



Use Aperture to create a slideshow of your photographs

Photos look great on the iPhone 4's display, so what better way of showing off your work than by using Aperture to create a slideshow of your portfolio.

Hand the iPhone 4 to anyone who hasn't seen one before and the first thing they'll comment on is the screen's sharpness, thanks to its pixel density of 326ppi. Images show an incredible amount of detail, colours are vibrant and, despite the screen's small size, viewing photographs on a handheld device is now a pleasant experience.

The experience is so good, in fact, that it makes sense to use the iPhone to show off a portfolio of your work. So if you have a meeting with a prospective client, you only need take along your iPhone. And the simplest way of showcasing your work on any handheld device is with a slideshow; simply tap to start and you can talk about the photos as they're displayed.

There are several ways of creating a slideshow for your iPhone, not least the very competent Keynote or iPhoto. However,

because of the added benefits of being able to make adjustments to your images, we've chosen Aperture. This isn't just a great tool for organising your photos – it also provides several built-in ways of sharing your images, such as the Facebook and Flickr buttons. One feature is its ability to build and export a slideshow as a QuickTime movie that's specifically sized for the iPhone.

The beauty of using Aperture to create a slideshow is that your photographs are already in the application, so you won't have to go to the trouble of exporting them and then importing them into another tool. You aren't limited to just showing the finished slideshow on an iPhone either, as once you've created it, you can view it on any device that has QuickTime. Since it's stored in the Aperture Library, it can be exported in a variety of sizes, so it can also be posted to a website, or shown on a laptop or an iPad.



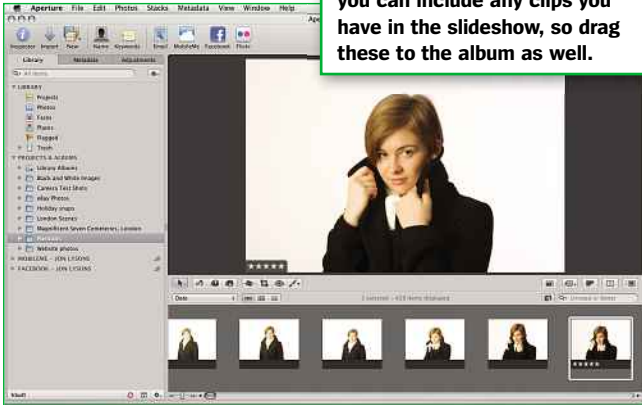
Jon Lysons is *MacUser's* production editor and has been using Macs since 1993. He freely admits that most of his budget is spent on camera equipment.

Kit required

Aperture 3 + iPhone 4 + iTunes



TIP Because Aperture also handles video, you can include any clips you have in the slideshow, so drag these to the album as well.



1. Open Aperture

Start up Aperture and, unless you already know which photos you want to use, flick through your library and choose the ones you want in your slideshow. You may find it easier to move these images to an album, so that they're all in one place for when you create your slideshow. Don't worry about sorting your photos into any particular order as you can re-order them when you come to create the slideshow.



2. Create a slideshow

In the tool bar, click on New, select Slideshow and then choose a theme. If you're happy to stick with the transitions provided by a particular theme, choose one from Photo Edges, Scrapbook, Shatter, Sliding Panels, Snapshots and Watercolour Panels. If, however, you're keen to determine your own transition effects, select either the Classic or Ken Burns theme. For this tutorial, pick the Classic theme.

TIP You can add a photo at a later stage by simply dragging it to the slideshow.



3. Add your photographs

Next, it's time to add some photos to the slideshow. To do this, simply drag them from the album onto the slideshow icon in the Library palette. Click on the slideshow to open up the slideshow editor and you'll see the images that have been placed there. The slideshow's first photo will appear in the main part of the screen, with the rest of the images running in the Thumbnail Browser below it.

