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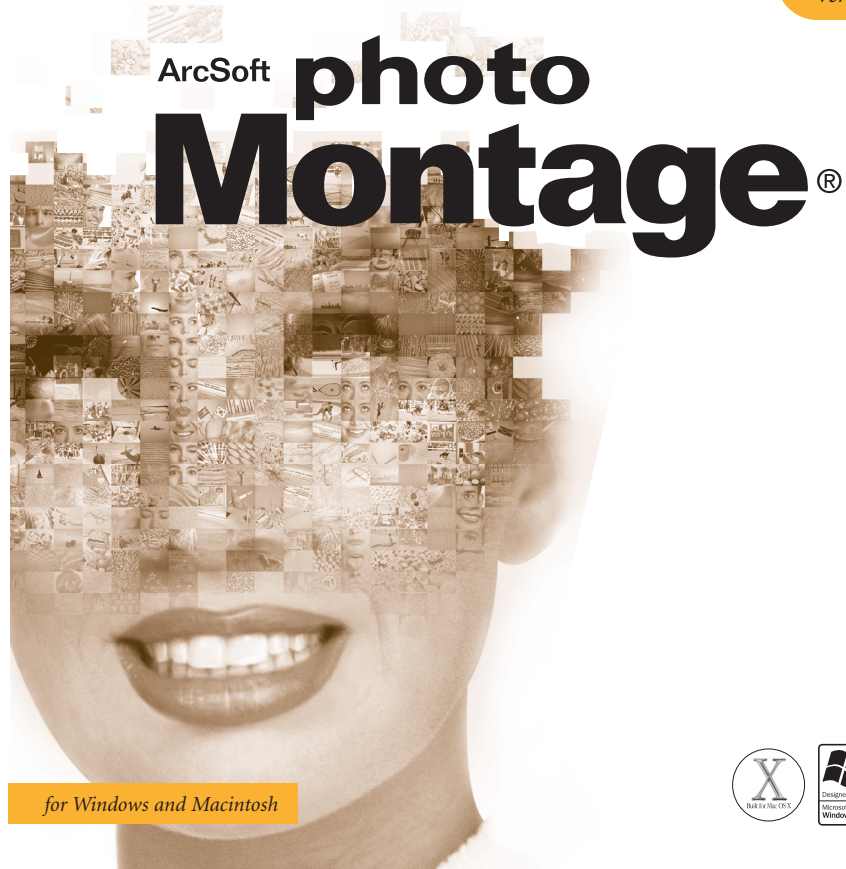
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Quick Start Guide:

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ArcSoft photo Montage®



for Windows and Macintosh



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Table of Contents:

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to PhotoMontage	3
System Requirements	4
Installing and Starting PhotoMontage	4
About This Guide	5
Additional Documentation	5

GETTING ACQUAINTED

Important Terms	6
Main Screen	7
Get Photo Screen	10
Edit Screen	13
Build Screen	15
Collection Setup Screen	19

CREATING A PHOTOMONTAGE (Tutorial)

Steps

A. Get a Photo	21
B. Edit the Photo	22
C. Build a Montage	23
D. Set Up a Collection (optional)	23
E. View the Montage	24
F. Save/Print the Montage	24
For Best Results	24

SPECIAL PHOTOMONTAGE SERVICES	25
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to **ArcSoft PhotoMontage**, the unique imaging entertainment program that lets you turn your favorite digital photos into an eye-catching masterpiece of digital art. Begin by choosing a main photo, such as a person's face. Then choose the "micro-image" collections with which to build your creation. In just minutes, you will see thousands of miniature images miraculously combine to form a mosaic-like "montage" of your main photo! Using your color inkjet or laser printer, you can create high-quality mini-posters of your montage for friends and family. Or access ArcSoft's online web services to make full-size posters and other unique digital imaging gifts.

