



**Pre-designed Composite Layouts** are offered in our software programs in four areas. They are offered in conjunction with the library-bound albums and Press Books in the Albums-Black River Imaging software and with the spiral-bound albums, Press Books and as Composite prints, no album, in the Black River Imaging software. The ordering process is very similar for each of these products but we will focus on the Composite Prints, No Album option. The second portion of the guide will be dedicated to using our pre-designed templates and editing them with the Template Designer tools. It is to your benefit to view the video tutorial on this subject as well. Also if you are a new user the Software Basics tutorial is recommended as it equips you with knowledge about the main features and functions of the software.

Composite Prints, No Album are found in the Photographic Products catalog of the Black River Imaging software. We offer guides and tutorials that cover the specifics of ordering the Spiral Bound Albums as well as the Tuscany, Legend and Destiny albums so those specifics will not be covered in this guide.

We offer these layouts in a variety of sizes and you must choose the size of the finished print before you choose the template design. Once you choose the print size the numeric design number divides the pre-designed templates in groups. Please note, in the other products there is a full frame 000 option for use when you have created your own template but with Composite Prints, no album you will simply go to the Prints & Template Designer option and choose the print size rather than a composite number.

You can familiarize yourself with the pre-designed composites and what they look like by visiting our website, choosing the Album Products tab and then Composite Templates. You may also use this link: [www.color-labs.us/candid.sq1.html](http://www.color-labs.us/candid.sq1.html) for viewing and this is a good one for your customers because they cannot access the remainder of the web site. The examples you see here are just examples. We offer several choices with which to style your layout. You will find these when selecting the Options button or Options Palette and choosing the Sizes tab.

**The Pre-designed options** will vary based on the composite you have selected. The background node, or opening, can be adjusted by choosing options for the Background Color, Opacity and/or Image. The Background Opacity offers several levels and the Background Image option allows you to change your image to black and white or sepia; with the Background Color you may opt to select any one of the 48 pre-set colors. These can be used in any combination to create a custom look. If

you need to remove an image from the opening click on the image, notice the blue line around the opening, and then click the Delete key on your keyboard.

Some composites have over-lapping nodes so you may need to use multiple options to achieve the look you are wanting. Fill is an option that allows certain nodes on selected templates to be filled with color. In some cases these nodes can also have an image. Opacity is also available on selected composites and selected nodes. You may change the opacity in increments of 20% and you will see these changes display in your software. Some openings have a pre-set opacity, you may change this with the opacity option or you may deselect to return it to the preset percentage.

Several composites offer a text opening, when you click on the text area a dialog box will drop beneath it where you can type. Please note that the text will be automatically centered within the pre-set text opening and line breaks must be entered by you. The final printed text size will be based upon the amount of text and font type and style selected. You may change these by clicking the Font Type and Font Style and making your selection. The font settings will be applied to all pre-set text openings on the composite. If your system is not displaying the font types when you make a selection you may want to take advantage of the View Downloads Page of the web site where we have a zip file of these fonts that you may install on your computer so that they can be displayed in the software.

A helpful hint, especially if you have a large amount of text, is to type it in a word processing system that allows for spell check. You can then copy and paste the text into the opening in the software but you will need to adjust the line breaks.

The Image option gives you the opportunity to change from the default of the image to black and white or sepia. You will have this option on every image in every layout. To deselect, simply click the option a second time.

Stroke is an option for most openings on most composites. The lab-default width of the stroke is .035 mm. There are 48 pre-set colors you may choose from.

You can remove an image by clicking on it and then clicking either Delete or Backspace on your keyboard. You may also drag and drop an image on top of an existing image. Once the composite is the way you would like it click add to order.

**Editing Pre-Designed Composites with Template Designer** is an option that allows you to further customize the pre-designed composites. There are a few limitations to these tools when used with the pre-designed composites so we will cover those now.

We will not cover every tool of the Template Designer so it is recommended that you view that tutorial. Once you have selected a template to begin with you will want to

enable the Template Designer tools by clicking the icon to the top left of Rotate Layout. When you click this you will see two tool boxes appear, one set under the Image Layout Area and the second one under the Thumbnail section.

One of the most beneficial parts of using the Template Designer with the composites is the ability to edit the size and location of the openings. You will do that by clicking on Edit and then grabbing the side of the opening and expanding it by holding down your left click on the mouse while dragging. If you need to move the opening, you will rest your cursor closer to the center of the opening until you see the cross icon, then left click and drag and drop the opening.

You may also adjust the rotation of the opening by using the tilt, once again, use the left click of your mouse when you see the curved icon and then drag in the direction you want the opening to tilt.

In any software where you can create layouts the openings, or nodes, have a specific layer they are on. Since our layouts are stored here you cannot adjust these layers. Should you try to do so a pop up appears letting you know this is not possible. You may add a stroke to an opening using the template designer tools but then you cannot rotate that same opening. You will need to choose between the two. You may choose to draw your own opening, tilt and add the stroke all within the Template Designer to have these options. Using this same concept, you may not add a drop shadow to a pre-drawn opening but you can draw an opening and then add the drop shadow. Any time there is a function that is not allowed when editing these pre-designed templates you will see a prompt but for the most part you are able to utilize most functions.

Another benefit to using the Template Designer is being able to add a text opening to any layout. You do that by choosing the Text option located under the Image Layout Area and using the left click of your mouse you will draw the opening. You may want to enable the grid to assist you in getting the text opening a specific size. Once you have drawn the opening you will need to click on Image, click on the box and then the drop-down will appear so that you can type in the opening. To choose the font style you will click on Node beneath the thumbnail section, (be sure your text opening is highlighted in blue) and choose the text. You may customize the color by clicking the Text option you see under the thumbnail section (while your text opening is selected). Choose from one of the pre-set colors or use the sample color option and click on an area of your image to which you would like to match the text.

When utilizing the Template Designer the composites retain their original options in the Options Palette but it is recommended that you choose to add strokes and fill colors with the template designer tools, as there can be conflicts in the information when it is trying to translate all of the changes that have been made.