

Do more with your images

There's a whole host of fantastic products and services available to help you showcase your best images"

ANIMOTO

PRICE: FREE (BASIC) / FROM \$30 (PERSONAL)

Web: www.animoto.com

This funky online service automatically takes your images and sets them to music, creating a professional-quality video with photo transitions timed perfectly to the beat of your chosen track. Each video is unique, simple to make and looks stunning. Sign up, upload your images to your account, then rotate, reorder and highlight any that you want to 'spotlight'. Next, add music. You can either upload your own or select from a whole host of tracks from the Animoto website. Select from an Animoto Short of a Full-length video, then you can add an 'End-of-video' button, for example directing the viewer to your website, or perhaps 'Email me/purchase' - you can customise the wording and the action this button performs to suit your needs. Give the button a destination link - for example your website or email address - then pick an image to go on the cover screen of your video. Add a title and optional description and you're done! Our final products were slick, perfectly timed and a joy to watch. A real attention-grabbing product that's great fun to use, as well as an excellent marketing tool.

9/10

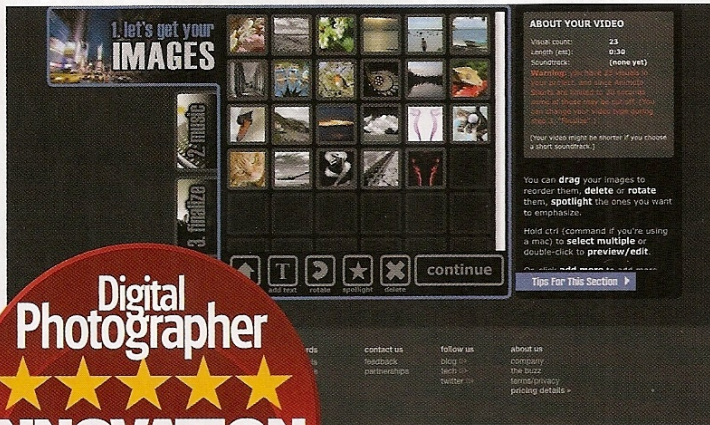
ABELLI PHOTO BOOKS

PRICE: £60

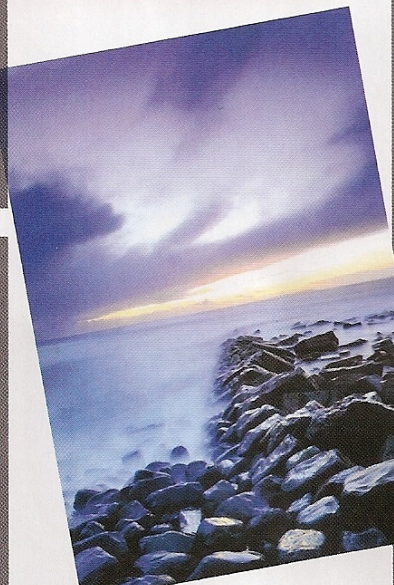
Web: www.abelli.co.uk

Customised photo books not only make great personalised gifts, they're also an excellent way of creating a professional-looking portfolio of your images, whether you're trying to promote your work, or you're a pro who wants to offer your clients an alternative to standard prints. We found Abelli photo books to be expensive, high-quality products that were easily customisable to suit our own needs. To start, visit the site and download the free software (PC-only at the moment unfortunately - there's a Mac-compatible version to follow later in the year) then pick a book format (Square, Landscape or Portrait). Use the uploader to transfer your images directly from your desktop, then after a few minutes, you're ready to start building your book. There's an Auto-Fill option, which drops all of your chosen images into a generic book template, which you can then tweak, or you can lay out all of your pages manually from scratch. You can add text and masks, change fonts and background colours and there's the new option of adding a gloss finish to your pages too.

9/10



Digital Photographer
★★★★★
INNOVATION AWARD



THEPRINTSPACE

PRICE: FROM £2

Web: www.theprintspace.co.uk

This service couldn't be easier to use. There's nothing to download or install: you just follow the Order link and click Select Images, then browse your computer's hard drive, adding the photos you want to print. From here, you have a plethora of options to choose from. Print media choices include C-Type Matt, Gloss, Metallic and Supergloss, as well as a range of Giclee options and a CMYK-proof alternative. You can set your own custom print size and resolution, or go with your image's native dimensions, add a border and opt to have your photo mounted if you choose to. Mounts include Kappa Foamboard, Foamex, MDF, Card, Aluminium, DiBond or an Acrylic Reverse with subframe, and there's the added bonus of an optional laminate finish: Acrylic seal Matt, Gloss or Crystal. Prices start from just under £2 for a 4 x 6-inch Epson print, and there are deals available for bulk orders. Once we'd ordered our mounted print, the finished product was in our hands just a couple of

days later, beautifully finished and ready to hang on our wall.

10/10

PRINT SAMPLE PACK

Can't decide which type of paper would best suit your prints? Then theprintspace offers a print sample pack that shows off the attributes of all of the paper types you can choose from when you order through its website. It costs £5 + VAT and gives you a clear picture of how your images will look, according to the type of media you select.



The best of the rest

Alternative options to help you showcase your best shots

THEIMAGEFILE

PRICE: FROM £5 + VAT PCM (£1 FOR ONE-MONTH TRIAL)

Web: www.theimagefile.com



theimagefile is an online stock library resource that offers photographers an effective method of marketing and selling images. You can quickly create and customise your own website, then organise and start selling your images, which can be protected by optional passwords, disabled right-click, overlays and customisable watermarks.

BIGPHOTOSHOP

PRICE: FROM £43 (CANVAS)

Web: www.bigphotoshop.co.uk



For an array of printing options and photo-enlargement services at affordable prices, visit BIGPhotoShop's website - upload your image(s) and choose from the following media: Acrylic,

Perspex, Block Mount, MDF, Canvas and Giclee fine-art prints. Its 2 x 5mm Acrylic Sandwich, for example, is diamond-polished to give a superior finish. Prices start from £60 for a 2 x 5mm x 30 x 40cm panel complete with polished silver wall fittings. Price includes delivery.

ABACUS PRINTERS

PRICE: FROM £8

(SINGLE GICLEE PRINT)

Web: www.abacusprinters.co.uk



Proclaimed as 'the country's leading waterless printers', Abacus Printers allows you to upload your images to the website and order prints on a range of media or make your own postcards, greetings cards, folders, business cards, invitations, posters or calendars. Best for bulk orders rather than one-offs.

SPECTRUM

PRICE: FROM 15P PER PRINT

Web: www.spectrumphoto.co.uk



Spectrum is an established lab with a friendly, helpful team, offering a range of printing services including three online upload services: Folio (up to 96" and priced per mm), Canvases and Digipix (economical for larger, cheaper print runs). Other services include scanning of negatives, large-scale reproductions of artworks, bespoke coffee table books, print mounting and finishing including mounting onto aluminium and Perspex, framing, canvas and giclee printing, as well as colour hand printing and student services - all done in-house in its lab in Hove.