Special features allow you to:

- Turn your montage into a "game" by including a "Hidden Treasure"
- Personalize your montages with a "Signature"
- Organize all your digital photos into easy-to-use "photo-albums"
- Enhance and crop your photo *before* you turn it into a montage
- Build and customize your own collections of micro-images
- Combine micro-images from various ArcSoft CD collections
- Zoom in on your finished montage for a detailed view
- Instantly link to ArcSoft's cool PhotoMontage web page
- Acquire images from digital cameras, scanners and other TWAIN-compliant devices
- Save your montage in popular file formats including BMP, TIF, JPG, GIF, PCX, TGA and FlashPix

System Requirements

for Windows:

- Windows 98/ME/2000/XP
- Pentium-based PC or equivalent
- 100 MB free hard disk space
- 64 MB RAM
- 16-bit color display at 800 x 600

for Macintosh:

- Power PC
- Mac OS 8.6/9/X
- 100 MB free hard disk space
- 64 MB RAM
- 16-bit color display at 800 x 600

Installing and Starting PhotoMontage

Windows users:

Insert the PhotoMontage CD in your CD-ROM drive. Click Start/Run and type D:\SETUP.EXE (where "D" is your CD-ROM drive). Click OK. Follow the instructions on the screen. **To start**, click Start/Programs. Go to the ArcSoft PhotoMontage folder and click PhotoMontage. (To uninstall, click Start/Programs. Go to the PhotoMontage folder and click Uninstall.)

Macintosh users:

1. Insert the PhotoMontage CD in your CD-ROM drive.
A PhotoMontage CD icon automatically pops up on your screen.

2. Double-click the PhotoMontage CD icon.
A PhotoMontage Installation window appears.
3. Double-click the PhotoMontage icon. Follow the onscreen instructions to complete the installation.

To launch PhotoMontage:

1. Double-click the Macintosh HD icon on your desktop.
2. In the Macintosh HD window, locate the PhotoMontage folder, and double-click to open it.
3. In the PhotoMontage Window, find the PhotoMontage icon and double-click it to open the program.
4. Start working in PhotoMontage. Enjoy!

About This Guide

This **Quick Start Guide** shows you how easy it is to make a montage. The first section, “Getting Acquainted”, introduces you to important terms, screens and controls. The next section, “Creating a Montage”, is a tutorial that takes you through the montage building process. Step-by-step instructions, pictures and helpful tips are provided throughout these two sections. This guide also contains a “Special PhotoMontage Services” section to offer you unique program add-ons.

Additional Documentation

In addition to this Quick Start Guide, you can learn more about PhotoMontage by using online Help. Online Help provides easy-to-find information on specific commands and features. To access online Help, click the “?” button at the top right corner of any screen. To use context-sensitive online Help, right-click on any item on the screen and you will

go directly to that particular topic.

GETTING ACQUAINTED

Important Terms

- **Main Photo** - The single image chosen as the subject of a montage.
- **Micro-images** - The small photos used to build a montage. In general, the more micro-images you use, the sharper the detail in your finished creation.
- **Collection** - A group of micro-images. A collection can be created from your own digital images or pre-made by ArcSoft on a CD. (Your PhotoMontage CD contains a starter collection called the “Mega Collection” for you to use. For information on obtaining additional CD collections, see “Special PhotoMontage Services”)
- **Montage** - The final image made up of many micro-images. “PhotoMontage” refers to the program.

Main Screen

The Main Screen acts as your “homebase” in PhotoMontage. It contains buttons that let you access the other screens, save your montages and make printouts. It also contains a Main Display Area so you can view “before”, “after” and detailed versions of your finished montage. Please refer to Fig. 1 when reading this section.

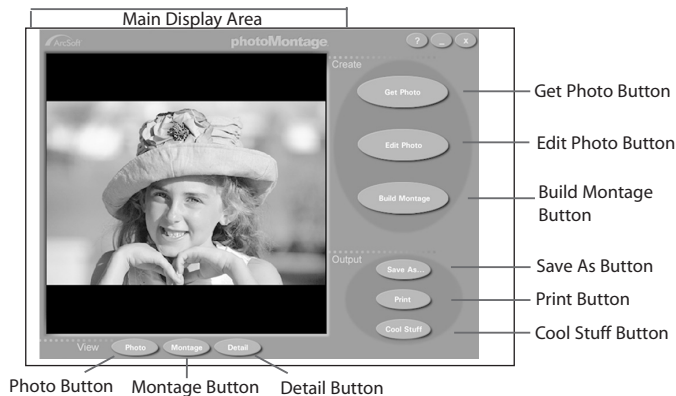


Fig.1 Main Screen

Get Photo Button - takes you to the Get Photo Screen, where you can choose your main photo as well as create and update a photo album.

Edit Photo Button - takes you to the Edit Screen, where you can crop and adjust the brightness and contrast of your main photo.

