

# Photobooks

I use Photobooks to

- create a physical record of my best photos
- show people photos that I wish to keep private – e.g. private portrait and wedding photos
- discuss with people interested in commissions
- Show people what is possible with Photobooks for a reasonable price
- People want physical photos!!!

# Photobooks

This is a short presentation on how I create Photobooks for my personal use and as gifts for family and friends.

Creating Photobooks can be very time consuming, costly and frustrating.

Get it right though and it can be a quick and easy (and low cost) way of presenting your photos

# Photobooks

Creating photobooks

- is time consuming
- can be expensive
- can be very rewarding
- can be worth the effort
- can be inexpensive
  
- It depends on you.
  
- You need to plan!!

# Photobooks

Decide

- the size of the Photobook
- how many pages
- how many photos
- the layout

# Photobooks

There are lots of companies that produce photobooks.

- Albelli
- Blurb
- Bob Books
- Cewe
- DS Colour Labs
- Lulu
- Myphotobook
- Photobox
- Snapfish
- Truprint

# Photobooks

I get my books using the offers from **Amazon Local**

Order and pay for the books immediately

You get a voucher code to be used by a set date (usually one month or three months later)

I go for the best deal

# Photobooks

There is currently a deal for Albelli books on  
**Amazon Local**

[Albelli Books](#)

£23 for large 60 pages (£29 for XL Square)

[£39 for large 120 pages \(£48 for XL Square\)](#)

# Photobooks

Do not leave it to the last minute to create the book

Do work over a period of time and SAVE it.

Download software of Photobook provider

Create work offline and save it. Upload work on books and save it



# Photobooks

Software of Photobooks varies and **does** crash.

You have to do all the work again if it crashes.

It can take hours for photos to be uploaded.

Give yourself time!

# Photobooks

I use the Photobook that has the best price for personal use

Albelli and Photobox are good value for money.

My favourite is Myphotobook.

It is high quality but expensive.

It never uses Amazon local for offers.

I have recommended it for friends whose weddings I have photographed.

# Photobooks

- Do you want to use the layout created by the Photobook software?
- Do you want to design the layout yourself?
- If so, create templates the size of the Photobook.
- Create templates for each individual page.

# Photobooks

- Create a new folder and put **ALL** of the photos that you will use in that folder
- Create template pages for the Photobook.
- Save the template pages in the folder

# Photobooks

- Create one for:
- a double spread
- one photo
- two photos
- three photos
- four photos
- five photos

A variation of layouts is preferable

# Photobooks

- You may wish to have different sizes and different shapes for each type i.e.
  - two portrait or two landscape,
  - two portrait and one landscape,
  - two landscape and one portrait
- 
- Which pages will be a double spread for one photo?

# Photobooks

Which pages will have:

- only one photo?
- 2 photos?
- 3 photos?
- 4 photos?
- 5 photos?

# Photobooks

- What are the sizes and formats of the photos (portrait/landscape)?
- Which photos will be used?
- **Create the photos in those sizes and sharpen them for gloss printing.**
- This is very important!!!!



# Photobooks

- Create a template.
- Custom size the page in Photoshop
- E.g. 27.5 cms x 21 cms
- Go to File/ New
- Name it e.g. Landscape One Photo

# Photobooks

- Select width 27.5 cms
- Select height 21 cms
- Resolution 300 pixels
- 8 bit is fine
- Select RGB colour
- Background colour white

# Photobooks

- You can use plain white (or any colour)
- But if you wish to use a photo as a background layer.
- Open up a suitable photo – ideally one which enhances the photo – e.g. photo of couple for wedding photos
- Using the move tool move the photo into the template file just created.
- Hold shift when you do this if you want the photo in the centre

# Photobooks

- You can set up the template using Smart Objects which can make it easy and quick to fill with photos and have common text and layer effects.
- But I am keeping this simple by avoiding Smart Objects
- When you have the photo in the correct position in the template file. Merge it
- Ctrl + E

# Photobooks

- To make the photo a suitable background it needs to be blurred
- Go to Filter / Blur / Gaussian Blur
- Enter a setting of 3 to 5 pixels
- Create a new blank layer
- Go to Edit / Fill
- Fill with White

# Photobooks

- Change opacity of top layer to 30-75%
- The higher the opacity the less visible the background
- Reduce the saturation of the layer
- You may wish to have a light colour effect or for it to be monochrome
- You now have a pleasant background on which to place your photos.

# Photobooks

- Save this as your template and close it
- Open it up
- Add your photo(s)
- Position them
- Add text
- Add layer effects
- Borders
- Drop shadow
- Inner Glow
- Stroke

# Photobooks

- Give the file a NEW name
- Give it a name that will help you when you create the Photobook e.g. 001\_Albelli, 002 Albelli
- Create the pages in the order that they will be in the Photobook
- All the photos will be in numerical order for you to create the Photobook



# Photobooks

- Save the Photobook with a name.
- Upload to the Photobook website
- Order and use your voucher (if you have one)
- Wait about a week for the Photobook to arrive.