

The Automate Commands in Photoshop

Photomerge

Photomerge stitches photographs into panoramas. It finds common points and merges them together. There are several rules to follow in camera before a perfect merge can be made. The less of these rules that you follow the more work you need to do after the merge.

1. Always overlap each photo by 30%.
2. Turn off Auto White Balance if you have a digital camera.
3. Use a large number F-stop such as F22 to give great depth of field and turn off the auto focus.
4. Always use the same exposure for each photo. Make sure you are on the manual setting.
5. If you are taking the photo handheld try not to move the camera too much while turning it – move your body instead. (takes a lot of practise)
6. Use a tripod where possible
7. Use a panoramic head if you have access to one – one that rotates on the nodal point of your camera.

Picture Package

Picture Package allows you to print multiple photos on one piece of paper. It also allows you to set up album pages to print.

Multipage PDF to PSD

Many documents coming down from the web are PDF format (Portable Document Format) and contain images you would like to keep. This option allows you to separate each page and load it as an image and save it. Some files have security built in and you need a password to do this but most don't.

Contact Sheet II

Contact Sheet II collects all the photos in a folder and will create a set of thumbnails into contact sheets. You can set the size of the thumbnails you wish to collect – but the default is 5 across and 6 down – totalling 30 images per page. So if you have 85 images in a folder it will create 3 contact sheets for you

PDF Presentation

PDF Presentation builds a simple slideshow of photos that you can change the transition and set the time – although not individually. You will need Acrobat version 6 or more to run the slideshow and if you have Acrobat Professional you can set music to it, but it tested my patience beyond endurance to find out how to do it – so please don't ask. Just play a CD while you are showing the presentation.

Web photo gallery

Place the photos you wish to use as a gallery into a separate folder. Tell the Web gallery which folder – which style, set a few parameters such as the name of the gallery, size of the photos and press OK. All you need to do now is upload the gallery to the web.

Fit Image

Fit Image will constrain a photo to fit inside a set width and set height. If you have a photo which is 1000 pixels square and you wish to place it in a gallery with limits 800 wide by 600 high, you just need to set these boundaries within Fit Image and press Ok and the image will change size to 600 pixels square.

If the image is 1000 pixels by 600 the size will change to 800x480.

Action** (Not an Automate Command but an integral part of some commands)

An action is a series of Photoshop commands which are recorded and can be played back at any time. For example if you wish to put some photos in a gallery where the maximum size is 800 pixels wide and 600 pixels high you can record an action on the first photo you resize – using Fit Image– then just press play for every photo after that.

Batch

Batch allow you play an action against a folder of images. You tell the batch which action – which folder and away you go. The batch will open the images and if save is part of the save the images or even save them to a different folder

Create droplet

A droplet is an action you can play without opening photoshop itself. You can place the droplet on your desktop and then drop your image on top of it and if Photoshop is not opened it will open by itself and the action will play. For example if your create a droplet from the action above and place it on the desktop when you wish to resize a files to 800x600 you just drop the images onto the droplet icon and it will open Photoshop and change the sizes for you.

Conditional Mode change

Conditional Mode Change is used mainly in actions and changes the mode of a document dependent upon what the original mode is. For example when you open a file with the .gif extension it will open in indexed color mode and you are not allowed to make adjustments in this mode. When you run a file in indexed color mode through an action, errors will occur if any adjustments are called. To solve this when you build the action you tell the action it make a Mode Change to RGB if the original mode is indexed color.

Crop and Straighten Photos

Crop and Straighten Photos is used when scanning multiple photos on a flat bed scanner. It will find the edge of each photo and separate them from the original then straighten the photos