

Audio slide show in Soundslides

Overview. As you build your slide show in Soundslides, adding content, making design decisions and writing captions, behind the scene Soundslides creates the additional files and writes the necessary Flash action scripting to make your project play on the Web.

Preliminaries

1. Create a project folder and keep all related files in it. At the beginning of each working session, drag it to your Desktop and work on the Desktop. At the end of each session, save it to both your J210 Public folder and a memory device.
2. First, take your photographs. Shoot some verticals for your magazine project, but for the slideshow its best to use only horizontals.
3. Collect your interviews and nat sound. Write, refine and record your voice-over. Download music and, if appropriate, sound effects.
4. Create your sound track in SoundBooth. Mix your interviews, voice overs, natural sound, music and, if appropriate, sound effects.

When you have refined your soundtrack, File menu > Save As > in the format menu, choose Mp3. (Soundslides only accepts .mp3 files.)

Navigate to save



this file into your project folder.

You must make the soundtrack before you can work in Soundslides. Your slides will expand or contract to fit the time of the sound track.


5. Name the folder with your original (unedited) photos: *original_photos*. Make a second folder and name it *slideshow_photos* Select the photos you want to use — only horizontals — and drag copies of them into the *slideshow_photos* folder.

WARNING. Keep your original high resolution photos. You will need them for the magazine assignment in the design unit.

6. Edit your photos in Photoshop, including color balancing, burning, dodging and spotting.

ETHICS. In journalism, digital editing is ethically acceptable to correct for problems in the medium. However, altering the contents or excessively enhancing the aesthetics is unethical. Do not add, delete or move contents. Do not enhance the colors beyond what you saw.

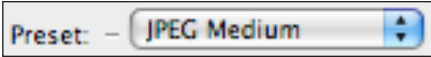
7. All the photos must be the same size: 6 x 4 inches at 72 dpi. To crop to a specific size:

- a. In the Toolbox, choose the Cropping Tool. 

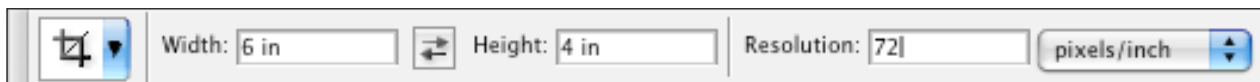
- b. In the Options Palette across the top of your monitor, enter Width: 6 in | Height: 4 in | Resolution: 72. (See palette at bottom.)

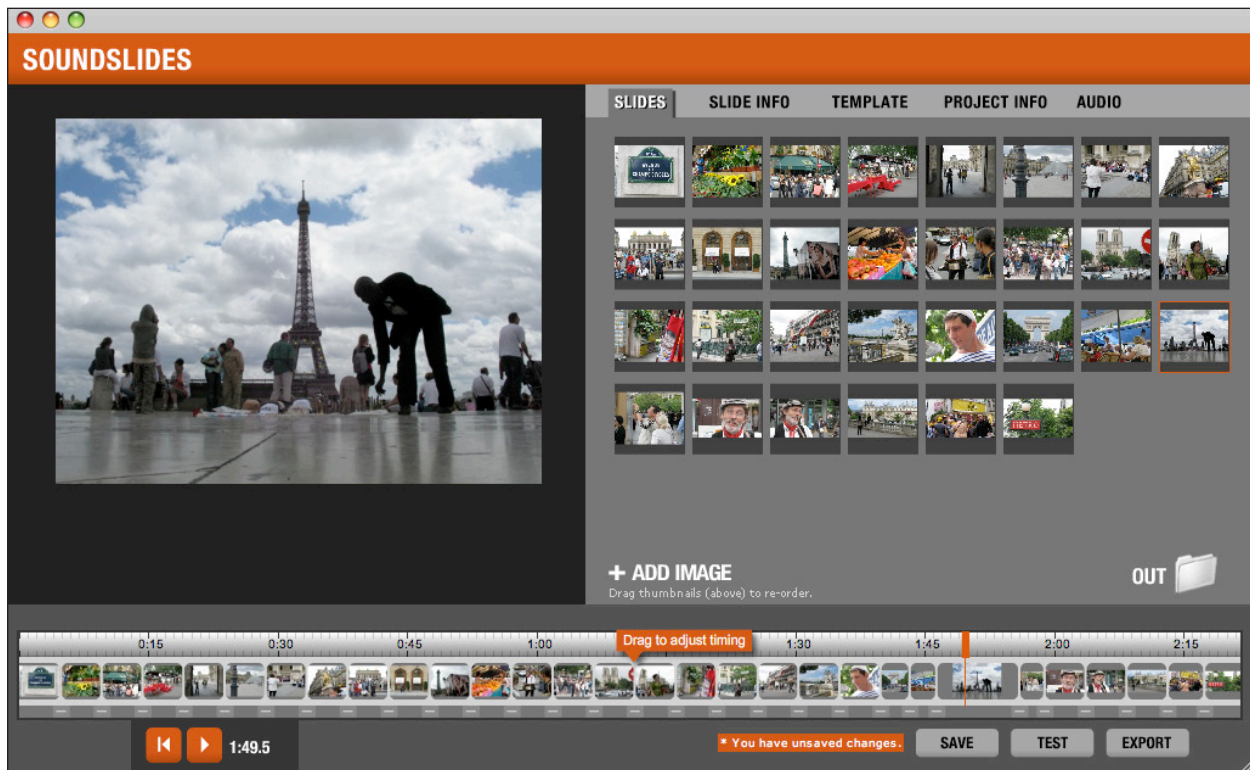
- c. With the Cropping Tool, press and drag to make your crop. When you're finished, tap RETURN. Your image will be the specified size.

