Casablanca Photo Studio 2 Tutorial

Casablanca Photo Studio 2 Tutorial & Tips Contents:
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This software for Casablanca II Editors (Claro/Avio/Kron/Prestige/Solitaire) enables you to produce creative photo montages and work with JPEG images incorporated with your video menus in Smart Edit 4. It requires SmartEdit 4.1D and 256 Meg RAM.

Launching Photo Studio 2
Once you have installed the software, you will find Photo Studio 2 in the Edit Screen – click on the Special button and scroll down to Photo Studio 2. Click on 'Start Photo-Studio' and it will open the Photo Studio 2 menu.

A. Importing Photos/Images
You can import JPEG photos into Photo Studio 2 either by Smart Media Card (on the internal Smart Media reader), CD (via the internal DVD drive) or by other digital card if you connect a contemporary digital card drive via USB port in your Casablanca (to do this last choice you will need to have the free Casablanca Card Drive software activated on your Casablanca.

1) Click on 'Import Photos'. This brings you to the Import menu – click on 'choose input' and select how you are importing your images. If your choice is recognized after a few moments you will see the images from that card/CD in the window on-screen.

2) With a photo selected (you will see a white border around the photo indicating it is selected), you can see a larger preview by clicking on the 'Preview' button. Once in the Preview window, you can click on 'Select' button to bring a new photo into this window or click on 'Get Photos' to import a selected imaged into Photo Studio 2. The < and > keys on the bottom left allow you to scroll through the images on your source in the preview window.

3) If you wish to import a single image, simply click on that image and click on 'Get photos'. It will then import that photo into Photo Studio 2. If you wish to bring in the entire collection of images from that source – go to the Date filter button and select 'Off'. This will show all the photos in one folder. Select that folder and click 'Get photos'. All the images in that folder will then be imported into Photo Studio 2

4) Play with the Date filter to see how your collection of images is arranged with the different choices.

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A. Importing Photos/Images (continued)

5) You can create new folders to drop photos into. This allows you to select some of the photos on a source disk and selectively import those images. See item B x below for this procedure.

6) Once you are done importing images, you can either left click on your trackball or click the 'home' icon in the bottom right corner of the menu.

B. Sort Menu: Managing your Images/Using Folders
Once in your sort window you will see all the images imported into Photo Studio 2.

FOLDERS
These are arranged in a series of folders. The folders appear as beige images with numbers (and text in larger sizes). When a folder is selected you can choose to either open or close that folder (opening a folder will show the images contained in that folder). You Open and Close the folder from the button in the top left corner of this screen. Renaming of folders is done in the Edit screen of Photo Studio 2 (see below).

IMAGE SIZE
You can change the size of the images you are viewing with the pull down menu in the top right corner 'Size'. The larger the size, the fewer images you see onscreen at one time. Click and slide the 'elevator' on the right side of the Sort window to see other images in the system.

MOVING IMAGES
Clicking on an image (or a folder) selects that item. Once selected you can drag that image anywhere in your sort bin. Right click again to reposition that image where you move it. You can use this method to drop images into a specific folder.

Sort / File Management Tips
You can use the Folders in Photo Studio 2 to help you maximize your efficiency in a couple of different ways:

If you have a number of images imported into Photo Studio 2 you need/wish to rotate:
  1 In the Sort window, make a New Folder (click on 'Special' at top of menu and select 'Make New Folder'. The option following this one 'Place Photos in new folder' should not be checked for this procedure).
  2. Click and drag those images you wish to rotate and drop them into this new folder.
  3. Go to the Edit window – with the Folder noted above selected, click on 'rotate' and select the appropriate choice (90, 180, or 270).
  4. Click 'Ok' – Photo Studio 2 will now automatically rotate all the images in that folder to the new orientation… yep, its that fast!

  5. If you have no further need for this grouping of photos, you can click on the folder and under 'Special' click on 'Delete Folder – but keep photos'. This will remove the folder but keep the pictures.
  NOTE: all images in this instance would need to be the same orientation for this process to work.

