Chapter 25

Build Creations with Your Photos

How to…

- Create a slide show to show off your images
- Post your images in web pages
- Build cards, calendars, and postcards
- Create photo albums
- Burn a CD

Now that you've gone to all the trouble of importing, cataloging, and tagging your photos, wouldn't it be great to use them? Chapter 24 talks about printing, but there is far more you can do with your photos. You can create web pages, create calendars and postcards, and burn a CD to share with friends and family. You can even package the images up into an Adobe Acrobat Presentation!

Start the Creation Process

The collection of items you can build is referred to in Organizer as a *creation*. To start the process of building a creation, you can use one of the following options:

- **In Organizer, choose File | New | Creation**   This opens the general Creation Setup dialog box (see Figure 25-1).
- **Click the Create button in the Organizer shortcut bar**   This also opens the Creation Setup dialog box.
- **Choose File | New in Organizer and pick the type of creation from the menu**   This action bypasses the Creation Setup dialog box and jumps straight to the first page in the appropriate Create dialog box.
- **In the Editor, choose File | New | Creation**   This switches to Organizer and opens the Creation Setup dialog box.
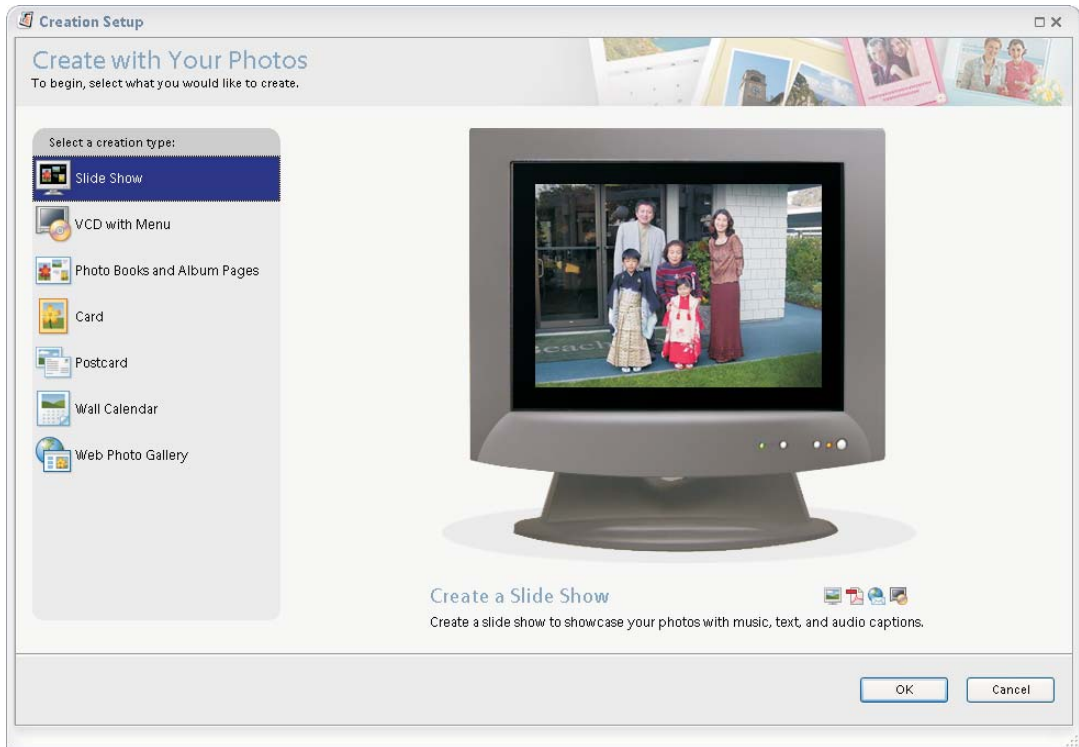
To continue, pick one of the creations listed along the left border and click OK to start the process. The appropriate dialog box loads, and after a few moments you are ready to start the creation process!

Build a Slide Show

To build a slide show, select Slide Show from the Creation Setup dialog box or choose File | New | Slide Show. From here, you can choose to build either a custom slide show or a simple slide show.

Build a Custom Slide Show

A custom slide show essentially creates a movie, complete with a music track, transitions, recorded annotations, and text. To
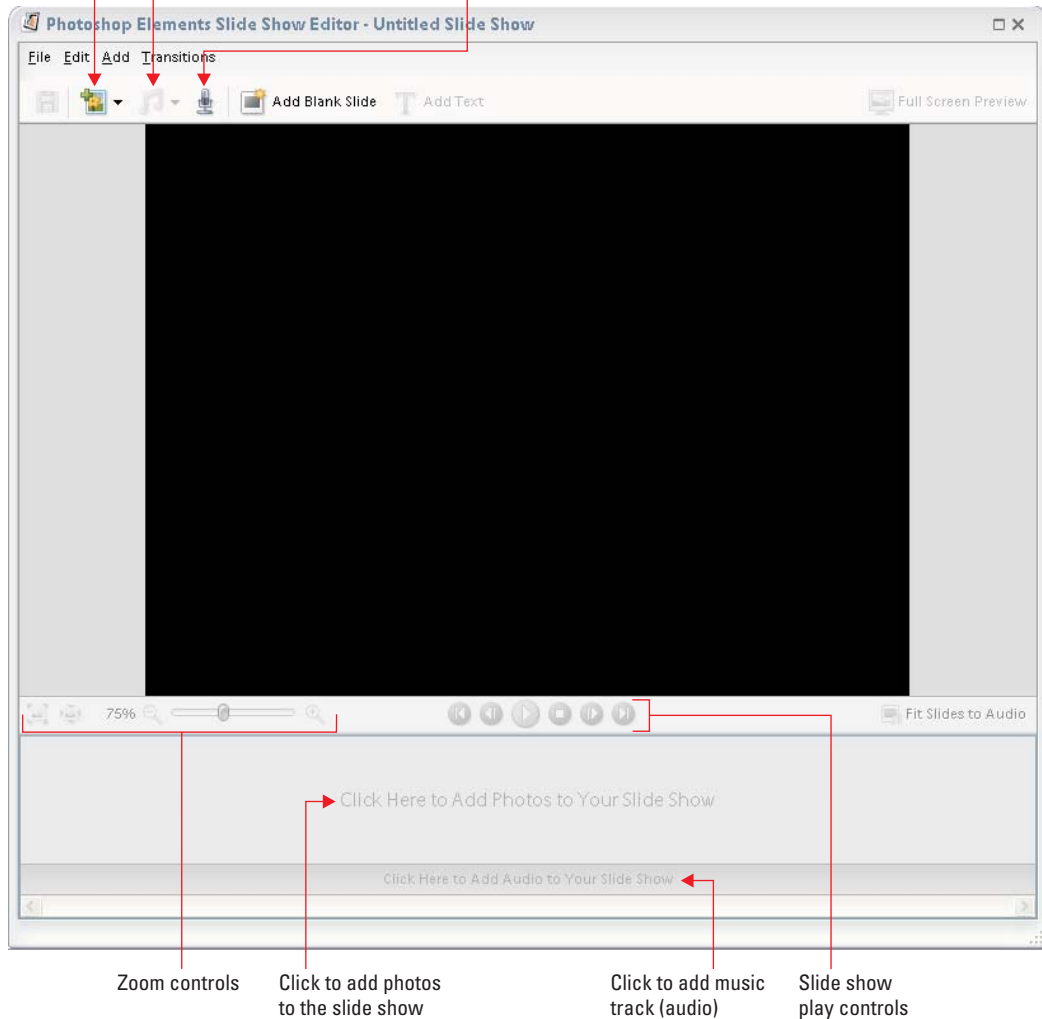
start building a custom slide show, select Custom Slide Show from the slide show Creation Setup dialog box and click OK to display the Slide Show Editor dialog box (see Figure 25-2).
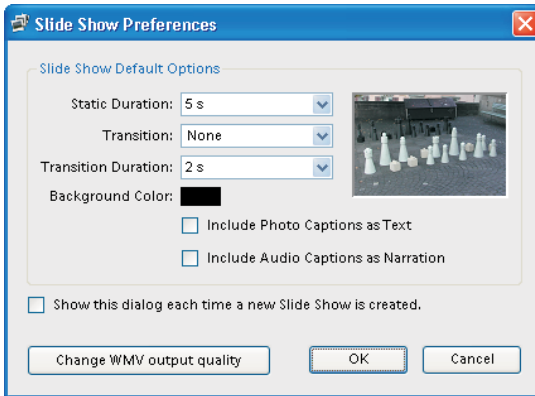
Add images from
Organizer or folders

Record a narration
for the current slide

Add audio from
Organizer or folders

FIGURE 25-2 Build your entire custom slide show right from the Slide Show Editor dialog box.

Zoom controls

Click to add photos
to the slide show

Click to add music
track (audio)

Slide show
play controls

Set the Custom Slide Show Preferences

To set the defaults for a custom slide show, choose Edit | Slide Show Preferences to display the Slide Show Preferences dialog box, shown here.

This dialog box enables you to set values to use for the default slide duration (Static Duration), the between-slide transition, the transition duration, the background color (useful for blank slides), and whether to include the photo captions as text and the audio captions as narration.

One of the options you can use when you save your slide show is to save it as a Windows Media Video file (WMV). To specify the default quality for the WMV file, click the Change WMV Output Quality button to open the dialog box shown at left, in which you can set the quality of the file. Simply select one of the quality options in the drop-down list.

Add Pictures to Your Slide Show

The easiest way to add pictures to the slide show is to have them selected before you start the creation. If you do have them selected, the list of images appear in the bottom third of the Slide Show Editor dialog box, as shown in Figure 25-3.

If you don't select your slides before starting the custom slide show, you'll have to click the area below the play controls (marked Click Here to Add Photos to Your Slide Show). You can also choose Add | Photos from Organizer, or click the

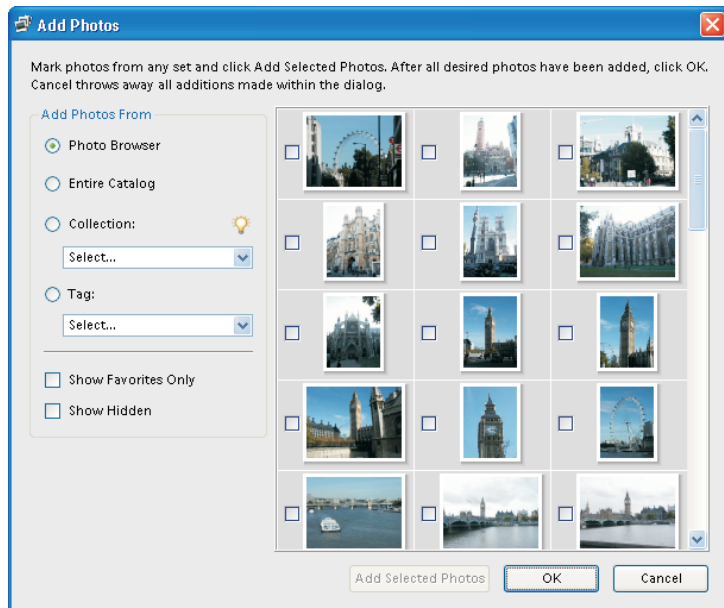Transition between slides

Slides in the slide show

Timing for each slide

Timing for each transition
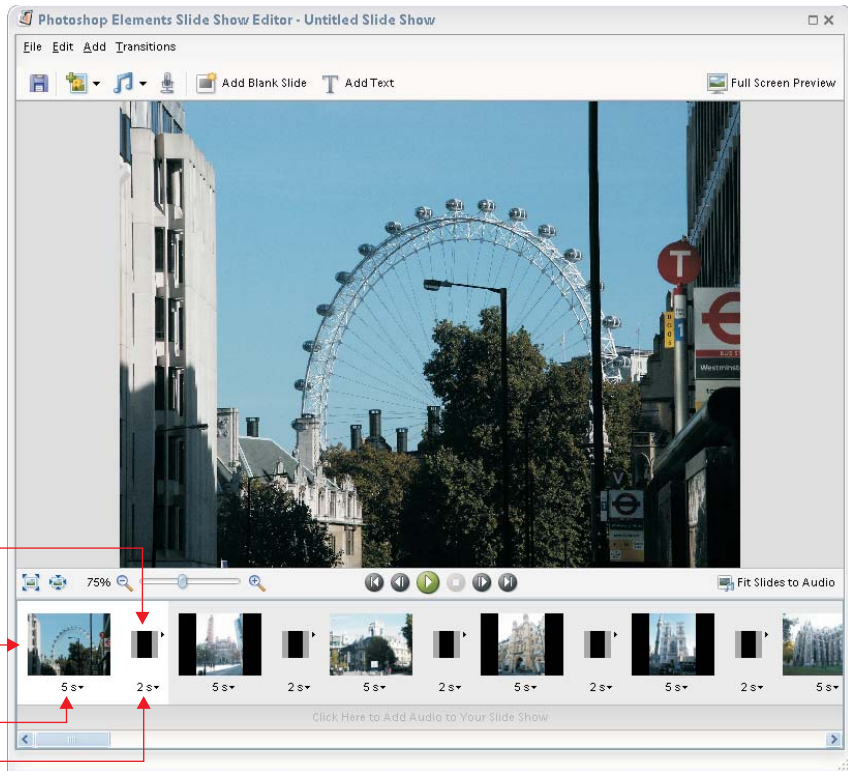
Add Photos tool in the shortcut bar and select Add Photos from Organizer. Any of these actions opens the Add Photos dialog box, shown here.

