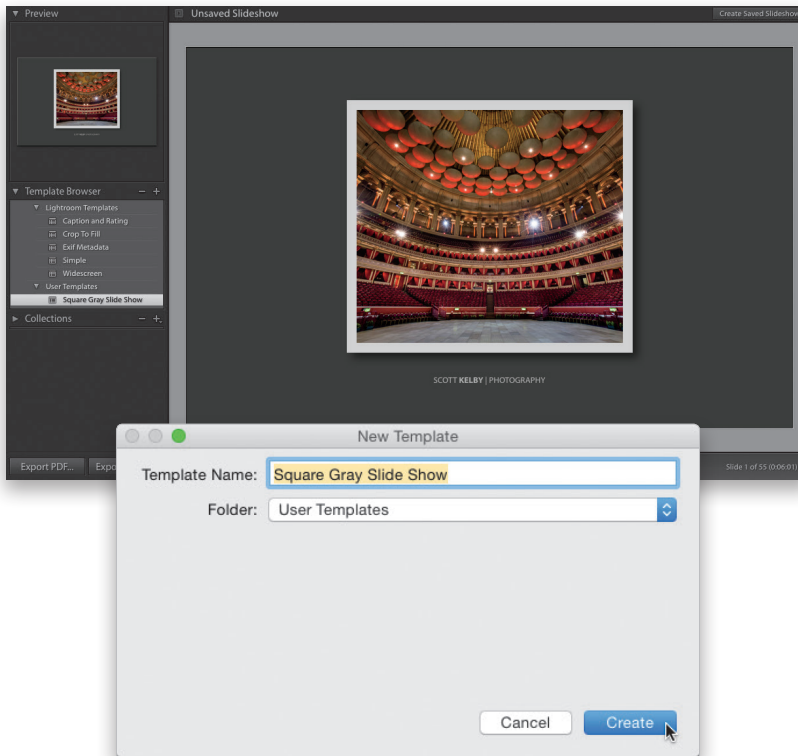
Step Nine:

Let's give this layout a little more of a fine art slide show feel by making the image area square. It's not real obvious how to do this, but luckily it's fairly easy. You start by moving the guides (press Command-Shift-H [PC: Ctrl-Shift-H] to turn them back on), so they make a square. This makes perfect sense at first, but once you see that it just resizes your photo, at the same aspect ratio, inside that square cell (rather than cropping it to square), you start scratching your head (well, I did anyway, but it was only because my head was itchy. That was pretty bad. I know). The trick is to go up to the Options panel and turn on the checkbox for Zoom to Fill Frame. That fills the square cell with your image, and now you get the square look you see here. While we're here, let's go and add a thicker stroke around the image using the Stroke Border Width slider in that same panel (more on adding a stroke on page 20).
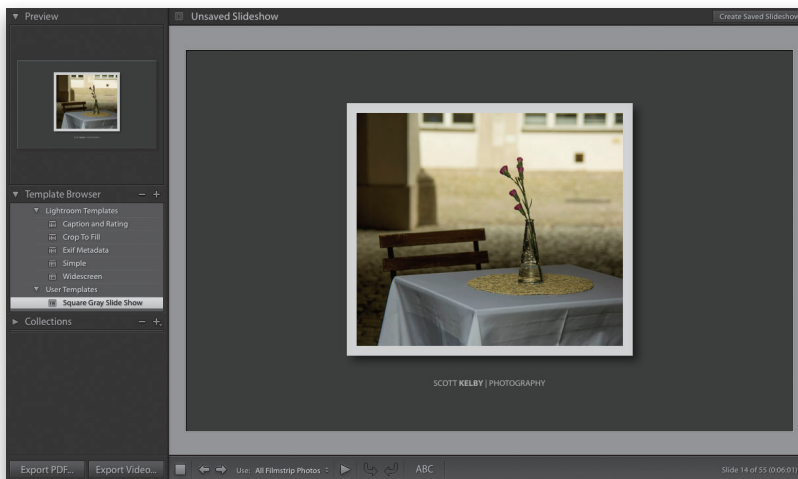
Continued

Step 10:

Now we're going to save our template, so in the future we can apply it with just one click in the Template Browser (it remembers everything: the text, the background color, the opening and closing title slides [more on those on page 22]—you name it). To do this, press **F7** to make the left side Panels area visible again, then go to the Template Browser and click on the + (plus sign) button on the far right of the panel header. This brings up the New Template dialog (shown here), where you can name your template and choose where you want to save it (I save mine in the User Templates folder, as shown here, but you can create your own folders and choose to save into one of them by choosing it from the Folder pop-up menu).

Step 11:

Now that you've saved your custom slide design as a template, you can apply this same exact look to a totally different set of images by going to the Slideshow module, and in the Collections panel, clicking on a different collection. Then, in the Template Browser, under User Templates, click on Square Gray Slide Show, and this look will be instantly applied to your collection of photos (as shown here).

Adding Video to Your Slide Show

Since you can have video clips and stills together in the same slide show in Lightroom, this expands upon what we can do in a big way. If you're a wedding photographer, or if you want to make a promo video for your business, or for behind-the-scenes videos, or even your family vacation, you no longer need to learn a dedicated video program to make a simple movie.

Step One:
Start in the Library module by creating a collection with the videos and stills you want in your slide show (in our example, we've got video clips of a bride and some still images). Now, press **Command-Option-5 (PC: Ctrl-Alt-5)** to switch to the Slideshow module.
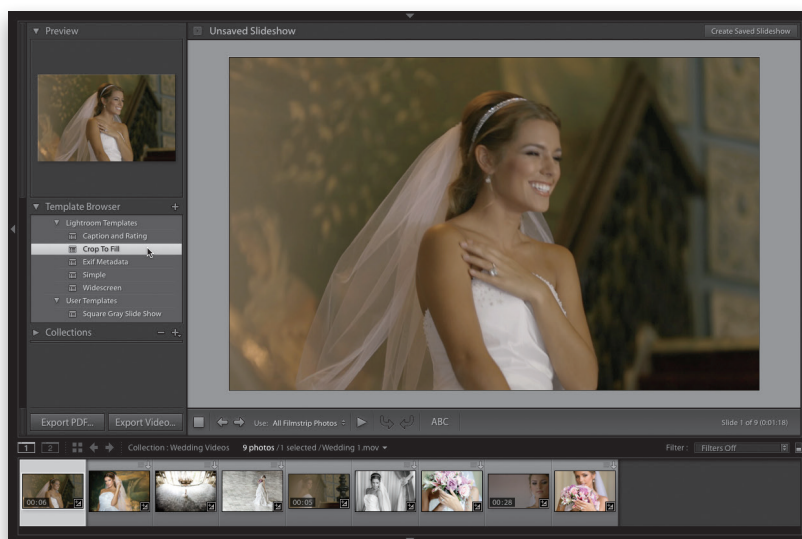

