

# Creating a Living Photograph with Photoshop — Part 1



Image source: Crystal Allison.



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Adobe Products in this article



The next time you see a photo opportunity, take a video instead! [Adobe Photoshop](#) lets you quickly turn your short videos into living photographs that will mesmerize your audience on any social platform.

## Grab a tripod and count to ten

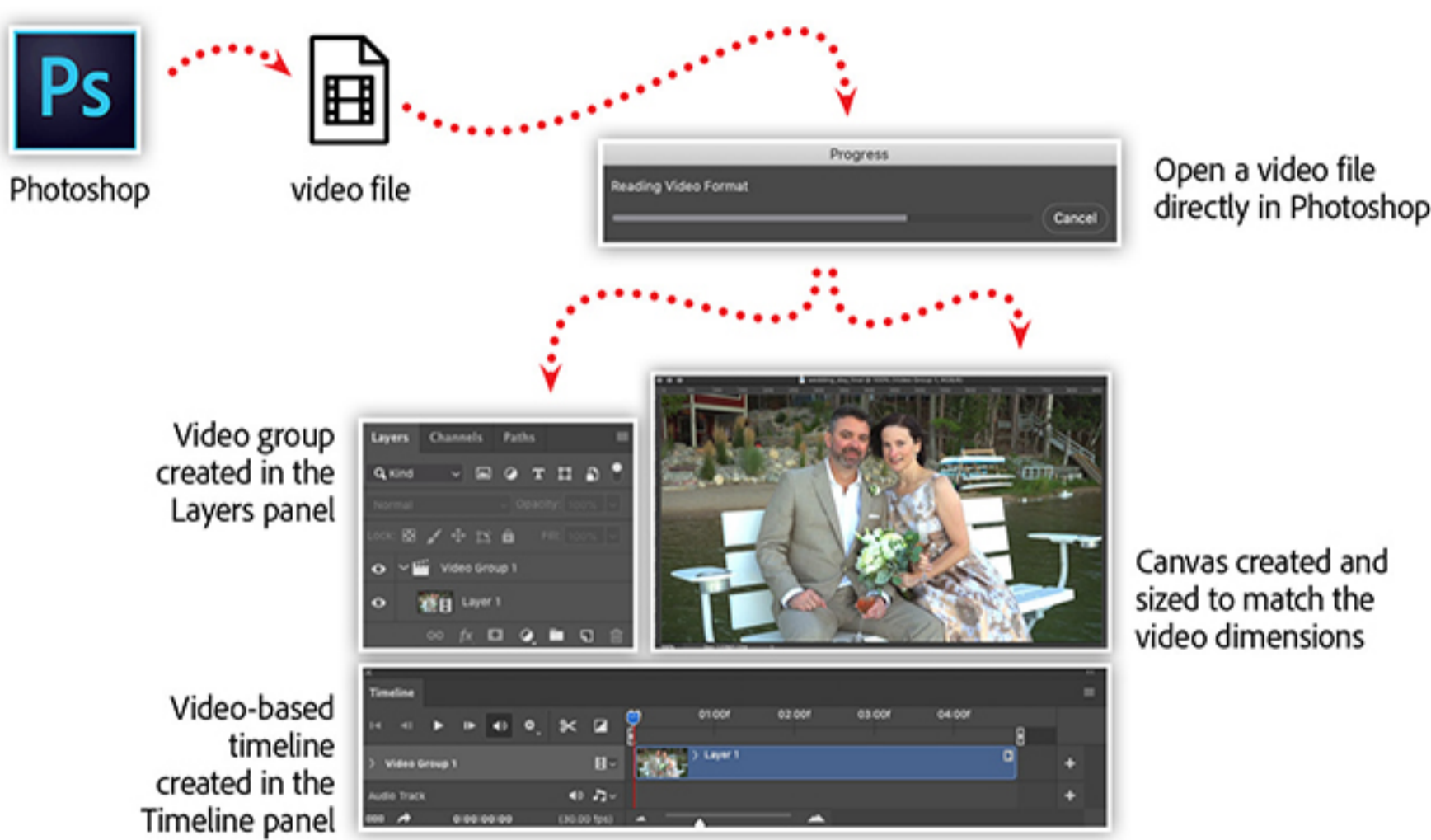
When shooting a video for use in a living photo (also referred to as a cinemagraph), using a tripod will make the task much easier. Find a subject where there is some subtle movement — such as gentle wind, moving water, or a flickering candle. Set up your shot and stabilize your camera or phone using a tripod (as shown in Figure 1). If you don't have a tripod, get creative by propping your camera up on a railing, rocks, a jacket... anything you can find.



With your camera stabilized, switch your camera to video mode, press the shutter, and then count to ten. This will give you enough time to choose a favorite frame as the still image and use the rest of the video as the “living part” of the photo.

## Open your video directly in Photoshop

The quickest way to set up a Photoshop file for video is to simply open the video file you get from your camera. This will set up three things for you automatically. It will create a new Photoshop document sized to the video dimensions, import the video and place it on a layer with a video group, and create a video-based timeline in the Timeline panel (as displayed in Figure 2).



Once you have your Photoshop file set up with a canvas, video layer, and video-based timeline, it's time to create the living photo.

## Combine a photo with video with Photoshop

This article is continued in [Creating a Living Photograph with Photoshop — Part 2](#).

## Watch a step-by-step demo of this workflow in an e-learning webinar

Combine video with your photographs to create a mesmerizing experience for your brand. Use video from [Adobe Stock](#), or from your phone, to enhance and brand animations for all of your social media channels. You'll learn how to work with video in [Adobe Photoshop](#), combine video and photos with masking techniques, and create a looping animation.

Watch the recording of [Creating Living Photographs with Photoshop](#), which includes:

- Work with video in Photoshop
- Combine video and photos with masking techniques
- Working with the Timeline panel in Photoshop
- Creating a looping video
- Transforming video with Smart Objects
- Special Tip: Stabilizing phone videos with After Effects

Adobe Creative Cloud e-learning series

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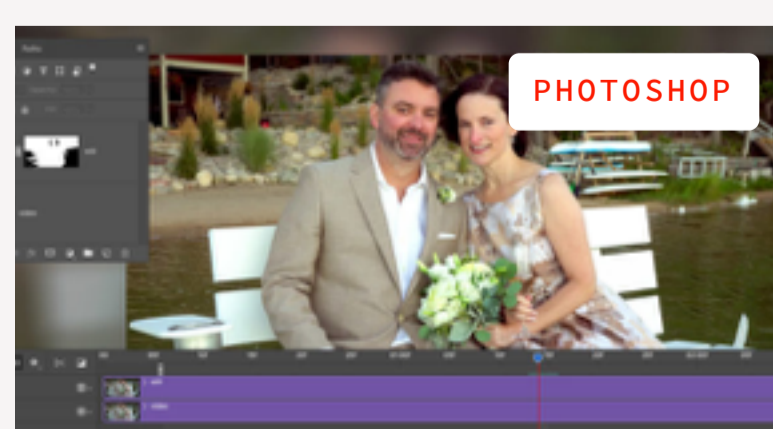
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