AUTODESK® STITCHER UNLIMITED™ 2009
FOR MICROSOFT® WINDOWS® AND APPLE® OSX®

FAQ

Autodesk® Stitcher™ 2009 includes many new and enhanced features to help you work the way you think, provide higher coordination and quality, and improve your business for a competitive advantage.

General Product Information

What is Autodesk® Stitcher™ 2009?

Autodesk® Stitcher™ Unlimited 2009 is a premier panorama-creation software. It enables photographers, panorama creation specialists, interactive media designers, and others to quickly create engaging virtual tours, interactive 3D web content, large-format panoramic prints, and seamless matte paintings. The software's highly intuitive user interface, streamlined workflow and powerful "stitching" technology, developed after years of research into 2D/3D digital image processing, lets you merge your images intelligently with just a few clicks. The product interoperates seamlessly with Adobe® Photoshop® software and offers in-depth support for industry-standard image, web, and video file formats.

Who can use Stitcher Unlimited?

Stitcher is designed particularly for photographers, panorama creation specialists, interactive media designers, and others.

If you work in the digital imaging industry, Stitcher Unlimited 2009 helps avoid hours of stitching pictures in Adobe® Photoshop® thanks to its automatic stitching engine. Stitcher Unlimited 2009 is also the best way to create high-resolution panoramas which can then be printed in very large sizes.

If you work in the design and visualization industry, Stitcher Unlimited 2009 enables you to create virtual tours to show project achievement, panoramic backdrops for integration with CAD projects in real-life, large perspectives ("2D/3D integration in-situ"), and omni-directional viewpoints for photogrammetry.

If you work in the visual effects industry, Stitcher Unlimited 2009 enables you to create environment maps for 3D rendering and, thanks to a variety of rendering options (spherical, cylindrical, and cubic), your panorama created within Stitcher Unlimited 2009 can be integrated with a 3D scene in order to generate a background image, reflections, and lighting with complete photo-realism.

If you work in the web and multimedia industry, Stitcher Unlimited 2009 enables you to create web-based virtual tours using the Apple® QuickTime® application program, Adobe® Flash® software, or Java™-based viewers with the quality required to create full-screen, full-spherical virtual tours that are less than 1 MB in size. High–quality virtual tours are an attractive method to improve visibility for the real estate and tourism industries.

Stitcher Features

What are the new features of Stitcher Unlimited 2009, compared to Stitcher Unlimited 5.7?

- Addition of specific distortion parameters for Sunex® fish-eye lens
- Ability to load bracketed LDR (low Dynamic Range) images in order to stack them to create HDR images or tone-mapped images.
- Authoring control: possibility to set-up panorama constraints directly in the 3D viewport.

What operating systems are supported by Stitcher Unlimited 2009?

Stitcher Unlimited 2009 can be installed on the following operating systems:

- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional, (SP2) 32-bit operating system

- Microsoft ® Windows Vista® Business, (SP1) 32-bit operating system
- Apple® Mac OS® X 10.4.10 and 10.5.2 (Intel® operating system version only) operating system

With what 2D and 3D software does Stitcher Unlimited 2009 interoperate?

Stitcher Unlimited 2009 is totally compatible with Adobe® Photoshop® for retouching images, along with other 2D software such as Corel® Paint Shop Pro®.

Panoramas created within Stitcher Unlimited 2009 can be exported in Autodesk® 3ds Max®, Autodesk® Maya®, or Autodesk® Mudbox™ software to generate a background image, reflections, and lighting (thanks to the total compatibility of Stitcher Unlimited 2009 with the HDR technology) with complete photo-realism for a 3D scene.

Is Stitcher Unlimited 2009 suitable for HDRI?

Yes. Stitcher Unlimited 2009 has a 32-bit stitching engine, and can import and export HDRI files in open EXR® and Radiance RGB (.hdr) formats. Stitcher Unlimited 2009 is the premier solution for the creation of environment maps used for lighting in software like Autodesk 3ds Max, Maya, or Mudbox.

Which file formats can Stitcher Unlimited export to?

Numerous exports formats are offered.

For the Web:

Quicktime VR (.mov QTVR 5), PNG (.png) – 8-bit or 16-bit, videos (.avi, .mov)

For print:

(.jpg high quality), Google Earth™ (.kml), Targa (.tga), Maya image files (.iff); SGI® image files (.sgi), Portable Pixelmap (.ppm), Tiff (.tif, .tiff) – 8-bit or 16-bit, Softimage® pictures file format (.pic) – 8-bit or 16-bit, Photoshop layers (PSD), VRML (.wrl).

Licensing Stitcher 2009

Can I try Stitcher Unlimited before purchasing it?

Yes, you can try Stitcher Unlimited 2009 for free by downloading our [evaluation version](#)*.

* This product is subject to the terms and conditions of the end-user license agreement that accompaniesdownload of this software.

Where can I buy Stitcher Unlimited?

Stitcher Unlimited 2009 is currently sold exclusively through the online
eStore.

