TAKE CONTROL OF

PHOTOS

Master Apple’s Photos app for Mac & iOS

by JASON SNELL

$14.99

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# Table of Contents

**Read Me First** ............................................................... 5  
  Updates and More .......................................................... 5  
  Basics ............................................................................ 6  

**Introduction** .................................................................. 7  

**Photos Quick Start** ....................................................... 8  

**What’s New in Photos** .................................................. 10  
  Changes in Photos for iOS ................................................ 10  
  Changes in Photos for Mac .............................................. 10  

**Switch from iPhoto** .......................................................... 11  
  Import from iPhoto into Photos ........................................... 11  
  What Happens Behind the Scenes ...................................... 13  
  Take Stock of the Changes ................................................. 14  

**Import Your Files into Photos** ......................................... 17  
  Import from a Camera ...................................................... 18  
  Manage Files Yourself .................................................. 22  
  Import to iOS ............................................................... 23  
  Weigh New Formats vs. Compatibility ............................... 26  
  Choose Raw, JPEG, or Both ........................................... 27  

**Manage Multiple Photos Libraries** ................................... 29  
  Add a New Library ......................................................... 29  
  Switch Between Libraries .............................................. 30  
  Merge Your Photos Libraries .......................................... 31  
  Repair a Bad Library ..................................................... 32  
  Understand the System Photo Library ............................. 32  
  Use Photo Libraries on External Drives ............................ 33  
  Back Up Your Photos ................................................... 34  

**Navigate the Photos Interface** ........................................ 37  
  Browse Your Library .................................................... 38  
  Explore Other Sections in the Sidebar .............................. 43  

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Use the Info Window ........................................................43
Interact With Live Photos ..................................................46
Navigate Photos for iOS ...................................................49

Manage Your Photos .......................................................53
  Play Favorites ..................................................................53
  Organize with Keywords ................................................55
  Hide Photos from View ...................................................57
  Delete Photos ..................................................................58

Find and Name People ......................................................59
  Find All Photos for a Person ..............................................59
  Name and Merge People ..................................................60
  See People in iOS ..........................................................63

Use Search to Find Your Photos .......................................65
  The Search Box Is Your Friend ...........................................65
  Harness the Power of Categories .......................................68
  Find Photos by Location ..................................................70

Unearth Old Photos .........................................................73
  What’s In a Memory? .......................................................74
  Take Control of Memories ...............................................75
  Edit a Memory Video .....................................................75

Make Albums in Photos ...................................................78
  Find Your Albums ..........................................................78
  Make a New Album ........................................................79
  Add Photos to an Album ..................................................79
  Organize Your Albums ....................................................80
  Use Albums in Photos for iOS ............................................81
  Define Smart Albums ......................................................83

Sync with iCloud Using Photos .........................................89
  Set a System Photo Library .............................................90
  Get that Syncing Feeling ................................................93

Make Quick Photo Fixes ..................................................96
  Edit Without Editing ......................................................96
  Make Quick Fixes in Edit Mode .......................................97

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This ebook was published in November 2018 by alt concepts inc. It was written by Jason Snell and edited by Scholle McFarland.

This book helps you get started with Apple’s Photos app for macOS and iOS. It focuses on importing libraries from older apps, managing your media inside Photos, and using Photos to edit and share your media with friends, relatives, and the world at large.

*Take Control of Photos*, version 1.0

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**Updates and More**

You can access extras related to this ebook on the web (use the link in *Ebook Extras*, near the end; it’s available only to purchasers). On the ebook’s Take Control Extras page, you can:

- Download any available new version of the ebook for free, or buy any subsequent edition at a discount.

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Basics

To review background information that might help you understand this book better, such as finding System Preferences and working with files in the Finder, I recommend reading Tonya Engst’s ebook *Take Control of Mac Basics*. 
Introduction

In 2002, Apple introduced iPhoto as a way for us to save our photos on our Macs inside a “digital shoebox.” At the time, I’d owned a digital camera for three months, and had only a few hundred digital images. Over the years, as my photo library grew, Apple revised iPhoto, always trying to stay in front of the onslaught of thousands of digital photos accumulated over a lifetime—at least the lifetime of my two children.

