Chapter 1: Creating Elements Projects

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A dobe Photoshop Elements offers you a number of creations that can be shared onscreen or in print. From both the Create and Share panels in the Panel Bin in the Organizer and from within both editing modes, you have a number of menu choices for producing creations designed for sharing.

In Book IX, Chapter 3, we look at creating files for screen and Web viewing. In this chapter, we talk about creations designed for print and sharing.

Getting a Handle on Creations

In Book IX, Chapter 4, we talk about online albums, attaching files to e-mail, using photo mail, creating CDs and DVDs, and using online sharing services. All



these creations offer different output options, such as e-mailing, burning files to disc, and creating HTML documents — as well as printing and PDF creation — and you create all of them using the Share panel.

You work with the remaining creations — photo books, photo collages, photo calendars, greeting cards, print labels, and photo stamps — by choosing options from the Create panel shown in Figure 1-1. All these creations are designed for output to your printer or for sending files to an online printing service, or to friends and family.



When you make a creation that will ultimately be sent to an online service or shared with other users, keep in mind that you first must select the photos you want in your creation. For example, creating a photo book by clicking the Photo Book button in the Create panel first requires you to let Elements know what photos are to be used in your photo book. If you happen to click a button and nothing happens, more than likely, you haven't selected any photos.

Many creation options follow a similar set of steps to produce a file that will be shared with other users or sent to an online printing service. In the Panel Bin, you find all you need to make a new project. It gives you choices for layouts and producing a creation.





Some of the choices from both the Create and Share panels are

- Layout options: Select some photos in the Organizer and click an item, such as Photo Book, to make the Create panel change to the Project view. This view displays some information about making a new creation.
- Auto-Fill with Project Bin Photos: This check box is selected by default, and the files you see in the Project Bin are added to your project.

- Include Captions: Select this check box if you want the photo captions to appear on each page below their respective photos.
- Number of Pages: Elements automatically creates the number of pages to accommodate the number of photos you selected in the Organizer. Note that some creations require a minimum number of photos to produce a project. Photo Book, for example, requires a minimum of 18 pages.

After assembling your creation, click the Create button. Elements then incorporates the selected photos into the layout and theme you specified in the panel. Be patient and wait for Elements to complete the task.

After a creation has been made, the document appears like any other image you open in Elements. You can crop, modify, print, and more. Using an Elements file, you choose File Save to open the Save As dialog box. Type a name and click Save.

Creating a Photo Book

Elements provides some fancy ways to create pages for a photo album. The Photo Book Creation panel offers many different options for choosing page templates, adding artwork and type, printing your album pages, or sending the files to an online service for professional printing.

Follow these steps to create a photo book:

1. Select files in the Organizer and click the Create tab.

The procedure for all creations is the same. You first select files in the Organizer (or an editing mode) and then click the Create tab in the Panel Bin. Ideally, it's best to create an album, as we explain in Book II, Chapter 2, and click the album to display the album photos in the Organizer window. But remember, after you display an album in the Organizer, you still need to select all the photos.



To select all photos shown in an Organizer window, press Ctrl+A.

2. Click Photo Book in the Create panel.

The first pane in the Photo Book Projects panel opens with the first file you selected in the Organizer appearing as an image thumbnail, as shown in Figure 1-2. As you can see in Figure 1-2, you also find some help information to guide you through the process for creating a photo book.

Regardless of whether you're working in the Organizer or an editing mode, the Photo Book option is available in the same Create panel. The Create panel changes to the first of several panes that walk you through the steps to create a photo book. If you start in the Organizer, clicking Photo Book in the Create panel opens your selected photos in Full Edit mode.

3. Choose a photo for the title page.

By default, the first photo in the Project Bin in Full Edit mode is the photo that's used for the title page in your photo book. To change that photo to a different image, drag the thumbnail image in the Project Bin to the first position.