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A. Sort Menu: Managing your Images/Using Folders - continued

This same process can be used also to export images to the Scene bin in Smart Edit that you do not wish to animate. For example if you have a number of photos you want to bring to Smart Edit and wish to add transitions, add titles to, etc. You can bring a 'batch' of photos by using the folder method above:

1 In the Sort window, make a New Folder (click on 'Special' at top of menu and select 'Make New Folder'. The option following this one 'Place Photos in new folder' should not be checked for this procedure).

2. Click and drag those images you wish to bring over to Smart Edit and drop them into this new folder.

3. Go to the Edit window – with the Folder noted above selected, click on 'Make Scene'.

4. Select the length you wish each photo to show up in your Scene Bin (you can always trim down the length in Smart Edit more easily than making it longer later).

5. Click 'Ok' – Photo Studio 2 will now automatically render into NTSC video all the images in that folder. When you close Photo Studio 2 you will see these images in your Scene Bin ready for your project!

NOTE: Before exporting photos into Smart Edit, check the selection in 'Presentation – Options'

B. Show Detail Menu

This menu simply allows you to view your images close-up. Click on 'Select' and click on the photo you wish to view, then click 'ok'. If you want the image set aside for deletion (out of focus, etc) click on 'Sort out'. This moves the image to a Sort Out folder that you can delete later. If there is a particular area of the image you wish to viewer even closer, click on the small square to the right of Sort Out. Then use trackball to move the cross hair to the area to zoom in. Left click and you will see a more detailed view of that portion of the image. Left click again on that square to return to regular view. You can click select again to bring another image into the close-up viewer or you can click the < and > buttons to scroll through the folders.

C. Compare Menu

This menu is great for comparing 2, 3 or 4 images against each other… to determine which would be the best for a particular place in your photo montage. It is great for previewing several group shots to ensure all subjects had their eyes open, etc. Click on one of the 4 viewing ports and click on 'Select' and click on the photo you wish to view (from the PS2 Library), then click 'ok'. Bring in other pictures into the other viewers in the same manner. You can use the Sort out function and the < and > keys in this menu as well.

D. Edit Menu: Cropping, rotating Images, naming images/folders, making scenes

In this menu, you have a similar view that exists in Sort. You can select an image and here you will see its name in the field 'Description'. This is commonly a number but you can click here and enter a name for the scene. This is also where you can name your folders!

With an image selected (white border) you can Copy it – which is recommended if you wish to crop or perform other image processing on the image.

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Edit Menu: Cropping, rotating Images, naming images/folders, making scenes (continued)

CROP

To crop an image, first select the image and click on 'Crop'. Select the proper format for your finished video in the menu at bottom left (if you are producing a standard video, select Video 4:3). You will now see a lighter color rectangle on your image – this indicates the area of your image that will be seen full-screen (without borders). You can click and move that rectangle to your preference. You can also click on any of the edges of the crop area and resize the shape to delete or crop out any unwanted part of the image.

NOTE: Once you click Ok it will modify your picture using the crop points you select – you cannot un-do this step. That is why it is highly recommended you create a copy of an image to be cropped.

ROTATE

To rotate an image that has the incorrect orientation – select the image and click on 'Rotate'. Up pops a menu showing you your 3 choices and the result. Clicking on the image preview or the degree of rotation completes the process.

CREATE SCENE

Before this next step – go back to the Photo Studio 2 menu and under Presentation, click on 'Options'. To ensure you get undistorted photos for use in Smart Edit, select either Black or White border. This will be added to your vertical pictures – selecting either crop or squeeze will result in images with interesting qualities.

If you are ready to export an image or images to your Smart Edit Scene Bin for incorporation in a video project, select the image and click on 'Create Scene'. Then adjust the slider for your preferred length – from 1 to 60 seconds (remember it is easy to trim down an image in Smart Edit so go a little longer if you are uncertain). Click OK and you will see your video scene being created. It will then deposit that new scene in your Scene Bin. You may continue working in Photo Studio 2 or close PS2 and work in Smart Edit.

DELETE

This removes or deletes a selected image from Photo Studio 2.

E.   **Filter Menu:**

CONTROL PHOTO (Filters)

First select an image and click on 'Control Photo'.

You can now adjust the photos brightness, contrast or saturation; its Gamma or RGB values. Note the handy 'reset' button to bring your sliding controls back to 0.