Note. If you didn't get the crop you want on your first drag, you can re-size the cropping marquee, drag it around or nudge it with the cursor keys. Be careful not to drag your crop outside the photo's edges. This produces a white strip in the photo. If you see this, type $\text{⌘} + Z$, and try again.

8. Optimize each image for the Web. File menu > Save for Web & Devices. When the Optimize panel opens,  at top right, change the Preset menu to JPEG Medium. Save.

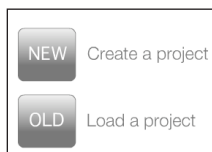
9. You can sequence photos in Soundslides, but it's easier to do it in your folder. Give them all the same name with sequential numbers. For example, paris1.jpg, paris2.jpg ... paris30.jpg.





Working in Soundslides

1. From the Multimedia folder, find and launch Soundslides. On the work session, click the NEW button to create a new project. Navigate to save it in your project folder. On subsequent sessions, click the OLD button. When the browser opens, navigate to your project folder and open it.
2. At the next level, leave the Standard slide show button selected.
3. Click the sound button: SND. When the browser opens, navigate to find the mp3 file with your audio soundtrack, and click OK to import.
4. Click the JPG button. When the browser opens, navigate to find your photos folder. As it imports, Soundslides builds an extensive project folder with sub-folders and files.



When the Soundslides window opens, you are ready to edit your project. The window is divided into three main parts: 1) At the upper left, is the current image. 2) At the upper right is the editing area. A menu across the top lets you edit five

aspects: Slides, Slide Info, Template, Project Info, Audio. 3) Across the bottom is a Timeline with a red-orange Playhead. At the bottom left are buttons that let you play or stop your project in the Soundslides environment. At the bottom right are buttons that let you Save, Test and Export it.

Key differences: 1) There is no undo ($\text{⌘} + \text{Z}$). To undo a step, you must manually change it back.

Basic editing operations

1. To change the sequence of photos: Click on the SLIDES menu tab. Drag a thumbnail image on top of another image. The new one pushes the existing one to the right.
2. To add an image: Click on the + ADD IMAGE link at the lower left of the SLIDES area. When the browser opens, navigate to find the desired image and click OK. It appears as a thumbnail.
3. To remove an image, drag it over the OUT folder at the lower right of the SLIDES area.
4. To substitute an image, in the SLIDE INFO menu, drag the Playhead over the image you want to replace. Click the UPDATE IMAGE

button at the lower right. Navigate to find the desired image and click OK.