4. Click Next and choose a layout.

Choose either a random layout or a particular layout from an assort-

 EDIT
 CREATE
 SHARE

 Image: Projects
 Image: Artwork

 Photo Book
 Design, choose a Title Page Photo, Layout, and Theme for your Photo Book. Once you have dit the book then order it. A Photo Book. Once you have dit the book then order it. A Photo Book tequires a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 80 pages.

 Title Page Photo
 Image: Artwork

 Dettitle page may only have one photo. It will be centered in a die-cut window.
 Image: Artwork

 Image: Artwork and the page photo is the first photo in the Project Bin. To choose a different photo, rearrange the Project Bin photos or import a new photo later.
 Image: Artwork and Project Bin photos or import and photo later.

 Next
 Cancel

Figure 1-2: Click Photo Book in the Create panel, and the first pane in the Photo Book Projects panel opens.

ment of layout options. To choose a particular layout for the left and right pages, for example, click the Choose Photo Layout radio button and then click the layouts you want, as shown in Figure 1-3.



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Figure 1-3: Select a layout.

5. Click Next in the Create panel to select a theme for your photo book.

The third pane in the Create panel provides options for choosing a theme for your book pages. Select a theme from the scrollable list in the panel, as shown in Figure 1-4.

6. (Optional) Click the Include Captions check box.

Follow this step only if you want photo captions to appear below your images.

7. Click Create.

Wait a few minutes while Elements lays out the page or pages and shows a preview in the Image window, as shown in Figure 1-5.

After the pages are created and the photos are added to your layout, you can use the various options in the Projects panel to tweak your pages with the help of frames and drop shadows, by adding text, adding clip art, or by masking images with various stencils. With each selection you make from the Project panel's various drop-down menus, the panel changes to display choices for the menu item selected.

8. (Optional) Add text to a page.

Use the Text tool in the special Tools panel shown on the left side of the photo book preview (refer to Figure 1-5) to add text to the book pages.

9. As with any other Elements file, choose File⇒Save to save the project.

When you choose File Save or Save As, you have an option to save your photo book as a project or a PDF file. The default file type is Photo Project Format (*.PSE). Open the Format drop-down list and you can choose Acrobat PDF (*.PDF, *.PDP). If you choose PDF for the file format, you can easily e-mail and share your photo book with others. Recipients of your photo book only need the free Adobe Reader software to view and print from it.







Figure 1-5: The preview of the photo book.

10. Choose an output option.

At the bottom right in Figure 1-5 you have buttons for printing the photo book or ordering it. Click Print to open the Print dialog box where you can print to your desktop printer. Click Order and you can place an order using the Kodak EasyShare service. (For more on Kodak EasyShare, see "Making a Photo Calendar" later in this chapter.)

All the options in the Artwork panel are used in the same manner. For example, if you want to change the background artwork, choose Backgrounds from the menu shown in Figure 1-6 — where you see the By Seasons dropdown list. Click a background from the panel and drag the background to the page you want to edit. (Note you can also select a background and click the Apply button.) When adding frames and shadows to your pictures, choose Frames from the menu and drag a frame to a picture on a page, or select a frame and click Apply.

Elements provides you with many different editing options for creating the design for your photo pages. Try to spend some time choosing different options in the Artwork panel and drag items (or select them and click Apply) to the pages to see how easy it is to change the appearance of your photo book.

After you create a photo book, you can print the album pages to your desktop printer or click the Order button in the Image window. When you click Order, you can place an online order for a professionally printed book that will be mailed to you.



When you edit an image on a photo page, a bar with two icons appears above the image. The Check Mark icon is used to accept the edit you make. The circle with a diagonal line represents a Cancel button. Click the button to cancel your edits.

Making a Photo Calendar

Photo calendars are created using the Kodak EasyShare service. You select photos in the Organizer (13 photos total if you want a cover photo and a separate photo for each month). After selecting photos, click Photo Calendar in the Create panel and the Kodak EasyShare logon page opens, as shown in Figure 1-6.



Figure 1-6: Kodak EasyShare logon page.

