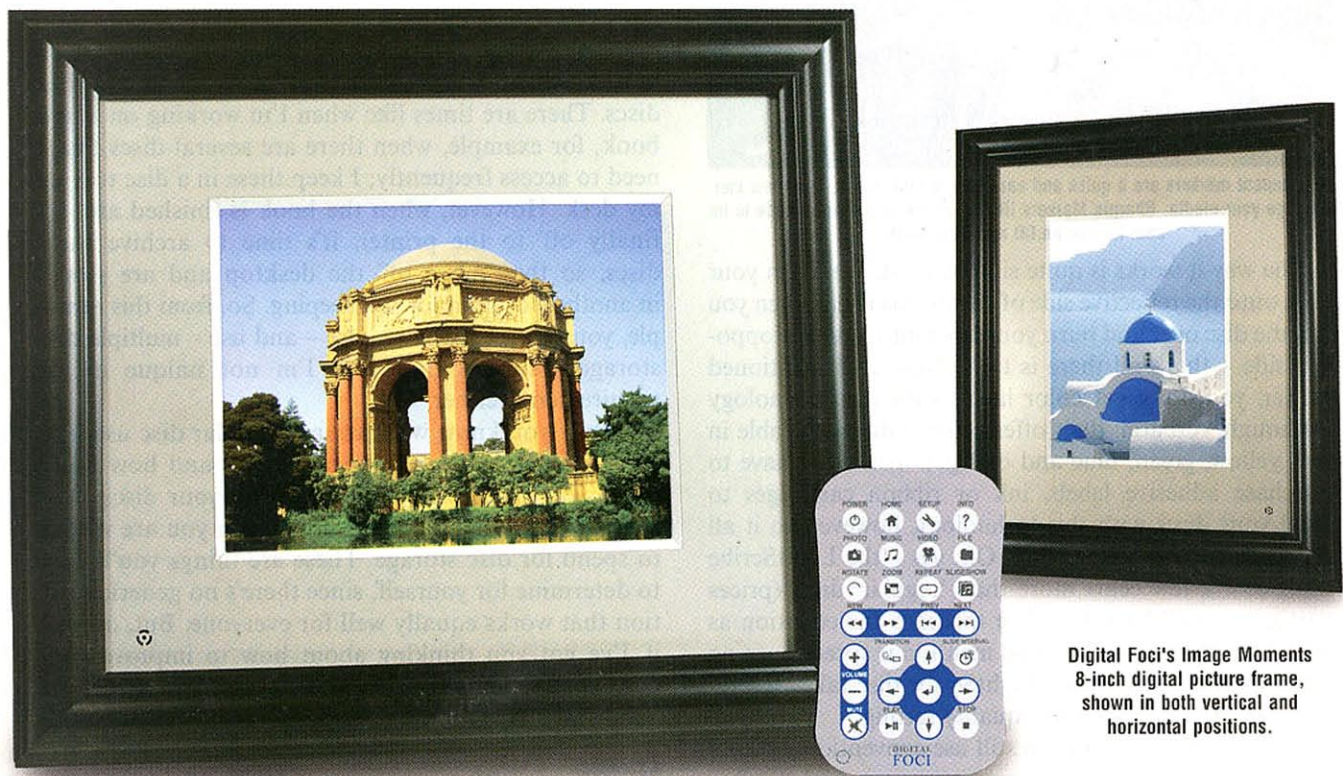


Digital Foci

Image Moments



Digital Foci's Image Moments 8-inch digital picture frame, shown in both vertical and horizontal positions.

ENJOYING YOUR PHOTOS IN A WHOLE NEW LIGHT

BY TONY GOMEZ

One of the problems we digital photographers all face is how to get a captured image to a medium that can be shared with others – quickly? We usually have to download the captured images from our digicams into our computers, upload them to photosharing sites, or make prints to share with our family and friends. All of this takes time and it takes away from the immediacy of quickly enjoying our digital images. Wouldn't it be great if there were a simpler way to enjoy our digital images, skipping all the laborious steps listed above? There is and it's called a digital photo frame.

Digital photo frames are not new. I remember a few years back when the first digital photo frame was available only from Sony, and it only worked with its proprietary MemoryStick cards. It was also very pricey. But fast forward to 2007 and we can find several models from many different manufacturers. The nice thing is that all

the new models have come way down in price, and they accept a wide variety of memory cards.

Digital Foci has been offering digital photo frame products for a few years now. Its latest line, called Image Moments, offer several cool, new features, and come in either 6-in. models and 8-in. models. We recently got an 8-in model to check out and here's our report.

Digital Foci's Image Moments 8-in. digital photo album frame (Model IMT-081) is priced at \$199 MSRP, with a standard black frame. It's available from the company's online store at www.digitalfoci.com. This second-generation model sports several improvements over the previous model: interchangeable frames (\$19.95 each from 12 different versions) and an easel leg for changing between landscape or portrait mode of display. The frame can also be mounted on a wall. Power is provided by a small AC adapter.

