Quick Start Guide to Using VR PanoWorx™
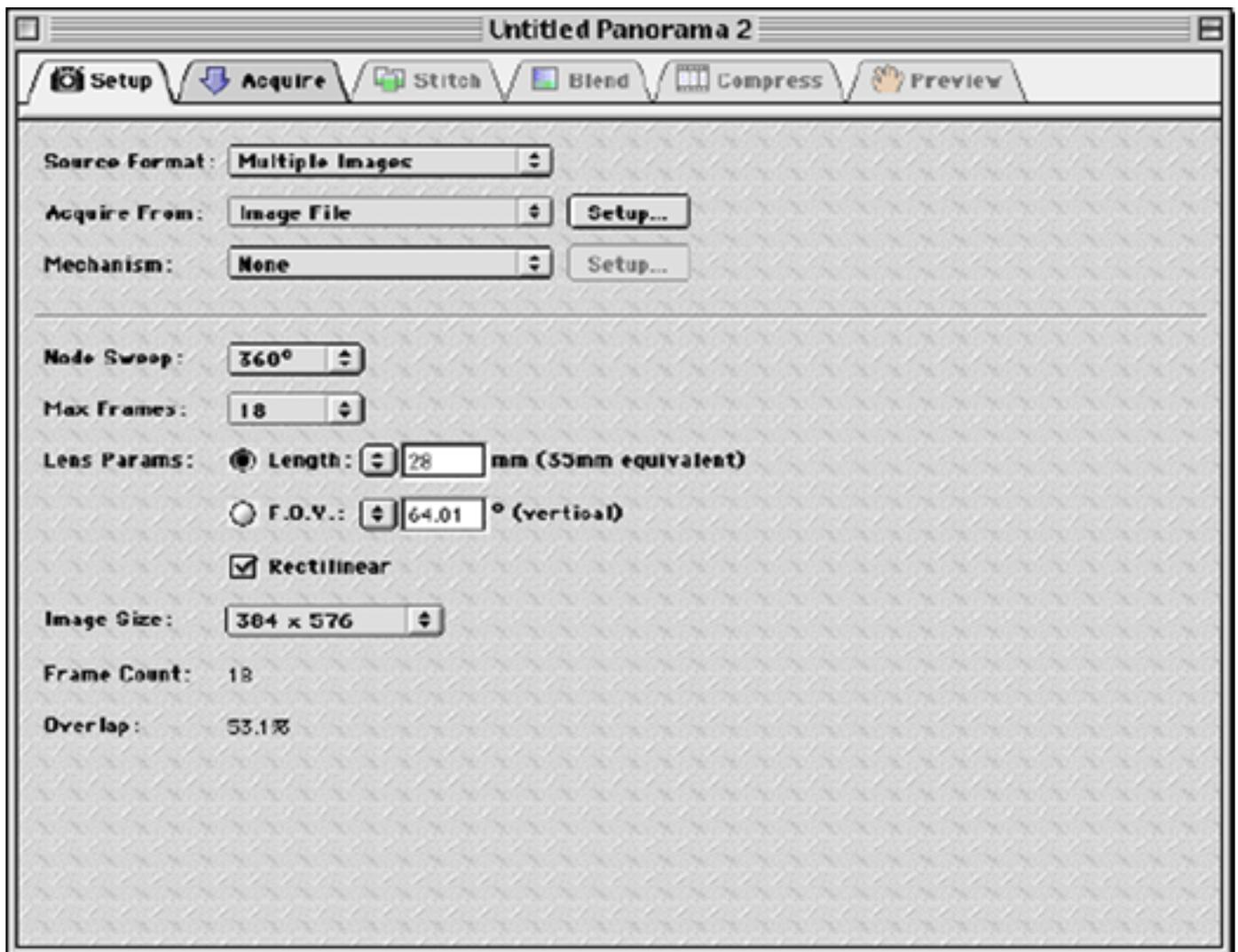
Quick Start Guide to Using VR PanoWorx™

This tutorial references the the "Sample Pano" source images that accompany the demonstration version of VR PanoWorx™ v1.0.

1) Open the "Sample Template" file by double clicking it's icon in the Finder.