If you have a Kodak EasyShare account, click the Sign-in button and log on to your account. If you don't have an account, fill in the information on the Sign-In pane and click Next to proceed. Your log-in and account information will be e-mailed to you, and you can then log in to the service.

To create a calendar once you have a Kodak EasyShare account, do the following:

1. Select Photos in the Organizer.

If you want a cover and a photo for each month, select 13 photos.

- 2. Click Create and choose Photo Calendar.
- 3. In the new window that appears, log on to the Kodak EasyShare service and click Next.

Your selected photos are uploaded to Kodak EasyShare. Wait until the progress bar shown in Figure 1-7 completes the upload. When the upload is completed the pane changes and informs you that your upload was successful.

4. Click Next when you see your upload successfully completed.

Your default Web browser opens the adobe.kodakgallery Web page, as shown in Figure 1-8.

5. Click Next and choose the fill method.

A pop-up window opens as shown in Figure 1-9 providing you some information related to adding photos to your calendar. You can choose to use the Autofill or Page by Page method. Autofill automatically adds photos to the title and months pages in the order the files were uploaded. The Page by Page method permits you to select the photos individually for the title and months photos. Make a choice and click the respective button.

Photo Calendar			
Order Calendar		Adobe P	hotoshop Services Provided by
Step: ①Select Photos ②Sign In	(3) Upload (4) Create		Kodak EasyShare Gallery
Step: ①Select Photos ②Sign in Your photos are being uploaded t you vill get a confirmation screen	Create C	Once the upload is complete ady to create your Calendar	Kodak EasyShare Gallery

Figure 1-7: Wait for the upload to complete.



Figure 1-8: The Kodak Gallery Web page opens.



Figure 1-9: Click Autofill or Page by Page.

6. Choose a layout.

The next Web page provides options for the layout. Choose an option shown in Figure 1-10 and click Next.

7. Add a title and identify.

The next page offers options for adding a title for your calendar and some identifying information, as shown in Figure 1-11. Type in the text you want and either place your order or click Preview to preview the calendar.

8. Preview the calendar.

To preview the calendar click the Preview text shown in Figure 1-11 and the preview appears, as shown in Figure 1-12. Click the Previous and Next buttons to preview the pages on the calendar.

9. Place the order.

Click Edit in Preview and click Order when you return to the screen shown in Figure 1-11 to place your order.



Figure 1-10: Choose a layout and click Next.



Figure 1-11: Type text in the text boxes for title and identity information.



Figure 1-12: Click the Previous and Next buttons to preview the pages.

Assembling a Photo Collage

To put together a photo collage, you first need to select a few photos in the Organizer and then click Photo Collage in the Create panel. The panel changes as shown in Figure 1-13.

The rest of the photo collage process is pretty straightforward. Just choose a layout from options displayed, pick a theme (if you like), and then click Done. A pop-up window opens prompting you to log on to Photoshop.com. The remaining work you perform to create a photo collage happens after logging on to Photoshop.com.

For more information on creating a Photoshop.com account, see Book I, Chapter 1 and Book IX, Chapter 3.

Creating a Slideshow

In Book IX, Chapter 4, we talk about sharing slideshows online and in Book II, Chapter 2 we cover all the options you have for creating slideshows from within the Organizer.

To create a slideshow using the Create panel, first select the images you want in the Organizer, click the Create tab in the Panel Bin, and then click Slide Show. The first thing you see is the Slide Show Preferences dialog box shown in Figure 1-14. You make choices in this dialog box for setting up your slideshow —



Figure 1-13: Select photos in the Organizer and click Photo Collage in the Create panel to open the Photo Collage panel.

stuff like setting transition type, transition duration, and background color.

When you click OK in the Slide Show Preferences dialog box, the Slide Show Editor opens as shown in Figure 1-15, where you define the attributes such as editing transitions, artwork from the Extras panel, and specifying zooms and time codes, as we explain in Book IX, Chapter 4.