Here you also see the Archive button – you can save specific filter settings to speed up your filtering process. And… the developers provided you with 11 pre-set Filter effects you can preview on your photo/s. It displays the original image on the Left and the affected image on the right.

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E. Filter Menu (continued):

RETOUCH
This has some powerful capabilities for re-touching a photograph! Once you have clicked on 'retouch' move the rectangle to the area you wish to modify.
First select the size and whether you want a softer (higher %) blurred edges.
To copy a color or pattern onto different areas of the photo – click on 'non-aligned'. Then left click on the area you wish to copy/clone – the area turns from green to red. Now move the cursor to the area you wish to copy onto and hold down the left trackball button to 'paint' onto the photo. Right click when done and then you can either save your changes or exit without changing.

The other choice – Aligned Clone allows you to more realistically color out something in a scene. Follow the steps above but the difference is that your first click and your 2nd click defines the distance your cloned part of the photo is apart from the part to be changed.

F. Animation Menu

Once you launch the Animation menu in Photo Studio 2 you see you have a separate bin or folder to hold your Animated photos. To start, click on 'new' and select an image from your images previously loaded (ideally you have already rotated/cropped and/or retouched them prior to Animation). Clicking 'OK' brings that image into the Animation menu choices. You will see a default animation already set-up; the green circle is your first or starting Keyframe and the 2nd circle (now yellow) is your ending keyframe. Click on the Playback button (to the right of the Length and it will preview your animation.

To customize this animation – click on your 1st keyframe and it turns from Green to blue. Now you can rotate this around the photo to select where you wish to start this animation. If you wanted to start wide and zoom into a subject (say the face of a child) Here is how you would do that: Click on the 'Edit' button and you may then click on 'Center' and 'Minimal' this will zoom the shot out to its widest possible shot (still retaining your 4x3 Aspect Ratio). Click 'Ok' to go back to the Animation menu. If that selection box is not properly centered on your subject you can move it by again clicking on the green circle and moving it with your trackball. Now click on the 2nd keyframe (yellow circle) and move it to reflect a closer view of a key subject in the photo. Moving your cursor to the corner edges of the selection box reveals a double sized arrow cursor – which when clicked – allows you to change the size of that selection box. You could instead choose to modify the size and position of that selection box by clicking on 'Edit' and then click on Position 'Change' and/or Zoom 'Change' to change the placement and size of the selection. Again – click 'OK" and click on the Playback triangle to see preview of the animation. You can adjust the length of the animation movement, the duration of pauses before and after movement (Pause In/ Pause Out) in the Settings menu. Many editors find it useful to leave a 1-second pause in and out that allows you to smoothly transition between this animated shot in your video storyboard.

G. Animation Menu (continued)

You can shape the path of the animation by clicking directly on the line between your 1sn and last keyframe. This you can click and move about and you will see how it shapes the path your virtual camera will follow on this animated photo (to remove on any of these 'waypoints' you simply position your cursor over the waypoint (smaller circle on the animation path line) and right click. It should delete that waypoint.

If you have a group shot, you can have the animated camera pause over key subjects by adding additional Key frames. Clicking the 'New' button under Camera Move does this. This circle (larger than a Waypoint) also corresponds to the Settings under Camera Move allowing you to pause for a specified length on this new Keyframe!

When you are happy with your animated photo, click 'create'. This will render the animation, leaving a created version in your Animation bin and also sending out a rendered video scene to your Smart Edit Scene bin. NOTE: You can also choose to name these Animated scenes in the text field of the Animation bin.

H. Collage Menu

Similar to the Animation Menu, the new Collage menu in Photo Studio 2 has a bin to store your previously created Collages. Collages make great title scenes, credit sequences and some compelling visuals even with a single image, which we will create here.

Click on 'New' to build a brand new Collage. You can now select a background for your Collage. This is done via the 'Options' button. The bottom selection allows you to create a new 'Background Color'. Click on the color swatch and you can adjust from the color menu or you can even select a scene from your Scene bin to pull a color from using the 'Pick color' button. If you intend this collage to be used in your video project (rather than export out for printing, etc) you should turn on the 'Auxiliary Lines' to 'Presentation'. You will then see a 'safe area' that shows where your video aspect ratio is in reference to that Collage. Only put photos inside those lines, which you wish to appear in your final collage.