This file is a "Stationery Template" and contains all the correct settings to compose the supplied source images into a QuickTime™ VR panorama.
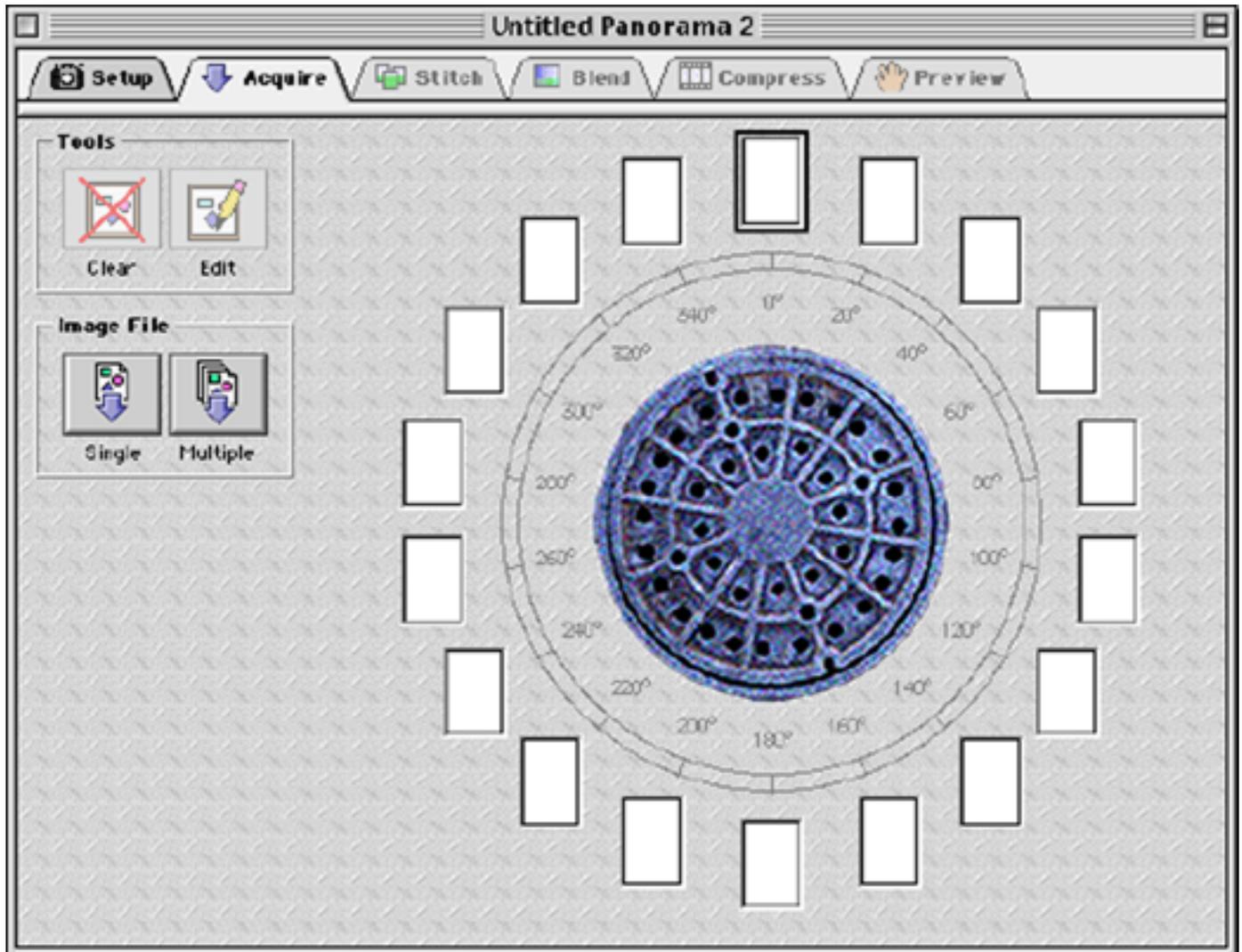
After the "Sample Template" file opens, the following screen appears:

■ The "Setup" panel is where information about your camera and source images are supplied. In this case, we've taken 18 photographs using a 28mm lens for a 360° panorama. The photos were scanned on a flatbed scanner yielding a 384 x 576 pixel image.

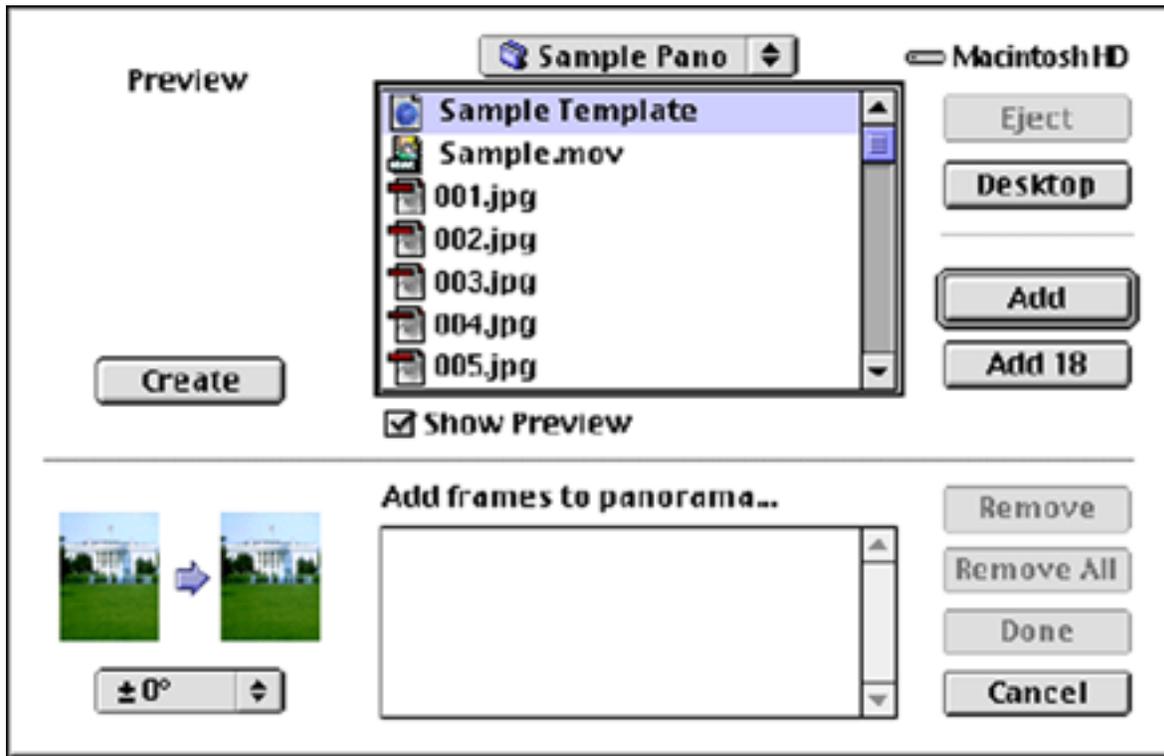**2)** Click on the "Acquire" tab at the top of the window.