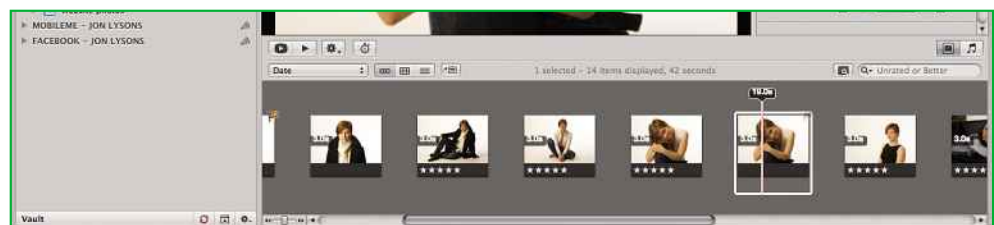


4. Organising your images

When Aperture imports your photos into the slideshow, it places them in the same order that they appeared in the Project or Album from which you dragged them. This order may not be right for your slideshow, but it's easy to rearrange them. To do this, use the Thumbnail Browser and click or Cmd-click to select a photo or photos, then drag them to the required place in the slideshow.

5. To remove photographs

Removing photos from the slideshow is just as easy. Click or Cmd-click to select those photos that you want to remove from the slideshow and hit the Delete key. The photo is then removed from the slideshow, although it won't have been deleted from the Aperture library, and if you navigate back to its original folder, you'll see it's still there.



6. THE SLIDESHOW INTERFACE

Click on the slideshow icon in the Library and you'll be presented with the slideshow editor. So let's have a quick look at this window to see the various functions that are available to you.

When you've finished your slideshow, click the Export button to call up a range of export options.

The screenshot shows the Aperture Slideshow Editor window. The main area displays a slide with a photo of a woman and the text 'My Portfolio'. Below the main slide is a timeline with a play button and a progress bar. To the left is a thumbnail browser showing a sequence of slides. To the right is a settings panel with tabs for 'Default Settings' and 'Selected Slides'. The 'Default Settings' panel includes options for photo effect (Black & White), play slide duration (3.00 seconds), background color, border, inset, crop, transition (Dissolve), and speed (0.50 seconds). There is also an 'Export...' button in the top right corner.

Click on the Theme button to change the slideshow's theme.

The Main slide window shows the currently selected slide.

Click on these play buttons to preview the slideshow in the editor or in full screen.

The Timeline marker shows where you are in the slideshow.

The Thumbnail Browser shows the media in the slideshow.

Click on Default Settings to change the settings for the whole slideshow.

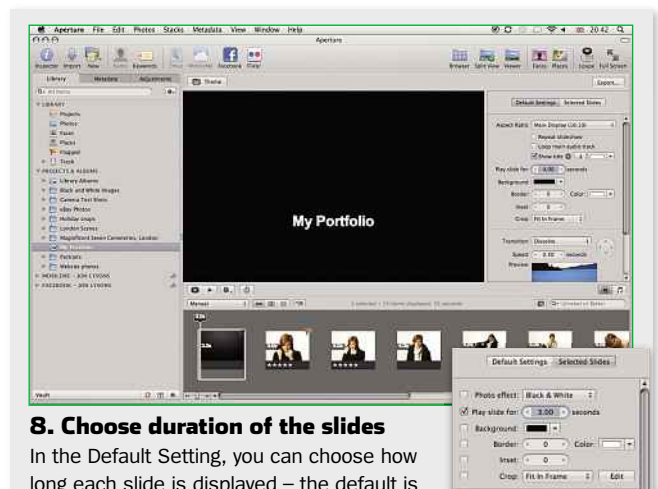
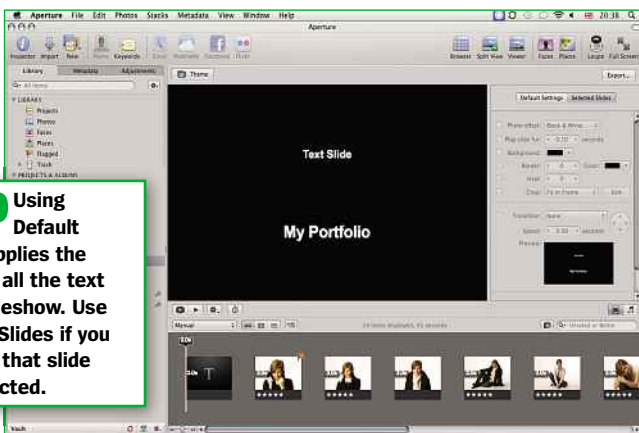
Clicking on the Selected Slides button enables you to change the settings for the currently selected slide.

