

# Make Your Own Photo Book

## You Can Do It!

This book was made from family photos taken during our summer vacation in Utah. Some of the photos were taken by me, some by my wife and some by our 5 year-old daughter. We do one of these for all our family vacations. It's easy and fun.

First, some details on the equipment brought on the trip. Most of the photos were taken with a Nikon D-70 and 18-70mm lens. A number of the photos were shot with the 28-200mm lens, some with the 17-55mm and some with the 70-200mm VR. I also shot a bit with the CoolPix 8700. My wife shot with the CoolPix 4200 and our daughter shot with the CoolPix 3700. Look for the small type in the black border at the bottom of each photo to see what camera was used. I also took a tripod and used it often. The gear was carried in a LowePro Rover AWII backpack.

During the one week trip we shot about 2800 photographs (8.4 gigabytes). About 70% were JPGs and the rest were NEFs. We took 5 gigs of Lexar cards, three 1-gig cards and four 512mb cards. I brought along a laptop and stopped to download images 3 times during the trip. A FlashTrax device was brought along for backing up the files.

Every print in the book is the first and only print made from the digital file. My goal was not to create a book where every photo was a great image perfectly reproduced, but rather to show how simple it can be to quickly and easily create something special from an ordinary family trip using some of the basic techniques you'll learn during our class. So I purposely tried not to spend a great deal of time on any single image or to edit out images that had sentimental value but perhaps were not great photographs.

Utilizing the first print only, also points out the importance of working with a calibrated monitor and practicing good color management techniques.

Some images are straight prints with a bit of sharpening. Most required minor corrections to tone, color or cropping. A few images required major color alterations to compensate for flat, cloudy lighting and washed-out skies which persisted for most of the week of our trip.

Some of the prints are Panorama images, where as many as 10 or as few as 2 images are combined to form one image.

The prints were made with an Epson 2200 on Epson Enhanced Matte Paper. The cover of the book is Epson Velvet Fine Art Paper. File resolution when

printing was between 200-300 ppi depending on the amount of cropping needed. Printing was done at 1440 dpi using the Epson canned profile for Enhanced Matte paper and matte black inkset. Vertical images were printed 7 inches high, horizontal images printed 9 inches wide. Horizontal panoramas were printed 17 inches wide, the vertical panorama was printed 15 inches high. The black borders were applied in Photoshop by expanding the canvas size.

The book was bound at a Kinko's with a black plastic coil, clear plastic front cover and black plastic back cover. The total cost of the book including ink, paper and binding was approximately \$75. Total time to produce the book, about 6 hours.

The primary software used in the process was Photoshop, Nikon View, Nikon Capture and ArcSoft's PanoramaMaker. Secondary software included Photo Mechanic, Nik Sharpener Pro, and Nik Color Efex.

-Michael A. Schwarz, Nikon Digital School Instructor

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