5. To add captions for each photo: Drag the Playhead over the first photograph in the time line. In the SLIDE INFO menu, type the caption for that image. Towards the bottom left, click the NEXT button, and type the caption for the second image. Proceed through all your images.

Note. You must provide accurate captions, written in correct English, for every photo. If you have several photos in a rapid sequence that show the same basic thing, you may copy and paste the same caption for all of them.

6. To add a headline and creditline: In the PROJECT INFO menu, keystroke your headline in the top frame and your name in the Credits frame.

7. **Pacing.** By default, all photos get equal time. To customize timing for individual photographs, in the Timeline, hover your cursor over the space between two frames. When it turns white, drag to make a frame shorter or longer. This works by taking time away, or adding time to the adjacent frame. You may have to adjust several frames to get the timing balanced exactly as you like it.

To undo these adjustments and start over again, Timeline menu > Spread images equally.

8. **Matching.** Matching refers to having a photo appear simultaneously with something mentioned in an interview or voice over or to showing the object making a piece of nat sound. You should strive for this several times during your slideshow. Here are some ways to match:

8a. Preliminary. Create your soundtrack first. Broadly sequence your photographs to match the sequence of topics, ideas in the soundtrack. You will fine tune using the methods below:

8b. Math. You can calculate matching mathematically. For example, if your soundtrack is 3 minutes long (180 seconds), and you use 30 photographs, they will average 6 seconds each. If you have a sound bite at 42 seconds that mentions something important that you have a photograph

of, make it the seventh photograph and it should match the sound at 42 seconds.

8c. Drag and drop. After you load in your soundtrack and photos, play the sound track. When you get to the word or nat sound you want to match, stop the playhead. Observe in the soundtrack what photograph is at that point. In the menu at top right > SLIDES. In the thumbnail area at middle right, drag the matching photograph over the photo at the playhead.

The problem with this method is that it may throw the matching photo out of sequence for the visuals. You may have to drag some others to restore the sequence.

8d. Tweak. In both methods, you will probably have to adjust the time of individual photographs for a perfect match. See No. 7. Pacing, above.

8e. Soundtrack. For really tight editing, after you play your slideshow, you may decide to re-edit the soundtrack to make it match the photos, instead of vice versa. In this case, click the AUDIO menu and follow the prompts to delete the existing soundtrack and import your updated one.

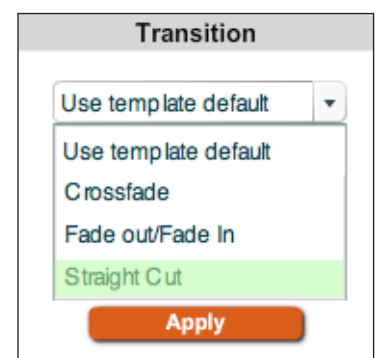
Template menu

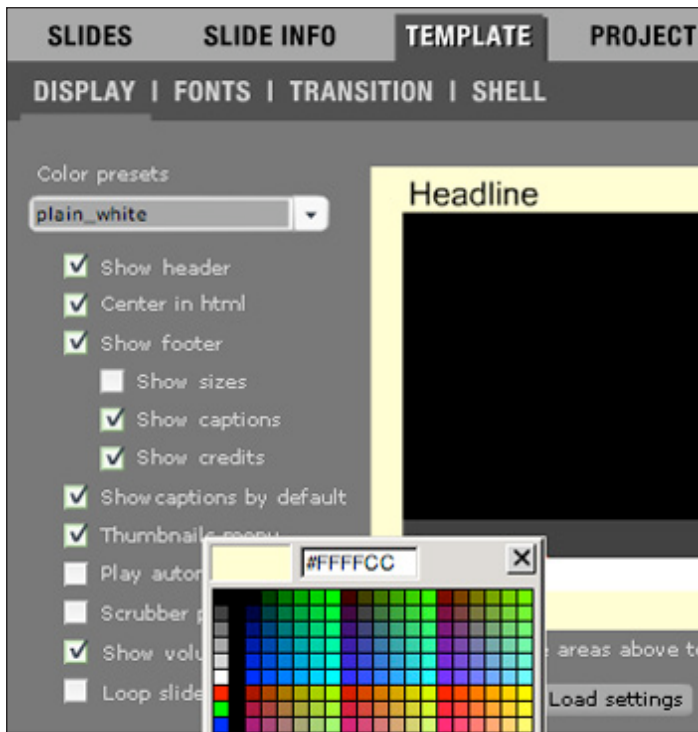
The TEMPLATE menu, page 4, lets you customize the appearance of your project including colors, fonts and transitions between slides.

