

Making Stereo Cards With StereoPhoto Maker

By

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Why Make Stereo Cards?

- Stereo cards are the easiest form of 3D to produce and share
- Inexpensive viewers are readily available
- Cards can cost under 20 cents to make
- They can be as “nice” as you want them to be

Why prepare images on a PC?

- Does away with a lot of the drudgery of card making
- More precise result in most cases
- Increasingly images are from digital sources
- *Allows you to make more cards*

Why StereoPhoto Maker?

- It's free so you can easily try using it
- Has a lot of nice features
- It's useful even if you have a high end graphics program like PhotoShop
- Constantly evolving to support new functions
- Good for simple, quick cards but limited design options and **no color control**

What we are going to do today

- StereoPhoto Maker is too complex to cover in one workshop
- We will go through the basic steps of setting up an image pair
- We will output the image in four formats
- We will set it up to print on Noritsu and Fuji photo printers

Card formats

- We will do four:

Digital “Holmes” format

Cut out single image “Holmes”

Traditional two chip “Holmes”

Digital or “4x6”

Print size options

- 4x6 are simple standard one sided prints
- Use “APS”, 4x7 or 5x7 inch prints for Holmes format cards
- Use glossy prints not mat
- Eckerd's, CVS, web companies provide the service for 12 to 29 cents a print

Example of a digital Holmes card



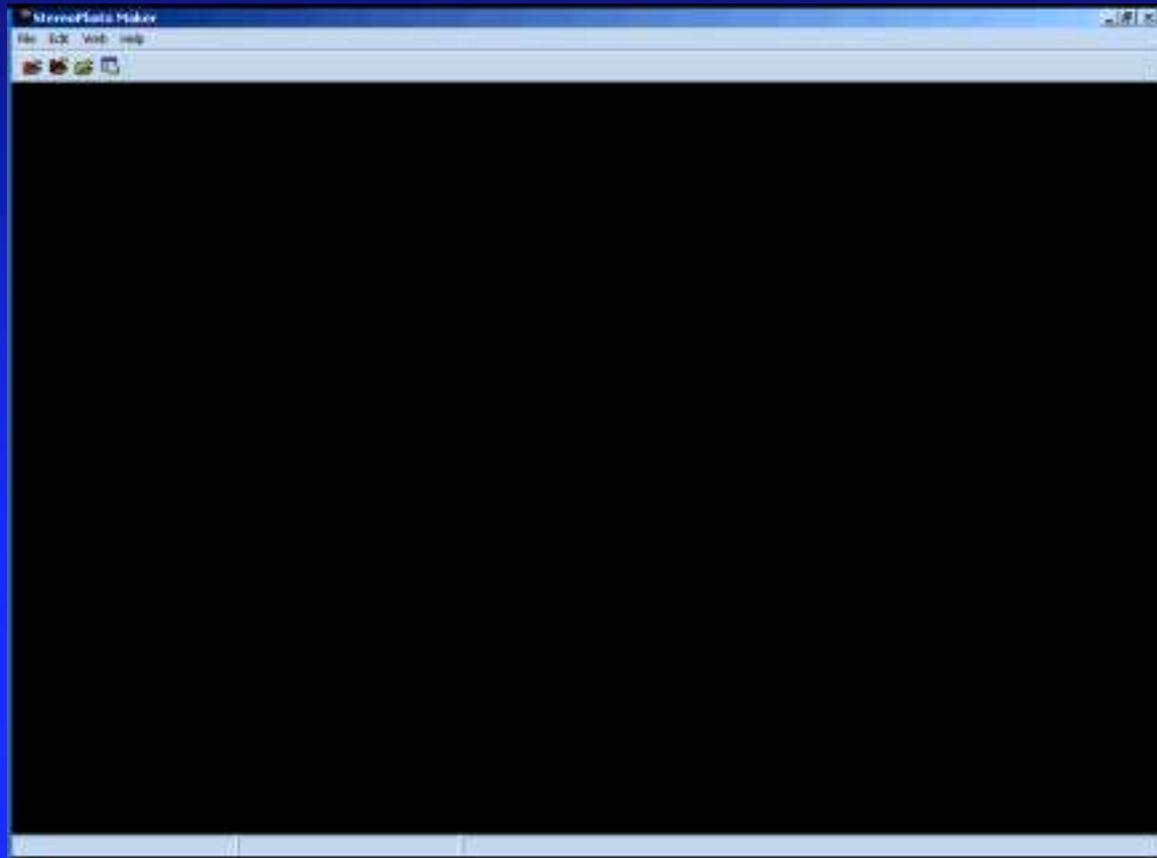
Lets make a digital Holmes card

- Open the files
- Rotate images if needed
- Auto Align
- Crop for target format
- “Print stereo card”
- “Show image”
- Save file