I am an Autodesk Authorized Reseller. Can I sell Stitcher Unlimited?

Presently, Stitcher Unlimited is sold through the online eStore only.

What is the price of Stitcher Unlimited?

Please consult our price list on our eStore.

Resources and training

Where can I see examples of panoramas created with Stitcher Unlimited?

You can see how the Autodesk® Stitcher™ Unlimited software has been used by photographers, web designers, and other professionals worldwide by visiting our gallery

How can I get training for Stitcher Unlimited?

You can consult our online tutorials.

What is Autodesk Authorized Training, and how do I get it?

Autodesk Authorized Training is designed to advance your career with Autodesk® software. Get trained at an Autodesk Authorized Training Center (ATC®), with hands-on, instructor-led classes to help you enhance your productivity and accelerate you return on investment. You can make Autodesk Official Training Courseware (AOTC) a key part of your product training, and learn from the best with content developed by Autodesk subject-matter experts. Earn Autodesk certification to prove your experience, reliably validate your skills and knowledge, enhance your credibility in your field, and maximize your value. For more information about these learning solutions, visit: WWW.AUTODESK.COM/AUTHORIZEDTRAINING

WWW.AUTODESK.COM/AOTC, and WWW.AUTODESK.COM/CERTIFICATION

Quick Tips for Stitcher Unlimited

What type of camera can I use?

Stitcher Unlimited 2009 is compatible with all varieties of lenses, including fish-eye. We recommend digital (SLR or regular) cameras versus film cameras. Although film cameras can be used, they are prone to scanning errors that can make it impossible for Stitcher to work successfully.

Where can I find tips to take photos for Stitcher?

We have compiled a list of tips you can find in our 'shooting advice' section:

HTTP://STITCHER.REALVIZ.COM/PANORAMA-CREATION-ADVICE/SHOOTING-ADVICE.HTML

How do I use Stitcher?

Each of the following methods can be used to do get better results with Stitcher Unlimited 2009. The latter two methods are generally used if the first two are not satisfactory.

1. Automatic Stitching: Stitcher Unlimited 2009 will use its advanced image-matching algorithms to automatically find the correct overlapping position for all the images loaded within it. There may be cases where Stitcher Unlimited 2009 will not find the correct position for an image, such as when the image contains no features (a blank wall, or a blue sky) or when there are too many variations between images (a moving person or object, or a dramatic change in exposure). The manual stitch option (see below) is the natural solution for this kind of problem.

2. Semi-Automatic Stitching: Stitcher Unlimited 2009 will use its advanced image- matching algorithms to automatically find the correct overlapping position for one image in order to match perfectly with another. When this fails, Stitcher Unlimited 2009 will ask if you wish to Re-Adjust or Force Stitch. Re-Adjust means that you will be able to better approximate the ideal position of an image and try again.

3. Force Stitching: Use "Force Stitch" when normal stitching fails. Force stitching makes an image snap to the overlapping images according to its current location at the time the "Force Stitch" command was issued. It will not warp the image with former focal and distortion values.

4. Manual Stitching: When Automatic and Semi-Automatic stitching fail, you can use the manual mode. Manual will display the two selected images side-by-side, and the user is able to manually identify common points between them. A minimum of three points are needed for Manual Stitching to work, but you can use more points if you wish. When completed, the two images will snap together in the best possible position. This is a very effective method to find the perfect stitching position for two problematic images without a lot of guesswork.

How do I adjust colors between different pictures?

Stitcher Unlimited 2009 has a fully automatic color-adjustment algorithm. So you don't need to worry about the color balance between your pictures.

What types of renders can I do?

Stitcher Unlimited 2009 can output different kinds of panoramas from the same project. Once your panorama is built, you can select different kinds of output in the render dialog:

- Cubic Projection
- Cylindrical Projection
- Spherical Projection
- Snapshot Projection
- Apple® QuickTime® VR application program
- VRML
- PURE Player

What is a HotSpot?

A HotSpot is a clickable area of a panorama used to launch actions, such as opening a URL, or linking your project to another panorama to create a virtual tour made of several panoramas. HotSpots make very attractive and interactive presentations of interior and exterior environments possible.

How can I retouch a panorama in Adobe® Photoshop®?

Stitcher Unlimited 2009 is totally compatible with Adobe® Photoshop® for retouching images. You can import and export an image to and from Photoshop (PSD files, images and masks). When selecting the bitmap projection, such as Cubical or Spherical, "Photoshop (PSD)" will be offered as one of the image formats. Stitcher will render the panorama at the chosen projection setting. However, instead of producing a single blended panorama, it will create an Adobe Photoshop document in PSD format that contains separate layers for each individual image. Each image will keep the required distortion, and a blending mask will be applied to each image in a non-destructive manner. The result is a multilayer Photoshop file that, when all layers are set to be visible, replicates the blended results of a single image with the flexibility of each image having its own layer, making it easy to remove artifacts or eliminate ghosted areas.