Build Montage Button - takes you to the Build Screen, where you can select the settings and collections for building your montage.

Save As Button - opens the standard Save As dialog box so you can save your main photo or montage. To save, first click the Photo Button or Montage Button to view what you want to save, then click the Save As Button. Type a filename and choose the format.

Tip: To decrease the file size of your montage, save in a compressed format like JPG. To preserve image quality, save the picture in an uncompressed file format like BMP or TIF.

Print Button - opens the standard Print Setup dialog box so you can select printer settings and begin printing your main photo or montage. To print, click the Photo or Montage Button to view what you want to print, then click the Print Button.

Cool Stuff Button - opens the “Special PhotoMontage Services” screen, which introduces you to program add-ons. These include a poster printing service, a library of micro-image collections and other cool digital imaging gifts. To take advantage of these services, select the “Show Me” button.

Photo Button - shows your main photo in the Main Display Area.

Montage Button - shows the montage that you have just rendered in the Main Display Area.

Detail Button - shows a full-screen, close-up view of your montage. In this view, you are also given Zoom In/Out controls and a hand cursor to pan around your montage. To pan, simply click and drag in the direction that you want. To exit this full-screen view, click the “x” button.

Main Display Area - shows your main photo, before and after it has been rendered.

Get Photo Screen

Clicking the Get Photo button in the Main Screen takes you to the Get Photo Screen. Here you can choose the main photo for your montage. You may also create a new album and add and remove thumbnails from the album. Please refer to Figure 2 when reading this section.

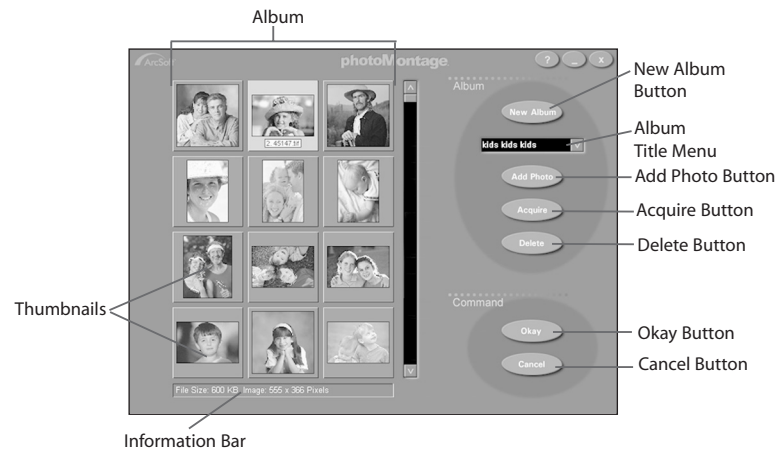


Fig.2 Get Photo Screen

Album - contain thumbnails (see below) of images on your system. By naming and organizing albums appropriately, you will be able to easily find your photos. To create and name a new album, see the term “New Album Button”. To organize an album, simply drag and drop thumbnails to their desired locations.

Note: The currently open album is referred to as your “active” album.

Thumbnails - small, visual representations that act as links to actual image files. To create a thumbnail, see the terms “Add Photo Button” and “Acquire Button”. To select a main photo for your montage, click on the corresponding thumbnail and click the Okay Button. (Or double-click on the thumbnail.) The main photo will automatically appear in the Main Display Area in the Main Screen.

IMPORTANT! *By deleting a thumbnail's corresponding image file or moving the image file to a new location, you remove the link between the file and the thumbnail. This means you can no longer open the file by double-clicking on its original thumbnail. Likewise, if you double-click on a thumbnail to open an image on a floppy, be sure the floppy is in the drive. Otherwise, your system will give you an error message stating it cannot find and open the image file.*

Tip: At any time you can view the properties of an image. To do this, just position your cursor over the corresponding thumbnail. The filename will appear below the thumbnail, while the file size and dimensions appear in the Information Bar.

Information Bar - displays the file size and dimensions of an image.

New Album Button - generates a new empty album to which you can add thumbnails. The default new album name will be “New Album”. To rename, highlight and type over the name in the Album Title Menu.

Album Title Menu - provides a list of existing albums. To select and display the contents

of an album, click on the down arrow. Then click on your desired selection. To rename the album, highlight and type over the name.

