



Best Christmas Village Videos of 2016

There will be a few newbies in this set of well done or interesting village videos, as well as some of my favorite YouTube video makers. My intention is to get you thinking about composition, videography, still cameras, and unusual display ideas.

Be sure to check out all the other topnotch and timely columns on TheVillageCollector.com – the always interesting "*Just So You Know (JSYK)*" by David Spears, Brian Vaill's "*The Train Station*," Thea Heyink's "*The Creation Station*," "*Phil & Sue's Village*" (from England!), "*From Italy: Villaging in Europe*" by Peppe Apuleo (fascinating!), "*Scratchbuilt*" by Alan K. Rogers, "*Villagers' Café*" for guest columns, and "*Coach is Here*" by webmaster Bill Channell. ***Please keep visiting the Village Videos page and watch, watch, watch.*** There will be a new batch of village videos starting on the 15th of each month! So many ideas, so little time... and not enough money.

Department 56 & Lemax Christmas Village 2016 (9:29)

pammyj100

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pP69nKyA50&t=427s>

Pammyj100 continues to amaze with her display creativity and improved video skills. She's also excellent at keeping the video length to 9 to 12-minutes (I'm envious of that skill). Who wouldn't want a working D56 Animated Track? The music fits the scenes so well. She has a penchant for finding different & unusual figurines. In this display she took the Jägerndorfer ski lift and made it into a carnival tramway. How many new ideas did you see? She even had Joop Essers of the Netherlands build a replica of her house! Her video ends with a glimpse of the panoramic view of the entire display.



Christmas Village 2016 (10:43)

bosmailman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vv2lZtQQ8XE&t=19s>

This video was the biennial issue of his Christmas in the City display, so clean, well-crafted, with more low-level detail views than ever before in his videos. Consider this a master class in lighting if you want to show details. There is a nice mix of video clips and still photos using the Ken Burns effect. It has a great opening, and then ends up where he started.



2016 Caddington Square Christmas Village (6:48)

MasterSullivan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxnuwGPyLM8>

We see more improvements and modifications to the world's best people mover, including a bridge and swinging gate – how'd he do that? This video has a nice ending, too.



Fred's Christmasvillage 2016 (3:56)

Fred Thomas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BzkhYtqfrA>

Fred has a great intro! The rest of the video is comprised of video clips, although they are sea-sick shaky flyovers. You'll see display ideas in this village, a handmade ski lift and repurposed figurines. He does the last minute "when the evening falls," and you can see that any detail vanishes. It's capped off with a nice professional ending.



LEMAX CHRISTMAS VILLAGE 2016 (9:37)

Vagellis Kokalis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2H2ctCt1p6Y>

This is the third video by Vaggelis and shows he's "getting it." Really enjoyable to watch, in the European landscape display style, the beautiful Piano Guys music sets a different mood than normal. The video clips are steady and take you down into his village. Ambient lighting is high, so you don't miss any details. This video has over 109,000 views!



2016 Mogasville the final (13:59)

mogas98

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoR88AGehnQ&t=7s>

This was the year mogas98 settled into his style of neighborhoods within a village, eclectic figuring details, and R&B Christmas music. It's quite the tour!



Lemax Christmas village 2016 [daylight] (8:14)

laurensvanr

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHkZmo8DCro>

This is an experienced nearly annual village video maker, and features that excellent European landscaping. There is a real water feature, with so much to look at. It's overly heavy on flyovers, but there are no black bars. At 4:55 it features a unique house on fire scene.



Cory & Polly's Christmas Village 2016 (5:54)

Polly Daugherty

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrSrF0R_ZYc

This was Polly's second video in a series from an inventive village video maker. You know I love time lapse to watch construction, especially with some help from their construction superintendent Einstein the Cat. You get to see that a camera on a train or other vehicle must travel really slowly to be useful.



christmas village 2016 marcopolis (6:22)

marc andré

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvNPrDHYNUY>

Starts with a very professional intro and shows us European landscaping. This video had the first use of stop motion photography I'd ever seen in a Christmas village video (watch at 0:54). It was a little heavy on the flyovers and fancy transitions, before switching to still photos with black bars on the side (aspect ratio not 16:9). Yet, the landscaping and design is excellent. Good ending credits finish it off.



I hope you liked watching some of these well-done video examples. In my next column on The Village Collector, I don't know what I'm going to write about. I'm out of words for today and I'll try to do better next time.

Questions, comments and/or suggestions are always welcome. You can contact me at: jpetersgolfpro@gmail.com, 419 Washington Avenue, Newport, KY 41071.



Photo by Joanna Villegas