The following panel appears:

■ This panel is where the source images are loaded into the program (or "Acquired"). Notice how the folder tabs to the right of "Acquire" are dimmed. This is because you must fully complete the task required in the current panel before you may proceed to the next. In this case all the images must first be acquired.
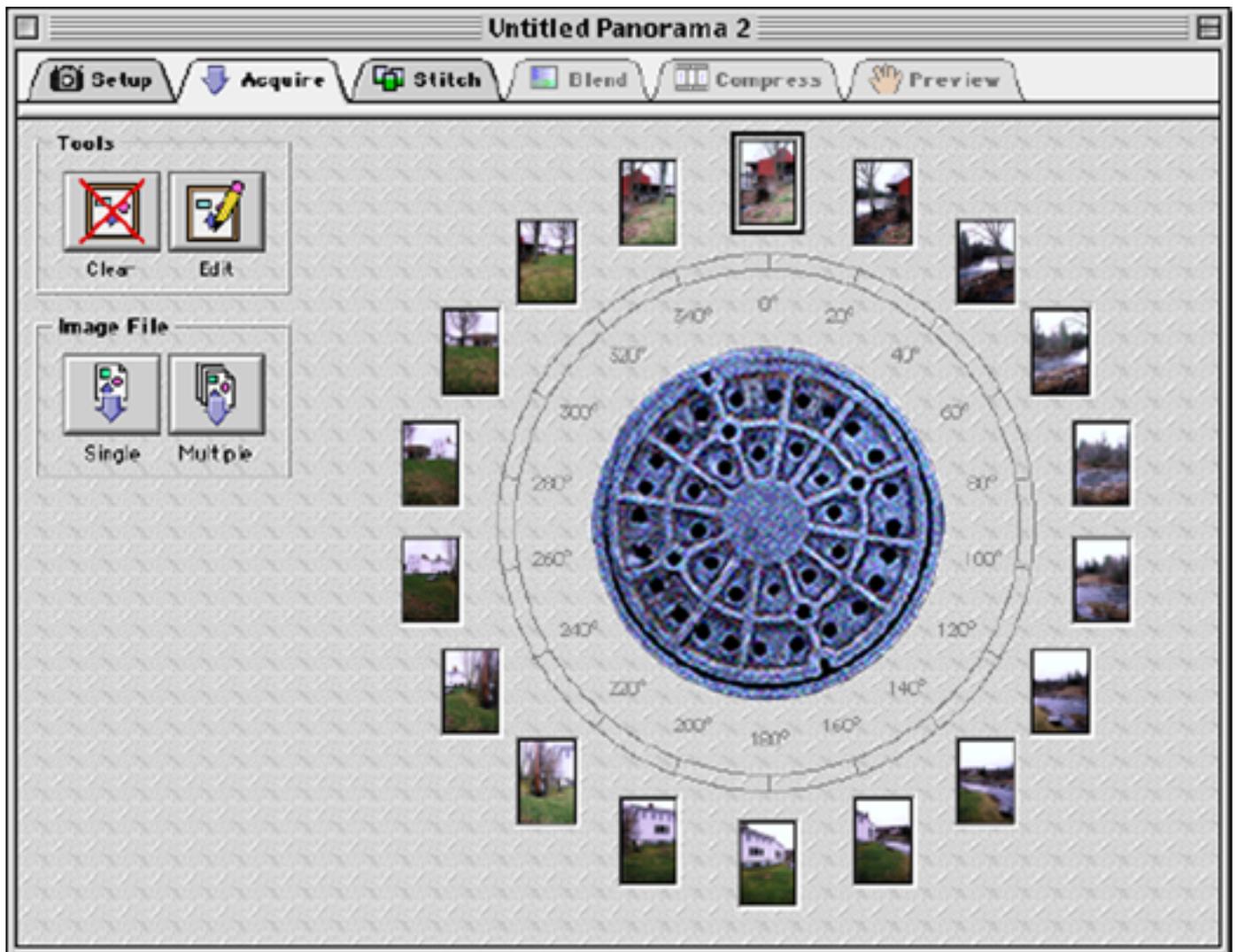
3) Click the "Multiple" icon button.

The following dialog appears.