Add Photo Button - opens the Open dialog box from which you can select image files to add to your active album. In the Open dialog box, locate and select your image(s), then click Open. New thumbnails of your images will be added to the active album.

Acquire Button - lets you acquire images from a digital camera, scanner or other installed TWAIN-compliant device into the active album. To acquire, click the Acquire Button. When the Select Source Dialog Box appears, click on your desired device and click Okay. Acquiring options specific to your device will appear. (For more information, consult the manual that came with your TWAIN device.)

Delete Button - lets you remove the selected thumbnail(s) and the corresponding image file(s) from the active album.

Okay Button - returns you to the Main Screen and places the selected photo in the Main Display Area.

Cancel Button - returns you to the Main Screen, without placing your selected photo in the Main Display Area.

Edit Screen

Clicking the Edit Photo Button in the Main Screen takes you to the Edit Screen. This screen gives you easy-to-use tools for cropping and enhancing your main photo. Please refer to Fig. 3 when reading this section.

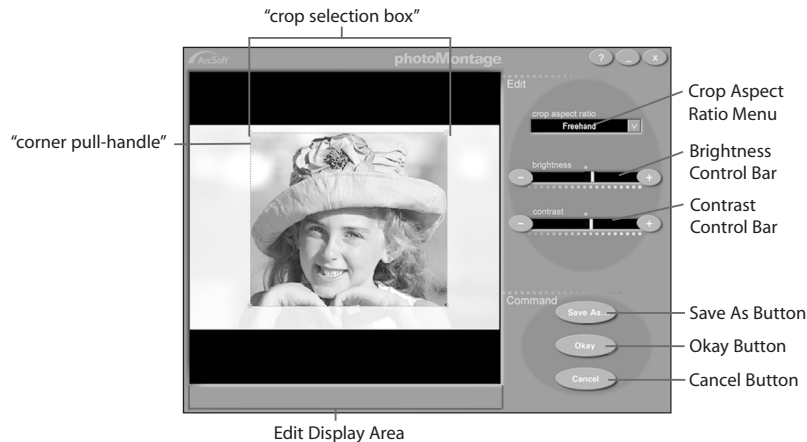


Fig.3 **Edit Screen**

Edit Display Area - displays the image to be cropped and enhanced. This area also contains a “crop selection box” and “corner pull-handles” for resizing the box.

Crop Aspect Ratio Menu - lets you discard unwanted portions of your photo and make the photo a certain size or shape. You may manually crop your photo (Freehand) or choose a crop aspect ratio such as square (1:1), portrait (2:3, 3:4, 3:5, 5:7) or landscape (3:2, 4:3, 5:3, 7:5).

To designate the area that you want to crop:

1. Click the down arrow until you find your desired ratio.
2. To adjust the size of the crop selection box, drag the corner pull-handles with your cursor. The portion you want to discard will be grayed out.
3. To move the crop selection box to the desired location, place your cursor inside the box and drag the hand cursor that appears.

Brightness Control Bar - lets you increase or decrease the brightness of your entire photo. To adjust, slide the bar to the right or left.

Contrast Control Bar - lets you increase or decrease the contrast of your entire photo. To adjust, slide the bar to the right or left.

Save As Button - opens the standard Save As dialog box so you can save your modified photo.

Tip: To keep your original photo, save your modified photo under a different name.

Okay Button - returns you to the Main Screen and places your modified photo in the Main Display Area.

Note: This command does not permanently save your modified photo. To permanently save changes, use the Save As Button.

Cancel Button - returns you to the Main Screen without applying or saving any changes made.

Build Screen

Clicking on the Build Montage Button in the Main Screen takes you to the Build Screen. This screen contains several options for preparing your micro-images for rendering. It also contains a Setup Button to take you to the Collection Setup Screen. Please refer to Fig. 4 when reading this section.

