How to create collages and photo books

You can use your photos in creative projects, such as slide shows and photo books, and share them with family, friends, and fellow students.

Creating a collage

Photo collages let you create large picture projects, such as photo collages or unique photo prints. Photo collages can be printed with your home printer, ordered online, saved to your hard drive, and sent by e-mail.

To create a collage:

1. In the Elements Organizer, select the photos you want to use in your project and click the Create tab. Or, if you want to add photos after creating the project, click the Create tab in Photoshop Elements.
2. In the Create panel, click Photo Collage (**Figure 1**).

   The Photo Collage dialog box appears (**Figure 2**).
3. Select a size and theme.
4. To automatically add any photos you have selected in the Organizer, select the Autofill With Selected Images option.

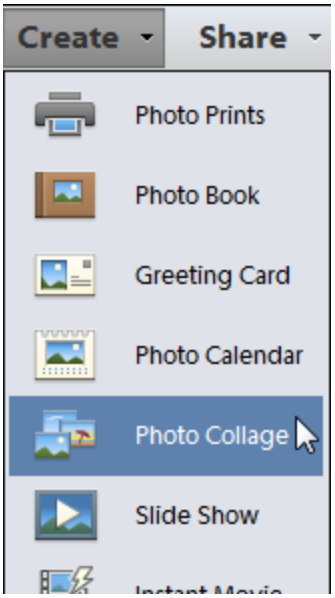

Figure 1 Create tab

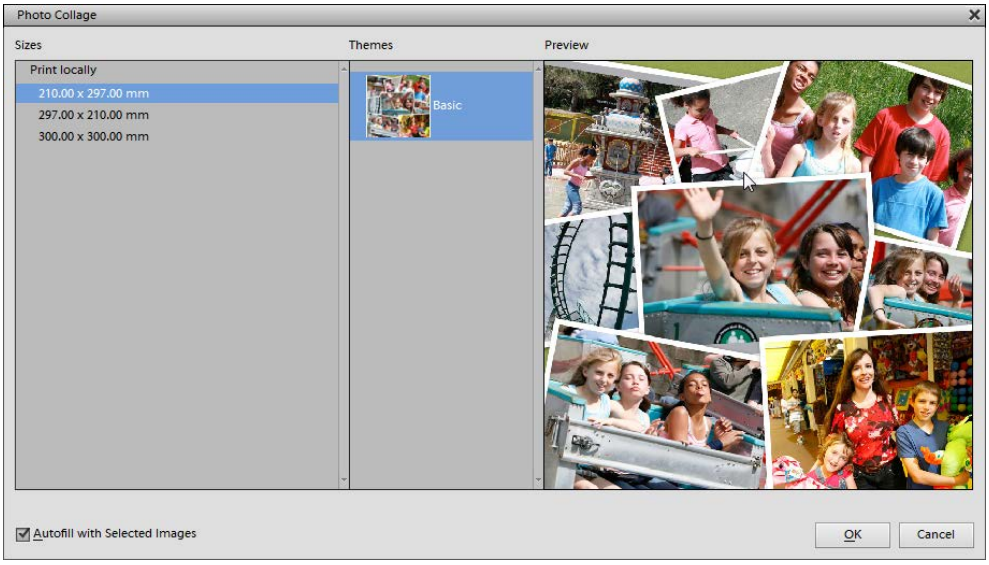

Figure 2 Photo Collage dialog box

5. Click OK.

   Photoshop Elements creates the photo book and displays Pages, Layouts, Graphics tabs in the Create panel (**Figure 3**).

6. Use the following options to preview, fine-tune and add creative designs to your photo collage:

   Pages Presents a thumbnail layout of your collage.

   Layouts Double-click an alternate layout to apply it.

   Graphics Choose a background, frame, and graphics and double-click to apply it.

7. Add photos (if you have not yet added) or new pages to the photo project.

8. You can adjust the image sizes or arrange them by clicking on them.

   - To resize a photo, click the photo and drag the handles to resize it (**Figure 4**).
   - To reposition an image, move the pointer over the photo's border until it changes into an arrow, and then drag the border to reposition it.
   - To rotate an image, move the pointer over the rotation handle (small circle) below the photo and then drag it to rotate the photo.
   - If you've added a text block to the collage, double-click to edit it.

9. Click Switch To Advanced Mode to access Full Edit options.

   In this mode, the toolbox is available and each of the images are placed on individual layers (**Figure 5**), enabling you to do advanced editing to any of the images.