Rather than submit the slideshow for online viewing as we describe in Book IX, Chapter 4, you can choose other output options. Click the Output button shown in Figure 1-15 and the Slide Show Output dialog box opens as shown in Figure 1-16. In the dialog box, you have several options from which to choose. These include



Figure 1-14: The Slide Show Preferences dialog box.

Save As a File. Click Save As a

File, and in the right pane you can choose from

- *Movie File*. Choose Movie File to export the file as a video in WMV format.
- *PDF File*. Choose PDF File to export the file as an Adobe PDF document.
- Burn to Disc. Choose Burn to Disc to write a self-running VCD (Video CD).
- Send to TV. Choose Send to TV to burn a DVD using one of the following formats:
 - *Standard Definition (NTSC)*. Standard TV format using NTSC that is supported by USA and Japanese video players
 - *Standard Definition (PAL)*. Standard TV format using PAL that is supported by video players outside the USA and Japan
 - *Widescreen Definition (NTSC)*. Widescreen TV format using NTSC that is supported by USA and Japanese video players
 - *Widescreen Definition (PAL).* Wide Screen TV format using PAL that is supported by video players outside the USA and Japan
 - *Enhanced Definition*. For use with TV sets supporting enhanced definition

- *Widescreen Enhanced Definition.* For use with TV sets supporting widescreen enhanced definition
- *Widescreen High Definition*. For use with TV sets supporting widescreen high definition



Figure 1-15: The Slide Show Editor.





Click OK in the dialog box after making the output choice, and your slideshow is output using the settings you applied in the Slide Show Output dialog box.

Ordering Prints Online

To order prints online using the Create panel, you must have a Kodak EasyShare account. When you select photos in the Organizer and click Order Prints in the Create panel, the Kodak Order Prints logon window opens, similar to the screen shown earlier in Figure 1-6.

After you log on to Kodak Order Prints, the files you selected earlier are uploaded and you are presented with an order page similar to the one you see in Figure 1-17. Choose from the different print-size options and specify the quantity for each print. As you navigate through the order process, you can identify other recipients for your order and have copies of the prints mailed back to you and sent to others.

Corder Prints *									
Order Prints Active Account: Ted Change >> Adobe Photoshop Services Provided by									
Step: O Customize 2 Recipients 3 Summary 3 Billing 3 Upload 6 Confirmation Kodak EasyShare Gallery									
Select Prints Add Photos >> Order single o double prints all the photos. Remove >>	to 0	4 x 6" 5 x 7" 4 x 6" 5 x 7" Wallets 8 x 10"	Single Stingle	es 1	Doubles Doubles \$0.15 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00		Order Options Matte paper finish (apply to all prints) Zoon and Trim (apply to all prints) Nodak Perfect Touch processing (apply to all prints) Indicates sufficient image resolution for high qualityprints.Learn more Indicates insufficient image		
	0	16 × 20" 20 × 30"	\$14.99 \$18.99	0	\$0.00 \$0.00		resolution for high-qualityprints at the selected size.		
Remove >>		4 × 6" 5 × 7" Wallets 8 × 10" 16 × 20" 20 × 30"	\$0.15 \$0.84 \$1.59 \$2.99 \$14.99 \$18.99	1 0 0 0 0	\$0.15 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00		Privacy policy >> Terms of use >> Show Current Promotion >>		
	0	4 x 6* 5 x 7*	\$0.15 \$0.84	0	\$0.15	•			
0			_				🔀 Cancel 🛛 🚺 Next 🔸		



Getting in Touch with Greeting Cards

You can create greeting cards in a snap in Photoshop Elements by using the Greeting Card panel. Here's how to do it:

1. Open the Organizer and select a photo.

- 2. Click Create in the Panel Bin.
- 3. Click Greeting Card to open the Greeting Card panel.
- 4. Choose a page size, theme, and layout.

In the Greeting Card panel, choose a page size from the Page Size dropdown menu. Scroll the Choose a Theme window and click a theme you want to use. Scroll the Choose a Layout window and click a layout for your greeting card, as shown in Figure 1-18.