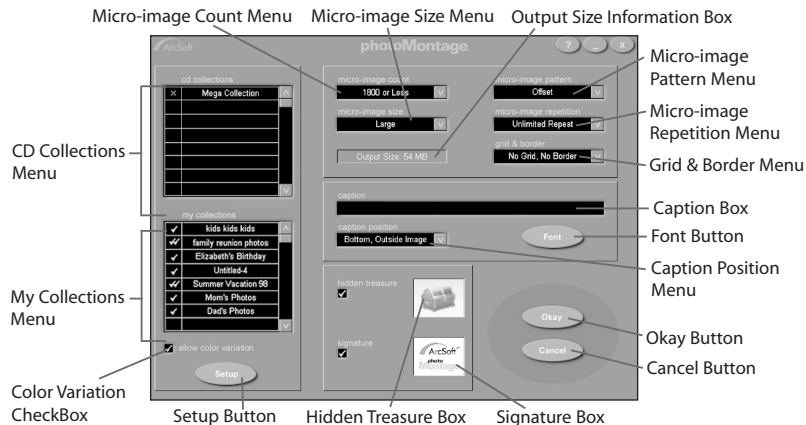


Fig.4 Build Screen

CD Collections Menu - displays your installed CD micro-image collections. (The “Mega Collection” included on your PhotoMontage CD will be listed in this menu.) To browse through these CD collections, click the menu up/down arrows. Include as many CD collections as you want in your montage by clicking on each desired title. You may indicate the priority of usage of each collection. Three clicks indicate highest priority, meaning that particular collection will be used more often than a collection with a priority of one click.

Tip: It is a good idea to keep all of your ArcSoft PhotoMontage CDs readily available because you may be prompted at any time to insert them into your CD-ROM drive.

My Collections Menu - displays micro-image collections that you have created from your album list. You may include these collections in your montage by clicking on each desired title. Three clicks indicate highest priority, meaning that particular collection will be used more often than a collection with a priority of one click. To create new collections or delete existing ones, click the Setup Button.

Color Variation Checkbox

Create beautiful montage posters using the Color Variation feature. PhotoMontage will automatically adjust the color of each micro-image to perfectly match the original color of your main photo. You can even create a montage using a single favorite image – PhotoMontage will repeat and adjust the color of that single image to render your final masterpiece. Customize your montage using a company logo, school portrait, picture of your favorite pet, sports logo and more.

Setup Button - takes you to the Collection Setup Screen.

Micro-image Count Menu - lets you specify the total number of micro-images in your

montage. The higher the number, the better the detail of your montage and the larger the output file size.

Micro-image Size Menu - lets you choose between small and large micro-images. The larger the size, the larger you can print while maintaining clarity. However, this also means the output file size will be larger.

Output Size Information Box - displays the output data size of your montage, according to your micro-image count and size settings.

Micro-image Pattern Menu - lets you specify how micro-images are stacked. The “Aligned” option stacks micro-images in columns. The “Offset” option stacks micro-images in a brick-like fashion.

Micro-image Repetition Menu - lets you choose how often each micro-image is used within a montage.

- **Never Repeat** - A micro-image is never used more than once. (Exception: A micro-image will be automatically repeated if not enough micro-images are available to build the montage.)
- **Limited Repeat** - A micro-image is used more than once, but only if the micro-image is a significantly better match than other available micro-images. Otherwise, your program tries to limit the repetition of each micro-image.
- **Unlimited Repeat** - A micro-image may be used as many times as needed.

Grid & Border Menu - lets you add gridlines and/or a border to your creation. Gridlines are the black lines separating each of the micro-images. The border is the black frame surrounding the entire montage. The border can be thin or wide.

Tip: To get a closer look at your grid and/or border in the Main Display Area, click the Detail Button.

Caption Box - lets you add a line of text to your montage.

Tip: To get a closer look at your caption in the Main Display Area, click the Detail Button.

Font Button - lets you pick the font, style, size and color of your caption.

Tip: If your caption is too long to fit on your montage, you may want to rebuild your montage using a smaller font size and fewer words.

Caption Position Menu - lets you specify the placement of your caption: outside top, outside bottom, inside top or inside bottom.

Hidden Treasure Box / Signature Box - lets you include two special photos within your montage. The Hidden Treasure photo appears in a random spot while the Signature photo appears in the bottom right corner of your montage like a signature.

To set a hidden treasure or signature:

1. Click on the Hidden Treasure or Signature Box. An Open dialog box will appear.
2. Locate your image file and click Open. The image will replace the existing hidden treasure or signature.
3. To include this new hidden treasure or signature in your montage, click on the left checkmark box.

Okay Button - returns you to the Main Screen and begins the building process according to the settings selected in the Build Screen.

Cancel Button - returns you to the Main Screen without keeping any settings selected in the Build Screen.