   Note: You cannot resize a creation in the advanced mode. Additional Layouts, Artwork, and Effects options become available within the in the Create tab.

10. Choose File > Save.

    Locate the folder in which you want to save your project. By default, the file will be saved as a Photoshop Elements project file (PSE in Windows, or PSD in Mac OS), which you can later open and edit

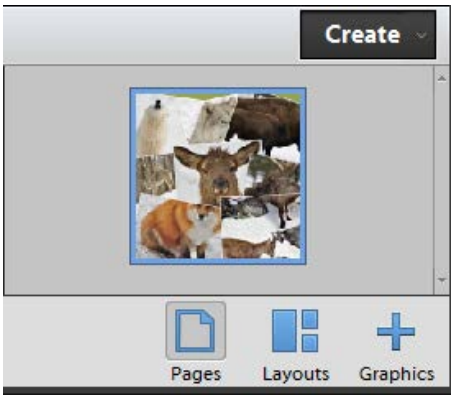

Figure 3 Create panel with Pages tab

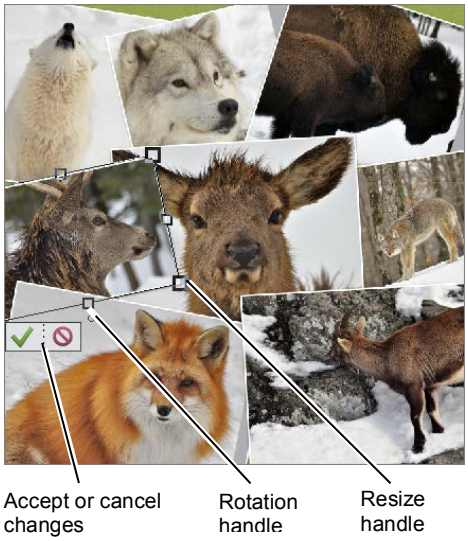

Figure 4 Resize a photo using the slider

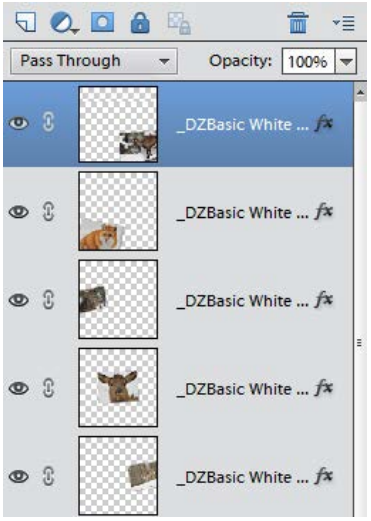

Figure 5 Images in layers in advanced mode

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11. When you are satisfied with the collage, click the Print button at the bottom of the document window.

    The Print dialog box opens (**Figure 6**).