Step Two:
The order that you see the images down in the Filmstrip is the order your videos and still photos will appear, so go ahead and arrange them in the order you want them. (*Note:* I generally find it looks better if you start with a video clip and then put a similar-looking still right after it.) Choose the Crop To Fill or Widescreen preset in the Template Browser on the left. Now, there are a few things I would definitely add to make this slide show more like a short movie, and we'll cover that next.

TIP: Editing Video Clips
If you want to learn how to trim clips and choose the opening frame for your video and stuff like that, check out Bonus Chapter 3 on using DSLR video in Lightroom.

Continued

Step Three:

First, I'd start with an intro screen (see page 22 in this chapter) with the name of the bride and groom (in our case, Elizabeth & Alexander), and an ending screen (but I'd avoid writing "The End," unless you want a really awkward moment for everyone watching). Of course, for a wedding video like this, you need a background music track (see page 24). However, in Lightroom, since you're mixing video and stills, there's an important slider in the Playback panel. It's the Audio Balance slider and it lets you control the balance between the background music and any audio that was recorded by your camera when you shot the video. If you drag this slider all the way to the right, you'll only hear the background music. Drag it all the way to the left and you'll hear nothing but the audio in the video file. Put it in the middle, and you hear equal amounts of both, and you can drag it left or right to balance the two any way you want.

Step Four:

To see a preview of your slideshow, click the Preview button at the bottom of the right side Panels area. When you click that button, the slide show starts (with the intro screen, as seen here), and then moves through the videos and stills in order, with a dissolve between each one (controlled by the Crossfades slider in the Playback panel). That's all there is to it!
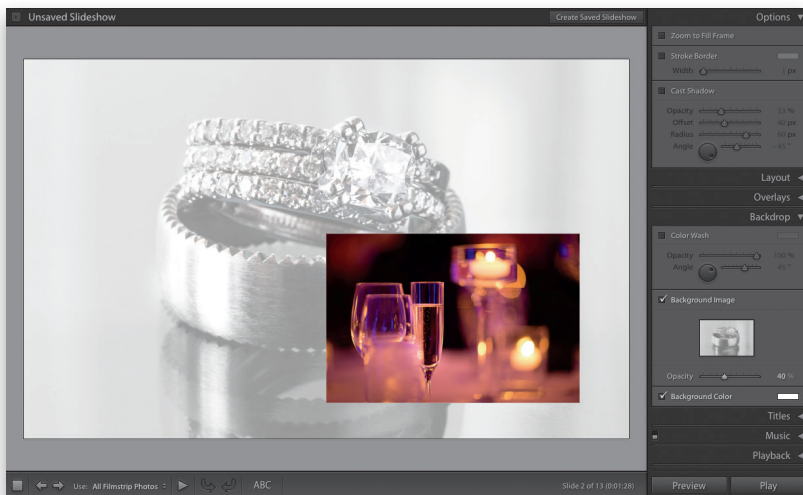
Getting Creative with Photo Backgrounds

Besides a solid color and a gradient fill, you can choose a photo as your slide background, and you can control the opacity of this background photo, so you can create a backscreened effect. The only downside is that the same background appears on every slide (except the title slides, of course), so you can't vary the background effect from slide to slide. Here, we're going to look at a simple photo background, then take it up a notch, and then finally pull a few tricks that will let you create some very creative slide show layouts.

Step One:

First a little setup: go to the Template Browser and click on the template named Caption and Rating. Now, let's simplify the layout: In the Options panel (at the top of the right side Panels area), turn off the checkboxes for Stroke Border and Cast Shadow, then click on the top-left corner of the guides and drag inward until your photo is smaller and closer to the bottom-right corner (like the one shown here. After I did this, I turned off the Show Guides checkbox in the Layout panel). Now go down to the Overlays panel and turn off both the Text Overlays checkbox and the Rating Stars checkbox (so we don't see stars over our photo).

Step Two:

Go to the Backdrop panel, and turn the Color Wash checkbox off, so you no longer have a gradient over the background. Now, go to the Filmstrip and drag-and-drop the photo you want to use as a background image onto the Background Image well in the Backdrop panel (as shown here; you may have to turn the Background Image checkbox on first), and that image now appears as the background behind your currently selected photo. The background photo appears at 100% opacity, which usually means it's going to compete with your foreground photo, and for that reason we usually create a "backscreened" effect for the background photo, so it appears washed out and more subtle, and your main image stands out again.

Continued

Step Three:

To create that backscreened effect, lower the Background Image Opacity to 40% (this will vary, depending on your image), and the photo fades to gray. If you prefer to have a white backscreened look, set your Background Color to white (click on the color swatch, then choose white in the color picker, as I did here), or if you want a black backscreened look (rather than gray or white), set the Background Color to black (which color looks best kind of depends on the photo you choose).

Step Four:

When you click the Preview button, or the Play button, you'll see the slides play with the photo you chose as the background image (as I mentioned in the intro, this same background will appear behind each photo).

Continued

Step Five:

Now, thus far, we've just used one of our regular photos from the shoot as our background image, but if you use images that were designed to be backgrounds, you get an entirely different look. For example, the image shown here is a background image I bought from Fotolia (which is now Adobe Stock). I just went to their site (www.fotolia.com), did a search for "photo frames," and this came up as one of the results. So I bought it, then imported it into Lightroom. Once it appeared in Lightroom, I dragged it into the collection where I wanted to use it, then I dragged it onto the Background Image well in the Backdrop panel for the effect you see here. (*Note:* I buy royalty-free stuff like this from Adobe Stock [www.adobestock.com], but almost every microstock site has lots of frames and borders you can buy for just a few bucks.)