Auto align command

- Works best when images are consistent in color and size
- Can be thrown off by artifacts like dust specs or “near” objects in one print
- Cropping the image first may produce a better result
- Always crop out “junk” parts of the image

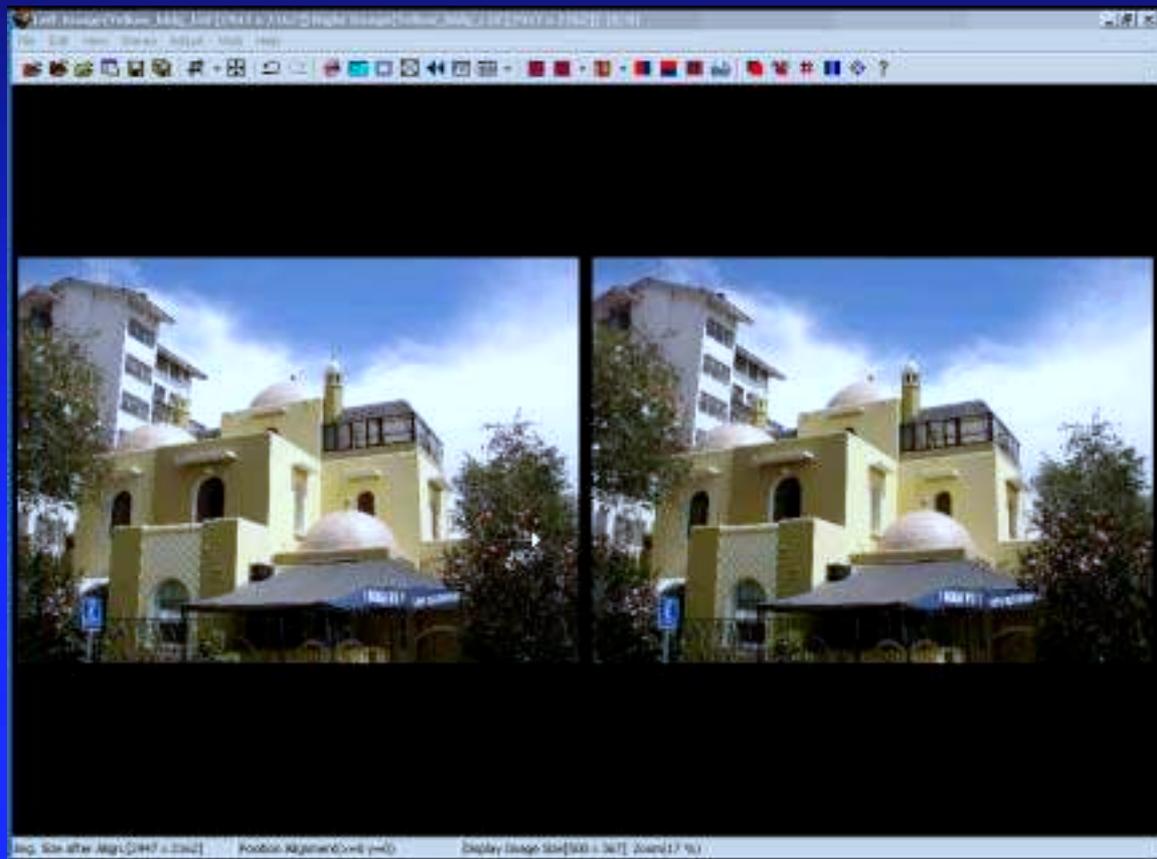
Align and crop movie



Final adjustments and cropping

- Adjust color
- Set the window for this card format
- Crop to best suit the type of card you are making