■ If the "Sample Pano" folder isn't listed by default, navigate your hard disk until it appears.
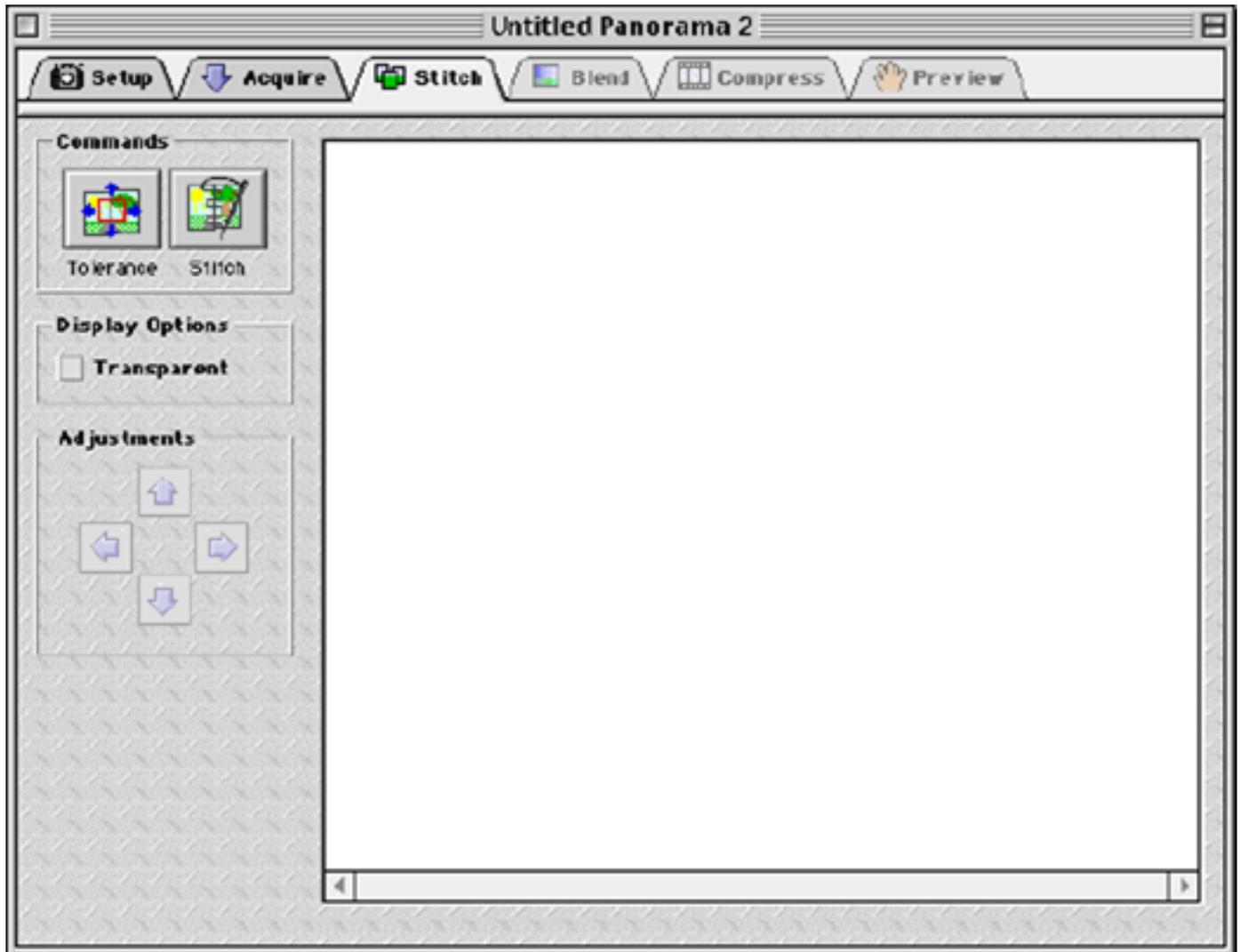
Click on the first image file listed (named "001.jpg") then click the "Add 18" button. The 18 files beginning with "001.jpg" now appear in the lower list. Click the "Done" button. The 18 images will now be acquired into the program.