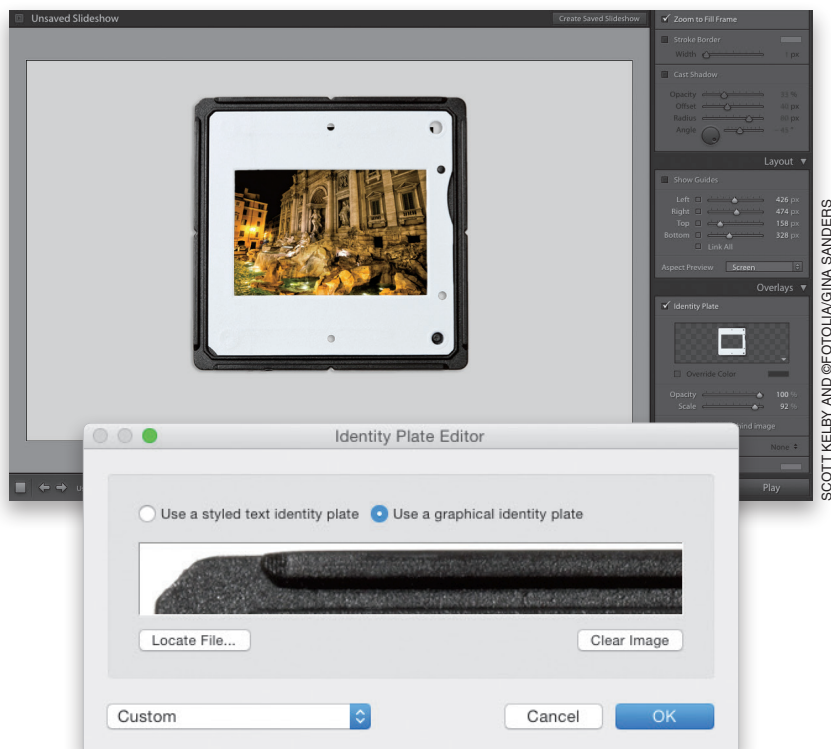SCOTT KELBY AND ©FOTOLIA/MAMMUT VISION

Step Six:

Here's another example of the kind of simple backgrounds you can download for your slide shows. Once you've imported the background image into Lightroom, remember to drag that image into the collection where you want to use it, then drag it onto the Background Image well in the Backdrop panel. Now, as your slide show plays, the images will appear inside the iPad. The only tricky part of this is getting the image to fit right inside the iPad. The trick is to (1) go to the Options panel and turn on the Zoom to Fill Frame checkbox. Then, (2) go to the Layout panel, click on Link All to turn this off, make your guides visible, and move them so they're just about the same size (on all sides) as the iPad's screen. It's easier than it sounds, since you can just drag the guides around right in the Preview area.
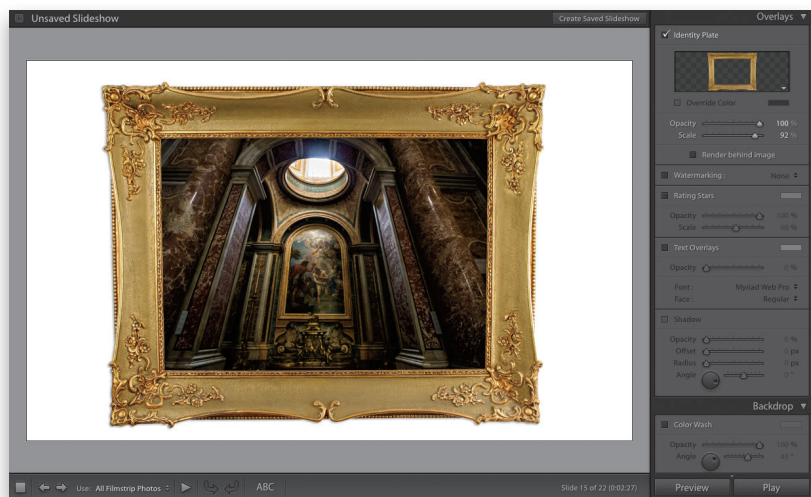

SCOTT KELBY AND ©DOLLAR PHOTO CLUB/IGOR MOJZES

Continued

SCOTT KELBY AND ©FOTOLIA/GINA SANDERS

Step Seven:

Here's a workaround background trick that lets you put a photo inside your background (complete with a shadow): instead of using a graphic as a background image, use it as an Identity Plate. That way, you can have the background image appear in front of (or over) your photo rather than behind it. Here's a slide mount image I bought from Fotolia. I took it into Photoshop, selected the slide and put it on its own layer, then selected the box in the center, and deleted it (to make the slide opening see-through). Next, I added a drop shadow in the opening, deleted the Background layer, and saved the file as a PNG to maintain its transparency when I bring it into Lightroom as a graphical Identity Plate. To bring it in, go to the Overlays panel, turn on the Identity Plate checkbox, click on the triangle at the bottom right of the Identity Plate preview, and choose **Edit** from the pop-up menu. When the Identity Plate Editor appears (shown here), click on the Use a Graphical Identity Plate radio button, then click on Locate File to find your slide file, and click OK. Once it appears in the Preview area, resize both the Identity Plate (by dragging the corner points) and the image (by dragging the margin guides). Also, be sure to have the Zoom to Fill Frame checkbox turned on in the Options panel.