By 2014, enough was more than enough. Apple decided it needed to start from scratch and ditch iPhoto and replace it with a single application, which would be called—in the prosaic style favored by Apple for its iOS apps—Photos. This would allow Apple to unify (more or less) the photography apps it was creating for both macOS and iOS.

In this book, I’ll describe how to perform essential tasks with Photos—in both macOS and iOS. Apple deploys some of the most powerful functionality it has developed—including its iCloud servers and its machine-learning technology—in the service of making your photo library more accessible and discoverable.

My daughter, whose birth was the motivator for my very first digital-camera purchase, is about to graduate from high school. Her entire life has been chronicled with digital photos—tens of thousands of them at this point. That catalog, which spent time in several photography apps including iPhoto, now resides in my iCloud Photos, accessed via Photos on macOS and iOS. Photography is how we preserve the images of our lives; it’s important that we understand the software that allows us to organize, view, and share those images. That’s what you’ll learn with this book.

The version of the book you are reading has been updated to reflect the changes in Photos version 4.0, which was released along with macOS 10.13 Mojave and iOS 12 in September 2018. You can find an overview of the changes by reading What’s New in Photos.

Thanks for joining me on this journey. Let’s get started!
This book explores Apple’s Photos app (in both macOS and iOS) by walking you through the most essential photo-management and editing tasks. You can read the chapters in any order. Click any link to jump to a topic.

**Find out what’s new:**
- Discover what you have to look forward to with Photos in 10.14 Mojave and iOS 12 in *What’s New in Photos*.
- If you’re just now switching to Photos from Apple’s venerable iPhoto app, you can get a rundown of the differences in *Switch from iPhoto*.

**Import and manage photos:**
- Photos for macOS and iOS can import files directly from your camera or memory card. Read *Import Your Files into Photos*.
- You can switch between libraries to keep collections separate. See *Manage Multiple Photos Libraries*.

**Get organized:**
- Apple includes machine-learning technology in Photos that allows the app to identify objects, animals, and faces. Read *Use Search to Find Your Photos* to take advantage of this exciting feature.
- Want to quickly round up all the photos of your kids taken with your DSLR within the last year? Take advantage of your valuable metadata in *Define Smart Albums*.

**Perfect your photos:**
- Give photos a little extra “pop” in macOS or iOS by cropping, applying filters, and fixing red-eye and rotation problems. See *Make Quick Photo Fixes*.
- Learn how to *Make Edits to Your Photos* by removing unwanted details and applying adjustments, as well as editing with external apps like Photoshop if you prefer.
Explore your collection:
- Remember Christmas 3 years ago? Photos does. Peruse Photos-generated collections of your photos, including a map of locations, associated people, and (in Photos for iOS) a customizable movie. Check out Unearth Old Photos for much more.
- Get a handle on how Apple automatically identifies the people in your photos, as well as how to put names to faces in Find and Name People.

Connect with other devices:
- Thanks to the cloud, you can access your entire Photos library from any device you own. But you’ll need to change the way you think about managing your photos to make it work. Read Sync with iCloud Using Photos.
- Admire your favorite photos on your big-screen TV when you View Photos on Apple TV.

Show off your photos:
- Don’t let your photos stay locked up on your Mac. Learn the easiest ways to Share Your Photos with others using social media and more.
- If your desired method of sharing your photos involves getting them out of Photos, try Export and Resize Images.
- Turn a special event’s photos into a beautiful movie with its own soundtrack. See Make Slideshows in Photos.
- For all the convenience of digital photos, there’s still nothing quite like holding an image of loved ones in your hands. Discover how to use new third-party extension apps to design printed calendars and books. See Build Books and Calendars.
What’s New in Photos

In macOS Mojave and iOS 12, Photos has grown and changed. Here are the highlights of the biggest changes in the new versions of Photos.

Changes in Photos for iOS

Apple actually made some nice changes to Photos in iOS 12, revamping parts of its interface and upgrading search features:

• In iOS, Photos has gained the capability to search for multiple items at once, which makes it much easier to zero in on exactly the photo you’re looking for. See Use Search to Find Your Photos.

• A new For You tab provides a single place to see recently shared photos, memories, effect suggestions, and more. See Navigate Photos for iOS.

• The Import tab has been given a major update. See Import to iOS.

