

# Louisiana Photographic Society

## Educational Program

### Digital Composite Images

Several individual images can be arranged in a single eye pleasing composite image that can convey a very special meaning or theme. Photoshop or similar software provides a simple way to create such special composite images.

1. Select a set of pictures that you wish to arrange into a single composite image.
2. Decide the size of the final composite image. On a scratch paper draw up a general layout that will allow you to decide the size of all the images as well as the location of each image.
3. For this example we will create a 13" x 19" composite image using ten images I took during our outing at the Bluebonnet Swamp last month. Final composite is attached. All pictures are cropped as shown below at 300 ppi and 8 bits.
  - a. Two images of 4" x 6" (Images 1 & 2)
  - b. Two images of 4" x 6.25" (Images 3 & 4)
  - c. Five images of 4" x 3" (Images 5,6, 7, 8 & 9)
  - d. One image of 4" x 12.5" (Image 10)
4. Create a new canvas for the composite image. Go to File>New. This will open a new image box. Name the image Bluebonnet Swamp, Width 13", Height 19" ppi 300, bit 8, Color Mode as RGB and background Color as white. Click OK. This will open the Composite image canvas.
5. Open all images. And move them to their approximate position on the canvas using Move Tool from the Tool Palette.
6. Review the composite and see if all images are where you like them to be. If not you can relocate them. Go to Layer Palette. Select the image you wish to move by click on it. Select Move Tool. Click on the image and drag it to a desired location. Now you have two images in the same spot. Follow the same procedure to relocate the other image to open spot.
7. Now we will precisely position all images for proper spacing and alignment. We will do this by selecting a group of images with similar alignment requirements.
8. Aligning two top images:
  - a. Go to Layers Palette and select Image 1 layer. Press and hold control key on the key pad and click on Image 2 layer. The layers of both the images should be highlighted.
  - b. Select Move Tool from the Tool Palette. This will open various alignment selections icons in the top Tool Box. Click on top edge alignment icon. This will align the images at the top edge.
9. Align four images on the left edge of the composite:
  - a. Go to Layers Palette and select Images 1, 3, 6 and 10.
  - b. Select Move Tool and from the top Tool Box click on left edge alignment icon.
10. Align three images on the right edge of the composite:
  - a. Go to Layers Palette and select images 2, 5 and 9.

- b. Select Move Tool and from the top Tool Box click on right edge alignment icon.
11. Align three images below top two images.
  - a. Select Images 3, 4 and 5 in the Layers Palette
  - b. Align the top edge of these images using appropriate icon.
  - c. Click and hold on any of these three images. All three images will move as one unit. Adjust the space between the top images using arrow key on the keypad. Enlarge the image if necessary.
12. Align bottom edge of Images 6, 8 and 9:
  - a. Select these images in the Layers Palette.
  - b. Select move Tool and from the Top Tool box click on the bottom edge alignment icon.
  - c. Click on any of these images. They will move as one unit. Adjust the spacing between Image 3 and Image 5.
13. Align the middle Image 7.
  - a. Select this image and with the Move Tool adjust spacing between top and bottom images.
14. Enlarge the composite image and check alignment of all images and fine tune if necessary using the procedures described above.
15. Add text above Image 10:
  - a. Go to Tool Palette and select Text Tool.
  - b. This will open a top Tool Box. From the box select front style and size.
  - c. Move cursor and click on top of Image 10 and type "LPS Field Trip – Bluebonnet Swamp – March 2007". Center the text.
  - d. Highlight the text by holding and dragging the cursor across the entire text. Go to the top Tool box. Click on the black color box. This will open Color Picker box. Select appropriate color and click OK. If you wish to select specific color from the composite, click the eye dropper on the desired color.
16. This completes the construction of the composite image.
17. Save the image with all the layers.
18. Flatten the image and save as a separate image.
19. Create an archive DVD or CD for all individual images as well as the composite images.

I hope you will have fun creating your own composite images. If I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact me at 225-751-8822 or [lateldigital@cox.net](mailto:lateldigital@cox.net).

**Jay S. Patel**  
**Education Coordinator**  
**Louisiana Photographic Society**  
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