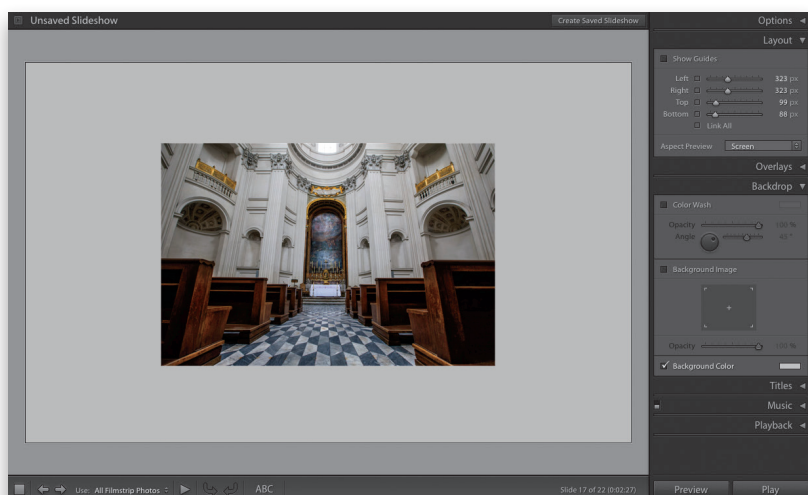SCOTT KELBY AND ©FOTOLIA/KAUM

Step Eight:

Here's another variation using a picture frame I bought from Fotolia. The only difference is that I changed the Background Color (in the Backdrop panel) from gray to white. Now that you're seeing the potential of these backgrounds and Identity Plates, let's put the two together for some really creative layouts.

Continued

.ılı. **Creating Presentations of Your Work** / **Bonus Chapter 1** ⦂ ← → 17 → ⊞

Step Nine:

For this layout, let's start from scratch. Go to the Template Browser and click on the Caption and Rating template, then go to the Overlays panel and turn off the check-boxes for Rating Stars and Text Overlays, and be sure the Identity Plate checkbox is turned off, as well. Go to the Backdrop panel and turn off Color Wash, then go up to the Options panel and turn off the Cast Shadow and Stroke Border checkboxes. Now, use the margin guides to resize your image to give us the simple, clean look you see here.

SCOTT KELBY

Step 10:

I went and downloaded an old map from Fotolia (believe it or not, I searched for "old map" and this is what came up as the first result. Perfect!). Import that old map image into Lightroom, then drag it into the collection you're working with. Once it's there, drag that old map image into the Background Image well in the Back-drop panel (as seen here) to make the map the background for the slide. So far, so good.

©FOTOLIA/JAVARMAN

Continued

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Step 11:

When I searched "photo frame" in Fotolia earlier, I found this antique-looking photo frame. We're going to use this as a graphical Identity Plate, but before we do that, you'll need to use the same Photoshop technique I mentioned in Step Seven (and showed you in the bonus video), to make the center and surrounding area transparent (if we don't do that, you'd see a white box inside and around your frame, instead of the background around the frame, and inside being transparent, so it would totally wreck the look). Also notice how a slight drop shadow appears inside the frame, so it appears the photo is actually inside the frame. Anyway, once you've done the Photoshop transparency trick, go to the Overlays panel, turn on the Identity Plate checkbox, click on the triangle in the bottom-right corner of the Identity Plate preview, and choose Edit from the pop-up menu. When the Identity Plate Editor appears, click on the Use a Graphical Identity Plate radio button, then find your frame file, and click OK. Once it appears in the Preview area, resize both the Identity Plate and the image for the look you see here.

Step 12:

Make sure you have the Render Behind Image checkbox turned off, if you want the photo frame to appear in front of your image (like it does in Step 11), or for a slightly different look, turn it on (as seen here), so the image appears on top of the frame—you won't get the drop shadow appearing on the inside of your image, adding depth. The final layout is shown here (or in Step 11, depending on whether you turned the Render Behind Image checkbox on or off). I hope these few pages spark some ideas for you of what can be done with background images, Identity Plates, and using both together.
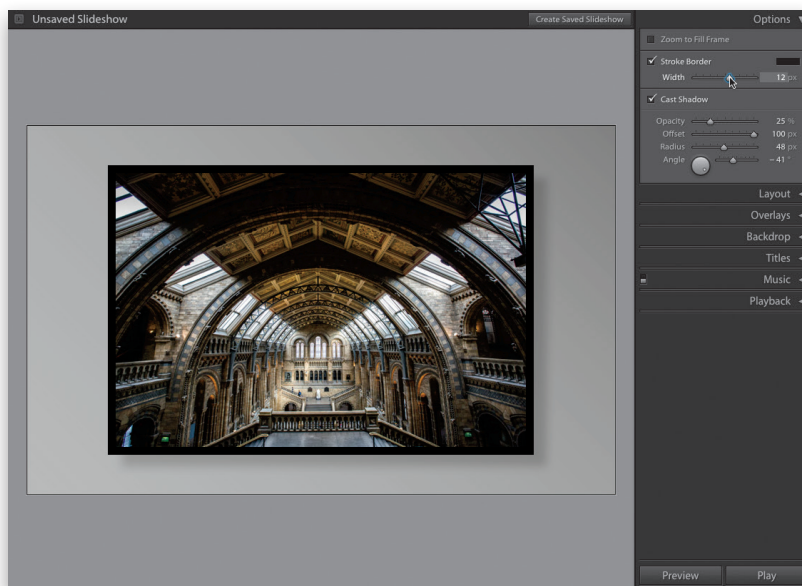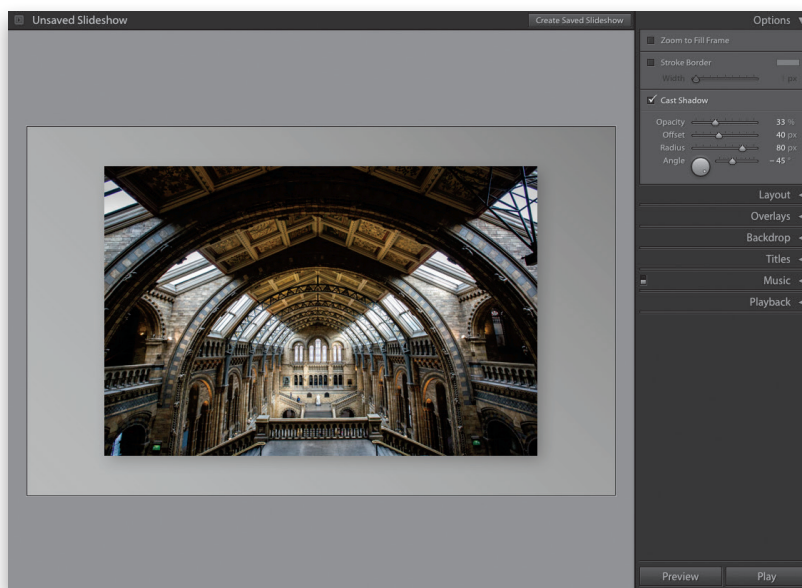
Working with Drop Shadows and Strokes

If you're building a slide show on a light background, or on a photo background, you can add a drop shadow behind your image to help it stand out from the background. You also have the option of adding a stroke to your images. While most of the built-in templates already have these features turned on, here we'll look at how to add them and how to make adjustments to both.