When acquisition is complete, the "Acquire" panel will appear as follows:
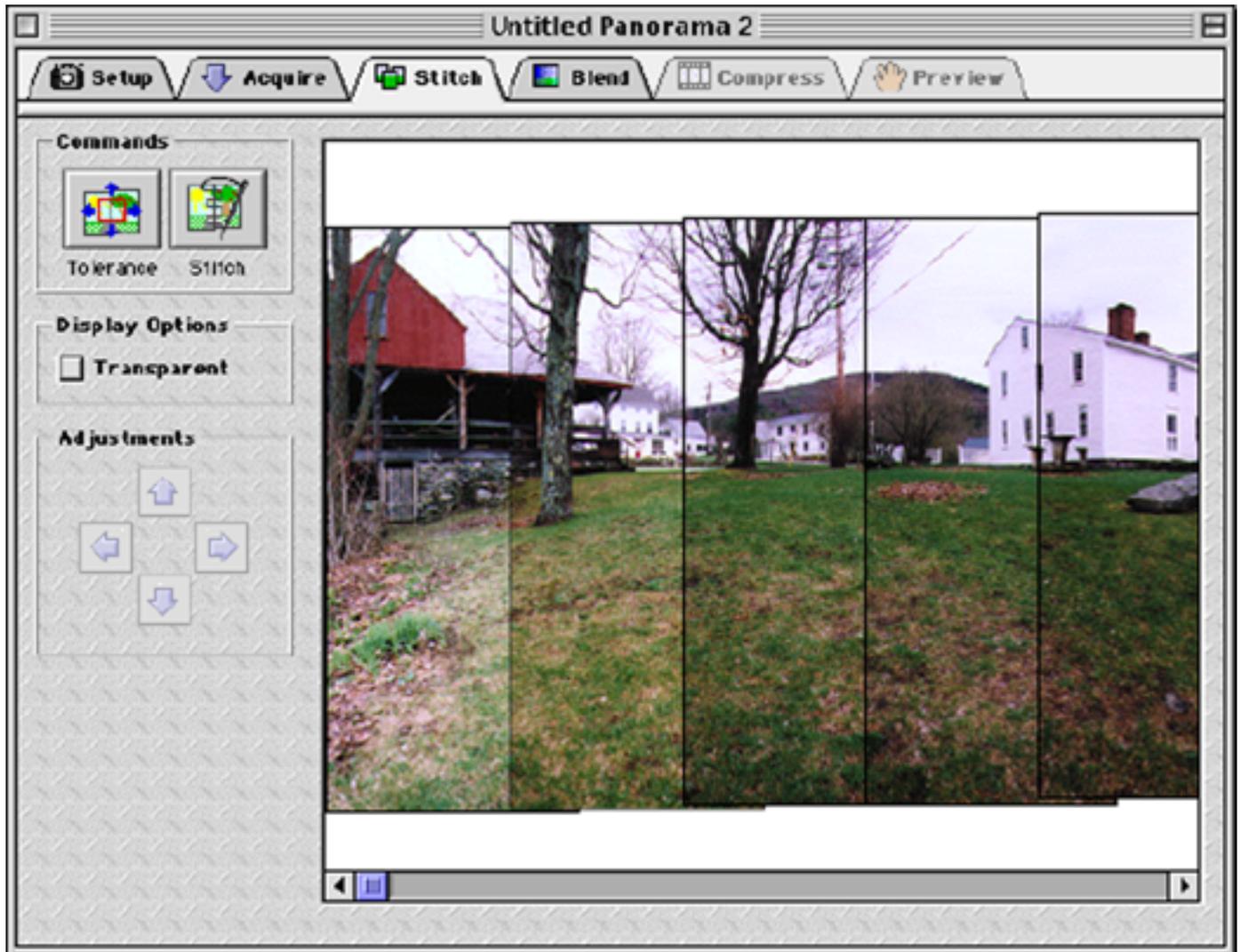
4) Click the "Stitch" folder tab.

The following panel appears:

■ It is here that we instruct VR PanoWorx to "stitch" the images together. This involves analyzing each image and determining how it overlaps relative to adjacent images. It also involves warping each frame to compensate for different perspective.
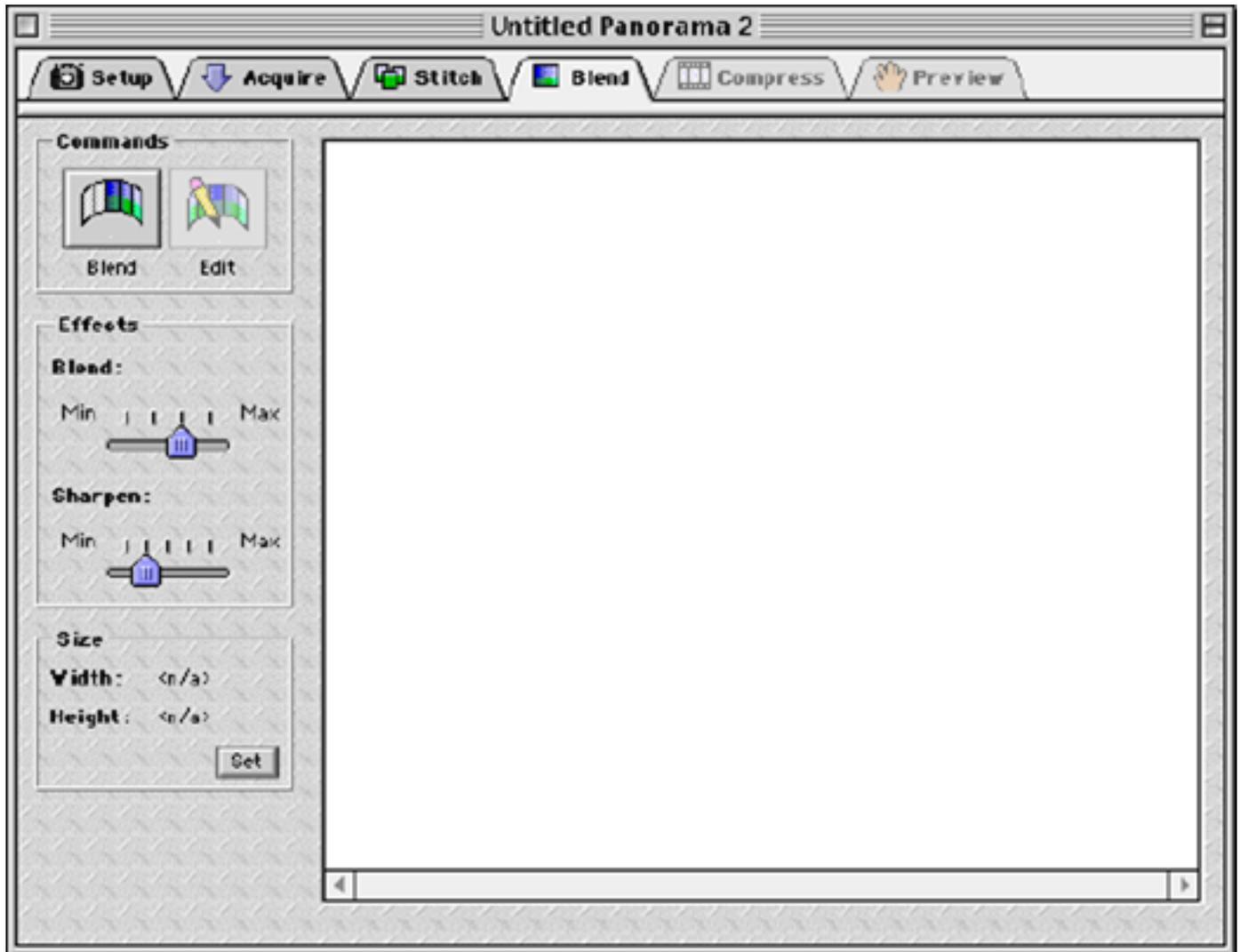
To begin the process, click the "Stitch" icon button.