To add an image to the slide show, click the check box alongside the image. Click it again to clear it if you change your mind.

Tip   *To select or clear a check box, you don't actually need to click the check box. Simply click the image thumbnail.*

The area at the left side of the dialog box (Add Photos From) configures which photos are available for you to choose on the right side of the dialog box. The options are as follows:

- ■ **Photo Browser**   Displays the thumbnails currently visible in the Photo Browser. If you have created a set of search results, only those thumbnails will be visible in the dialog box.

- ■ **Entire Catalog**   Displays all the thumbnails in the currently open catalog, whether or not they are visible in the Photo Browser.

- ■ **Collection**   Displays only the images associated with the collection you choose from the drop-down list.

- ■ **Tag**   Displays only the images associated with the tag, category, or subcategory you pick from the drop-down list.

- ■ **Photo Bin**   If you have any images open in the Editor Photo Bin, pick this option to display just those images in the dialog box.

- ■ **Show Favorites Only**   If you select the Show Favorites Only check box, only the images that meet the criteria you set *and* have been tagged with one of the Favorites tags will be displayed.

- ■ **Show Hidden**   If you select the Show Hidden check box, only the images that meet the criteria you set *and* have been tagged as Hidden will be displayed.

Once you select a set of photos by checking the thumbnails, click Add Selected Photos to add the selected photos to the slide show. This action clears the check boxes and leaves the Add Photos dialog box open so you can change your options and pick another set of photos to add to the slide show. When you're done adding photos, click OK to close the dialog box and display the Slide Show Editor, as shown previously in Figure 25-3.

*Note*   *If you decide you need to add more photos, simply click Add | Photos from Organizer to repeat the process.*

Another way to add photos is to choose Add | Photos from Folder or click the Add Photos tool in the shortcut bar and choose Add Photos from Folder. Either opens a standard File Open dialog box (labeled Choose Your Photo Files). Navigate to the file(s) you want to add, select them, and click Open. Remember that you can select multiple files at once using CTRL-click and SHIFT-click.

Rearrange the Slides

After you get done picking your images, you can rearrange them. To do so, click the image you want to move and drag the image to its new position in the slide show. As you drag, a vertical line appears to show you where the image will be placed when you release the mouse button.

Release the mouse button when you have the slide positioned properly.
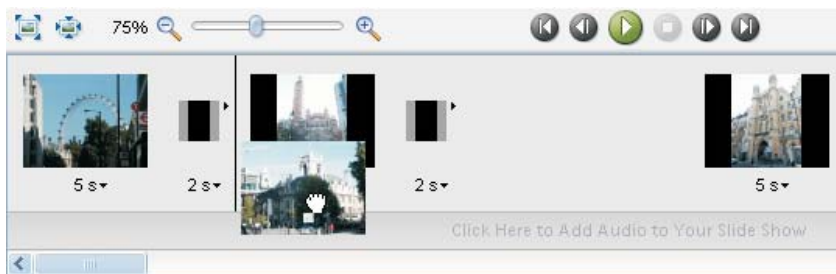
Duplicate and Delete Slides

It can be handy to display the same slide more than once. For example, you might wish to use a particular slide at the beginning of different sections of the slide show, perhaps with different text to introduce the section (for more on text, see the section "Add Text to a Slide," later in this chapter). To duplicate a slide, select the slide thumbnail and choose Edit | Duplicate Frame. You can also duplicate a slide and place it where you want it by using the following steps:

1. Choose the slide thumbnail you want to duplicate.

2. Select Edit | Copy.

3. Choose the slide thumbnail after which you want to place the duplicated slide.

4. Select Edit | Paste. The slide is inserted into the slide show following the slide you selected in step 3.

To delete a slide, select the slide thumbnail and choose Edit | Cut or Edit | Delete Frame.
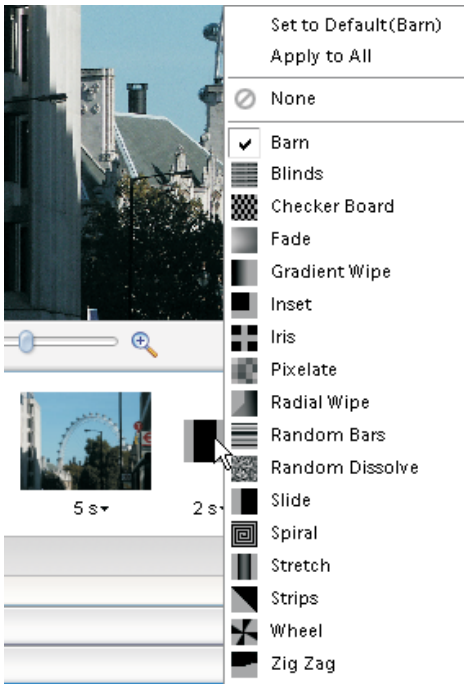
Set the Transitions Between Slides

You can specify a transition to occur between any two slides. These transitions create an interesting effect, although they should not be overused because they can become tiresome.

To set an individual transition, click the transition box between the two slides and pick the transition you want from the pop-up list (shown at left).

If you want to apply the transition to all the slides, pick Apply to All from the transition pop-up list or choose Transitions | Apply Transition to All. You can also set the transition to the default by picking Set to Default from the transition pop-up list. Finally, you can also choose the default transition from the Slide Show Preferences dialog box (select Edit | Slide Show Preferences).

The Transitions menu also has two options to remove transitions:

■ **Clear Transition**   Removes the current transition. This has the same effect as selecting None from the transition pop-up list.

■ **Clear All Transitions**   Removes all transitions and sets them back to None.
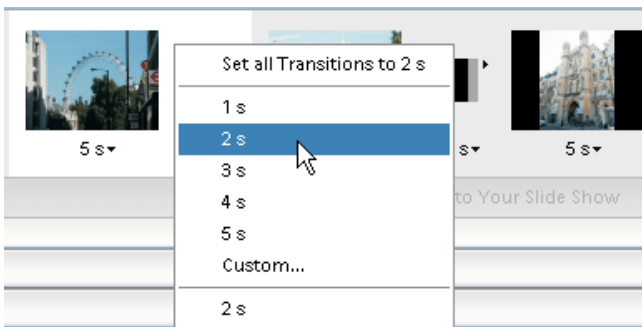
Set the Timing for Slides and Transitions

To set how long the transition should take (keep it short!), click the transition duration pop-up list below the transition and pick the transition duration.

The list includes entries from 2 seconds (2s) to 5 seconds (5s) as well as a Custom entry. To set a custom transition duration, click the Custom entry and type the number of seconds into the Set Transition Duration dialog box. Then click OK.

Note   *To set all the transition durations to the same length, first set the transition to the length you want. Then click the transition duration pop-up list again and pick the topmost entry in the duration drop-down list: Set All Transitions to 2s (or whatever length you had picked).*

To set how long a slide should be shown, click the slide duration pop-up list below the slide and pick the slide duration. This list includes all the same options as the transition duration, including setting all slides to the currently selected duration. You can also set an individual slide duration by choosing Edit | Change Slide Duration, filling in the duration in the dialog box, and clicking OK.

## Add an Audio Track to the Slide Show

It can be a lot of fun to add a music track to a slide show, although you should be careful that the music agrees with your intended audience. To add an audio track to the slide show, click the bar that reads Click Here to Add Audio to Your Slide Show or choose Add | Audio from Folder. Alternatively, you can pick Add Audio from Folder from the Add Audio tool in the shortcut bar. Any of these actions opens the Choose Your Audio Files folder. Simply pick the music track you want to use and click Open. The name of the audio file appears in the bar below the slides.

If you've added sound files to Organizer, you can pick a file from the open catalog. Choose Add | Add Audio from Organizer (or pick Add Audio from Organizer from the Add Audio tool in the shortcut bar). The Add Audio dialog box displays all the sound files in Organizer—just pick one and click OK.
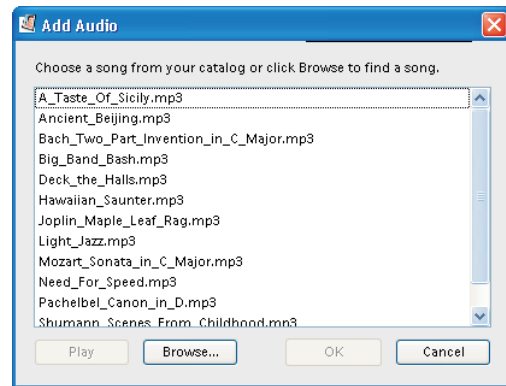
Note *If you click the Browse button in the Add Audio dialog box, the Import Audio dialog box opens. To import audio into the catalog, select an audio track (you can pick only one at a time) and click Open. However, each track you import this way is also added to the slide show.*

Once you've added a music track, you can fit the slide show to the length of the music by clicking the Fit Slides to Audio button in the lower-right corner of the slide preview area or choosing Edit | Fit Slides to Audio. You can also edit the audio by double-clicking the audio bar (below the slides) or selecting Edit | Edit Audio. This opens the Edit Slide Show Audio dialog box, shown on the next page.
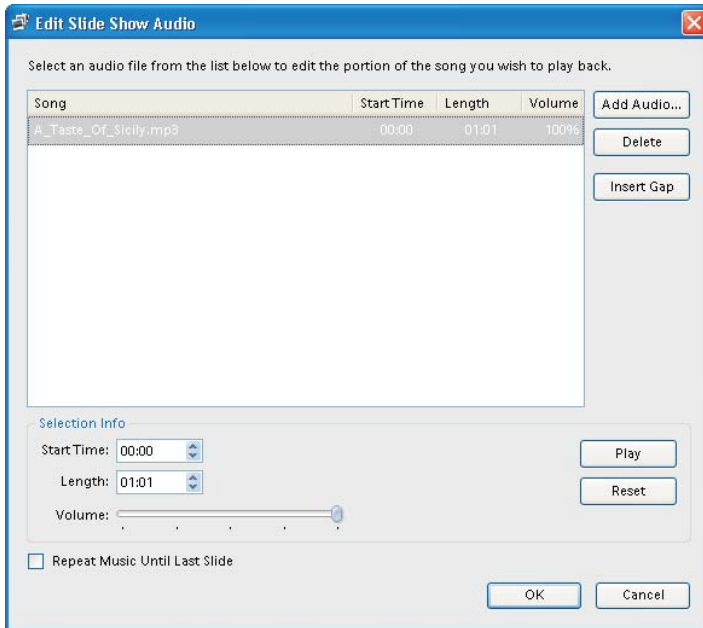
The Edit Slide Show Audio dialog box provides the following capabilities:

- **Add audio**   You can add additional audio tracks by clicking the Add Audio button. This re-opens the Choose Your Audio Files dialog box, where you can select more audio tracks. When you are done picking the additional tracks, click Open to add them to the list in the Edit Slide Show Audio dialog box. The tracks are added in the order you picked them and placed immediately after the track you selected prior to adding the audio tracks.

- **Add a gap**   To add a gap (a silent section), click the Insert Gap button. This inserts a gap immediately after the selected track. The default gap length is 5 seconds. To change the length of the gap, click the Gap entry in the dialog box and adjust the Length field.

- **Delete an audio track**   To remove an audio track (or a gap) from the list, select the track and click the Delete button.

- **Rearrange the audio tracks**   If you have multiple tracks in the dialog box, you can click and drag them to rearrange their order.

- **Adjust the length of the track**   If you want to truncate one of the tracks (including a gap), set the Length spinner to a value less than the actual length of the track. You cannot make the track longer than the actual length.

Note *The Start Time field refers to where in the currently selected track the audio should start. A value of 00:00 refers to the beginning of the audio. If you adjust the start time with the spinner, the length automatically adjusts so that the sum of the start time and the length equals the total length of the audio track.*

■ **Set the volume of each track**   You can individually adjust the volume of each track. To do so, select the track and use the Volume slider. To preview the track at the selected volume, click the Play button.

■ **Repeat Music Until Last Slide**   If the total length of the audio track is shorter than the slide show, the balance of the slides will play in silence unless you select the Repeat Music Until Last Slide check box. In that case, the audio track will repeat until the end of the slide show.

Add an Audio Caption to a Slide

If you'd like to add narration for a slide, choose Add | Narration, select Narration from the slide thumbnail shortcut menu or click the Add Narration for the Current Slide Tool in the shortcut bar. Any of these actions opens the Edit Narration dialog box, at right.