Changes in Photos for Mac

The Mac version of Photos didn’t quite take macOS Mojave off, but its changes have been minimal:

• Keyboard shortcuts have been changed. See Navigate the Photos Interface.

• Perhaps most notable are the features that have been removed—those for making calendars, books, and other printed materials. However, several companies have released extensions for Photos that offer comparable functionality. See Build Books and Calendars.
Switch from iPhoto

It’s been several years since Apple officially declared iPhoto a dead app and replaced it with Photos, but for some of us the migration from iPhoto to Photos has been a slow one. Photo libraries may be the most precious troves of data on our computers, and the prospect of moving them to a new app—one that abandons some of the concepts of the current app, no less—can be daunting.

The truth is, in most ways, Photos is just an expanded and updated version of iPhoto with a new name. A few organizational features have been lost, the interface is more refined, deep connections to iCloud and Apple’s machine-learning technology have been added, and the app feels faster. Photos can import your iPhoto library (see Import from iPhoto into Photos). iPhoto’s star ratings have been demoted to keyword status, flagged items are now Favorites, and iPhoto Events are now just another kind of photo album. Photos also offers numerous improvements to iPhoto, including expanded editing tools and direct integration with iCloud.

With a little time, iPhoto users should be able to settle in comfortably. In this chapter, I’ll show you how to make the switch.

Tip: For a closer look at the pros and cons of switching, see Rob Griffiths’ article “An in-depth look at moving from iPhoto to Photos.”

Import from iPhoto into Photos

If Photos is the spiritual successor to iPhoto, it’s only right that Photos can import your iPhoto library, and do so while keeping it intact—more or less (Figure 1). Because the features of Photos don’t align precisely with those in iPhoto, some information from iPhoto ends up in unexpected locations.
You’ll need to get used to the changes in Photos—and be prepared to change your approach to organizing your media—but Apple has worked to make the migration process as painless as possible.

**Don’t Use iCloud (Yet!)**

On first launch, Photos asks if you’d like to use iCloud Photos. I recommend that you decline for now, and read the Sync with iCloud Using Photos chapter before committing.

Don’t worry—it’s quite easy to turn on iCloud Photos at any time.

**Import Automatically**

The first time you launch Photos, it searches your system for iPhoto and Aperture libraries. If only one library fits the bill, it imports that library. Otherwise, it opens the Choose Library dialog (see Manage Multiple Photos Libraries). Choose a library from the list, and Photos prepares the library for import.

In some cases, macOS may import your iPhoto library before you ever open Photos. Don’t worry—iPhoto will warn you if this has happened, and you can delete that unedited Photos library and re-import from iPhoto at any time without penalty.
Import Your Files into Photos

While iCloud can automatically add all the photos you take on your iOS devices to Photos on the Mac (see Sync with iCloud Using Photos), the traditional way of adding items to a Photos library is by connecting a device or memory card directly (Figure 4).

Figure 4: When you attach a camera or insert a memory card, Photos displays its contents in the Import pane.

Tip: See Import to iOS if you want to move your images directly onto an iOS device. For information about importing an entire library into Photos, see Import from iPhoto into Photos.

First, you’ll need to decide whether to import photos directly into Photos from your camera (either via USB or by inserting a memory card) or to first import them using Apple’s Image Capture app and then add them to Photos. If you plan to modify your images in some...
way before Photos ingests them, or if you’d prefer to manually manage where your files are stored, use the second approach.

**Import from a Camera**

If you’re shooting photos (or capturing video) with a standalone camera, or with an iOS device that isn’t syncing with iCloud, you’ll get your files into Photos by attaching the device or its memory card to your Mac.

When you attach a device that your Mac registers as one containing photos and/or videos, your device appears automatically in the Devices section of the sidebar.

**Skip Photos Already in Your Library**

When you attach a device, Photos scans its contents and compares them to its current library. If Photos finds the same images in both places, it collects these items at the very top of the Import pane, marked as Already Imported (Figure 5). Below that, it shows photos that aren’t yet in the library, labeled as New Items.