1. In the DISPLAY submenu, the area at the right is a proxy for your show. Press and hold on any part of it and a color palette opens that lets you choose a hexadecimal color for that element.

3. The TRANSITION menu lets you choose among three transitions between slides: crossfade, straight cut and fade out/fade in. The default time for these transitions is 1 second, but you can change it by typing a different value.

3b. This transition will apply to all the images in your slideshow, but you



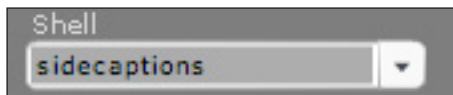


can create custom transitions between individual pairs of images. For example, if you shoot in the continuous mode to do the flip book technique, several of your photographs may be on for less than a second.

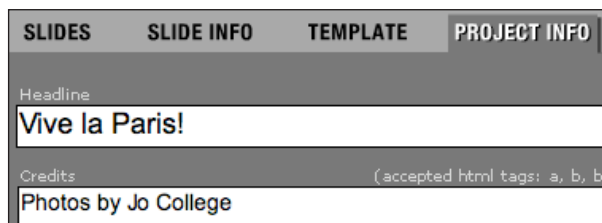
For a custom transition, click on the horizontal white line below the thumbnails in the timeline. When the panel opens choose Straight Cut, see Page 3.



4. The SHELL menu offers options on how your show will appear in the Web page. The default puts the captions over your photographs, which obscures part of the image. Choose "sidecaptions" instead.



5. The Project Info menu lets you enter the title and your credit line. See below.



USE THESE SETTINGS. We want the format on everybody's page to be the same. The variety will come in the projects you create.

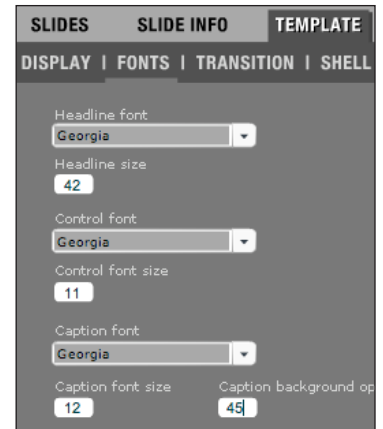
1. Use the DISPLAY settings shown at left. Check all the boxes shown. Give all areas in the frame around the slideshow, the color: #FFFFCC.
2. Under SHELL choose sidecaptions.
3. For all type choose the Georgia face at the sizes shown at right.

Previewing

To play your project in the Soundslides environment, click the orange play button at lower left.



To preview it in a web browser, click the TEST button at lower right.

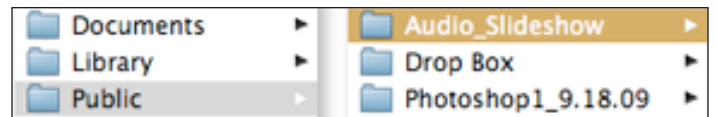


Finishing your project

1. When you are finished editing, click the EXPORT button at lower right. Soundslides creates a folder called *publish_to_web*.



2. Rename this folder with your username.
3. Drag this folder into Groups > J210 Visual Communication BL > J210-Cookman 1115 A.M. MW > Public > Audio_Slideshow.



You will see a prompt that says you don't have permission to see the item once you've put it here. When it asks if you want to continue > OK.

Soundslides help

Soundslides offers a robust help function: Help menu > Online documentation.

If you like Soundslides and want to add it to your own software, Google it. You can buy the Basic edition, which we are using, or the Plus version, which includes panning, zooming and subtitles.