

# Photo Editing Basics - Make A Panorama

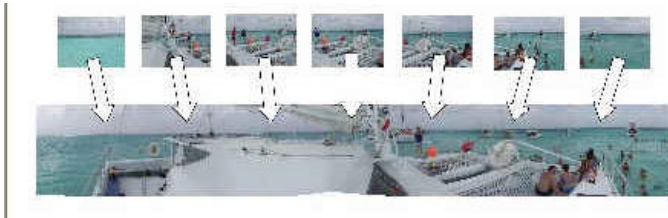
You can make a panorama by combining a series of pictures to create a large scene. Panoramas are particularly appropriate for very wide vistas, such as landscapes and city skylines, in which it is impossible to capture the entire scene in the camera's viewfinder in a single picture. Several smaller pictures can be combined to show the scene instead. To create a panorama, take a series of pictures covering the entire scope of a large scene. Each picture needs to include enough overlap with its neighboring pictures for the Panoramic **Stitch** tool to combine them successfully.

Panoramas can be horizontal, vertical, or both. You can take a series of pictures to capture a very tall building, for instance, and turn them into a panorama that's tall rather than wide. You can also take an overlapping series of pictures that, when combined like squares in a chess board, form a large picture that is both higher and wider than the original pictures. You can use this feature to capture a large version of a picture by combining a series of smaller pictures.

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To make a panorama:

1. Open all pictures that you want to use in the panorama.
2. Close any pictures that you do not want to use in the panorama.

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3. On the **Tools** menu, click **Panoramic Stitching**.
4. Click **Next** on the task pane. After a few moments, a preview of the panorama appears. The larger your pictures, the more time it will take to process your panorama.
5. Choose an output size for the panorama by dragging the slider in the task pane. Actual size can be quite large, since the final panorama's size is based on the size of each component picture. The indicated file size assumes that you will save the picture in the JPEG format.
6. Click **Next**. If you are satisfied with the panorama and do not want to crop it, click **Done**.
7. If you want to crop the panorama, drag a rectangle around the part of the picture you want to keep. Use the rotate handles on the rectangle to straighten the image.
8. When you are satisfied with the cropped panorama, click **Done**.

## Tips

- If Panoramic **Stitch** cannot make a panorama from your pictures or if the panorama does not look the way you expect, make sure that there's enough overlap from one picture to the next for **stitching** to occur. You might try to make the panorama using fewer pictures to determine which ones lack enough overlap for a successful **stitch**.
- You will get the best panoramas when each picture in a panorama overlaps by one third to one half. When you take pictures for a panorama, it's a good idea to look for a landmark in the viewfinder when you take a picture and then put that landmark about midway in the picture when you frame the next photo.
- While a panorama of a distant scene usually benefits from more pictures featuring lots of overlap, a close scene, such as a panorama shot indoors, might look sharper when made from fewer pictures with less total overlap.
- If you want to reposition the pictures in the panorama by hand before you finalize the panorama, click the stack to see where the picture appears in the panorama and then drag it using the mouse.
- The Panoramic **Stitch** tool automatically arranges the order of the pictures. Neither the order in which the pictures are opened nor the file names make any difference in the final panorama.
- Since the panoramic **stitch** tool combines pictures which might have different exposure levels, you might see differences in color, contrast, and brightness in different parts of the panorama. You can minimize such variations by using your digital camera's exposure lock feature, if it has one, to get more consistent color, contrast, and brightness throughout the panorama.
- After the panorama is complete, you might want to use the auto-fix tools in Digital Image to improve the overall color and tone of your panorama.