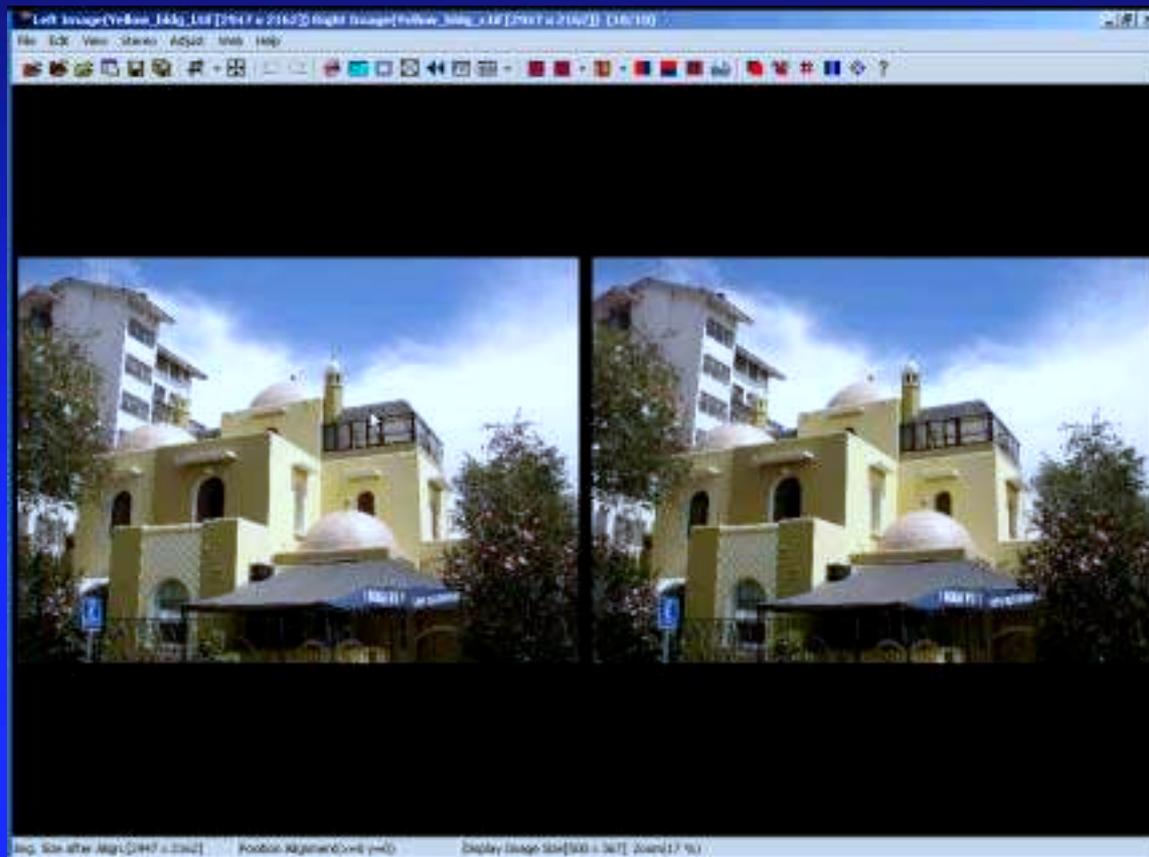
adjust and final crop movie



“Print Stereo Card” command

- Set canvas size to output print size
- Add titles if you want them
- Center the image and add borders
- Set a background color
- Add rounded corners or an arch
- Use “show image” before saving the image