Click New Box and then select a photo and click 'Ok'. You then can position that photo where you please on the collage, the first click places the upper left corner of the image and then you can scroll to adjust the size of the image. Add as many images as you desire. Note: you can click on any image and resize and re-position it any time during this process. You can also select any photo and move it to the front or back of any other image/s to make creative collages with overlapping images.

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H. Collage Menu

You can further add creativity to the Collage by clicking on 'Edit Box' after selecting any photo. Here you can add a border (your color choice) and a drop shadow and even rotate the box/photo on its axis… once you click 'Rotate box', simply scroll the trackball and watch it swing!

When you are happy with your Collage – you can 'Create Scene' which renders it for Smart Edit (you select length).

You can also do a really cool animated collage… click on 'Create Photo'. This sends you collage as a photo to the Photo Sort bin. You can then launch the Photo Studio 2 Animation menu to animate your collages… very cool!

I. Presentation Menu

Here you can build a photo slide show that is displayed right from your Casablanca – ideally using the VGA port directly into a high-resolution projector. The big benefit here is that you are still working with the higher resolution digital images rather than video and the image quality can be phenomenal!

You can select from any number of photos from your sort bin and add them to your presentation by clicking on 'Insert' at the bottom of this menu. You will then see your photos added in order. You can modify the length of each photo ('Length' button). And you can play it back when done by clicking the Playback button in this menu.

NOTE: When presenting a digital slide show in this mode, you can select from either Manual or Automatic Play (setting found in the 'Options' button under Presentation). Automatic will use the length of the photos you selected while Manual uses a left click of your trackball to move to the next image (click both right and left buttons together on your trackball to exit the presentation and return to the Photo Studio 2 menu).

* To export the photos from Photo Studio 2 to your Smart Edit project, please see the 'CREATE SCENE' portion under the Edit Menu above.

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*Images altered with Adobe Photoshop
Tips & Suggestions for incorporating Images into Casablanca Photo Studio 2
previously processed using Adobe PhotoShop
* Courtesy of Lou Bruno – Casablanca enthusiast

1) A JPEG must be adjusted if it is of a small resolution – Photo Studio 2 works best with images that are at least 300 DPI.

2) In Photo Shop or Photo Shop elements: Choose 'IMAGE>IMAGE SIZE' Simply enter/type 300 pixels/inch. Constrain Proportion box is UNCHECKED.

3) The user can also physically adjust the JPEG in the PROMPT BOX in the same area. I find the best for Photo Studio 2 is '2048 X1536'.
Make sure the aspect ratio is checked off.

4) Photo Studio 2 has an issue with some users when a VERTCAL picture is imported. I use the BLACK BORDER and have no problem. As noted on the Casablanca Forum - the Collage function in Photo Studio 2 allows the editor to proportion his own picture. Once satisfied, the user than can create his own proportioned vertical picture.

5) It appears there are three types of Photoshop errors as it relates to the use of Photo Studio 2:

   A) The most common: Failure to convert to a JPEG and leaving the file as a Photoshop file that the MSUS units can't read. This includes an imported JPEG that was converted to a PS file where the operator manipulated the photo and FORGOT to FLATTEN the layers of their designated photo before closing down to the PC's picture file/window. AND....again...upon closing Photoshop, most people forget to convert back to the original JPEG file. The JPEG will now read as a PS file.... which is layered. Much like CB PAINT w/o the MERGE function.

   B) Too much manipulation of a photo using a PC results in a disappearing JPEG in Photo Studio 2. Photo Studio 2 likes its own adjustment within the confines of the MSUS editing appliance.

   C) When transferring JPEGS to either a card or flash drive from a PC, the user must make sure the PHOTO/JPEG is placed INSIDE the DCIM folder.... then within the 100 MSCAS folder. For some reason, there were times in Photo Studio (1) that if the photo/jpeg was left outside of the folder, the JPEG was not read. Since I am in the habit of doing the aforementioned procedure by habit, I do not know if this is a solid issue with Photo Studio 2.