12. Modify the printer settings as needed and then click Print.
13. Click Close to close the photo book

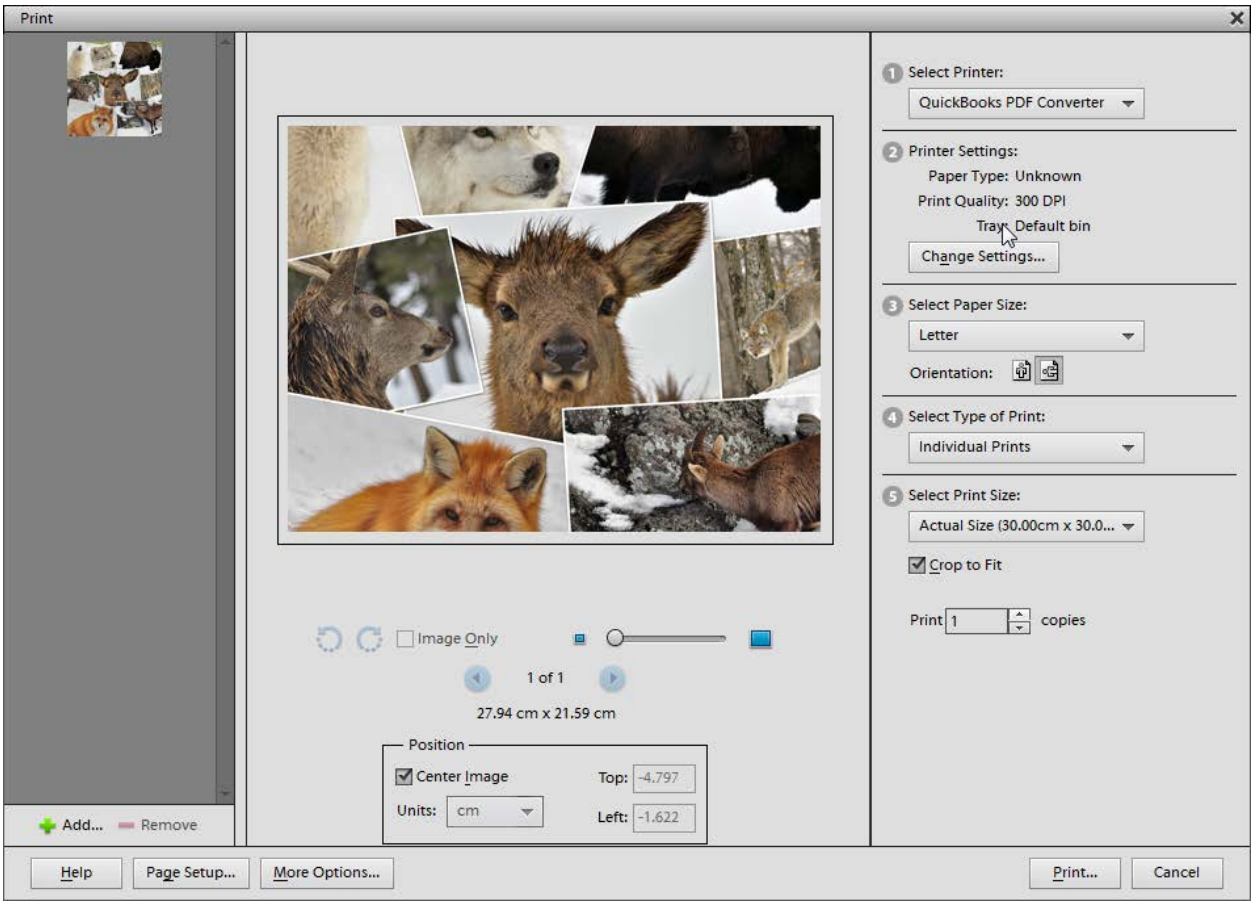

Figure 6 Print dialog box

Creating a photo book

Photo books let you add various layouts and designs to your images. Photo books can be printed on your home printer, ordered online from Adobe® Photoshop® Services, saved to your hard drive, and sent by e-mail.

To create a photo book:

1. Select the images that you want to add to the photo book in the Elements Organizer or open them in the Photoshop Elements Editor.
2. Click Create and select Photo Book (**Figure 7**).

   The Photo Book dialog box opens (**Figure 8**).

   Note: The Sizes panel displays options suitable for various online services such as Shutterfly or Kodak Easyshare, however all photo books can be printed on your desktop printer. The instructions here refer to the local printer option.
3. Select the appropriate size and theme.
4. Select Autofill With Selected Images to add all the photos already open in the Project Bin.
5. Specify the number of pages in the photo book.

