

# **Making Stereo Cards With *StereoPhoto Maker***

**How to use *StereoPhoto Maker*  
to output stereo photos for  
commercial printers**

**A workshop by Steve & Suzanne Hughes of  
the Atlanta Stereographic Association  
presented for the**

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### **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

### **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

### **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

### **"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

### **"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

### **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

### **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 “traditional” card

### **Method**

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

### **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

### **“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

### **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

### 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](http://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!

### Table of output values

Photo Size	dpi	Pixels
4 x 6	300	1200 x 1800
4 x 6	320	1280 x 1920
4 x 6	400	1600 x 2400
4 x 7	300	1200 x 2100
4 x 7	320	1280 x 2240
4 x 7	400	1600 x 2800
5 x 7	300	1500 x 2100
5 x 7	320	1600 x 2240
5 x 7	400	2000 x 2800