Click on the Audio button to add a soundtrack to your slideshow from iTunes, GarageBand or other sound clip.

7. Add a title screen

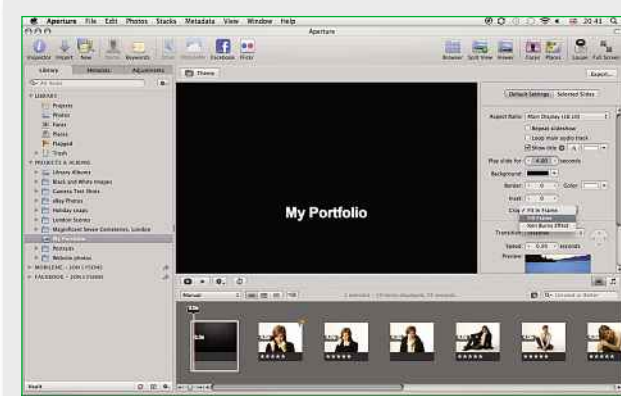
Instead of jumping straight into the slideshow, it's best to add a title page at the start. Click on the cog located just above the Thumbnail browser and select Insert Blank Slide With Text. Although you can't position the text on the slide, you can change its appearance. Make sure the Default Settings button is pressed and click on the A button to call up the Fonts palette. You can also change the font's colour by clicking on the white rectangle next to the fonts button. To change the slide's background colour, click on the Background fly-out menu.

TIP Using Default Setting applies the format to all the text in the slideshow. Use Selected Slides if you just want that slide to be affected.



8. Choose duration of the slides

In the Default Setting, you can choose how long each slide is displayed – the default is three seconds. You can also select the slide duration individually by selecting it, clicking on the Selected Slides button and changing the time there. Note that altering a slide's duration individually overrides the slide duration for the whole slideshow, so it's best to decided upon the duration at the start and then tweak any individual slides later. We've gone for a four-second duration, with three seconds for the opening title slide.



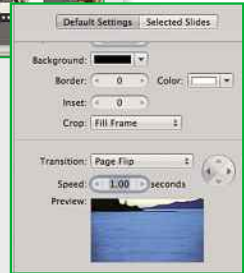
9. Crop the photos

The photos you've taken are unlikely to fit an iPhone's display exactly, so unless you're happy with black banding in your slideshow, it's best to crop them. Aperture lets you do this in the Slideshow editor, so you don't have to crop each image individually. In Default Settings, go to Crop where you have three choices: Fit in Frame, Fill Frame and Ken Burns Effect. We've selected Fill Frame.



10. Add a transition between slides

Aperture offers a variety of transitions between slides. Go to Default Settings and select a transition. Next, choose the desired duration. If you want a different transition between two specific images, then select the first image and click on Selected Slides to give it a specific transition.



11. Preview the slideshow

Once you've sorted out the transitions and are happy with the order of your photos, click on the Preview button. You have two choices: the first displays the slideshow in full-screen mode, while the second shows the slideshow within Aperture. Move the timeline mark to the beginning of the slideshow and click on the full-screen preview. Press Esc to return to Aperture.



12. Select the Aspect Ratio

At present, Aperture offers four different aspect ratios for your slideshow. The default is Main Display, but you can change this to suit the display on which you'll view the slideshow from a list of secondary displays: HDTV (16:9), Standard TV (4:3) and iPhone (3:2). Select iPhone (3:2). Note that the grey area isn't shown, but the black area will be seen on the display.



13. Export the slideshow

Click on the Export button. Here, you'll see that you have a variety of export options that include MobileMe, YouTube, iPad and Apple TV. Make sure that it's set for iPhone, iPod touch and that most of the details are already filled in for you. Name it and make sure that the 'Automatically send slideshow to iTunes' box is ticked.



14. Load the slideshow on to your iPhone

Connect your iPhone to your Mac and open up iTunes. The slideshow will appear in the Movies section. To add it to your iPhone, click on your phone under Devices and go to the Movies tab. Select the slideshow, then sync your iPhone. To view the slideshow, click on the iPod app and navigate to the video section.