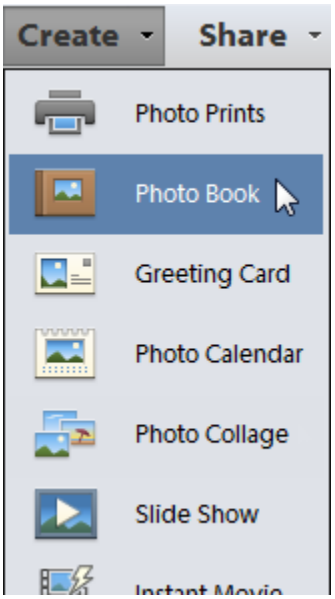

Figure 7 Create panel

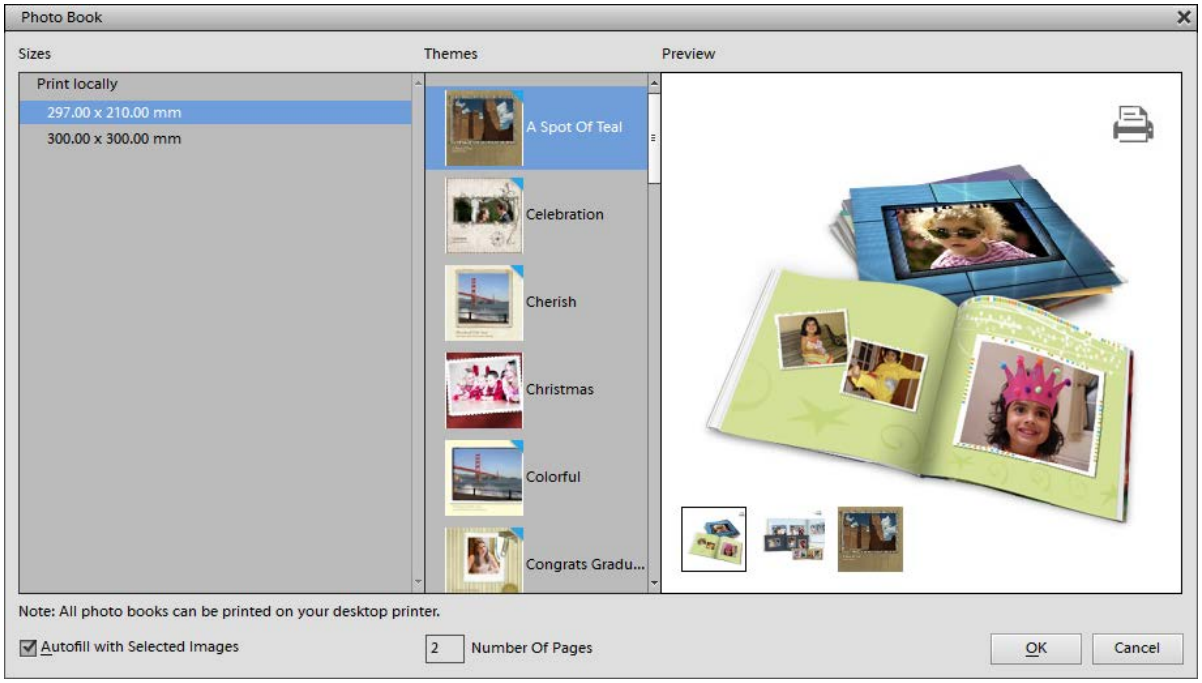

Figure 8 Photo Book dialog box

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6. Click OK.

   Photoshop Elements creates the photo book and displays Pages, Layouts, Artwork, and Text tabs in the Create panel (**Figure 9**).

7. Use the following options to fine-tune and add creative designs to your photo book:

   Pages Add or delete pages.

   Layouts Double-click an alternate layout to apply it.

   Graphics Choose a background, frame, and graphics and double-click to apply it.

8. You can adjust the image sizes or arrange them by clicking on them.

   - To resize a photo, click the photo and drag the handles to resize it.
   - To reposition an image, move the pointer over the photo's border until it changes into an arrow, and then drag the border to reposition it (**Figure 10**).
   - To rotate an image, move the pointer over the rotation handle **(Figure 10)** and then drag it to rotate the photo.
   - To change the scale of an image, double-click on the image and use the slider that appears to resize.
   - If you've added a text block to the collage, double-click on to edit.

9. If presented, click the green check mark to accept your changes.

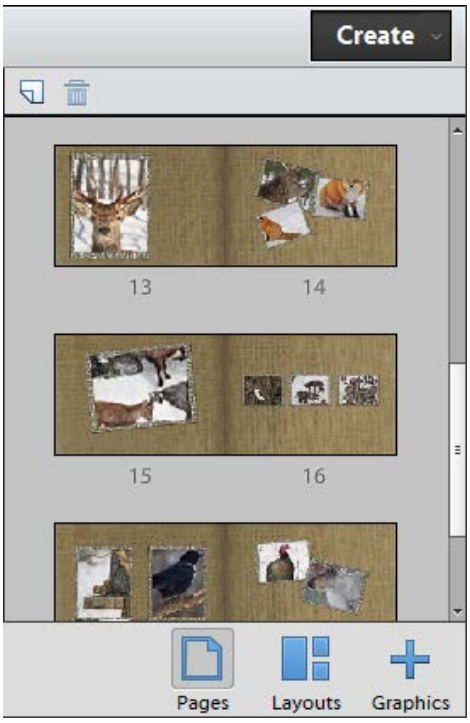

Figure 9 Create panel with Pages tab

Figure 10 Size and rotation handles

10. Click Switch To Advanced Mode to access Full Edit options.

    In this mode, the toolbox is available and each of the images are placed on individual layers (**Figure 11**), enabling you to do advanced editing to any of the images.