To use the audio caption for the photo, select the Use Photo Audio Caption option and click OK. If you'd like to record your narration or choose a file to use for the narration, click the Edit Audio Caption button. This opens the Select Audio File dialog box, shown here.

Here you can choose a file (File | Browse) or record a narration by clicking the red Record button (just to the left of the Play button). When you're done recording, click the Stop button (just to the right of the Play button). Choose File | Close and click the Yes button when prompted to save the new audio caption. Slides with a narration display a small speaker icon in the lower-right corner.
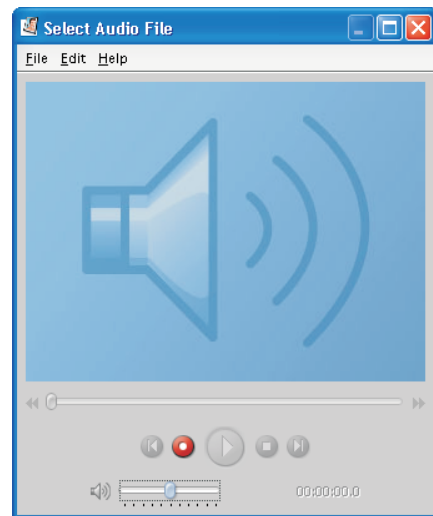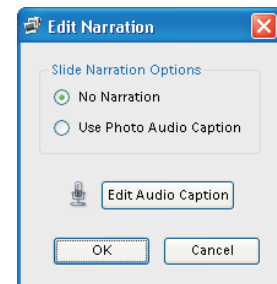
Note *To remove the narration from the slide, re-open the Audio Caption dialog box (which now indicates the filename of the narration file in the title bar) and choose Edit | Clear. Then select File | Close and click the Yes button when prompted to save the new audio caption.*

Add Text to a Slide
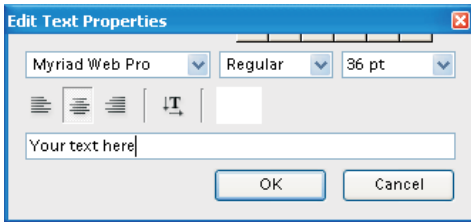
You can add text to label a slide. To do so, select Add | Text, choose Add Text from the Slide Thumbnail shortcut menu, or click the Add Text tool in the shortcut bar. Any of these actions opens the Edit Text Properties dialog box, at left.

Type the text you want into the field and choose the typeface, effects, and font size from the three drop-down lists. You can also choose the alignment (left, center, or right), and change the text orientation to either horizontal (the default) or vertical using the buttons just above the text field. Finally, you can change the text color by clicking the color box (just to the right of the text orientation button) and picking a color from the Color Picker.

Click OK to place your text on the image, as in the example at left.

Once your text is visible on the slide preview, you can move it by clicking the text and dragging it to a new location.

Note *To edit your text, choose Edit | Text to redisplay the Edit Text Properties dialog box.*

Add a Blank Slide

For titling purposes, it can be useful to insert a blank slide into your presentation. To do so, select the thumbnail after which you want the blank slide, and select Add | Blank Slide or click the Blank Slide button in the shortcut bar. The blank slide is inserted into the slide show, as you can see here.

To change the color of the slide, choose Change Background Color from the blank slide shortcut menu or select Edit | Change Background Color. Then pick the color from the Color dialog box.

Note *As with any other slide, you can choose a duration, specify transitions, add text, and add narration to blank slides.*

### Preview and Save the Slide Show

The controls just below the image preview in the Slide Show Editor dialog box enable you to move through your slides and preview them in the dialog box. Click the big Play button (the third button from the left) to start the slide show. Click the Pause button (the Play button turns into a Pause button during playback) to pause the show, or click the Stop button (third from the right) to stop the show. The rest of the buttons enable you to navigate through the slides.

Note *To preview the slide show full-screen, click the Full Screen Preview button in the upper-right corner of the dialog box, or choose File | Full Screen Preview. Press the* ESC *key to end the full-screen preview and return to the dialog box.*

Once you're happy with the slide show, it's time to save it. Select File | Save As (or File | Save the first time you save) to see the dialog box at right where you can name your creation.

Type in the name of the slide show and click Save to save it. The slide show shows up in the current catalog (with today's date). The catalog displays a thumbnail of the first slide and a special icon to indicate that the thumbnail represents a creation (in this case, a slide show), as in the example at right.
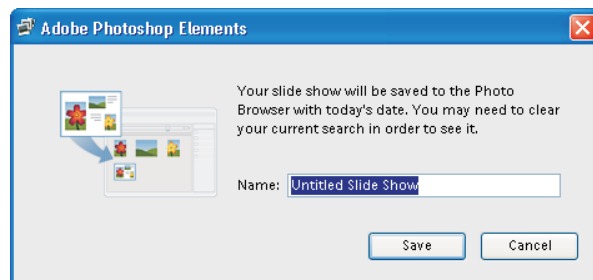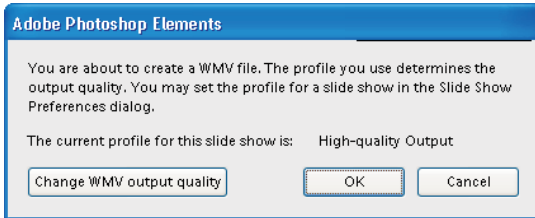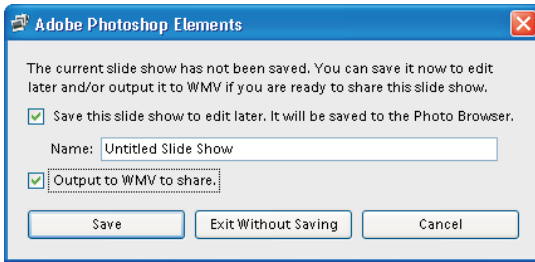
Alternatively, you can choose File | Done to see a slightly different dialog box, shown at left. This dialog box enables you to save the slide show as well as output it as a Windows Media Player video (WMV) so that anyone with a copy of Windows Media Player can view your slide show. The first step is to fill in the name of the slide show and click Save. Photoshop Elements saves the slide show and then provides a dialog box (shown at left) where you can change the WMV output quality if you wish.

Save the WMV file using the following steps:

1. To change the WMV output quality, click the Change WMV Output Quality button, pick the quality you want from the Choose Profile dialog box, and click OK. This returns you to the previous dialog box.

Tip   *If you are going to burn the slide show to a video CD, choose either VCD NTSC Output or VCD PAL Output (depending on which format you need for your TV). If you are going to burn the slide show to a DVD, choose DVD NTSC Output or DVD PAL Output.*

2. Click OK in the dialog box and Photoshop Elements prompts you for the name of the Windows Media Player file with a standard Save As dialog box.

3. Fill in the filename and click Save. The result is a Windows Media Player video.

Note   *If you choose File | Done after choosing File | Save, the slide show dialog box closes without giving you the opportunity to save the slide show as a WMV. Thus, if you've already saved the slide show using File | Save, you can save a WMV version by choosing File | Output as WMV, which walks you through all the steps to pick the quality and provide a name for the WMV file.*

Edit a Slide Show

Once you've saved a slide show, you can re-open it in the Slide Show Editor. To do so, select the thumbnail for the slide show in

the catalog and choose Edit from either the thumbnail shortcut menu or the Edit menu.

If you neglected to output the slide show as a WMV, you can do that, too. Choose Output as WMV from either the thumbnail shortcut menu or the Edit menu, and follow the previously discussed prompts to set the quality, assign a filename, and output the file.

Finally, you can view the images included in the slide show in Organizer. To do so, choose Show Creation Items in Photo Browser from either the thumbnail shortcut menu or the Edit menu. The thumbnails for the included images are displayed, and you can edit them if you wish. Click the Back to All Photos button to return to viewing all the thumbnails in the Organizer.

Burn the Slide Show to a Video CD

You can burn a slide show to a video CD (VCD) directly from the Slide Show Editor. To do so, choose File | Burn a Video CD. This opens the Burn dialog box, at right.

If you have more than one drive capable of burning a CD, pick the one you want to use from the Select Destination Drive section of the dialog box. You'll also need to select whether to use NTSC or PAL by picking the appropriate option in the Select Video Format section. Finally, you can pick the drive speed from the Select Drive Speed drop-down list.

When you are done picking these options, make sure you have a blank, recordable CD in the drive and click OK to burn the video CD. The Status bar shows the progress of the burn as a WMV (Windows Media Video) file is created and written to the CD. After the burn is complete, you can remove the CD from the drive.
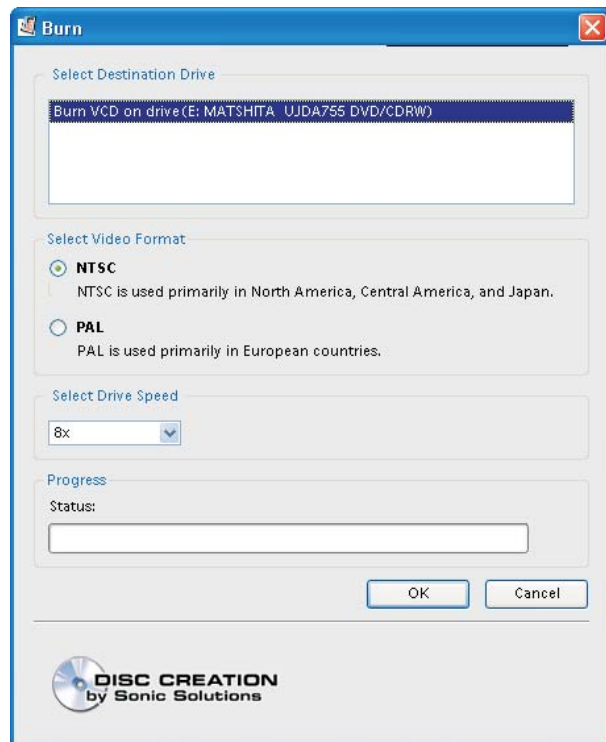
Note *Once you save a slide show, you can choose to burn a video CD from the shortcut menu. Just pick Burn a Video CD to open the Burn dialog box and follow the prompts.*

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Build a Simple Slide Show

The other option in the Creation Setup dialog box for a slide show is the Simple Slide Show. This option packages up your images into an Adobe Acrobat (PDF) file that anyone with the free Acrobat Reader can view.

Note *To obtain a copy of the Acrobat reader software, go to www.adobe.com.*

To get started creating a Simple Slide Show, select Simple Slide Show from the slide show Creation Setup dialog box and click OK to display the Simple Slide Show dialog box:
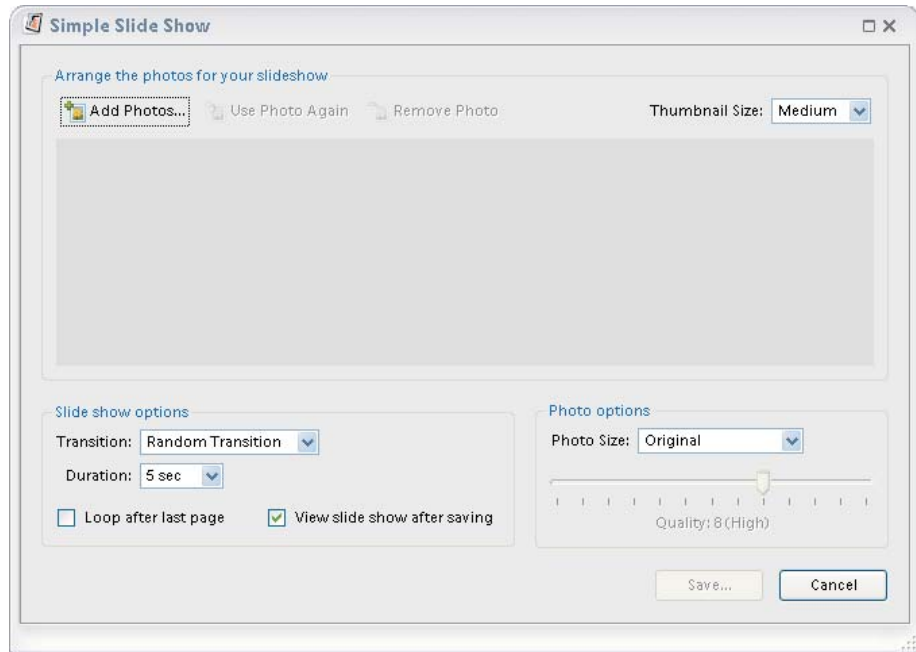

To add photos, click the Add photos button in the button bar along the top of the dialog box. This opens the same Add Photos dialog box that the custom slide show uses.