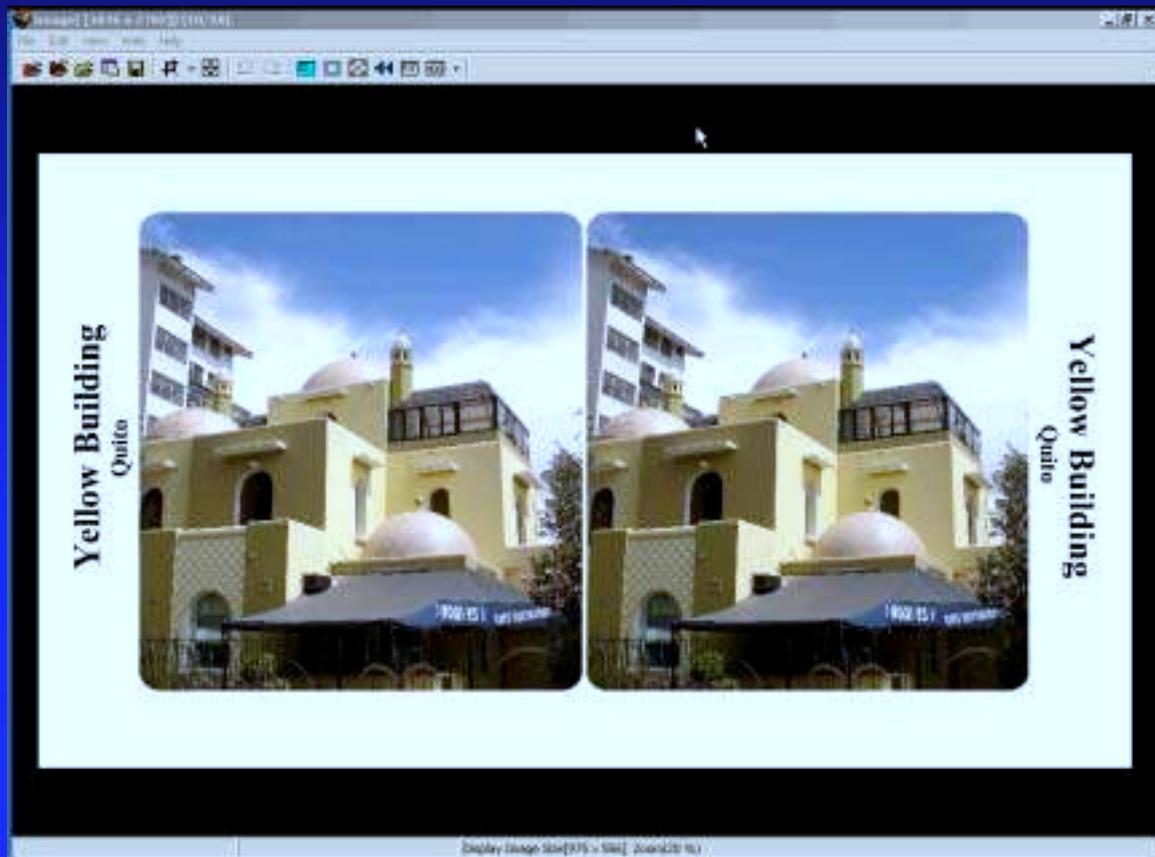
Print stereo card movie



“Show image” command

- Resize the image to the correct output size
- Use the exact number of pixels the machine requires
- Normally 300 x height and width
- Save as jpg at highest quality