When stitching is complete, the panel appears as follows:
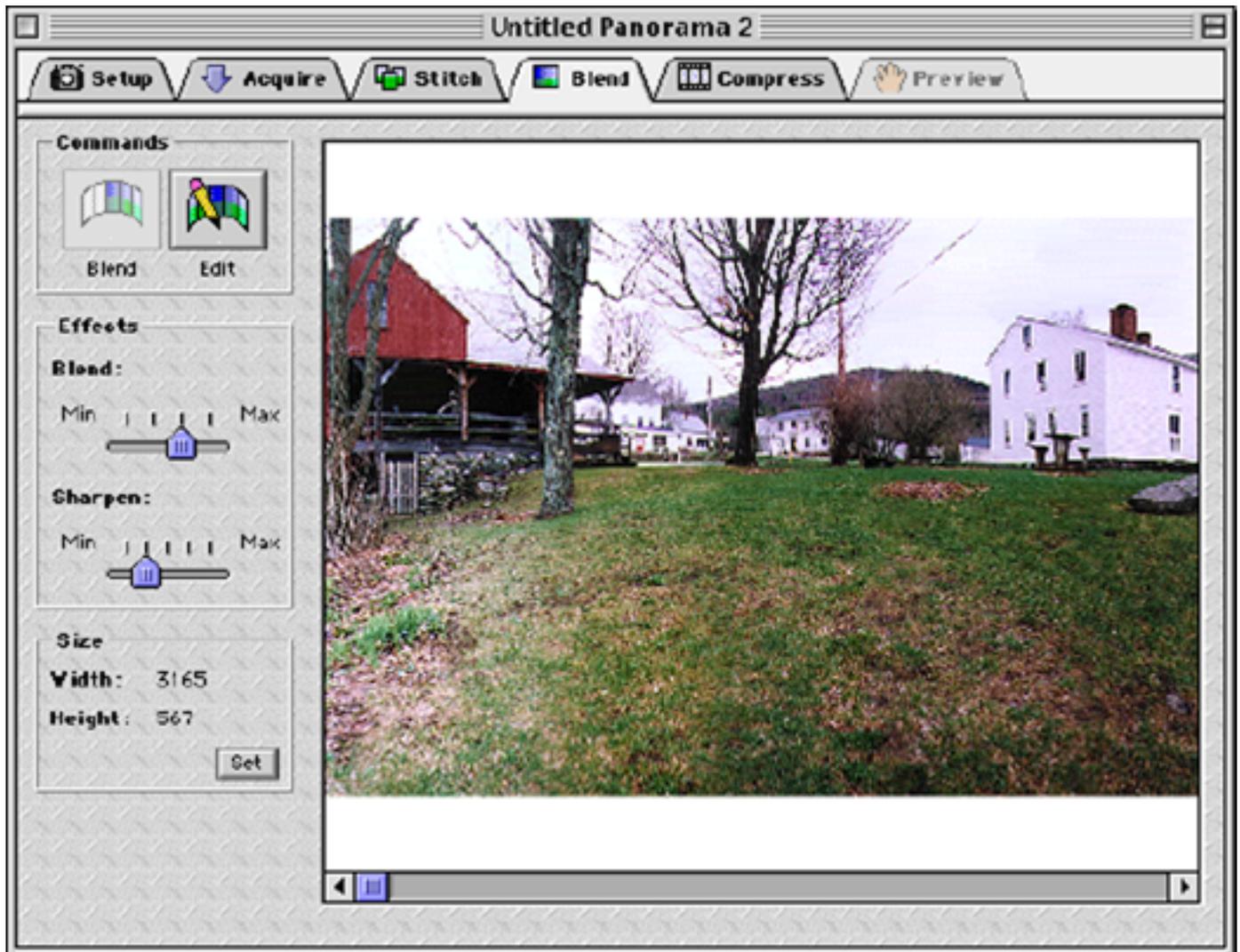
5) Click the "Blend" folder tab.