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**Already Imported (335 photos)**

![Already Imported](image)

**Figure 5:** Photos points out items you’ve already imported into its library.
Manage Multiple Photos Libraries

Most people will probably use a single library with Photos. But if you want to keep strict separation between different media collections, it’s easy to create multiple libraries in Photos on the Mac and switch between them (Figure 15).

Figure 15: Two different Photos libraries, with entirely different sets of media.

Reasons to Have Many Libraries
There are plenty of scenarios that might lead you to want more than one library:

✦ Create one for each client, if you’re a freelance photographer.
✦ Keep your work photos separate from the family stuff.
✦ Let your kids mess with their photos without trashing your library.
✦ Separate the files you want to sync to iCloud from ones you don’t.

Add a New Library
Here’s how to create a new Photos library:

1. Hold down the Option key as you open Photos.
2. In the Choose Library dialog that appears (**Figure 16**), click the Create New button.

![Figure 16: Hold down Option while opening Photos to see the Choose Library dialog.](image)

Photos asks you to choose where on your Mac’s drive you want to save the new library file.

---

**Switch Between Libraries**

Hold down the Option key as you open Photos. In the Choose Library dialog, do one of the following:

- If one of the listed libraries is the one you want to open, select it and click the Choose Library button.
- To open a Photos library that isn’t listed, click Other Library.

**Note:** The Choose Library dialog lists any importable library it can find—the app actually searches your Mac for any Photos libraries as well as not-yet-imported Aperture and iPhoto libraries.
Navigate the Photos Interface

The macOS Photos interface (Figure 19) is a study in minimalism: most of the action takes place in a single window, which you navigate through by clicking on items in the sidebar. (Of course, that approach doesn’t quite translate to the iOS version—see Navigate Photos for iOS.)

Figure 19: The main Photos interface features a sidebar on the left; clicking in the Photos view brings up a tab bar at the top of the window.

If you make the window very narrow, the sidebar vanishes and you have to navigate entirely from the menu bar. I don’t recommend it.
A Quick View of Selections
In the top right corner of the Photos window, you’ll see text indicating how many items are currently selected. You can drag the thumbnail image to the right of the text as a proxy of the entire selection, whether it’s into a different app or just into a photo album.

Just below the selection indicator is a filter interface; click the text next to Showing and you can quickly filter the view to show only favorites, edited images, photos, or videos.

Browse Your Library
The most important part of the Photos app is probably the Library section of the sidebar, most especially the Photos section, which lets you browse every media file in your library.

When Photos is selected, you’ll see four buttons at the top of the screen. Each of these corresponds to a different view of the photo library, moving from the most granular to the broadest overview. Photos displays your entire library; Moments displays the library separated into different sections based on time and location; Collections summarizes multiple-day events; and Years zooms way back to let you browse your collection quickly by year.

Scrub Through Your Photos
In the Collections and Years views, Photos shows your library in collages of tiny thumbnails. You can click and drag over the thumbnails to see a larger version of each image as you move over it (Figure 20). Release the button and Photos opens the image you were viewing in the main window.
Manage Your Photos

Apple knows most of us don’t have a lot of time to organize our photo libraries. Even though Photos deeply analyzes each image to figure out its contents, it still can’t divine *everything* about a photo—at least, not yet. That’s why Photos also contains a set of simple organizational tools that let you embed additional meaning into the images you’ve captured.

Play Favorites

Some of us like to precisely quantify things. I knew a kid in high school who actually rated every movie he watched on a five-star system. (He grew up to be a movie critic—true story!) But most of us can’t be bothered with complex ratings systems, so Photos uses a simpler approach: Favorites.

In thumbnail views, all your Favorites appear with little white hearts in their bottom-left corner (**Figure 30**). Awww. (There’s even a subtle drop shadow, so if that corner of your photo is white, you can still see the heart.)

![Figure 30: Find the fave: it’s the one with the white heart in the bottom-left corner.](image)

Click Favorites in the sidebar and you’ll see just your very best shots, as judged by you (**Figure 31**)!
Figure 31: If I had a favorite view of my photos, it would probably be quite similar to the Favorites view.

Make a Favorite on the Mac

There are plenty of ways to mark a photo as a Favorite:

- Select an image and then click the heart icon located toward the right side of the toolbar (Figure 32).

Figure 32: Show your love with the heart icon.