Step One:

To add a drop shadow, go the Options panel in the right side Panels area, and turn on the Cast Shadow checkbox. Most of the built-in templates, like Caption and Rating (shown here), already have the drop shadow feature turned on. The two controls you'll probably use the most are Opacity (how dark your drop shadow appears), and Radius (which controls how soft your drop shadow is. Why don't they call it "Softness?" Because that would be too obvious and easy [wink]). The Offset setting controls how far the shadow appears from the photo, so if you want it to look like your photo is higher off the background, increase the Offset amount. The Angle setting determines where the light is coming from, and by default, it positions your shadow down and to the right.

Step Two:

Let's tweak the drop shadow a bit: lower the Opacity amount to 25%, so it's lighter, then increase the Offset amount to 100%, so it looks like the photo is an inch or two off the background. Next, lower the Radius to 48%, so it's not quite as soft, and lastly, set the Angle to –41°, just to tweak its position a bit. Turning on the Stroke Border checkbox (at the top of the Options panel) puts a color stroke around your image. In this built-in template (and a couple of the others), the stroke is already on, but it's white and only 1-pixel thick, so you can hardly see it. To change the color, click on the color swatch, then choose a new color from the color picker (I chose black here). To make the stroke thicker, drag the Width slider to the right (I dragged mine to 12 px).

Besides adding text using the Identity Plate, you can add other lines of text to your photo (either custom text that you type in, or info that Lightroom pulls from the photo's EXIF data, or any metadata you added when you imported the photos, like your copyright info). You can also add a watermark to your slide show images, in case you're sending this slide show to a client or posting it on the web.

Adding Additional Lines of Text and Watermarking

Step One:
To add text, click on the ABC button down in the toolbar (shown circled here in red), and a pop-up menu and text field will appear to the right of it. The default setting is Custom Text, and you can simply type the text you want in the text field, and then press the Return (PC: Enter) key. Your text appears on your slide with a resizing border around it. To resize your text, click-and-drag on any corner point. To move the text, just click right on it and drag it where you want it. If you click-and-hold on the words Custom Text in the toolbar, a pop-up menu appears that lets you choose text that may be embedded into your photo's metadata. For example, if you choose Date, it displays the date the photo was taken. If you choose any of the other options, it only displays that info if it's in the file (in other words, if you didn't add caption info in the Metadata panel, choosing Caption here won't get you anything).

Step Two:
If you set up a watermark (see Chapter 9 in the book), you can add that, as well (or instead of the additional text). Go to the Overlays panel and turn on the Watermarking checkbox, and then choose your watermark preset from the pop-up menu (you can see the watermark here at the top left). The advantage of using a watermark (rather than custom text) is that you can use pre-made templates, where you also can lower the opacity so it's see-through, and doesn't fully cover the image behind it.

Adding Opening and Closing Title Slides

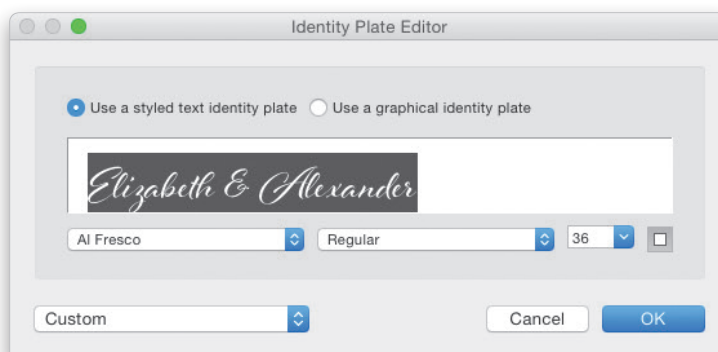One way to customize your slide show is to create your own custom opening and closing title slides (I usually only create an opening slide). Besides just looking nice, having an opening slide serves an important purpose—it conceals the first slide in your presentation, so your client doesn't see the first image until the show actually begins.

Step One:

You create opening/closing slides in the Titles panel (found in the right side Panels area). To turn this feature on, turn on the Intro Screen checkbox and your title screen appears for just a few seconds (as seen here), then the first photo appears again. (Arrrgh!!! It makes working with titles really frustrating, however, here's a cool trick I stumbled upon to make it stick around as long and whenever you want: just click-and-hold directly on the Scale slider [as shown here] and it assumes you're going to use it, so the title screen stays visible until you let go.) The little color swatch to the right lets you choose a background color (by default, the background color is black). To add text, you add your Identity Plate text (or graphic) by turning on the Add Identity Plate checkbox, and your current Identity Plate text appears (as seen here).

Step Two:

To customize your Identity Plate text, click on the little triangle in the bottom-right corner of the Identity Plate preview and choose **Edit** from the pop-up menu that appears to bring up the Identity Plate Editor, seen here. Now you can highlight the existing text, type in any text you'd like (in this case, I added the bride's and groom's names), and choose a different font from the Font pop-up menu (I used "Al Fresco" from MyFonts [www.myfonts .com]). Click OK to apply this text to your intro slide. *Note:* If you make your text white, it's impossible to see in this dialog, so I highlight it before I start typing and then again when I'm done, as seen here.

Continued

Step Three:
You can control the color of your Identity Plate text by turning on the Override Color checkbox (found under the Identity Plate preview). Once you turn that on, click once on the color swatch to its right and a color picker appears (shown here). At the top are some handy color swatches in white, black, and different shades of gray. You can choose one of those, or drag the bar up/down on the far right to choose a hue, and then you can choose your color's saturation from the large color picker gradient (here, I'm choosing a gray color, and you can see that color instantly reflected in the text). You can also control the size of your Identity Plate text by using the Scale slider at the bottom of the Intro Screen section.