Tip *As with the custom slide show, if you select a set of pictures before starting the simple slide show, the pictures will appear in the Simple Slide Show dialog box when it opens.*

Once you've added images to the slide show, they are displayed in the central area of the dialog box with a number that shows the order in which the slides will be displayed:
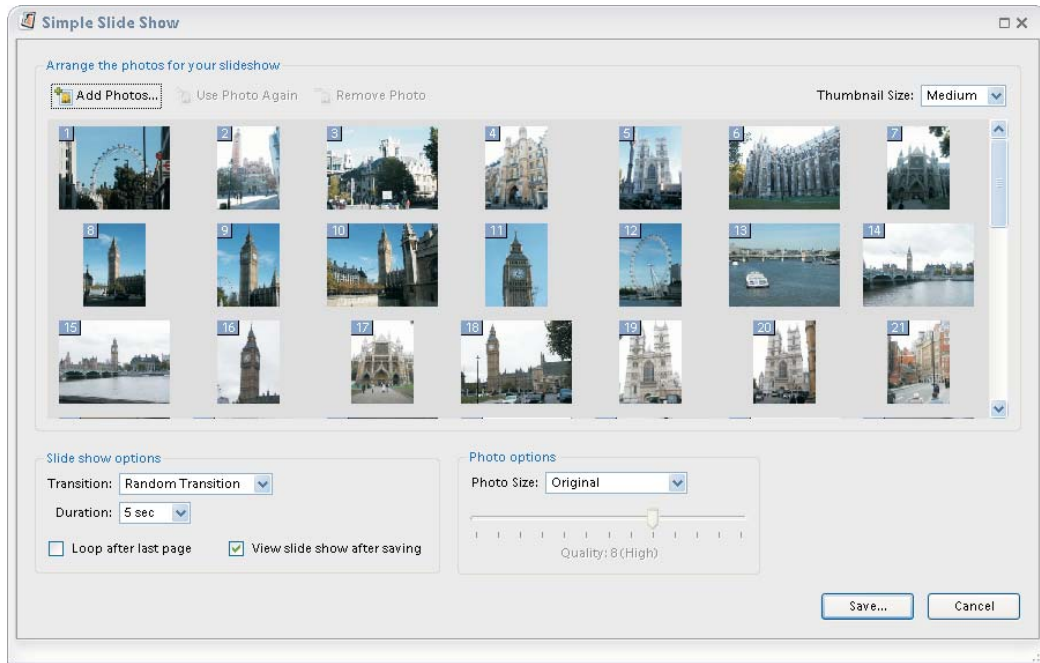
Using the buttons and the central area containing the image thumbnails, you can:

- ■ **Rearrange the images**   Drag and drop the images to rearrange them.

- ■ **Use a picture more than once**   To use a picture more than once, select the picture and click the Use Photo Again button. This duplicates the image so you can drag and drop it where you want the duplicate.

- ■ **Discard a photo**   Select a thumbnail and then click Remove Photo to remove the photo from the slide show.

- ■ **Change the thumbnail size**   Use the Thumbnail Size drop-down list to change the size of the thumbnail. This does not affect the size of the image in the final slide show.

You can use the options in the lower-left corner of the Simple Slide Show dialog box to pick a transition and the amount of time (duration) to show each slide. Unless you pick the Random Transition, the same transition is used for each slide. You can also choose whether to repeat the slide show (select the Loop After Last Page check box) and whether to view the slide show after saving it.

Finally, you can set the size of the images in the slide show from the Photo Size drop-down list. Depending on what you are going to use the slide show for, you can choose one of the common screen sizes (such as 1024×768 pixels), leave the photos at their original size (Original), or choose a custom size. If you choose Custom, you can type in any size you want in pixels in the Custom Photo Size dialog box. If you do choose to change the size, you can pick the quality of the resulting image. A low-quality image creates a smaller file for the slide show. A higher quality setting creates better pictures but the file can be much larger.

Note *Setting the image size will scale the image until one dimension fills the available screen. The slides will not be distorted. If some of the pictures are small, however, they will be scaled up to fit the specified dimension, which could leave them looking very "pixely."*

To save the simple slide show, click the Save button, fill in the filename in the Save Simple Slide Show dialog box, and click Save.

Build Photo Album Pages

You can build a set of photo album pages to display your images. You can choose how many images to show on each page, whether to show text captions, and even pick from a wide choice of page styles. You can also rearrange and size photos on each page. When you're done, you can print them yourself or have them professionally printed.
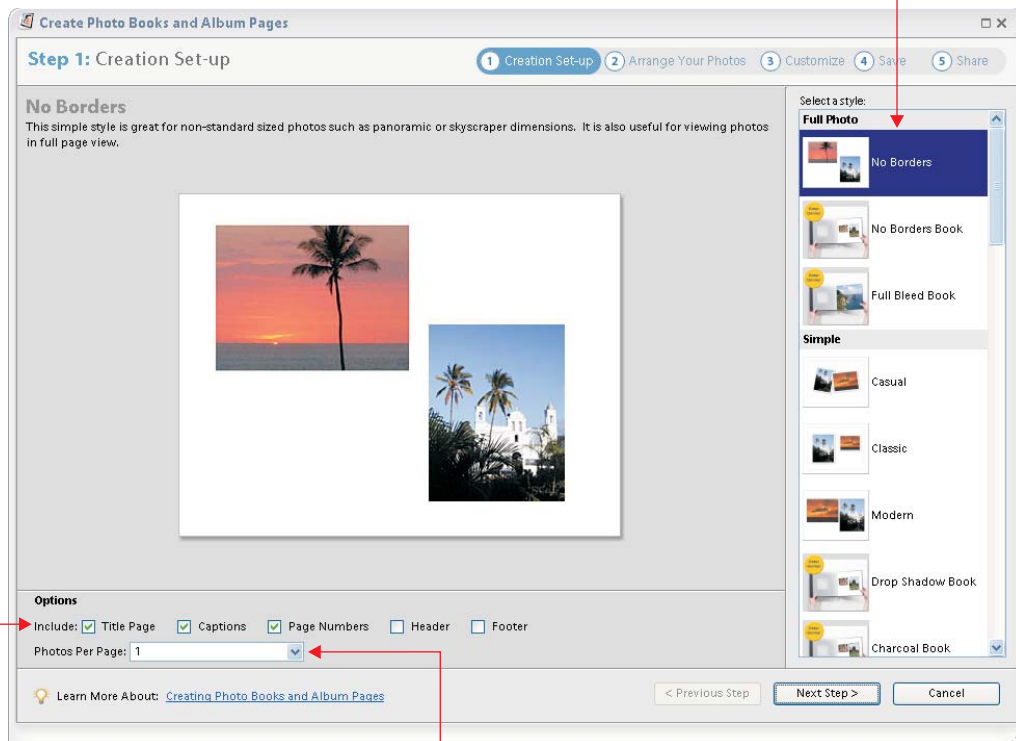
Set Up the Photo Album Pages

To start the process of creating a set of photo album pages, select Photo Album Pages from the Creation Setup dialog box

and click OK to display the Create Photo Album Pages dialog box (see Figure 25-4).

Choose a style of photo page

Choose what you want on each page

Choose how many images to show on each page

The first thing you need to do is to set the basic configuration of the photo album pages. Use the following steps:

1. Use the scrolling list of styles on the right side of the dialog box to pick the style of album page you want, and click the style. A preview appears in the center of the dialog box.

2. Use the check boxes at the bottom of the dialog box to decide whether you want a title page, captions, page number, a header, and a footer.

3. Pick the number of photos per page from the Photos per Page drop-down list. Some of the options alternate the

number of photos on a page. For example, the option Sequence 1, 3, 2, repeat places one image on the first page, three images on the second page, and two images on the third page. Then the pattern repeats.

Pick and Arrange the Photo Album Photos

Click the Next Step button to move to the next frame of the dialog box (Arrange Your Photos):
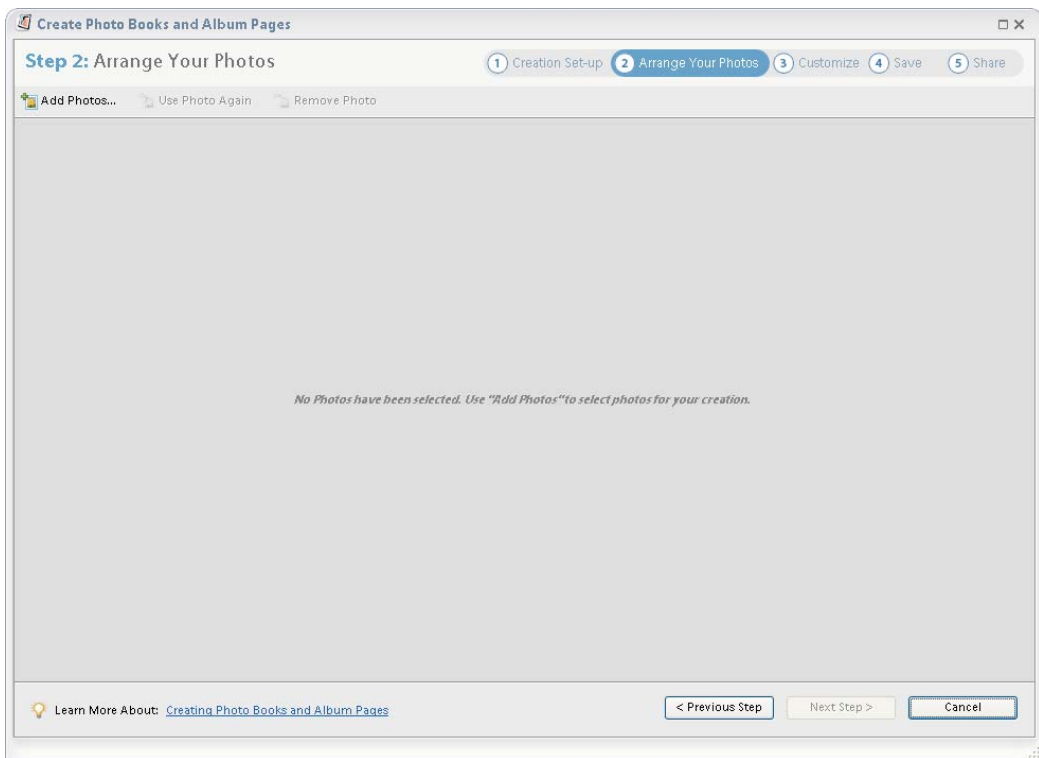
This step works just like the Simple Slide Show dialog box. You can click the Add Photos button to open the Add Photos dialog box and select the photos you want to use. You can also use a photo again or remove a photo. Finally, you can use click and drag to rearrange the thumbnails. As you can see on the next page, the page on which the image will be placed is noted in the upper-left corner of the image—this placement will change as you rearrange the images.
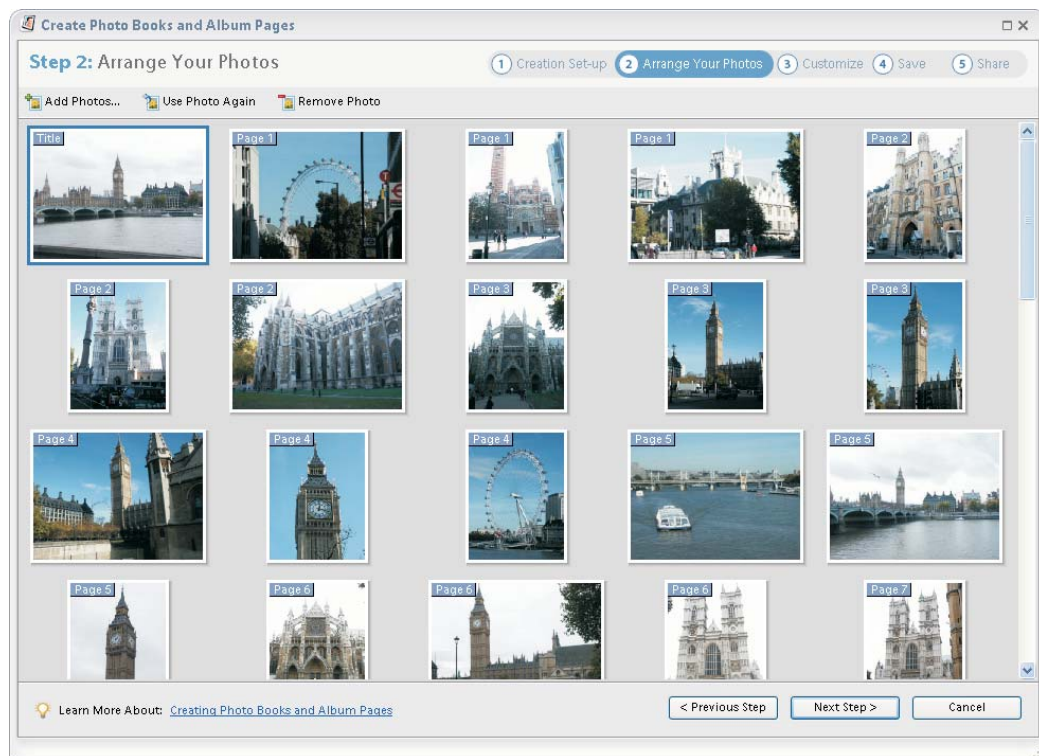
Tip

As with all the creations, if you selected a set of images before beginning the creation, the thumbnails will be displayed when you reach step 2.