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The actual effective viewing area is about 6-in x 4.4-in, or 7.5-in diagonal. The Image Moments 8 is quite versatile in working with a wide variety of memory cards: CompactFlash I & II, MicroDrive, xD, SD card, Mini SD (adapter needed) Memory Stick, Memory Stick Pro, and MS PRO Duo (adapter needed). On the side of the unit, beneath a cover, you'll find the memory card slots.

Since most digicams now shoot movies, the Image Moments 8 also supports a wide variety of movie/video modes, specifically MPEG-1, MPEG-2, and MPEG-4. While the User Manual doesn't specifically state it, DIVX, a variant of MPEG-4 is also supported. If your digicam doesn't create movies in any of these formats, software is available to convert the captured movie file into the required format.

SLIDESHOW FEATURES

The most popular application you'll probably want to run is the Slideshow. First thing you'll need of course are the JPEG images on your memory card. Next, if you want to have musical background accompanying the slide show, you'll need to transfer your favorite MP3 audio files to the same memory card. So be sure and leave space on your memory card for background MP3s. This MP3 transfer can be done easily with an external memory card reader. Stereo audio is played back from the built-in stereo speakers.

For interesting variety in your slide show, there are 13 different image transitions—wipes, dissolve, rolls, or random, for instance. These transitions are selected from the provided remote control. You can also vary the time any particular image is displayed from one second to two hours.

Because many of us shoot in portrait (vertical) as well as in landscape (horizontal) mode, there is a handy rotate button on the remote to correct those images for proper orientation. If you're interested in knowing more about any particular image, just click the INFO button and details will appear on the LCD screen.

The Digital Foci Image Moments 8 digital photo frame is a very affordable way to enjoy your captured digital images and movies.

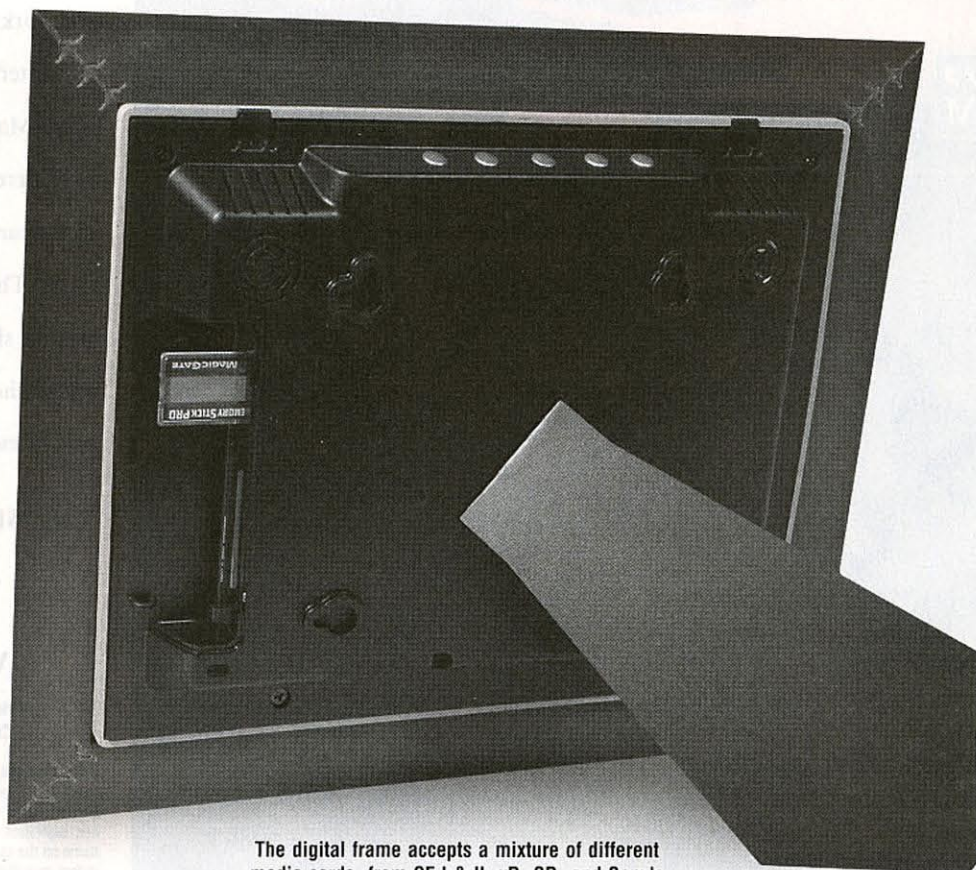
The 7.5-in diagonal LCD display is bright and colorful, and will present your images in excellent light. You can also study images in greater detail using the remote's zoom and pan controls. I went through all my favorite JPEG images and created a special memory card filled with just these images, and then I accompanied it with some favorite MP3 tunes. What a great new dynamic way to enjoy images and movies! ■

LINK:

•Digital Foci: www.digitalfoci.com.



The Image Moments frame is interchangeable, letting you choose your style while looking at a high-resolution image onscreen; it also has an effective viewing area of 7.4-inches.



The digital frame accepts a mixture of different media cards, from CF I & II, xD, SD, and Sony's Memory Stick combinations.