Step Four:
To change the color of the intro screen's background, just click on the color swatch to the right of the Intro Screen checkbox. In this case, I changed the background to a maroon color just to show you what it looks like (I also changed the color of my Identity Plate to match the background). Once all your title text is formatted the way you want it (good luck on that, by the way, because editing text in the Identity Plate Editor is…well…it's clunky as heck, and I didn't want to say heck), you can preview the slide show in the Preview area. The ending screen works the same way: to turn it on, you turn on the Ending Screen checkbox in the Titles panel, and you can choose that screen's background color, Identity Plate size, etc., just like you did with the intro screen.

Adding Background Music

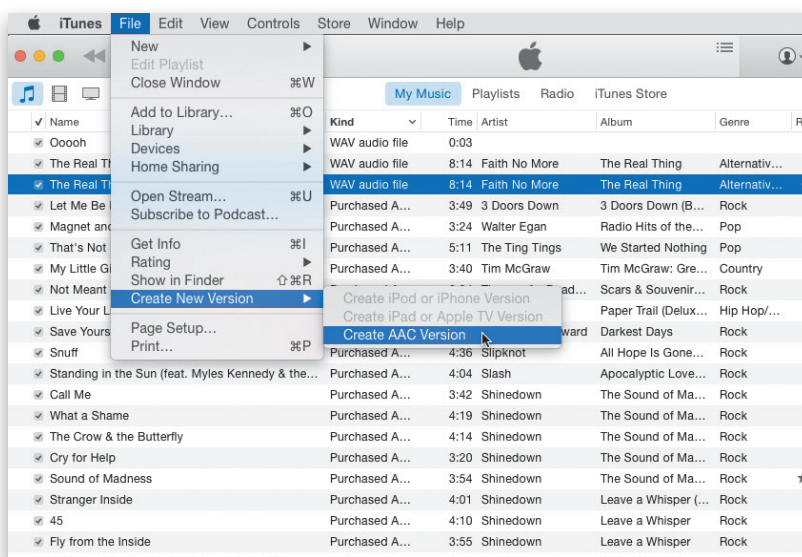The right background music can make all the difference in a slide show presentation, and if you get a chance to see the pros show their work, you'll find they choose music that creates emotion and supports the images beautifully. Lightroom lets you add background music to your slide shows, and you can even embed that music into your slide shows and save them outside of Lightroom in multiple formats. More on that later, but for now, here's how to add background music to your slide shows.

Step One:
Go to the Music panel, near the bottom of the right side Panels area, and start by clicking on the Turn on Audio switch on the left side of the panel header. Now, click the Add Music button (as shown here), and a standard Open dialog will appear, where you choose which music file you want to play behind your slide show. Find your song and click Choose.

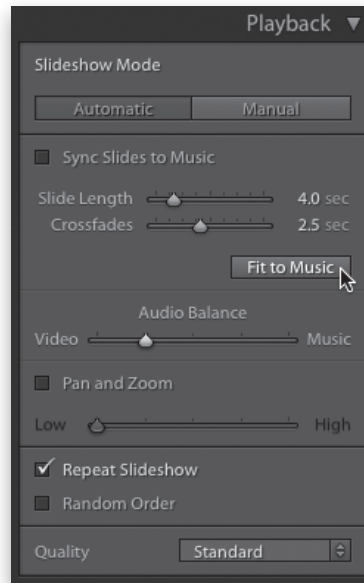### TIP: Add Multiple Music Tracks
In previous versions of Lightroom, you could only use one song, so if you had a long slide show, you had to choose a longer song. But, now, you can have multiple songs, playing back-to-back. After you've added your first song, just go to the Music panel and click the Add Music button again to add more tracks. Lightroom even calculates the total run time of all the songs—just look at the top of the Music panel and you'll see the Duration listed.

Note: Lightroom requires that your music file be in MP3 or AAC (M4A) format, so it won't recognize WAV files. If you have Apple's iTunes, it can convert a music file to AAC format for you. In your Music library, click on My Music at the top, then click on the song you want to convert. Next, go to iTunes' File menu, under Create New Version, and choose **Create AAC Version**, and you'll see the converted version of your song appear directly below the original (these files are located in your iTunes folder in your Music folder).
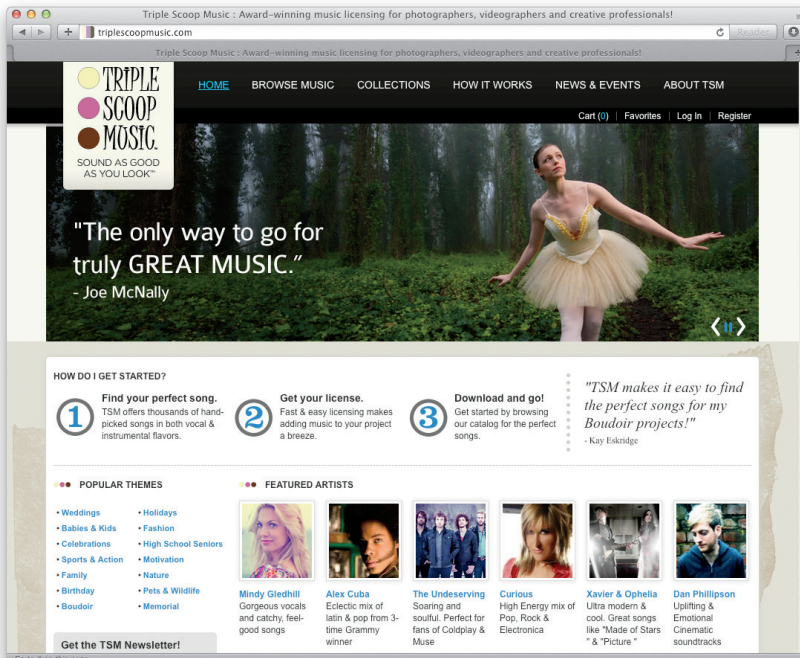
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Step Two:
Now when you start your slide show (or even just preview it in the Preview area), the background music will play behind it. If you want to automatically have Lightroom adjust the length of your slide show so it matches the length of the song you chose, just click the Fit to Music button in the Playback panel (as shown here). What this actually does is adjusts the duration and fade time of your slides, based on how long the song is (so basically, it does the math for you).