Organizer will warn you if your pictures are small and thus won't print well. The dialog box at right is your first warning in the Arrange Your Photos frame.

In addition, Organizer tells you *which* photos aren't high enough resolution to print well by placing a triangular yellow warning icon on the thumbnail, as you can see in the images at right.
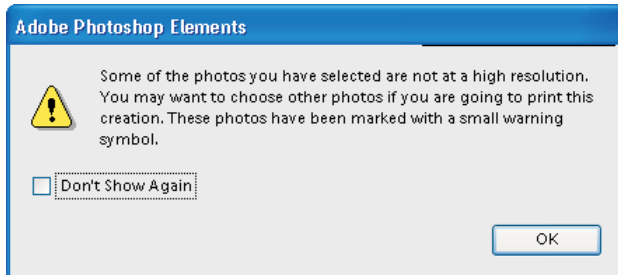
Tip *Printing more pictures on a page shrinks the images on that page, so even low-resolution pictures might print okay at these smaller sizes. Thus, if you get the low resolution warning, try moving the low resolution picture to a page with more pictures on it so it will print smaller. The easiest way to do this is to increase the number of pictures on the page using the Photos on This Page drop-down list discussed in the next section. You'll just have to experiment—and print a draft before sending the pages out to be printed professionally!*

Did you know?

Photo Album Displays Images in the Order You Specify

Getting the images in the right order is very important. The first image goes on the title page (if you choose to use one). The title page contains only a single image, no matter how many images you choose to place on other pages using the Photos per Page drop-down list. And if you want to use the image on both the title page and some other page, you'll need to click the Use the Image Again button to create a duplicate of the image, then drag it to its position in the list of thumbnails.

Customize the Photo Album Pages

Click the Next Step button to advance to the next frame of the dialog box (Customize), shown in Figure 25-5.

From the Customize panel, you can perform the following tricks:

View from inside the London Eye

- **Move to a different page**   To pick any page in the album, choose the page from the drop-down list at the top-center of the dialog box. To advance to the next page, click the right arrow button near the right edge. To go back to the previous page, click the left-arrow button near the left edge.

- **Move and resize the photos**   You can move and resize the photos on the page. To move a photo, click in the photo and drag it to a new location. To resize a photo, click and drag one of the sizing handles in the corners of the rectangle that appears when you click in the image, as shown at left.

Add free-form text

Return the photos to their default location and size

Pick a page from the drop-down list

Advance to the next page

Change the number of photos on the page

Return to the previous page
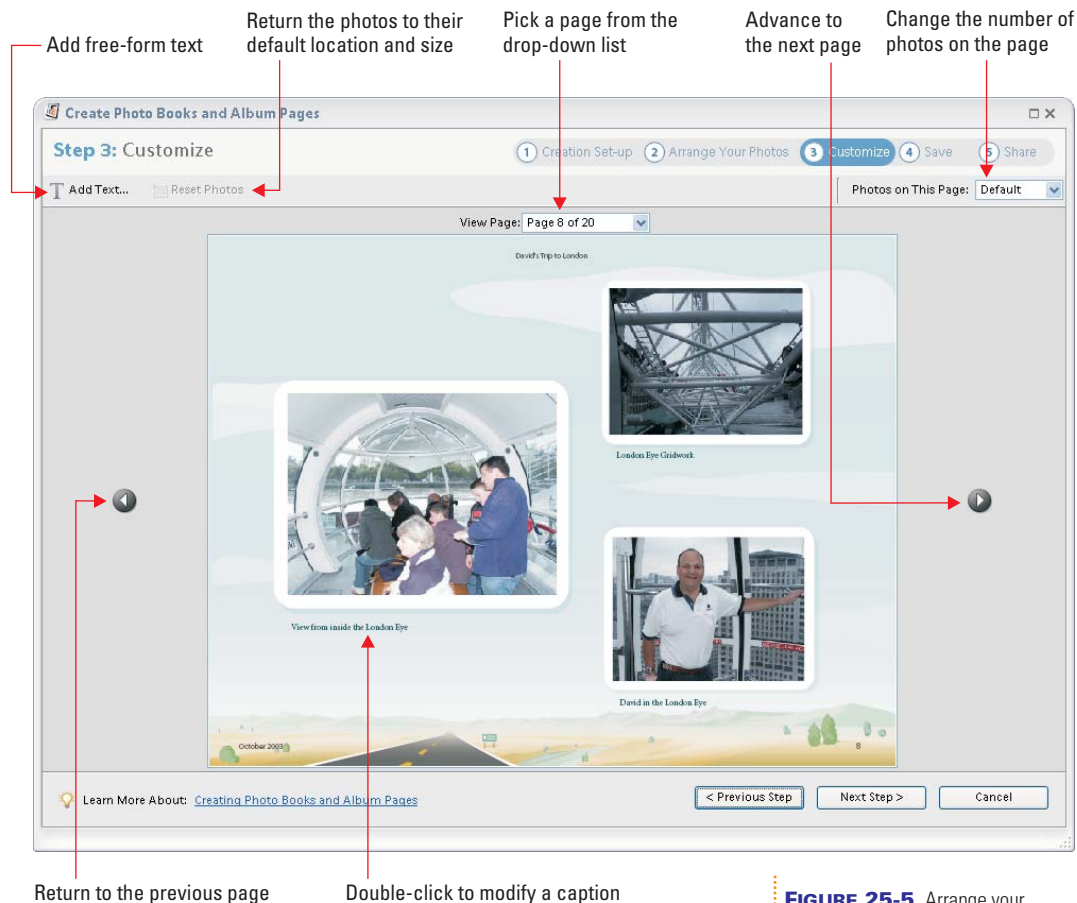
Double-click to modify a caption

FIGURE 25-5 Arrange your photos and add text with the Customize panel of the Photo Album Pages dialog box.

Note *Some page layouts include borders. If you drag or resize an image so that part of it falls outside the border, that portion of the image won't be visible.*

■ **Reset the images**   To return an image to its default position and size, choose Reset Photo from the image shortcut menu. To return all images to their default position and size on the page, click the Reset Photos button in the shortcut bar or choose Reset All Photos from the image shortcut menu.
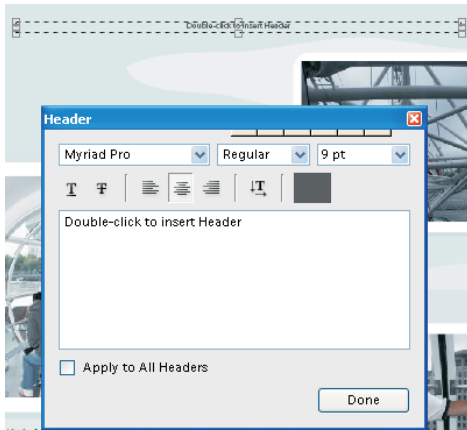
- **Modify the page header**   If you chose to use headers, you can modify the header text by double-clicking the header (which is initially labeled "Double-click to Insert Header") or choosing Edit Text from the shortcut menu. This opens the Header dialog box, shown in Figure 25-6. Edit the text in the dialog box and choose the font, effects, and size from the drop-down lists across the top of the dialog box. You can apply an underline or strikethrough style from the two leftmost buttons in the shortcut bar (just below the drop-down menus), as well as apply left, center, or right justification from the three buttons in the center of the shortcut bar. Click the Change the Text Orientation button to switch the orientation between left-right and up-down. Finally, to change the text color, click the colored rectangle at the right end of the shortcut bar.

Note *To make all headers the same, select the Apply to All Headers check box.*

- **Modify the page footer**   If you chose to use footers, you can modify the footer text in exactly the same way as modifying the page header.

- **Modify a photo caption**   To modify the text of a photo caption, double-click the caption (or choose Edit Text from the caption shortcut menu) and fill in the Caption dialog box. This dialog box is identical to the Header dialog box (shown in Figure 25-6) except that it is missing the Apply to All Headers check box.

Note *Changing the caption for an image on a photo page does not affect the caption associated with the photo in Organizer.*
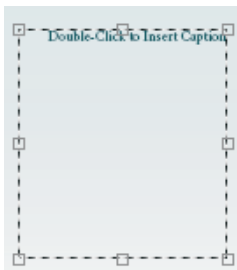
- **Move or size a text block**   To move a text block (such as a caption, header, footer, or free-form text), click the text to show the sizing rectangle, then move the mouse inside the rectangle and click and drag the rectangle to a new location. To change the size of the text rectangle, click and drag one of the sizing handles, as shown at left.

Note   *To return a text box to its default position and size, choose Reset Text Box from the text box shortcut menu. To return all the text boxes to their default position and size on the page, choose Reset All Text Boxes from a text box shortcut menu. You can also delete a text box by choosing Delete Text Box from the text box shortcut menu.*

■ **Change the number of photos on the page**   To change the number of photos on the page, select the number of photos you want from the Photos on This Page drop-down list in the upper-right corner. To return to the number of photos that would be on the page based on your original settings, choose Default.

■ **Add free-form text to the page**   You can add additional text boxes to the page by clicking the Add Text button in the shortcut bar. This opens the Text dialog box, which looks the same as the other text dialog boxes. Make your modifications and click Done to place the text on the page. As with captions, you can delete, move, and size the text box.

Save the Photo Album Pages

Click Next Step to advance to the Save frame in the dialog box (see Figure 25-7). Fill in the title for the album pages in the

FIGURE 25-7   Save your work with the Save frame of the Create Photo Album Pages.
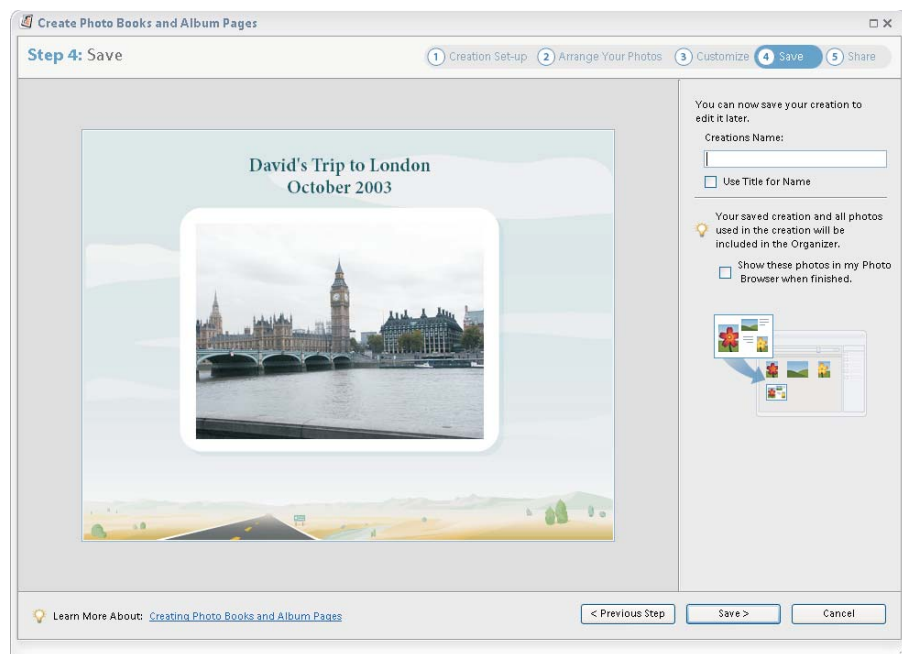
Album Pages Name field. If the photos you selected are *not* from the current catalog but you'd like them included in the current catalog, select the Show These Photos in My Photo Browser When Finished check box.

Note *Any tags associated with the pictures you include in the photo album pages are also attached to the photo album pages thumbnail.*

How to ...   Work with Saved Photo Album Pages

Once you've saved your Photo Album, the title page (or first page, if you didn't use a title page) appears as a thumbnail in the Photo Browser. To re-open the Photo Album Pages creation and modify it, click the thumbnail and choose Edit from the thumbnail shortcut menu or the Edit menu. This redisplays the photo album pages in the Creation dialog box, ready for you to make any changes.

You can also select Share from the thumbnail shortcut menu or the Edit menu to re-open the photo album pages at the Share frame in the dialog box. This makes it easy to share the results again—or pick another way to share the photo album pages.

You can filter the contents of the Photo Browser to display just the images included in the photo album pages by choosing Show Creation Items in Photo Browser from the thumbnail shortcut menu or the Edit menu. When you are done viewing (and editing, if you like) the images, click the Back to All Photos button.

