

Tips on Simple Panoramic Photography

Compiled by Bob Spalding



Panoramic or wide format photography allows a user to take a series of photos using the same camera at one location and then merge or stitch them together to form a single large photograph. The location can be as large as a mountain range or as small as a room in your house. The process is the same.



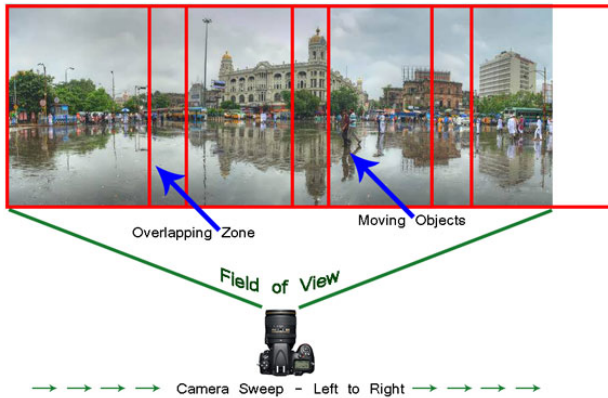
Find a location and shoot several photos.



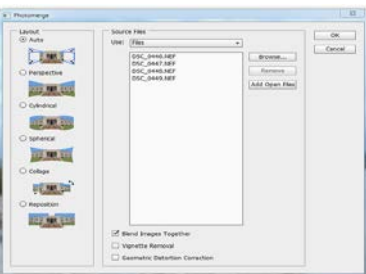
Keep your camera level. Ideally you would be using a tripod. Rotate the camera on the tripod. If hand holding, rotate the camera, not your body.



Shooting from left to right, overlap your photo by at least 30%.



Change your camera settings to Manual for both exposure and focusing. Keeping your camera in auto mode may cause some of your photos to have different exposure levels and focuses. The best lens is a zoom lens; ideally, zooming in at 50 or 70 mm. Wide angle lens sometimes cause a distortion when trying to stitch the photos together. If your camera is on auto ISO, turn it off and set it to 100 or 200. Set your Aperture to at least F8 or higher, depending on how close the nearest foreground object is located. Then set your Shutter Speed based on your meter readings. Take a test shot and adjust the setting before taking the Panoramic Photo. Don't forget to shoot both horizontally and vertically.



The most common programs used to Merge or Stitch your photos together are Photoshop and Lightroom. However, there are many other programs available both for sale and free. You just need to go out across the web and find them. The best For Sale programs will allow you to try them out before purchasing.

Keep in mind, when you stitch the photos together, it will be a very large file.