TIP: Auto Syncing Music
There's a feature in Lightroom that automatically syncs your slide show to the music. In the Playback panel, just turn on the Sync Slides to Music checkbox, and it analyzes the music track and chooses what it thinks is a suitable place to switch to the next slide based on the beat of the music, and son of a gun if every once in a while it actually works the way you want it to. Most of the time, I just sit there shaking my head wishing I could just choose where I want the slide to change by tapping a key or something, but hey, automatic syncing that works occasionally in a best-case scenario is better than none at all, right? Right? Hello? Is anybody there? ;-)

BONUS TIP: Background Music Ideas
I know how hard it is to find great background music. I've been a fan of Triple Scoop Music (www.triplescoopmusic.com) ever since I heard some of the instructors at Photoshop World Conference using Triple Scoop's royalty-free music tracks in their photo slide show presentations. As a musician myself, I am just so impressed with the quality of their tracks—their stuff is "the real deal." So, check out Triple Scoop Music for some ideas. They make it easy to find and license music for your slide show.

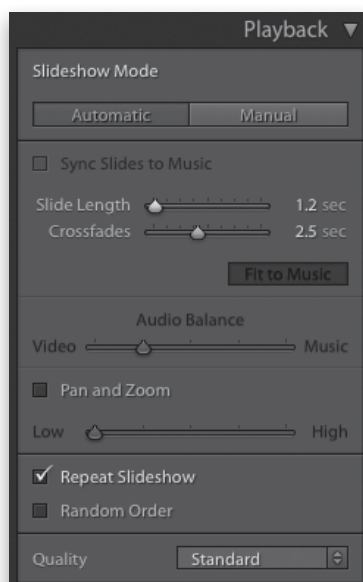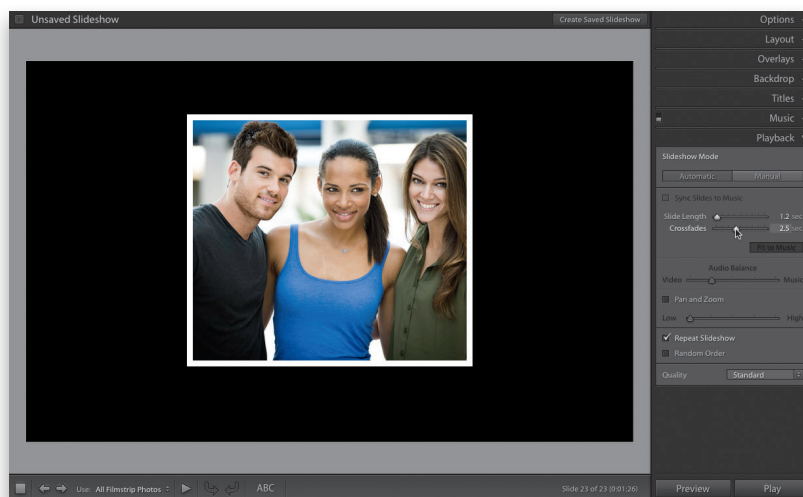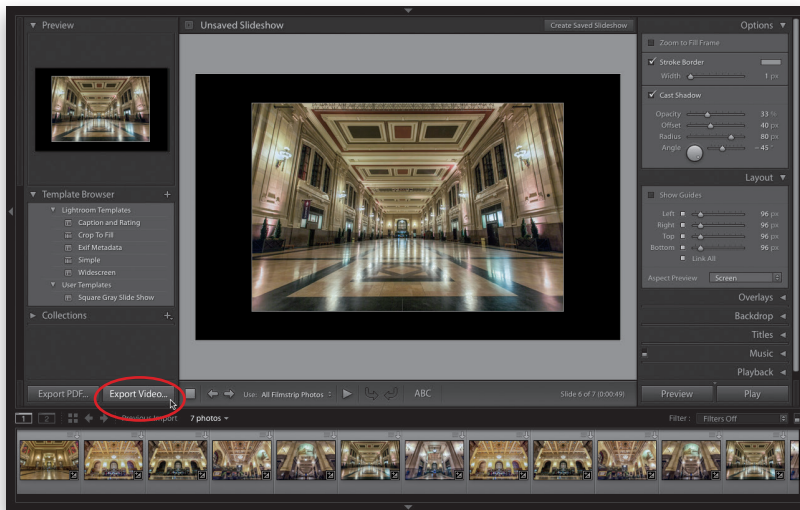## Choosing Your Slide Duration and Fade Length

Besides choosing your music, Lightroom's Playback panel in the Slideshow module is where you choose how long each slide stays onscreen and how long the transition (fade) between slides is. You can choose to play your slides in order or randomly, whether you want your slide show to repeat after your last slide or end at the last slide, and if you want your previews prepared in advance, so that your slide show doesn't get interrupted waiting for image data to render to the display.

Step One:

To choose how long your slides stay onscreen, go to the Playback panel and, in the Automatic settings, choose how many seconds each image should appear onscreen using the Slide Length slider. Then, choose how long the fade transition between images should last using the Crossfades slider. Lightroom uses a dissolve transition—each photo dissolves into the next—but if you want to advance the slides yourself (if you are using them to illustrate a talk or lecture), click on the Manual button at the top of the panel. Then, when you start your slide show, use the **Right Arrow key** to move to the next slide (this will be a hard transition, rather than a dissolve).

Step Two:

There are just a few other controls to mention: (1) By default, your slides play in the order they appear in the Filmstrip, unless you turn on the Random Order checkbox. (2) Also by default, when you reach the last slide in the Filmstrip, your slide show will loop around and play the whole thing again (and again, and again), unless you turn off the Repeat Slideshow checkbox. (3) In Lightroom, Adobe added their version of what's known as the "Ken Burns" Effect, where your images slowly zoom in and pan as they appear onscreen, adding a sense of motion to your slide show. Just use the Pan and Zoom checkbox to toggle the effect on/off, along with the slider below, which is kind of an intensity slider (with Low, the movement is very subtle; High gets things really moving).