The last interesting way to re-open the Photo Album is to pick View from the shortcut menu. This opens the photo album pages as a simple, full-screen slide show (see Figure 25-8). Use the navigation controls that initially appear in the upper-right corner to view the pages or navigate between them. You can also view this slide show at any time while you are building the album pages by clicking the Full-screen Preview button that appears in the Step 3: Customize step.

FIGURE 25-8 View the photo album pages as a slide show.

Share the Photo Album Pages

Click the Save button to move to the final frame of the dialog box (Share), as shown in Figure 25-9. If you don't want to share your photo album pages, simply click the Done button. Otherwise, to choose a method of sharing your pages, click one of the buttons on the right side of the dialog box.

FIGURE 25-9 Choose one of the buttons to decide how to share your Photo Album Pages creation.
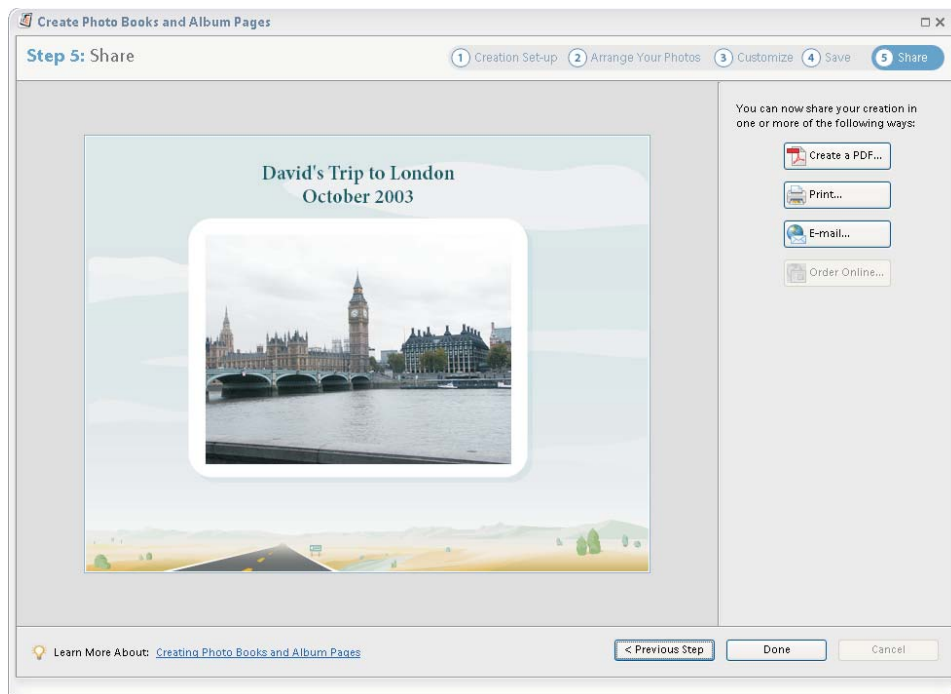
Note *To order your photo album pages (and other creations) online, click the Share Online button to access the Adobe Ofoto web site and follow the prompts to build an address book, specify the options, supply a credit card, and complete the order.*

Create an Adobe Acrobat Document

To create an Adobe Acrobat document from the photo album pages, click the Create a PDF button. From the resulting dialog box, choose whether to optimize the result for viewing onscreen, for printing, or use the full resolution of the images. Each option sizes the photos for the appropriate use. The printing option results in a larger file than the viewing onscreen option, and the full resolution option results in the largest file of all. Once you've picked the option you want, click OK, provide a filename in the Export PDF As dialog box, and click Save.

Print the Album Pages

To print the photo album pages, click the Print button. This simply opens the standard Print dialog box, where you can select a printer, choose the print quality and number of copies, and specify the range of pages to print. Click Print to send the pages to the printer.

E-mail the Album Pages

To e-mail a set the photo album pages, click the E-mail button. This opens the Attach Creation Items to E-mail dialog box:
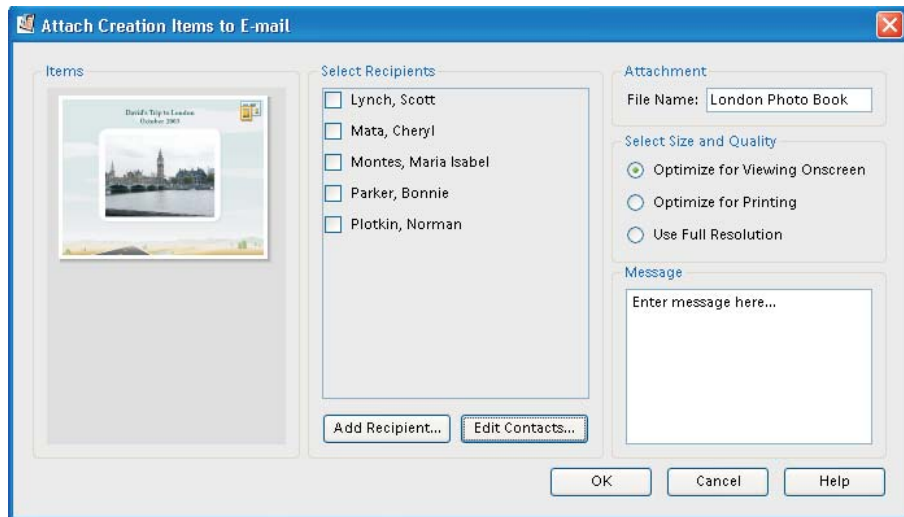
From this dialog box, you can specify the attachment filename and select the size and quality of the included images, just as you did with the Create a PDF option. You can also enter a message by typing it into the Message text box.

If you have added contacts to the Photoshop Elements Contact book, they will appear in the Select Recipients portion of the dialog box. To send an e-mail to one of the recipients, select the check box alongside the name. You can also click the Add Recipient button to present a dialog box where you can fill in the information to add a recipient to the list.

Note *Select the Add to Contact Book check box in the Add a Recipient dialog box to automatically add the recipient to the Contact Book.*

Click OK. Photoshop Elements creates an Adobe Acrobat (PDF) document that includes your album pages. It then opens your default e-mail application (Outlook Express in my case) and creates an e-mail addressed to the recipients you selected. It also attaches the PDF document to the e-mail. You can then customize the message and subject line, and click Send to send the e-mail on its way.

Note *If the PDF document is large (over 1MB in size), you will get several warnings asking if you are sure you want to send the document. This is because some e-mail providers limit attachment sizes. In addition, if your recipient is using a slow Internet connection (such as dial-up), it can take a long time for them to receive the e-mail.*

Design Your Own Greeting Cards

You can use your photos to create greeting cards for holidays, events, and special occasions. To begin the process, choose Card from the Creation Setup dialog box and click OK. This opens the Create a Card dialog box in the first panel, Creation Set-Up (see Figure 25-10).

FIGURE 25-10 Build a greeting with the Create a Card creation dialog box.

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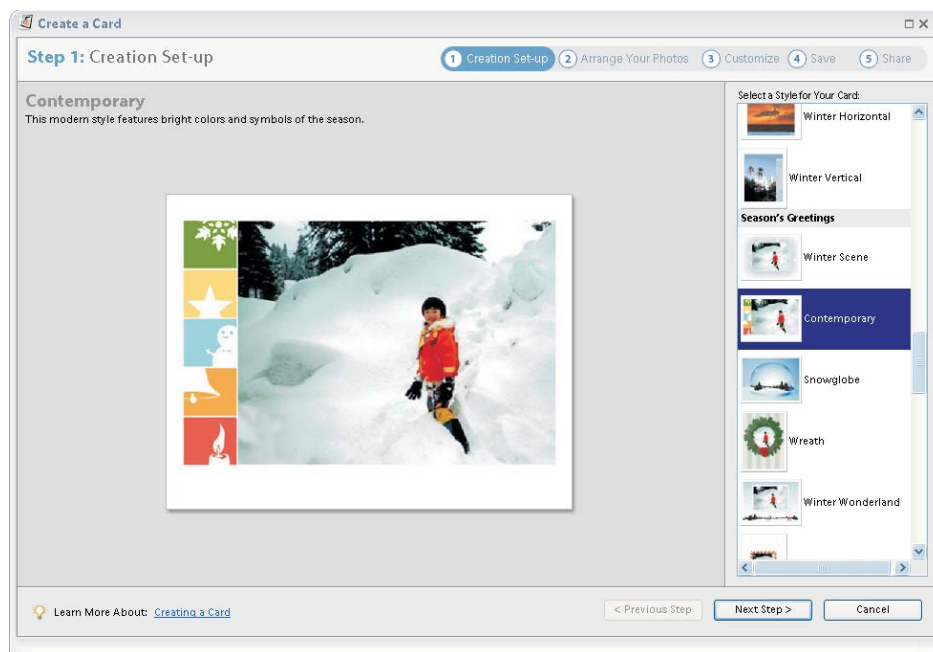
Building a greeting card works very much like building photo album pages, covered previously in this chapter. The first step is to pick the style of the card from the scrolling list on the right side of the dialog box. To proceed, click Next Step.

The next frame (Arrange Your Photos) enables you to Add Photos, Use a Photo Again, or Remove a Photo, or rearrange the order of the photos. The order of the photos establishes which photo goes on the front of the card, and which one (if any) goes inside. Then click Next Step to proceed.

The next frame (Customize) enables you to view the front and inside of the card by selecting from the drop-down list or clicking one of the arrow buttons to move back and forth between the pages. You can size and position your photo; specify, size, and position a text caption (on some card styles), and greeting; and add free-form text. Again, all this works very much like the Photo Album Pages dialog box. Click Next Step to proceed.

The next frame (Save) enables you to name the card so you can save it. As with photo album pages, you can choose to add any photos from the card that are not part of the current catalog. Once you save the card and the thumbnail shows up in the Photo Browser, the card thumbnail provides all the same options you had with photo album pages.

The last frame (Share) provides the ability to share the card by creating a PDF document, printing it, e-mailing it, or ordering it printed online.

Did you know?

Postcards and Greeting Cards are *Very* Similar

Building a postcard (choose Postcard from the Creation Setup dialog box) is identical in every way to building a greeting card. Well, almost identical. The one exception is that postcards only have a front—unlike greeting cards, they don't have an inside. Thus, the Customize step provides only the single page of the postcard, the front.

Keep Track of Your Year with Wall Calendars

The first time I ever saw images used outside of just printing them, it was to create wall calendars. At that time, you had to send your photographs to a company and pay a fair amount of money to have them printed. Now, using Photoshop Elements Organizer, you can use your photos in wall calendars and print them yourself (or order them online).

To get started building a wall calendar, choose Wall Calendar in the Creation Setup dialog box and click OK. This opens the Create a Wall Calendar dialog box, showing the Creation Set-Up frame (see Figure 25-11).

Like the photo album pages project (and others), the first step is to pick a style from the list along the right side of the dialog box and choose your print options. Of course, you'll also need to specify a month/year range for the calendar. Pick the starting month and year from the Starting drop-down lists and

**FIGURE 25-11** Pick a calendar style and specify the options for your wall calendar.
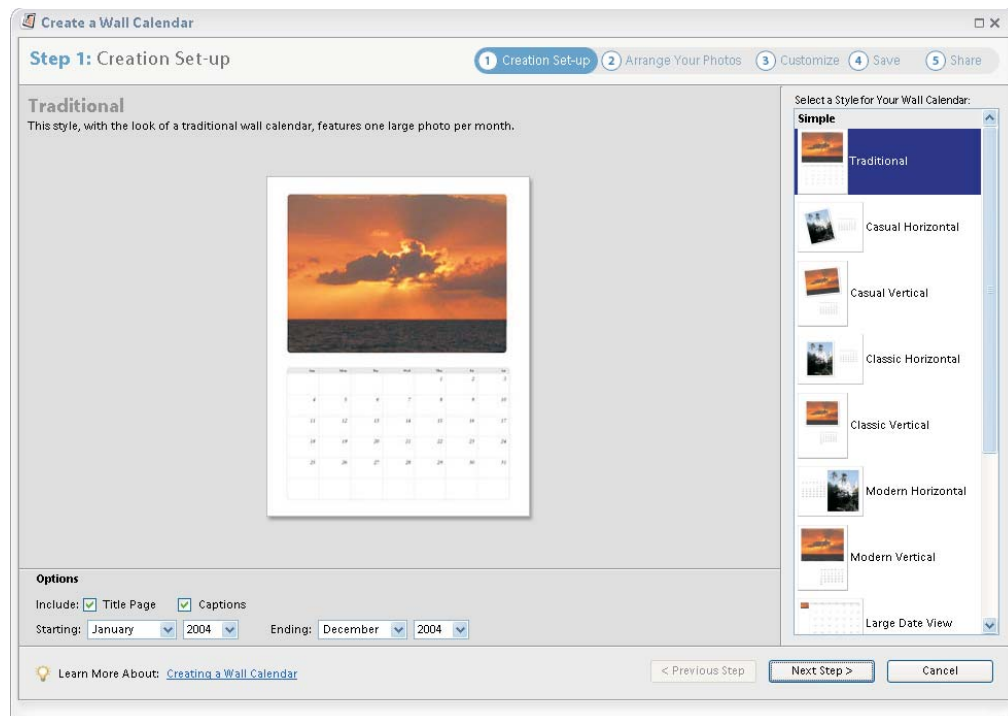
the ending month and year from the Ending drop-down lists. Click Next Step to proceed to the Arrange Your Photos frame.