- Select an image and press the Period (.) key.
- Hover your pointer over the image and click the heart that appears.
- Select an image and choose Image > Add to Favorites.
- In the Info window (press ⌘-I), click the heart in the upper-right corner.

Make a Favorite in iOS

Unfortunately, Photos for iOS doesn’t really let you do much in the way of adding more information to your photos. You can’t even add keywords. You can create albums (see Make Albums in Photos) and you can mark items as Favorites.

To favorite a photo, tap its thumbnail to view it full-screen and then tap the heart icon in the toolbar. (If the heart is filled in, the image is a favorite. You can un-favorite the photo by tapping it again.)
Find and Name People

Photos performs 11 billion computations on every photo to analyze its contents for faces, scenes, and objects. But while Photos is good at recognizing faces, it’s terrible at putting names to those faces. Unless you’ve been diligent about adding everyone whose picture you take to the Contacts app (complete with a picture that Photos can use to identify them), you’ll need to do some work in the People view (Figure 36), located in the Library section of the sidebar, to teach Photos who’s who.

Figure 36: The People view is a catalog of familiar faces, and it’s where you teach Photos who is who.

Find All Photos for a Person

The People view contains all the faces Photos has identified and connected to a name. If you want to find photos of a specific person, this is the place to go—just double-click an item to see all the photos that Photos has matched to that face.

Having your photos tagged based on who’s in them is a great organizational tool. For example, when it’s time to find photos of my family for...
our holiday cards and annual calendars, I use a smart album that displays photos containing all four of our faces (see Define Smart Albums). It’s sobering to discover that in a full year, you were photographed with your family fewer than ten times.

**Fix Your Face**
If you don’t like the picture that represents you (or someone else) in the People view, you can fix that:

1. Double-click the face.
2. Scroll down and find a better picture.
3. Control-click the image and choose Make Key Photo.

Photos reassigns the default image.

---

**Name and Merge People**

Apple’s face recognition engine is *really* good at finding faces. Once it had done its job on my 79,000-image library, it had found 1,000 different faces and plopped them into my People window. Of course, it doesn’t know who most of those people are, and you’ll find that the same people will be listed multiple times. It takes a little work to get your People list in order, though every move you make helps the face recognition engine learn and improve so that it’s better at matching other faces across all your devices.

To associate a name with an unnamed face in the People view, move the pointer over any unnamed face and click Name. Then begin to type that person’s name.

As you type, a pop-up menu suggests people Photos already knows about via its own catalog of faces or your Contacts app (Figure 37). If one of those is the person you’re looking for, select it. Otherwise, just type the person’s name and press Return.
Use Search to Find Your Photos

All the images in your Photos libraries are scanned millions of times with machine-learning algorithms to identify faces, as well as more than 4,000 different scenes or objects (see Find and Name People for more on face-detection). This makes the Search feature in Photos incredibly powerful. Want to find a photo featuring a dog? Just type `dog` in the search box. The automatically generated Dog category will provide you with possibilities (Figure 41). And that’s just the beginning.

![Photo search results for dogs](image)

**Figure 41:** Photos can do tricks like identify dogs in photos. (Nobody’s perfect, though—it also found a few cats.)

The Search Box Is Your Friend

Some people use search boxes habitually. Others see them as a last resort. If you’re in the latter camp, you need to break from tradition when you use Photos. The Search feature in Photos is terrific. You can quickly search keywords (Figure 42), titles, or descriptions. Enter a year, or a month and a year, and you see all the photos taken during that time.

Click here to buy the full 156-page “Take Control of Photos” for only $14.99!
I rely on the Search feature for navigating my library of more than 70,000 photos, and I highly recommend it. When in doubt, use the search box!

On the Mac, if you don’t see the search box in the upper-right corner, back out to a broader viewing level, such as the main level of an album.

In iOS, if you don’t see the search box, make sure you are in the main level of Photos, Memories, or Albums and tap the Search icon.

**Quickly Jump to Dates**

Type a month and year combination to quickly see all photos taken on that date. So, for example, I enter **August 2004** to see all the images from the month my son was born.

