



# TECHTALK **Frame Your Digital Photo Collection**

By: Vish Viswanathan

So, you'll have taken tons of digital photos during the holidays and have downloaded it to your computer, now the next step is to share them, display them and enjoy them. Photos are meant to be shared, so don't limit yourself to one photo per frame. Instead, purchase a digital photo frame that can display a slideshow of a recent special event or family vacation.

Digital photo frames also make it easy to switch from showing a slideshow with multiple photos to showing one particular special photo. There are lots of different digital photo frames out there, so you will need to know which features will help you display the best image.

Like with any big ticket purchase, you'll first want to consider your budget. Digital frames can range from less than \$100 to more than \$250 depending on the quality of the LCD, the size, and the added features. Some of the more expensive frames can also play videos and music in addition to your photos.

A digital photo frame with a high screen resolution (the amount of pixels displayed vertically by horizontally) will provide a clear, detailed image along with rich, vibrant colors. To ensure the best picture, look for something with a resolution of at least 800 x 600. While high resolutions make for great image in large frames, lower resolutions are more affordable and can also have great color and clarity in smaller frames.

If you want to display slideshows that include a large number of photos, find a frame with plenty of internal memory. But if you only want to display a few of your favorite snapshots, save your money and purchase a photo frame with a smaller amount of internal memory that lets you add memory with flash cards. Many photo frames support flash cards such as SD, miniSD, CF, MMC, and Memory Stick. Additionally, some frames let you upload photos via your wireless home network so you can easily send photos from your computer to your frame. Your photo frame should also support a wide array of image formats, including TIF, GIF, JPEG, and bit-map.

While it's important to consider technical specifications, the most important thing is that the frame looks good to you. Before you purchase one, be sure to compare frames side by side at your local Electronics retailer to determine which frame best meets your needs.

Here is a list of some digital photos frames that I like:

## **Kodak EasyShare EX-1011 Digital Picture Frame**

This expensive (\$250) digital photo frame has built-in wireless connectivity which enables you to tap into your home wireless network and stream images from your Windows PC or the Kodak EasyShare Gallery online photo-sharing service. The frame has a bright, relatively sharp 10-inch diagonal display, 128MB of built-in memory, plus slots for virtually all memory card types, as well as USB connectivity for computers and thumbdrives. The EX-1011 supports MP3 and video playback (with sound), ships with a small remote control, and is compatible with PictBridge-enabled printers. It's also easy to set up and has a well-designed interface.



## **SmartParts**

([www.smartpartsproducts.com](http://www.smartpartsproducts.com))

SmartParts makes one of the better digital picture frames and they've a wide variety of models to choose from. Their frames are not only nice-looking but are made with real wood. These frames have a motion sensor which automatically turns frame on and off.

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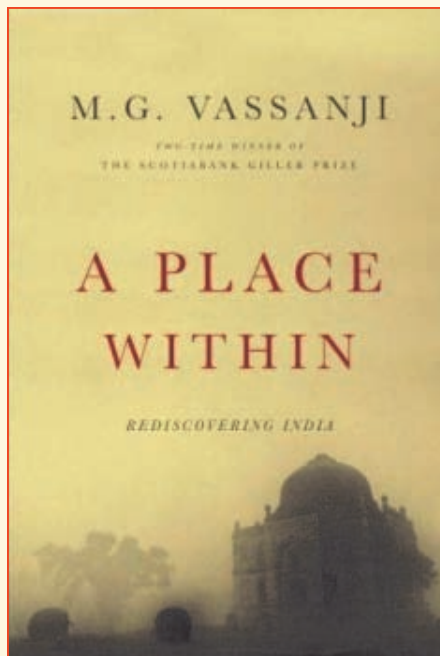
By: Sheniz Janmohamed

Two-time Giller Prize winner, M.G Vassanji, has done it again. His first non-fiction book, *A Place Within: Rediscovering India* is a fascinating intellectual and ancestral journey through India. Born in East Africa, Vassanji traces back his ancestry to Gujarat, India. Vassanji reflects on his first trip to India, and the impact it had on his understanding of his ancestral identity. When he returns years later, he gains insight on his earlier travels, and documents how the country has grown and changed over time. His journey takes him to Gujarat, Simla and Kerala to name a few, and yet he seems to have a firm grasp on each place he visits.

One of the most interesting elements of the book are Vassanji's discussions with various personalities in India- the famous author, playwright and actor Bhisham Sahnii as well as professors, intellectuals and controversial political leaders. While describing these meetings, Vassanji lets the reader in on his thoughts, confessing his disappointments, revelations and hopes.

Unlike many travel writers, Vassanji steers clear of the typical 'touristy' observations, and delves deeper into the historical and

sociological landscape of India. Vassanji



explores the relationship between Hindus and Muslims in India, referencing the tumultuous history of riots in Gujarat. He is unafraid to address his own complex emotions and fears,

and does so with grace and humility, "...what came to mind instead was that I could not accept India's embrace and turn away from the violence. It must in some way be a part of me."

Visiting places sacred and mundane, Vassanji's attention to detail is astounding, "...sidewalk vendors selling juice, fruit and vegetables, handkerchiefs and underwear, slippers, jewellery, luggage, luggage, on after another, so that it can be hard to get through into the street...bicycles piled like flies upon a piece of meat." Vassanji has spent much time researching and reflecting, enriching the text with historical tidbits, personal observations and quotes from other prominent writers/authors. He is acutely aware of the biases of historical documents, and presents a more holistic view of history through his own intellectual discoveries.

*A Place Within: Rediscovering India* is a pilgrimage to M.G Vassanji's ancestral past, a cultural rediscovery and a fascinating investigation of history and politics.

Buy *A Place Within: Rediscovering India* at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

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### Pandigital ([www.pandigital.net](http://www.pandigital.net))

Pandigital, a veteran digital photo-frame maker, is doing its best to stand out from the competition by incorporating a variation of the familiar touch-screen interface in its new line of PanTouch digital photo frames. You might call it touch screen "lite"; rather than touching the screen, as you would do with a device like the iPhone or an ATM, you instead touch the edge or perimeter of the frame to call up a menu and navigate. In concept, it's not a bad idea. And in practice, it's not bad, either. But it does take some getting used to.

PanTouch interface offers a degree of convenience over using traditional buttons; bright, sharp 8-inch diagonal display; 512MB of built-in memory, plus slots for virtually all memory card types, as well as USB connectivity for digital cameras, computers, and thumbdrives; supports MP3 and video playback; bundled remote.