Tip *You are not limited to just a one-year calendar. You can pick any range of dates (month/year) for which to create a calendar.*

The Arrange Your Photos frame works identically to the photo album pages—you can add and remove photos and rearrange them. The order of the photos is important, as this determines which photos get used for which month. In this view, each photo is labeled with the month for which it will be used:
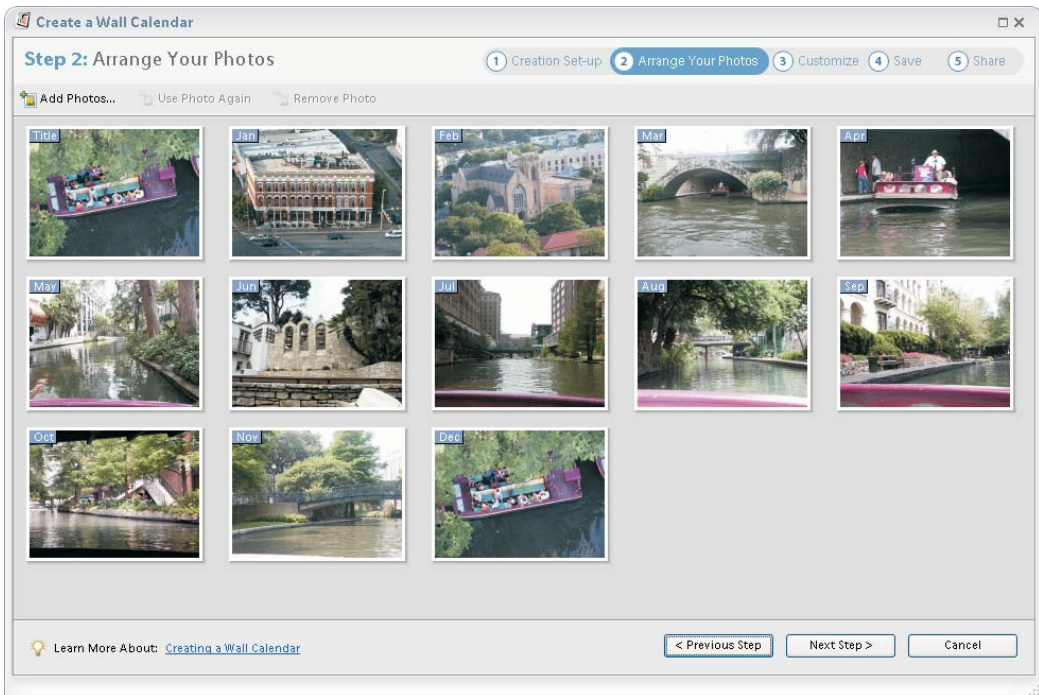
Click Next Step to proceed to the Customize frame.

As with photo album pages, the Customize frame enables you to pick a page to work on, in this case a month in the calendar you are creating. You can move and resize the image or the caption and add free-form text. As you can see from Figure 25-12, the calendar can look pretty good!

FIGURE 25-12 The combination of a picture and the calendar makes for a useful and attractive creation!
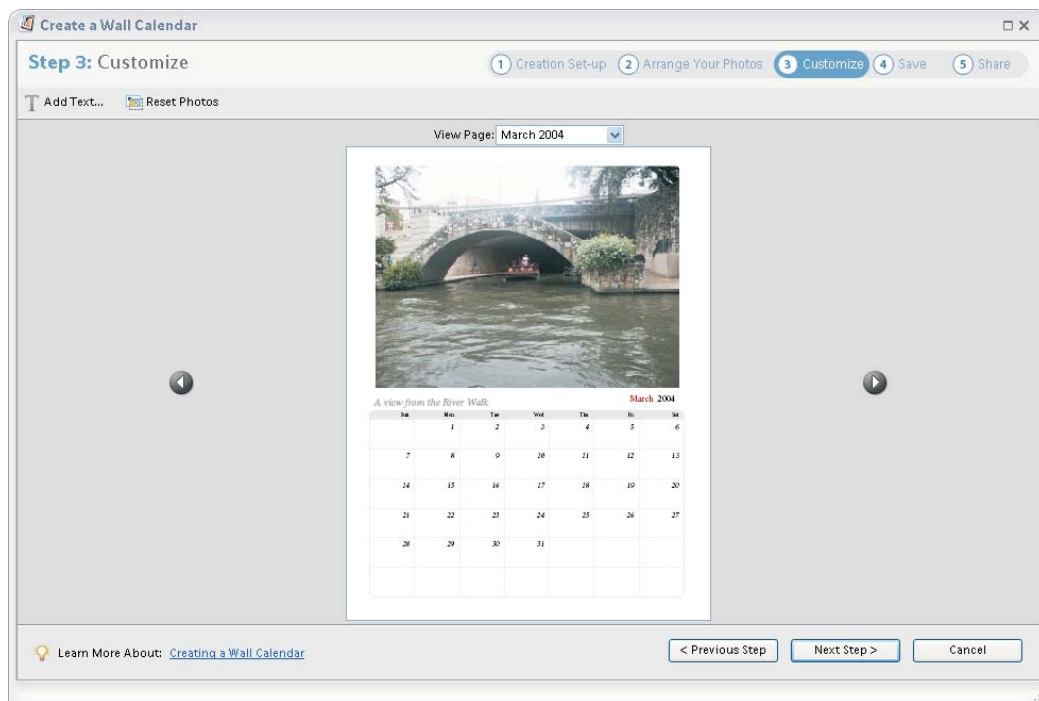
When you're done customizing the pages in the calendar, you can move on to the Save frame and the Share frame, which have the same options as previously discussed.

Create a Web Photo Gallery

One of the slickest things you can do with your photos is to post them on a web site. But what if you don't know how to create web pages, add thumbnails to them, and set up the links so that people can view the full-sized images? Not to worry, the Web Photo Gallery Creation takes care of all the messy details for you. Some galleries consist of a customizable web page with thumbnails of your images. A visitor to your site can click a thumbnail to see the full-size image. The web page can display the filename, title, and author. Other galleries display individual photos full-size.

To get started, select Web Photo Gallery in the Creation Setup dialog box and click OK. This opens the Adobe Web Photo Gallery dialog box, as shown in Figure 25-13.
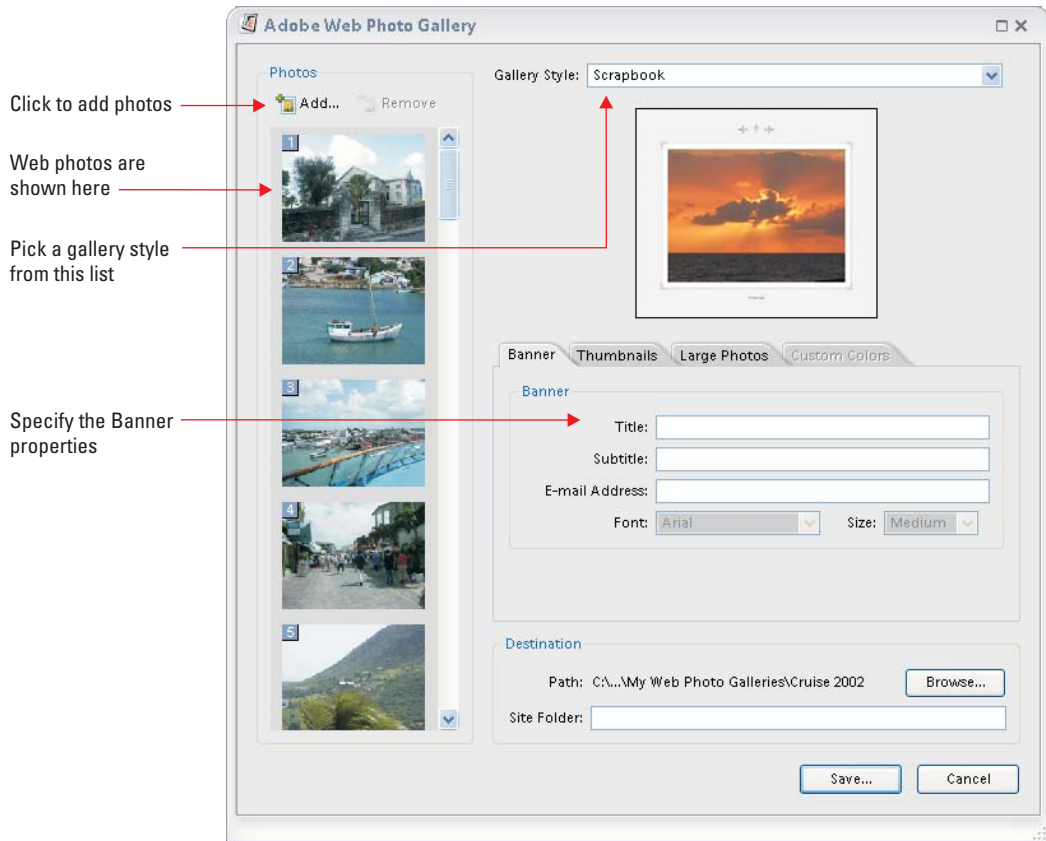
Click to add photos

Web photos are shown here

Pick a gallery style from this list

Specify the Banner properties

FIGURE 25-13 Build a web photo gallery to display your pictures on the Web.

Select the Photos to Use

The first step is to choose which photos you want to use. As with other creations, any images you had selected when you began building the web photo gallery appear in the scrolling list on the left side of the dialog box. You can add more photos by clicking the Add button to open the Add Photos dialog box and choose the photos you want. You can also remove photos from the list by selecting the photo and clicking the Remove button.

Specify the Site Style and Banner

The drop-down list at the top of the dialog box provides a list of web photo gallery styles. Pick a style to preview the style in the area just below the drop-down list.

To set up the basic information for the web site, type the appropriate values into the fields in the Banner tab (also visible in Figure 25-13). Set the path to the site folder where you will save the web photo gallery by clicking the Browse button and specifying the path in the Browse for Folders dialog box. The selected path appears in the Path field. Enter the name of the folder that will hold the actual web site in the site folder.

Tip *I usually fill in the name of the site folder as the last step before I save. This is because the web photo gallery changes as I design it, and I want the name of the site folder to accurately represent the gallery contents.*

Note *Some gallery styles enable you to pick the font and size to use for the banner; others use a preset font and size, and these drop-down lists are grayed out and unavailable.*

Set the Thumbnail Properties

Click the Thumbnails tab to display the thumbnails properties, shown at right.

The properties you can set are

> ■ **Size**   To set the size of the thumbnails, select a value from the Thumbnail Size drop-down list.
>
> ■ **Include filename in the caption**   To include the filename in the thumbnail caption, select the Filename check box in the Captions section of the dialog box.
>
> ■ **Include photo caption in the caption**   To include the photo caption in the thumbnail caption, select the Caption check box in the Captions section of the dialog box. Very few of the gallery styles allow you to include the caption, but the Simple style and the Vertical Frame style do.
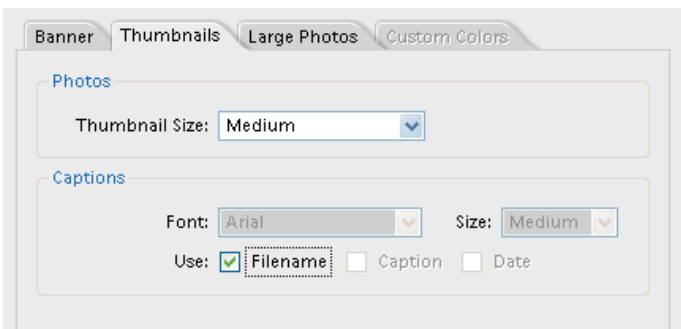
■ **Include the date in the caption**   To include the date in the caption, select the Date check box in the Captions section of the dialog box. Very few of the gallery styles allow you to include the date, but the Simple style and the Vertical Frame style do.

■ **Font and Size**   Some gallery styles (such as Vertical Frame) enable you to specify the font and size—pick them from the Font drop-down list and the Size drop-down list in the Captions section. If these properties are grayed out, the gallery style uses a preset font and style for any captions.