5. Size, position, and accept the edits.

Click the Check Mark icon to accept the edits.

You can size an image by dragging the corner handles on the rectangle around the image. Click inside the rectangle to move it around the page. When you have the size and position you want, click the Check Mark icon to stamp down the image.

6. Click the Text tool on the Tools panel and add some text, as shown in Figure 1-19.

For more on adding text to photos in Elements, see Book V, Chapter 3.

7. Click Done and choose File Save to save the file.



Figure 1-18: Choose a page size, theme, and layout for your greeting card.



Figure 1-19: Add some text to your greeting card by clicking the Type tool and then clicking the photo.

Making Photo Stamps

Another online creation feature in Elements is the option to create your own personal postage stamps. Yes, they're real stamps that you can use for mailing though the post office.

Here's the simple, easy way to use Elements to place an order for your very own personal postage stamps:

1. Select an image in the Organizer.

Your file needs to be less than 5MB. (See Book III, Chapter 1 for more on resizing images.)

2. Click Create in the Panel Bin, and then choose PhotoStamps from the More Options drop-down menu.

The PhotoStamps dialog box opens.

3. Click the Upload My Photos button in the dialog box (see Figure 1-20).

Your photo is uploaded to the PhotoStamps.com Web site.



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Figure 1-20: Choose Postage Stamps from the Create panel's More Options drop-down menu to open this dialog box.

4. Place your order.

The PhotoStamps.com Web site provides an easy-to-use interface for ordering stamps. After you fill out the order and provide billing information, your stamps are mailed to you.

Getting Organized with CD/DVD Labels

Another creation option in Elements is a simple, easy way to create CD and DVD labels. From the Create panel, choose a menu item for CD Jacket, DVD Jacket, or CD/DVD Label from the More Options drop-down menu. From templates provided in the panel, Elements offers you an easy method for printing your own, personalized labels and jackets for CDs and DVDs.



This feature for printing CD/DVD labels is a bit weak in Elements. You may need to fiddle around quite a bit to get the images to fit a label. Using some templates provided by the label developers is often a much better method for printing labels.

Creating a VCD with Menu

Select a slideshow project and open the Create panel. From the More Options drop-down list, choose VCD with Menu. The Create a VCD with Menu dialog box opens as shown in Figure 1-21. Select a project, make a choice for NTSC or PAL format, and click Burn. The file created is a Video CD with a menu you can control with your DVD player's remote control device.



Figure 1-21: The Create a VCD with Menu dialog box.

Making a Flipbook

At the bottom of the More Options drop-down menu in the Create panel, you can find a command for Flipbook. If you want to create a quick little video that shows off your photos by flashing stills on your screen or your TV set, you can quickly create a flipbook. Here's how you do it:

1. Open the Organizer and select the files you want to use.

Note that you must select at least two files in order to create the flipbook.

2. Click the Create tab in the Panel Bin and choose Flipbook from the More Options drop-down menu.

The Photoshop Elements Video Flipbook dialog box opens, as shown in Figure 1-22.

3. Set the playback speed by typing a value in the Speed text box or moving the slider to the desired speed.

Note that flipping through photos looks best at low speeds, such as one or two frames per second (fps). Also, you can select the size for your video file from options on the Movie File Size drop-down menu. As file sizes are reduced, the download speeds when sharing files on the Internet increase. To get familiar with the file size that works best for you, experiment a little by saving files at different sizes.

4. Click Output.

The Save Video Flipbook dialog box opens.

5. Type a filename and click Save.

Your file is written as a .wmv file. You can use Microsoft Movie Maker to write the file to a CD or DVD.



Figure 1-22: The Photoshop Elements Video Flipbook dialog box permits you to select a speed and movie file size.



The WMV format is not recognized by many DVD players. You may need to convert the file format to a format recognized by your DVD player. Do an Internet search and explore some Web sites that offer freeware or shareware conversion utilities to learn more about video file formats acceptable to DVD players.