**Experience Rich Search Results in iOS**

In iOS 12, Photos takes a step forward when compared to macOS Mojave. Search results on iOS are incredibly rich. When you search for
Unearth Old Photos

The Memories view in macOS (Figure 49) and the For You tab on iOS present you with collections of photos and videos based on times, place, or theme, so you don’t have to do the work to gather everything together.

Figure 49: The Memories pane shows collections of images and videos that Photos thinks you might like.

The Memories view is located under Library in the macOS sidebar and on the For You tab in iOS, and contains a scrollable list of rectangles labeled with what they contain. Memories are organized automatically by Photos based on a few different concepts: the recent past (“Best of Last Month”), this same time in a previous year (“On This Day”), locations (“Kauai”), and even themes (“In Nature”). It may seem a bit scattershot, but the idea is to help rediscover photos that you’d never otherwise revisit.
To begin reliving a Memory, double-click any item in the Memories pane.

**What’s In a Memory?**

Every Memory begins with a large header image and text describing the Memory. In iOS, this is actually a video you can edit. (See Edit a Memory Video, later in this chapter.)

Below this is an automatically generated summary of what Photos considers the “best” images from this Memory. Click Show All to see all the photos and videos that are a part of the Memory.

A Memory page can also feature groups and people who appear together in this Memory (Figure 50), a map of locations represented within the Memory, and related Memories.

![Figure 50: A Memory also displays people and groups, a map of locations, and related Memories.](image)
Make Albums in Photos

Just because Apple has put effort into automatically organizing your photos doesn’t mean you can’t do it yourself if you prefer. After all, there’s only so much nuance a computer can bring to organizing our photo libraries. You can create your own collections of items in the Albums section (Figure 53).

Figure 53: Click the Media Types or My Albums folders for a view of all the items contained inside.

This chapter begins by looking at albums in macOS, and ends with a discussion of how to Use Albums in Photos for iOS.

Find Your Albums

At the top of the Albums section, you’ll find a folder called Media Types, which filters all your items down into media with special attributes, such as selfies, panoramas, portrait mode, live photos, videos, screenshots, GIFs, and bursts.

There’s also a My Albums folder, where you’ll find all the albums you’ve created, manually or via smart albums (see Define Smart Albums).
**Make a New Album**

To create a new album, choose File > New Album (⌘-N). If you didn’t select anything, the album will be empty. Otherwise, you get a new album made from the photos you’ve selected.

---

**Sorting Your Albums**

Organize your albums by selecting an album and dragging it into place in the sidebar. Alternatively, choose View > Sort and select an item, like By Name or By Newest First, from the submenu.

You can also sort the photos contained in albums; see the sidebar Sorting Photos in Albums, later in this chapter.

---

**Add Photos to an Album**

Unless you’re very lucky and select just the right images for your album the first time, you’ll probably want to add items to your album afterward. Here’s how:

- Add photos to an album by dropping them over the album in the sidebar.

- Select items in Photos and choose Image > Add To and pick an album (Figure 54). (If you’ve recently created an album, you can press ⌘-Control-A to add the photos directly there.)
Sync with iCloud Using Photos

While Photos works fine as a standalone image library, it’s built to connect with Apple’s online service, iCloud. With iCloud Photos, all your devices can view items stored in a single online library—and add new items to it, giving you access to every item in your media collection from any device (Figure 62).

Figure 62: Check the iCloud Photos box in Photos > Preferences > iCloud to sync with iCloud.

Uploading your library to iCloud adds convenience and a measure of safety to your photo collection, but there are numerous complications to this process, too.

The Cost of Cloud Storage

As of this writing, every Apple ID comes with 5 GB of free iCloud storage. 50 GB of iCloud space (including not just your photos but your iOS backups and iCloud Drive files) costs $0.99 per month, 200 GB costs $2.99 per month, and 2 TB costs $9.99 per month (To check the latest pricing and rates for different countries, see Apple’s iCloud storage plans and pricing page.)

At the high end, that’s a better deal than Google Drive or Dropbox, which charge $9.99 and $8.25 respectively per month for 1 TB. But Amazon now offers unlimited photo storage free for Prime members, and Google Photos offers free unlimited storage space—so long as your photos are limited to 16 megapixels and your video files to 1080p.
Set a System Photo Library

iCloud syncing will work only with a single library on your Mac, which Apple refers to as the System Photo Library. It’s generally the first library that you opened when you started Photos. You can have as many libraries as you like (see Manage Multiple Photos Libraries), but only one can sync to iCloud.