Note   *Some gallery styles, such as Classic and Dance, don't use thumbnails at all, so there is no point in configuring the Thumbnail tab!*

Set the Large Photos Properties
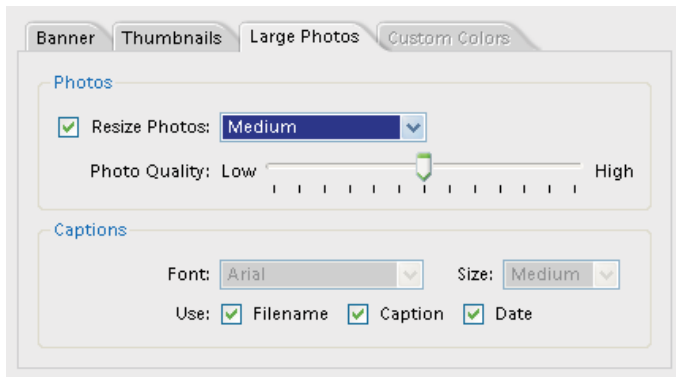
Click the Large Photos tab to display the large photos properties, shown at left.

This tab displays the properties of the full-size images that are either displayed on a page or are displayed when you click a thumbnail (depending on the gallery style).

If you wish, you can resize the images so that they are all approximately the same size. To do so, select the Resize Photos check box and pick an image size (Small, Medium, Large, or X-Large) from the drop-down list. Larger photos take up more room and take longer to download, so you should be careful about specifying big images. You can also adjust the image quality. A low image quality results in a smaller file, a high image quality uses less compression and thus you get a larger file, which takes longer to download from the Web. As with the thumbnail, you can specify whether to include the filename, caption, and

date in the large photo caption, as well as the font and size to use. Again, only some gallery styles allow you to change the font and size of the captions.

Set the Custom Colors

A few of the gallery styles enable you to choose custom colors for the background, banner, text, active link, link, and visited link. To set the custom colors, click the Custom Colors tab, shown here.

To set a color, click the colored rectangle, pick the color you want to use from the Color dialog box, and click OK.
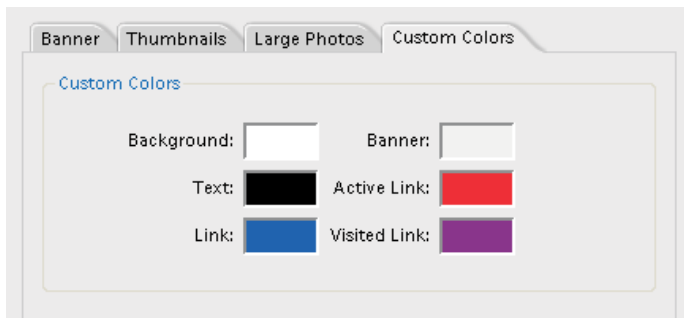
Caution *It is best not to change the color of the link (hyperlink), visited link (a link the visitor has already clicked on), or the active link (a link the mouse is hovering over). This is because people get used to getting cues from the color (such as a purple link being one they've already visited), so changing the colors of these links could confuse your web site visitors.*

Save Your Web Photo Gallery

Once you are done configuring your Adobe Web Photo Gallery, click Save. The entire site is saved to the destination, including thumbnails, the images (resized if you so chose), and the HTML files. Once the Save is complete, the Web Photo Gallery Browser opens so you can preview your site (see Figure 25-14).

If you chose a gallery that displays thumbnails, you can view the image associated with the thumbnail by clicking it in the Web Photo Gallery Browser.

Tip *To preview the web photo gallery in your default browser, navigate to the destination folder and open the folder with the same title as your gallery. Then double-click the Index.html file.*

Of course, the web pages are still located only on your hard drive, so they can't be seen on the Internet. You'll still need to
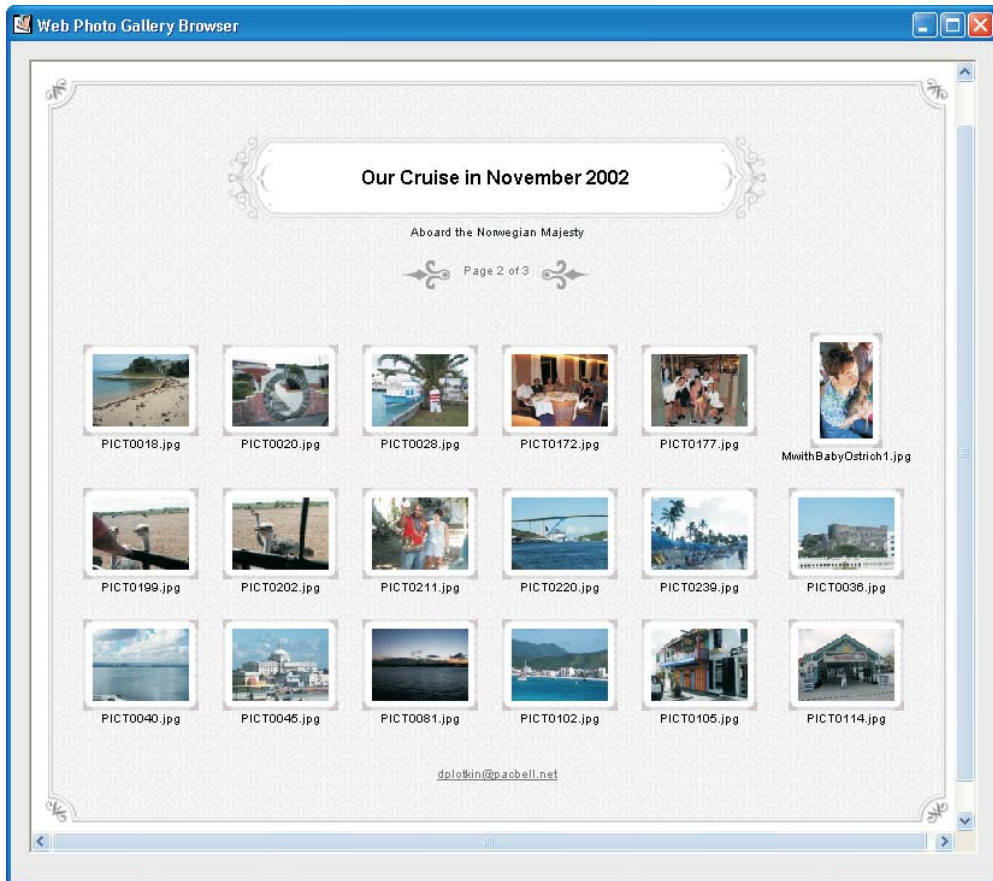
FIGURE 25-14 Preview your web photo gallery in the Web Photo Gallery Browser.

upload the pages to your web site, using FTP or your web site software (such as FrontPage or Dreamweaver). And don't forget to provide a link from a page in your web site to the photo album pages (your web site software should help you with this).

Create a VCD with a Menu

The VCD with Menu creation enables you to burn multiple slide shows onto a video CD and provides a menu that lists all the slide shows. If you play the video CD in a DVD player (most modern players will work), you can use the DVD player's remote control to pick the slide show from the menu and then play the slide show.

To get started building a VCD with Menu, select VCD with Menu from the Creation Setup dialog box and click OK to open the Create a VCD with Menu dialog box (see Figure 25-15). As with any other creations, any slide shows you have selected will appear in the dialog box.

FIGURE 25-15 Choose the slide shows to include on the VCD and burn it.

Included VCD WMV file   Included slide shows

Set video options for NTSC or PAL
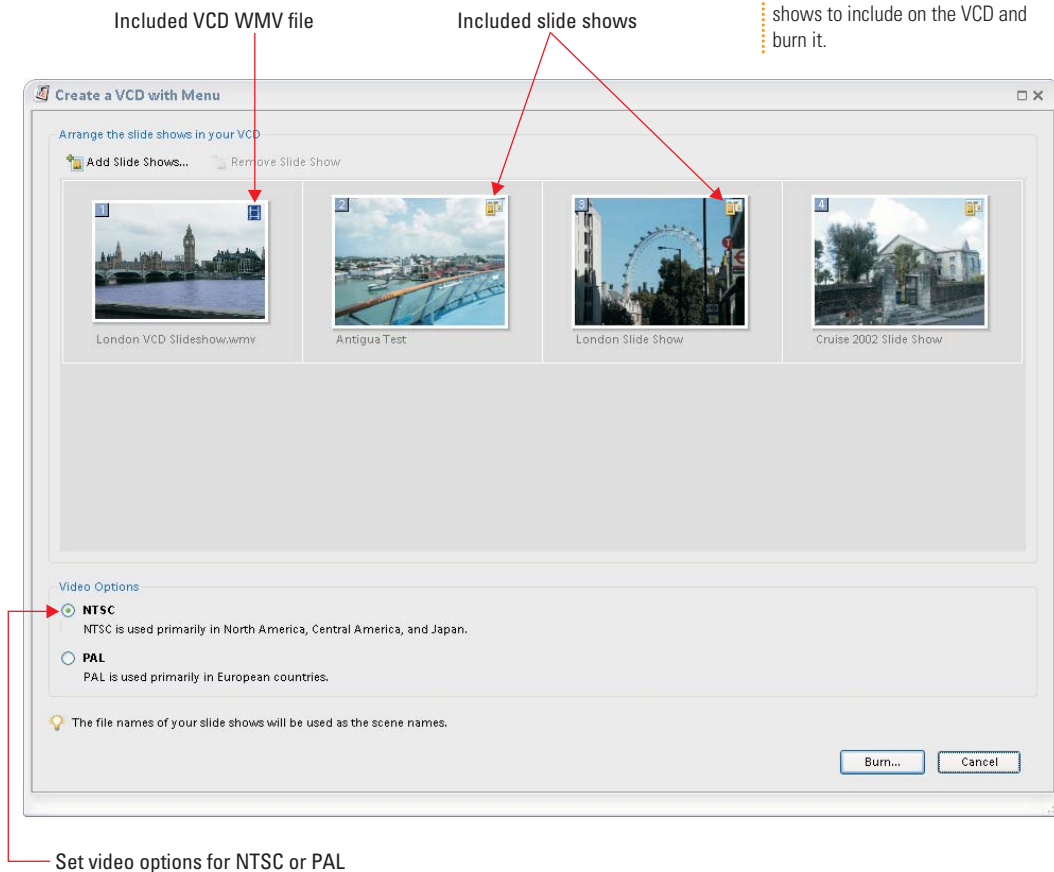
Note *Any Windows Media Video (WMV) files that you created with a setting of VCD NTSC Output or VCD PAL Output (depending on what you set in the Video Options section) will also appear in the dialog box with a little filmstrip icon in the upper-right corner. Since WMV files do not have to be converted to WMV files before being burned to the video CD, using WMV files is much faster.*

To add more slide shows to the video CD, click the Add Slide Shows button in the upper-left corner to open the Add Slide Shows dialog box:
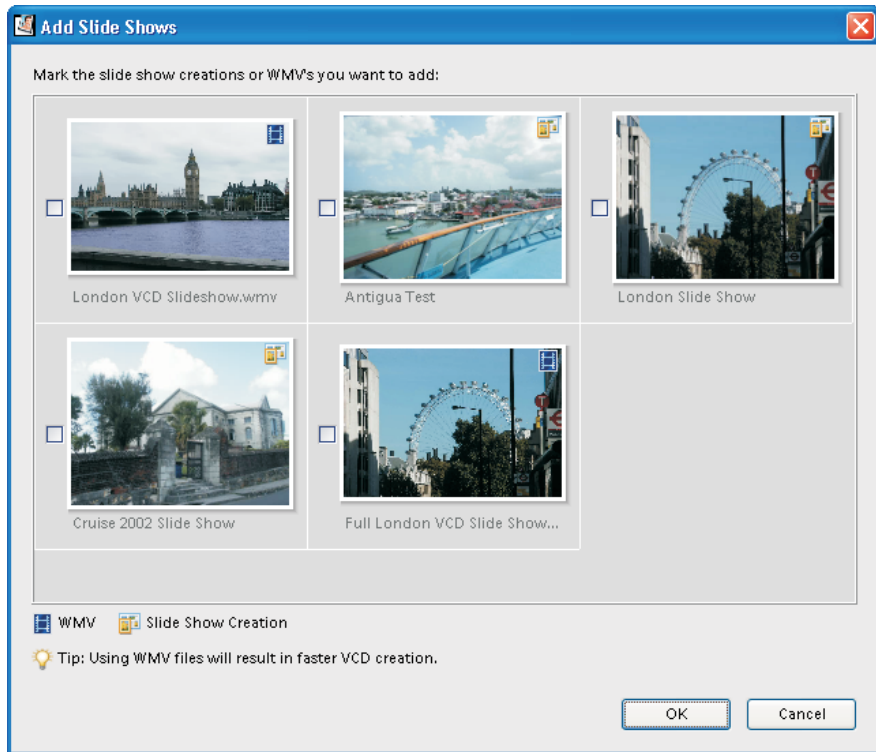
Simply select the check box alongside each slide show you want to include and click OK.

When you are ready to burn your video CD, insert a blank disc in the drive and click the Burn button. This converts regular slide shows to WMV and writes all the files to the video CD.

Note   *Be patient when creating a video CD. Even on my 3GHz Pentium 4 computer, it can take quite a while to convert the slide shows to WMV and then burn them to the disc.*