Collection Setup Screen

Clicking on the Setup Button in the Build Screen takes you to the Collection Setup Screen. Here you can create new collections from your album images, as well as rebuild and delete existing collections. Please refer to Fig.5 when reading this section.

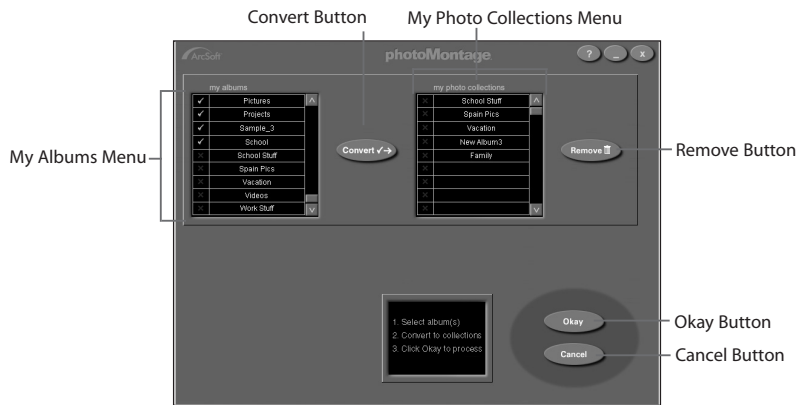


Fig.5 Collection Setup Screen

My Albums Menu - lists all your albums.

Convert Button - adds album titles to the My Photo Collections Menu.

My Photo Collections Menu - lists all your collections.

Remove Button - removes collection titles from the My Photo Collections Menu.

Processing Window - displays all images being added to a collection.

Okay Button - completes the Add or Remove action.

Cancel Button - cancels the Add or Remove action.

To create a new collection:

1. Click on each desired album title in the My Albums Menu. A green checkmark will appear next to each selection.
2. Click the Convert Button. The title(s) will appear in red in the My Photo Collections Menu.
3. To complete the action, click Okay. Once processing is complete, you will return to the Build Screen.

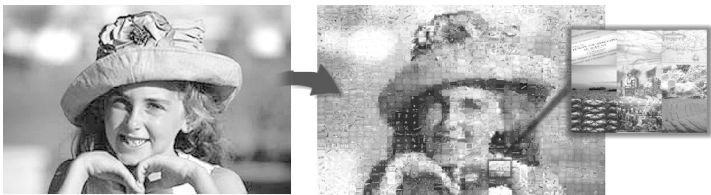
To rebuild a collection:

IMPORTANT! If you have made changes to an existing album (i.e. edited, added or deleted the thumbnails) and want to update the album's corresponding collection to reflect those changes, you will need to rebuild that collection. To rebuild, follow the same steps above for creating a new collection.

To remove a collection:

1. Click on each desired collection title in the My Photo Collections Menu. A “trashcan” will appear next to each selection.
2. Click the Button. The title(s) will disappear.
3. To complete the action, click Okay. You will return to the Build Screen.

CREATING A MONTAGE (Tutorial)



Once you’ve become familiar with the terms and controls in the “Getting Acquainted” section, you’ll be ready to make your own montage like the one above! For helpful hints, see “For Best Results” at the end of this section.

Steps

Get Photo

A. Get a Photo. This is the beginning phase in making your montage. Here you will learn how to use an album, create a new album and choose the main photo for your project.

1. Click the Get Photo Button (from the Main Screen) to access the Get Photo Screen. A default album will be displayed.
2. To view image file properties such as file name, size and dimensions, position your cursor over any thumbnail.

3. Click on the New Album Button to create a new empty album. The default album name, “New Album”, will appear in the Album Title Menu.
4. Add thumbnails to this new album by clicking on the Add Photo Button. An Open Dialog Box will appear.
5. For learning purposes, select one or more photos located in the PhotoMontage directory. Click Open. New thumbnails of your photos will be created and added to the active album.
6. Name your new album “TEST 1” by typing over “New Album”.
7. Choose your main photo by clicking on a thumbnail. Click Okay. You will return to the Main Screen, with your chosen photo displayed in the Main Display Area.

