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Subject: Ask Tim Grey - Video Playback in Photoshop - September 17, 2010
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Ask Tim Grey eNewsletter

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Today's Question:

I took a short movie with my Canon Rebel T1i which will not play on Photoshop. It does play in Bridge. Is there a way I can play it in Photoshop?

Tim's Answer:

No, there is not a way to play video clips within Photoshop. If you have the Extended version of Photoshop you can use it to work with still images for video projects (including 3D renderings, frames from video clips, or still captures). But you view or edit the actual motion video clip you'll need to use other software. As you've realized, Bridge is able to play the video clips directly within Bridge. You can also use other software (such as the QuickTime Player on Macintosh or Windows Media Player on Windows) to play the clips. And if you want to edit the clips (such as by merging sections of two clips into a single video) you'll need to use different software altogether.

Clearly this is an area that will become an increasing concern for photographers, as more digital cameras offer video capture. I do think we'll see enhancements to the available options, as evidenced by Lightroom 3's ability to manage (though not natively playback) video clips. With time I'm confident the situation will improve for photographers who want to delve deeper into motion pictures as well as still images.

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