The following panel appears:

■ The next step is to instruct VR PanoWorx™ to blend the individual frames together. This will compensate for any differences in exposure between adjacent images.
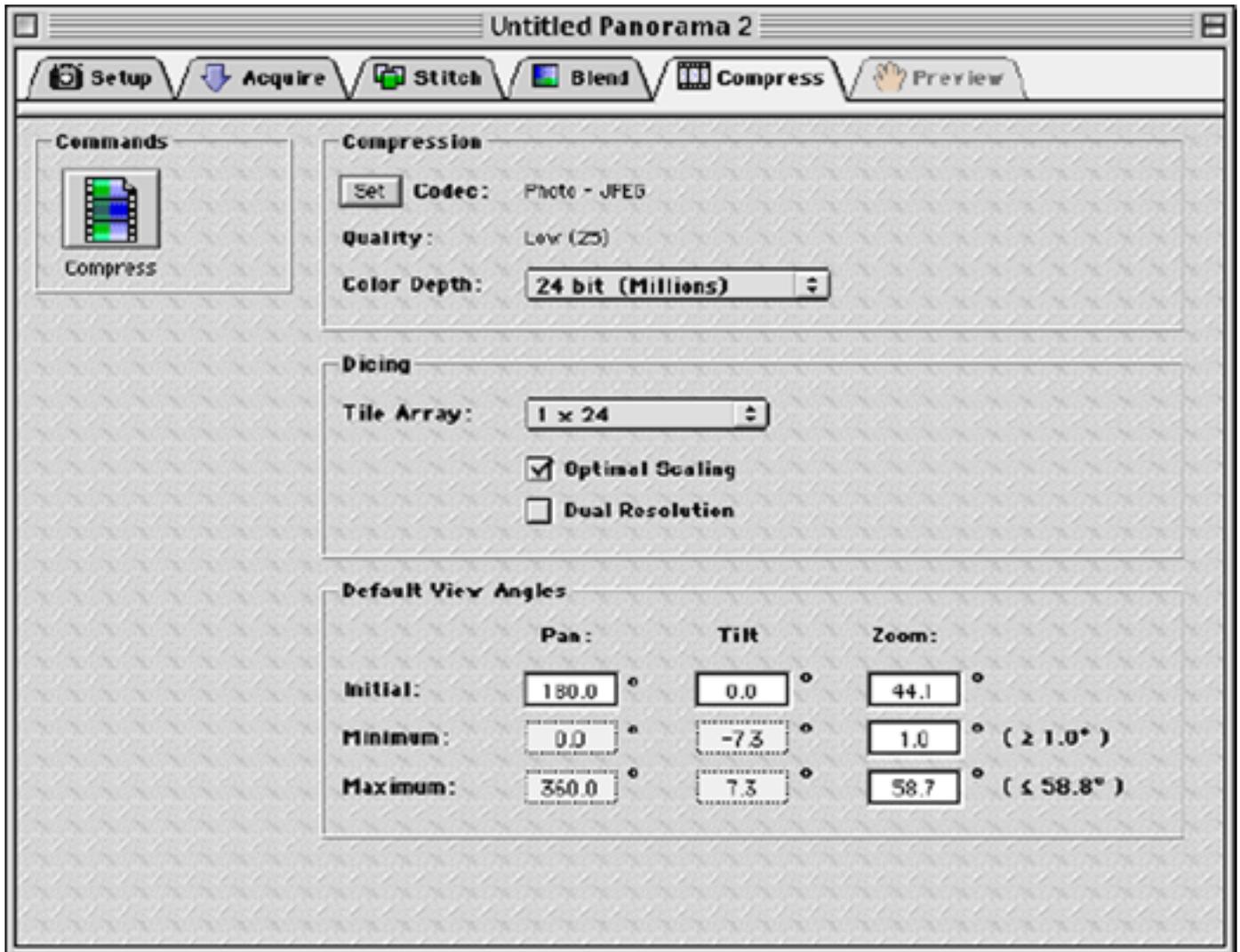
To start the process, click the "Blend" icon button.

When complete, the panel appears as follows:

6) With the blend complete, the next step begins by clicking the "Compress" tab.
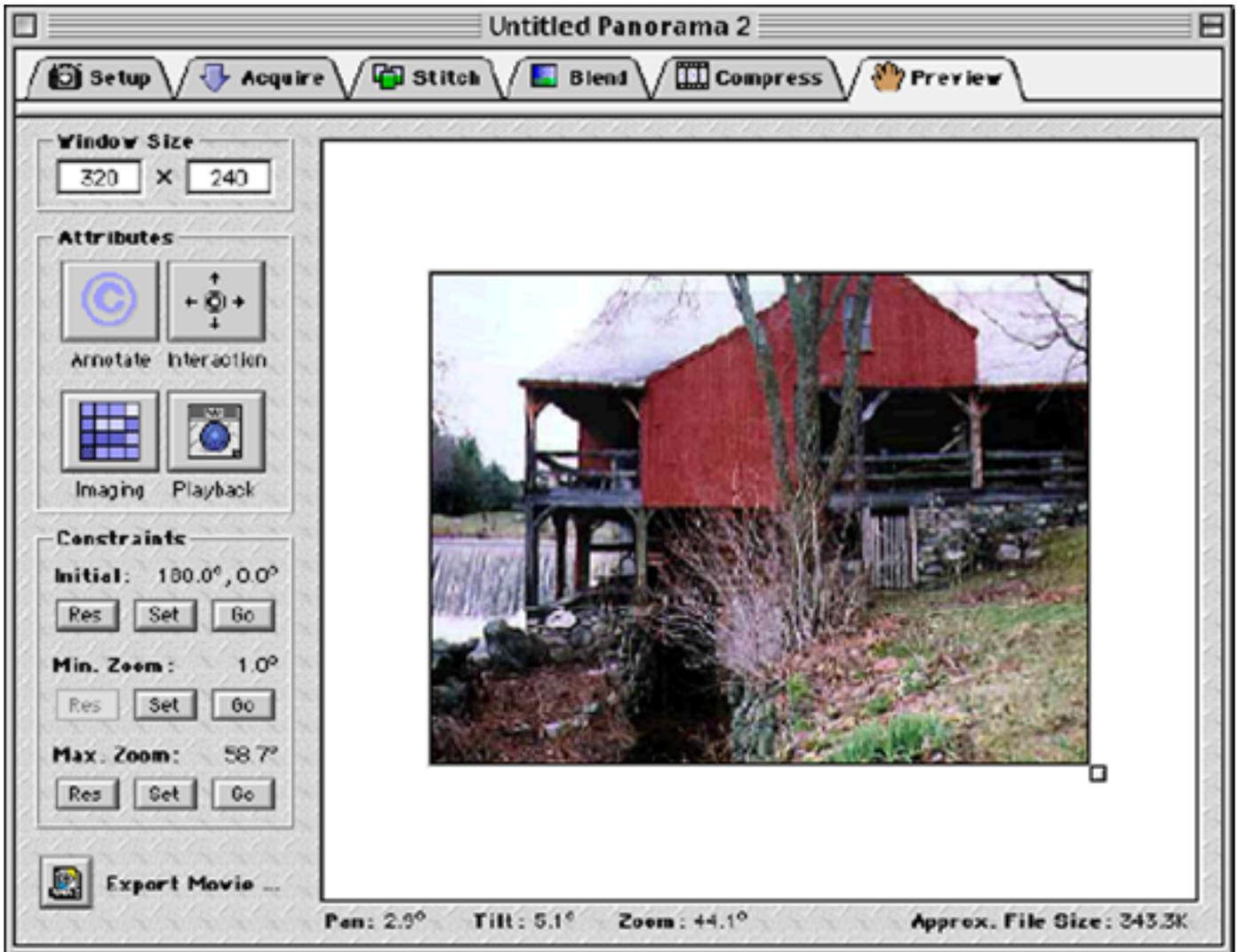
The following panel appears:

■ The primary purpose of this panel is to specify the compression settings that will be used when creating the QTVR movie. The image data you have crafted into a a panorama is very large and would require several megabytes to store on disk. By compressing the image, we can reduce the storage requirements down to a couple hundred kilobytes.

For this tutorial, we are sticking with the defaults, so go ahead and click the "Compress" icon button.
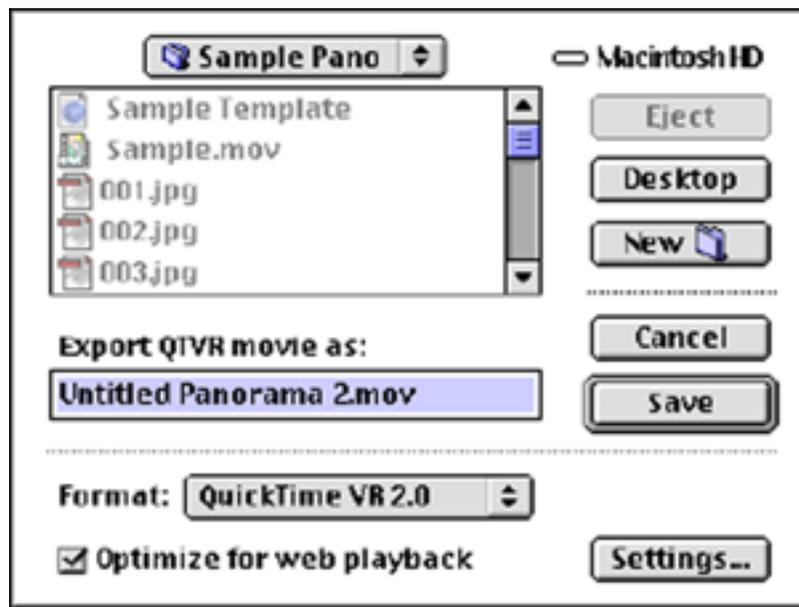
7) When compression completes, proceed to the final step by clicking "Preview".

Here, in all its glory, is the QuickTime VR panoramic movie you've just composed:

■ You may pan & tilt the movie by clicking and dragging the mouse over the panoramic image. Zooming in and out is accomplished by pressing the "Shift" and "Control" keys respectively.

Before exiting the program with an overwhelming sense of accomplishment, you should "Export" the QTVR movie as a stand alone file. This is done by clicking the "Export" button:

■ Use the standard file dialog to find the desired location on your hard drive to store the movie file. Type in a meaningful name and click "Save". Your first VR PanoWorx QuickTime VR panorama is now complete, ready to be viewed in any application that supports QuickTime.