

FlipAlbum Suite 5

by E-Book Systems

Review by Joan Carroll

Product Information: E-Book Systems produces this photo album software program. There is also a standard edition for \$29.95; the suite 5 edition adds more features such as burning an album to a CD and a pop/play feature in a CD-ROM plus the ability to add more than one album to a CD. This edition retails for \$79.95 and is also available on Amazon.com for \$49.88 (for MAC users \$49.99) and there is a professional edition for \$149.95 that allows you to make customized photo albums with print lock options and CD Password options for commercial use of the albums. This program organizes your photos into a 3D page-flipping album that can be customized with themes, borders, annotations, table of contents (names and thumbprints) plus background colors and music. Like digital scrap booking affects that I found pretty nifty.

Requirements: All window operating systems (95-XP), a Pentium II, 300 mHz or better, 64 MB of Ram with 160 MB free hard disk space plus a 16 bit color display adaptor and 800 X 600 pixels screen area. Internet access and Internet Explorer 5.01 or higher is needed to view the photo albums online. CD burning capability (DVD if you have a video CD format for video viewing).

Installation went very well and automatically. Did not feature an uninstall option in this edition. Viewing the Flip Album sample added an icon to the desktop for the sample that was deleted quickly. Our first grandson's pictures were used to do a trial run and it was easy following the guide-I read and my sister did the operations. A second group of pictures were added a week later, and pages were added to the album to accommodate the new pictures: the program automatically adjusted the page numbers. Each picture could be sized, rotated, cropped, or retouched using the built-in image editor. You could add 3D and drop shadow effects, even add musical tracks. A thumbnail overview, table of contents and index are all automatically created and hyperlinked to the actual photo pages. I liked adding text under each picture in different fonts and colors.

After realizing the album could be put on a CD to share with family-a quick trip to our open lab at Fair Park Senior center for a lesson by Alan Baker and a CD was made successfully. This album CD can also be played on a MAC.

The program came with a full user guide and a quick guide for layout-both were easy to use and some of the features were tried. Did not add background music, as I have no music files. Liked the program very much and will become more proficient with the features as I continue to use it. Have lots of photos to organize. Customer service was used once and replied quickly via