If you want to show someone your slide show and they happen to be nearby, then no sweat—you can show it right within Lightroom. But if they're not standing nearby (perhaps it's a client across town or across the country), you can output your slide show in a number of different formats, like Windows Movie Format, QuickTime, Flash, and H.264, and these'll include your images, layout, background music, and transitions. Sweet! You can also save your slide show in PDF format, but if you do, sadly, it won't include your background music.
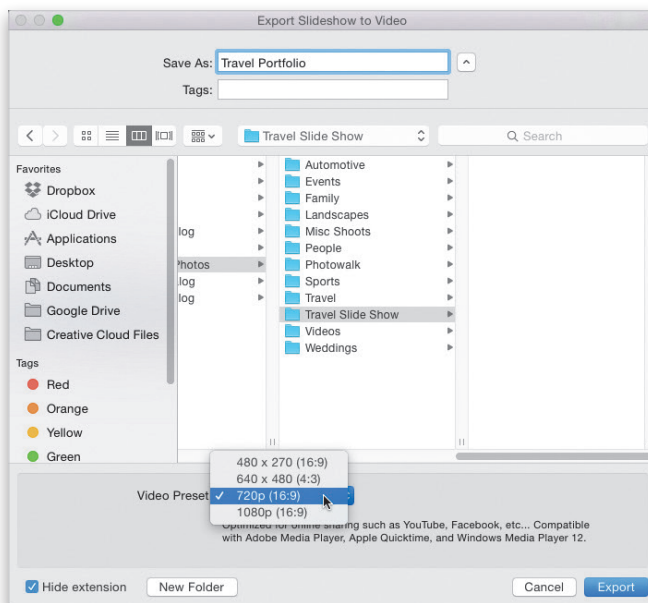
Sharing Your Slide Show

Step One:
To save your slide show in a video format (with background music), click on the Export Video button at the bottom of the left side Panels area (as shown here).

TIP: See a Preview in Different Screen Sizes
Want to see a preview of how your slide show would look in different output aspect ratios (like 16:9 for viewing on an HDTV, or the standard 4:3 ratio of regular NTSC and PAL monitors)? Just choose these from the Aspect Ratio pop-up menu at the bottom of the Layout panel. The default is Screen, which uses the aspect ratio of the monitor you're currently using for Lightroom.

Step Two:
This brings up the Export Slideshow to Video dialog (shown here), where there's a Video Preset pop-up menu listing different sizes for your video. When you choose a preset size, it tells you right below the menu what that size works best for, and what type of devices (or software) will read the file. So, name your slide show, and then just choose the size you want, then click the Export (PC: Save) button and it creates the file for you, in the size you choose, and in a compatible format for that type of video.
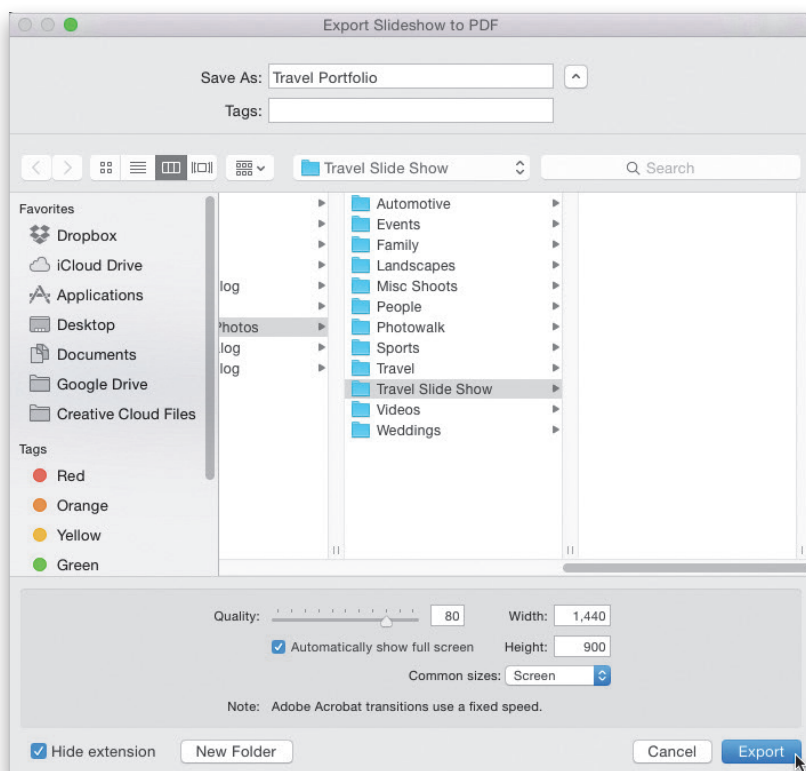
Continued

Step Three:

The other export option is to save your slide show in PDF format. PDF is ideal for emailing because it compresses the file size big time, but of course the downside is that it doesn't include any background music you've added, which is a deal breaker for a lot of users. If that's not an issue for you, then it's worth considering. Just click the Export PDF button at the bottom of the left side Panels area, to bring up the Export Slideshow to PDF dialog (shown here). Go ahead and name your slide show, then at the bottom of the dialog, you'll see the Quality slider—the higher the quality, the larger the file size (which is a consideration when emailing). I usually use a Quality setting of 80 and I also always turn on the Automatically Show Full Screen checkbox, so the recipient can see the slide show without any other onscreen distractions. The width and height dimensions are auto-matically inserted in the Width and Height fields, but if you need the images to be smaller for emailing, you can enter smaller settings and Lightroom will automatically scale the photos down proportionally. When you're done, click the Export (PC: Save) button (as shown here).

Step Four:

When your client (friend, relative, parole officer, etc.) double-clicks on your PDF, it will launch their Adobe Reader, and when it opens, it will go into full-screen mode and start your slide show, complete with smooth transitions between slides.

TIP: Adding Filenames to a PDF

If you're planning on sending this PDF slide show to a client for proofing pur-poses, be sure to make the filename text overlay visible before you make the PDF. That way, your client will be able to tell you the name of the photo(s) they've approved.