

BIPC DIGITAL IMAGE STUDY GROUP  
ASSIGNMENT 2001-8  
SUBJECT: CREATING PANORAMAS

**PROBLEM:** Frequently one is confronted with scenes that one wants to capture in one image where the scenes are very wide and or high. A very wide-angle lens might not suffice. One is then forced to take multiple images and then paste them together as best one can, either as a digital image or a print image. In the latter case one can take another picture of the pasted image to create the final image if appropriate. It is desirable to process the multiple images that have been transformed to digital form using software that pastes the images (stitches the images) into a coherent scene.

**CONCEPT:** Take multiple pictures covering the final desired image area. Convert to digital form. Use a program to stitch them together into a “panorama.” We will use the Enroute Imaging Company’s product QuickStitch as a talking point. Please note that this software does not cover the 360-panorama concept – that is reserved for a later discussion. The new Adobe Photoshop Elements 1.0 software has panorama software included. Mac users please note.

**PROCEEDURE:** Load the QuickStitch software. Take the tutorial. Look at the Stitch Options in Step 3 of the application. Select Help in the Stitch Options window and review. Select Help in the main window represented by a “?” in the bottom left of the screen. In the latter Help zone you will find some excellent examples which will enable more judicious use of the Stitch Options.

In the grid window you can resize the grid by zooming in or out. You can have a grid from 2x2 to 6x6.

There are some important picture taking “rules” to effect effective panoramas:

- By whatever means try to assure that each of the pictures in the set have the same exposure – this minimizes the exposure mismatch between individual pictures
- Stand in one spot; rotate the camera around one position. A tripod is always helpful here!
- Hold camera close to eye for best result
- Stand at least 15 feet from your subject for best result
- Avoid scenes with lots of motion
- Hold camera level to avoid tilting and blurring
- Overlap images about 50% (more is OK)
- **Don’t move** between shots

**ASSIGNMENT:** Take some pictures to provide the basis of a panorama. Three or four horizontally. Then take a set of pictures that create a 2x3 or 3x2 grid. Convert to digital images. Create two panoramas from the two sets after deciding which Stitch Options are suitable. Print the final panoramas and be prepared to discuss at the next Study Group meeting. Discuss which final Stitch Options you have chosen and why. Please note that the Enroute Imaging software comes with some samples that you can play with if you do not want to create the original pictures.

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