Output as card image movie



Example of a single image Holmes card



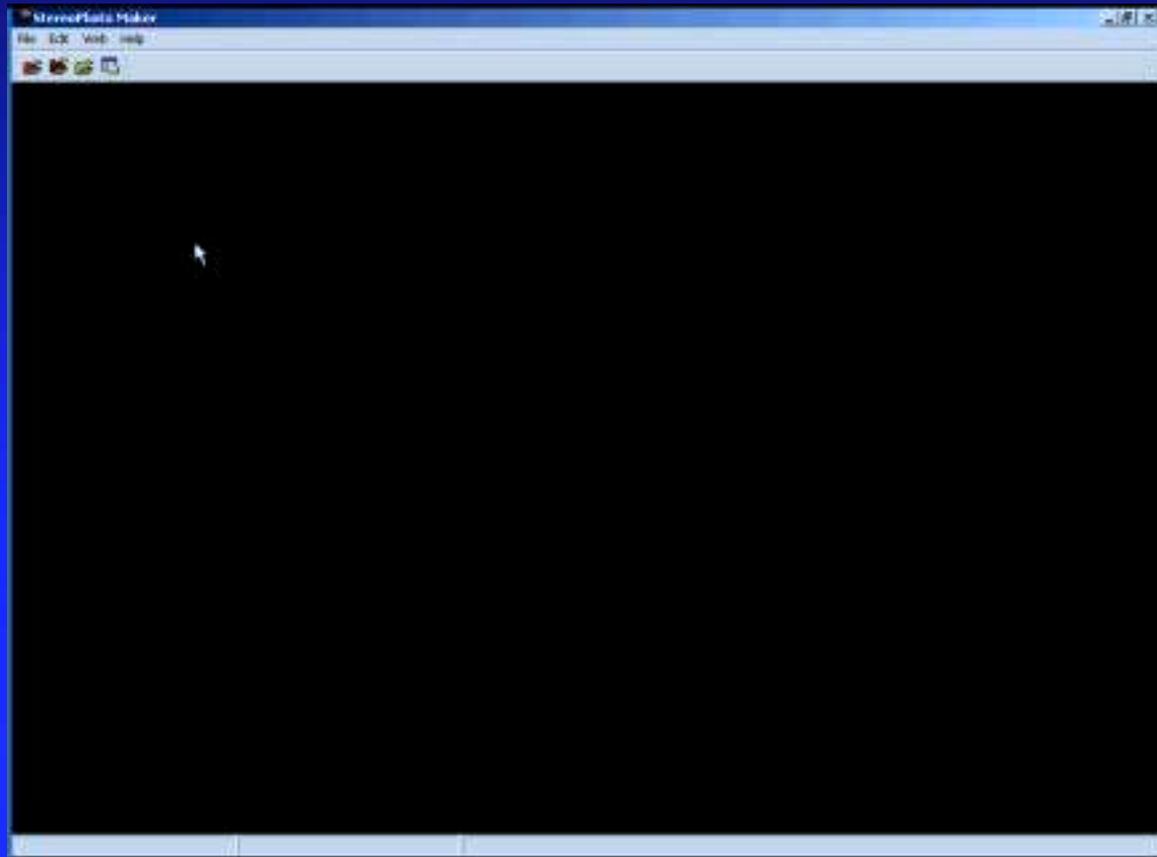
Single image card

- The images will be glued to the front of the card
- Simulates the look of an individual chip card with less work
- More design options than digital Holmes card made in StereoPhoto Maker

Method

- Create a 4x6 sized canvas
- Center the images on the canvas
- Use a background color to highlight the images

Single image card movie



Example of a two chip Holmes card

Yellow Building



Quito Ecuador

Separate chips card

- Is an old fashioned style card with the chips prepared using the PC
- Window setting and cropping in the PC
- Same process as the single image card

Example of a 4x6 digital card



Cutey in Pink

Cutey in Pink

“Digital” format cards

- These are simply 4x6 prints with no backing
- Quick and easy to make
- Cheap enough to give away freely
- Work well with the Loreo Lite viewer

Digital format card movie



Using photo printers

- Find out what equipment they use
- Talk to the operator when they are not busy
- Try not to use the “kiosk” but get the operator to input your files
- Use CDs and not flash media
- If you upload across the web watch out for auto compression

Common printers: Fuji Frontier

- 300 dpi jpg images are best
- Larger than 300 dpi images will be compressed by the machine before processing – not your best option
- Ask for “no corrections” or “import no convert” if they have the feature

Common Printers: Noritsu

- TIF file is best most machines support it but some need jpg
- Model 2xxx are 400 dpi, model 3xxx may be 300 or 320
- Ask for “digital media corrections” disabled or “no adjustments”
- Use a CD to avoid some “fixes”
- Support for 4x7 as “APS” prints

Oops!

- The color you get depends on the color you put in not what's on your screen
- Need to use “icc” profiles
- Size is a problem! Most printers add 1 to 2 percent to allow for paper feed problems
- Trimming is often done badly

Same image on different printers



Size as printed

Yellow Building



Yellow Building

Yellow Building



Yellow Building

Finishing the card

- If we made a “4x6” card we’re done
- Other formats require mounting the image on card stock
- Part two of this workshop will show how to make a finished card with minimum effort

A good source of information

- Dry Creek Photo (drycreekphoto.com) is a great source of information and printer profiles
- They maintain a database of profiles for stores all over the US

Last thoughts

- With digital, cards are the easiest form of stereo to produce
- Cards make it easy to share your images with others
- Join DSEC or APEC
- Remember it's supposed to be fun!