

# Basic Timelapse Movie Generation

First, we need to process a single image:

- Copy all of the images into a single directory.
- Open Photoshop
- Open a file from your timelapse that has interesting subject matter (Milky Way, clouds, etc.)
- Open the Actions Window (Alt-F9)
- Select New Action, name it and click “Record”. Every process performed will now be recorded.
- Resize and/or Crop your image. Doing this first will make the process go faster since the image being processed will be smaller.
- Adjust Levels, Curves, and Color Balance as desired.  
Be aware that some Photoshop tools will not operate in a predictable manner since they analyze the entire image before making an adjustment. An example of this is the Shadows/Highlights adjustment tool. If a bright light appears anywhere in your image and disappears in a later frame, there will be a possible brightness variation in the background between the two images after processing with that tool.
- After all of your adjustments are made, save your image as a .jpg file into the directory where you want to place your processed movie images. I typically use the quality 7 setting as a good compromise between visible compression artifacts and file size.
- Click the Stop button in the Actions Window
- Close the processed file.

Now, we need to perform the Action that we just created on all of the images:

- Select File|Automate|Batch...
- The Action you just created will be selected in the “Play” section.
- Select the source folder where your images to be processed are located.
- Uncheck all of the boxes in the “Source” section
- Select the folder where you want to place your processed images in the “Destination” section.
- Check the Override Action “Save As” commands box in the destination section.
- Click “OK”

You should see your processed files gradually appear in the destination directory.

When the processing is complete, we can now assemble the processed files into a movie with Quicktime Pro.

Open Quicktime Player (Pro version)

- Select File|Open Image Sequence
- Select the first file in your processed files directory
- Select the desired frame rate for your movie and click “OK”.  
I generally use 24fps, but 15 and 30fps are commonly used.

In a moment, your movie will appear in the screen.

- Save the .mov file.

This is a playable, but uncompressed movie file. If you want to play an HD resolution movie on most systems, you will need to export the file with compression. The H.264 CODEC is commonly used. This is where my expertise ends. Try the default settings...good luck!