    Note: You cannot resize a creation in the advanced mode.

11. Save the file.

    By default, the file will be saved as a Photoshop Elements project file (PSE), which you can later open and edit.

12. When you are satisfied with the photo book, click the Print button at the bottom of the document window.

    The Print dialog box opens (**Figure 12**).

13. Modify the printer settings as needed and then click Print.

14. Click Done to close the photo book.

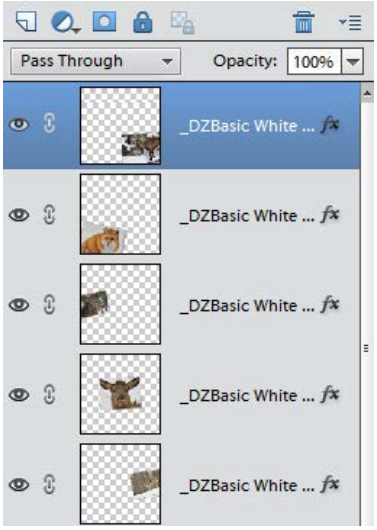

Figure 11 Images in layers in advanced mode

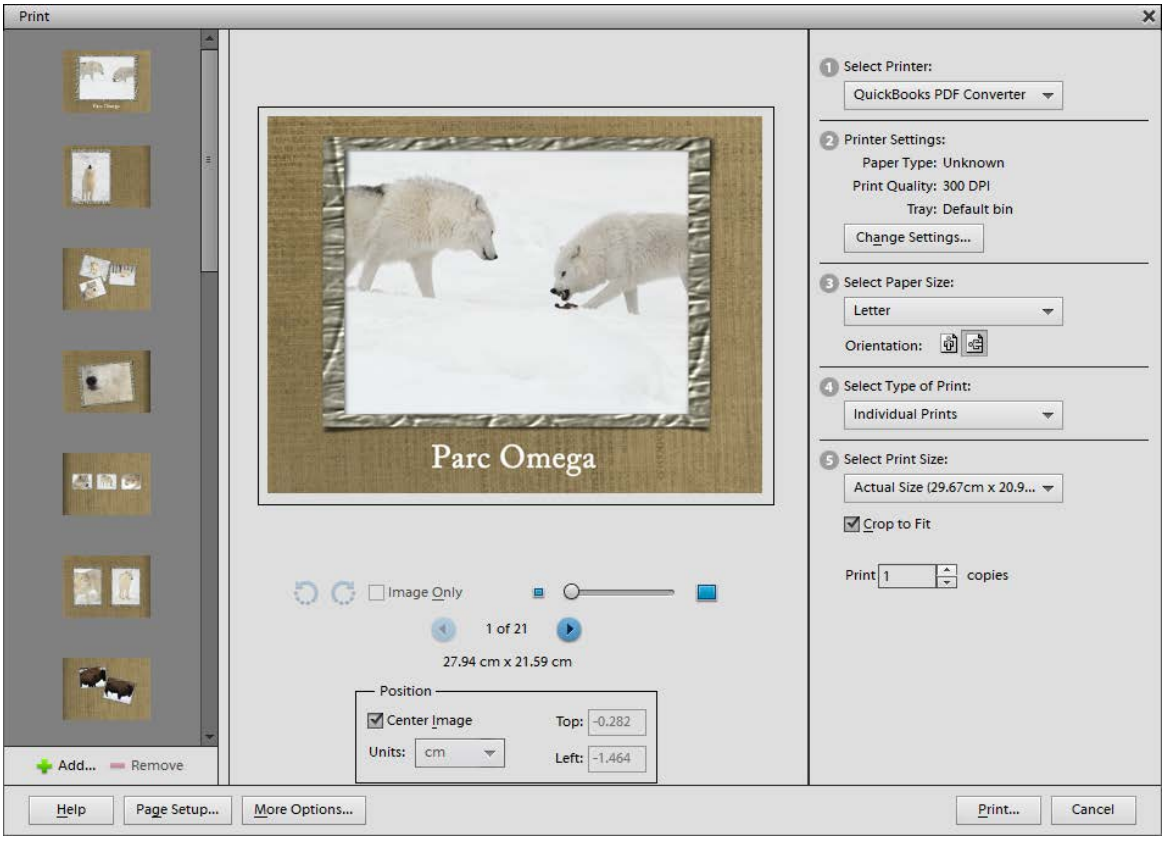

Figure 12 Print dialog box

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