

# Through The Lens

*A guide to digital photography for computer enthusiasts.  
After the click of your camera, you're only half done!*

## Making a photo collage

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*Users helping users  
for over 40 years*

I will be giving a demonstration at an upcoming Q&A session on how to make a photo collage using free Photoscape X software. I will not provide in-depth instructional details in this article but instead hope to encourage you to think about what sort of collages you may wish to create.

I've used this handy feature to commemorate all sorts of events such as day trips, family gatherings, births, wedding, etc. I've also done topic specific collages for pets, birds and flowers. I typically have them printed on 8x10 paper for easy framing. They make great gifts!

While there is an automatic **Collage** feature in Photoscape X, I find it limiting in terms of photo dimension and arrangement so I prefer a method where I have more control. If you use the automatic feature and want to print it later, please be sure to resize the collage to your desired aspect ratio (e.g. 8x10) so it will print properly.

I prefer to start by creating a white or coloured background. You can use any photo for this. Drag it into the working area, crop to the desired aspect ratio (e.g. 8x10) then go to the **Insert** tab, click on the filled in rectangle, click on a corner of the image and drag it down and across. This covers the existing photo and you can now choose any colour or pattern you wish. Save this with a name such as *Blue background 8x10.jpg*. You can also add a thin frame if you wish under the **Framing** tab. Once your background is complete, make sure you are still in **Insert** mode, then simply drag any photos you want onto this background. I typically apply a frame (or a shadow) in Editor mode using Framing/Borders to each image before I lay them onto the background.

There is lots of flexibility when arranging your images. You can re-size, move, overlap, and rotate them. Once you have the pics arranged as you want, you can add text in the size, colour and font you desire.

If you want to display old family photos, collages can be very useful since old snapshots often do not have enough resolution or clarity to enlarge. With an 8x10 collage, you may have three 3x5 photos that will look just fine in a collage as they will appear close to their original size. With a bit of prior photo editing within Photoscape X (contrast, sharpening, etc.), they may actually appear nicer than the originals.

I also find a collage is a nice way to display wildlife shots that I have taken with a less than adequate zoom lens. I can combine smaller images where resolution is adequate and even tell a bit of a story if I want.

**Warning:** Once you have saved your collage it becomes a flat file and while you can add to it, you cannot rearrange previous photos or text.