Edit Photo

B. Edit the Photo (optional). Here you will crop and adjust the brightness/contrast of your main photo.

1. Click the Edit Photo Button (from the Main Screen) to access the Edit Screen. Your main photo will be displayed in the Edit Display Area.
2. To crop, click the down arrow in the Crop Aspect Ratio Box until you have found your desired ratio. Then, adjust the crop selection box in the Edit Display Area by dragging the corner pull-handles. To adjust the placement of your crop selection box, move the hand cursor.
3. To adjust brightness and contrast, slide the Brightness/Contrast Control Bars to the left or right. Your main photo will automatically reflect changes in the Edit Display Area.
4. To save your newly modified photo, click the Save As Button. For learning purposes, rename your photo “TESTEDIT”, then click Save.
5. To return to the Main Screen with modifications to the main photo, click the Okay Button. Or to return to the Main Screen without modifications to the main photo, click the Cancel Button.

Build Montage

C. Build a Montage. This is the final phase in creating your montage. Here you will access the Collection Setup Screen to create your own collections. Then, you will return to the Build Screen to prepare your main photo for rendering.

1. Click the Build Montage Button (from the Main Screen) to access the Build Screen.
2. If you want to make your own micro-image collections, skip to section D, “Set Up a Collection”. When you are done, return to this section, step 3.
3. In the My Collections Menu, click on the collection(s) that you want to include in your montage.
4. In the CD Collections Menu, you will see a listing of all your installed CD collections (including the “Mega Collection” on your PhotoMontage CD). For learning purposes, click once on each available collection. This will give each selected collection a priority of one click (highest priority.)
5. Specify the Micro-image Count, Micro-image Size, Micro-image Pattern, Micro-image Repetition, Grid & Border and Caption.
6. The Hidden Treasure and Signature boxes will display images. To change either of these, click on the image. In the Open Dialog Box, select the new image file, then click Open. Your new image will replace your old image.
7. To include the hidden treasure and/or signature in your montage, click on the corresponding checkbox to the left.
8. Once you have made all your selections for your montage, click Okay to begin the actual rendering process. (Otherwise, click Cancel to start over.)

Setup

D. Set Up a Collection (optional). Here you will learn how to make your own collections using your own albums.

1. Click the Setup Button (from the Build Screen) to open the Collection Setup Screen.

2. In the My Albums Menu, you will see a listing of all your existing albums. Click on each album title that you want to make into a micro-image collection.
3. Click the Convert Button. The selected album title(s) will appear in red in the My Photo Collections Menu.
4. To complete the action, click Okay. (Otherwise, click the Cancel Button.) Once processing is complete, you will automatically return to the Build Screen, where the My Photo Collections Menu will reflect your new collection(s).
5. At this point, return to step 3 under section C, “Build Montage”.

E. View the Montage. The Main Display Area gives you a “sneak preview” of the building process in action! Once processing is finished, use the Photo, Montage and Detail buttons to view “before” and “after” versions of your final montage.

F. Save/Print the Montage. Use the Save As and Print buttons to save and/or print your montage.

For Best Results

- When choosing your main photo, it is best to avoid images containing a lot of small detail (e.g. patterns on clothing, foliage in background). Try to use one-subject, uncomplicated images with high-contrast backgrounds (e.g. a portrait of a face).
- Use the Edit Screen to create close-up or tightly cropped shots of faces and objects, and to increase background contrast if necessary.
- Experiment with different Build Screen settings to obtain the montage that best fits your needs.
- When creating your own collections, try to use micro-images containing a wide variety of colors and scenes. This will give your program a wider selection of micro-images to choose from during rendering.

- Remember to delete finished montages from your hard drive (or store them on removable media) if you no longer need them. This will ensure your system resources are kept at an optimum level.

SPECIAL PHOTOMONTAGE SERVICES

ArcSoft offers special options for maximizing your PhotoMontage entertainment. For online information about these services, click the "Cool Stuff" button on the Main Screen to open the "Special PhotoMontage Services" screen. From this screen, you can then automatically launch your web browser and be linked directly to the PhotoMontage web page.

- **Make Your Own Poster** - With ArcSoft's unique poster printing services, you can create gorgeous full-size posters of your montage images. Impress and amuse your friends, family and co-workers with these high-quality creations!
- **Supplementary CD Collections** - The ArcSoft CD Collections are designed to give you more customization options with PhotoMontage. The ArcSoft library is specially designed to offer the variety of micro-images necessary for rendering sharp, highly detailed montages. No extra hard disk space is required to use these collections, as the micro-images reside on the CD.