To change the System Photo Library:

1. Hold down the Option key and launch Photos.
2. Select the library that you want to sync via iCloud, and click Choose Library.
3. Choose Photos > Preferences > General.
4. Click the Use as System Photo Library button (Figure 63).

Turn On iCloud Syncing

iCloud syncing is an all-or-nothing proposition. To turn it on, choose Photos > Preferences > iCloud and select the checkbox next to iCloud Photos. Photos immediately begins uploading the entire contents of your library to iCloud.

Choose to Keep Local Copies

I have 14 years of digital-camera files in my photo collection, so many that I use an external drive to store them. (The drives inside my computers aren’t big enough!)
Make Quick Photo Fixes

Photos has a bunch of simple tools that can improve your images quickly and without a lot of fuss. A few don’t even require you to enter image-editing mode. In this chapter, I focus on these “quick-fix” options. For more advanced editing, see the next chapter, Make Edits to Your Photos. If you’re working in iOS, see Process Photos in iOS, at the end of this chapter.

Edit without Fear
You can always go back to your original image: click the Revert to Original button in the toolbar or choose Image > Revert to Original. This feature is also available in the Edit pane. Photos always stores a copy of your original image.

Edit Without Editing
Two of the quick-editing features in Photos are so quick, they don’t even require you to enter editing mode. These items appear on the toolbar in the top right of the Photos window. Rotation is accessible at all times, and Auto Enhance is accessible after you double-click on any photo.

Use Auto Enhance
While Photos gives you lots of tools to tweak your images very carefully, it also offers a sophisticated auto-enhance feature, which you can activate by pressing ⌘-E or (after having double-clicked the photo) clicking the Enhance icon in the toolbar. When you Enhance an image, Photos analyzes it and makes its best guess about the proper levels, color, and more.

Since it’s operated by a computer and not a human, the Enhance icon won’t solve every problem. Sometimes it will make your photo look worse, and other times it can be a bit too timid (Figure 67). But it’s...
always worth a try if you’re not confident using the more advanced features under the Adjust icon.

Figure 67: The Enhance feature tries to improve your photo, but usually doesn’t overdo it. (Here, the right image is enhanced; the left is the original.)

**Rotate Photos**

Sometimes photos are oriented in the wrong direction—usually because they were taken with an older camera without an accelerometer or because you held the camera in such a way that it got confused about which end was up. The Rotate icon lets you quickly fix this by rotating your image in 90° increments (counterclockwise by default, clockwise if you hold down the Option key). You can also rotate counterclockwise by pressing ⌘-R, or ⌘-Option-R for clockwise.

For a finer increment of rotation, try the Crop feature’s Auto button, described next.

**Make Quick Fixes in Edit Mode**

Some other quick-fix features require you to enter Edit mode, which provides you with dozens of tools to modify your images. To enter Edit mode, select an image and press ⌘-Return. (If you’re already viewing a single image, you can either press ⌘-Return or click the Edit button.)
Make Edits to Your Photos

Basic adjustments of the kind I described in the previous chapter, Make Quick Photo Fixes, are often all you need to make your photos come to life. But sometimes you need to take total control over the situation.

Select an image and press ⌘-Return (or if you’re viewing a single image, click the Edit button in the top right) to enter Edit mode, then click to switch to the Adjust tab. Along the right side you’ll see numerous tools you can use to make your images look their best (Figure 75).

![Figure 75: Exterminate all your images’ flaws with the Adjust tab of the Edit view.](image)

If you’ll be editing in iOS, read this entire chapter to learn the lay of the land and then see Add Adjustments in iOS and Extensions for iOS for iOS-specific details.

Click here to buy the full 156-page “Take Control of Photos” for only $14.99!
Adjust Your Photos

Down the right side of the Photos window you’ll see 13 different adjustment controls. When you hover over them, you’ll see that many offer an Auto button to automatically apply basic adjustments, as well as an undo arrow ⏯️. Click the disclosure triangle to the left of any item to see the controls that live underneath (Figure 76).

![Figure 76: Many adjustment options have a primary control (visible once you click the disclosure triangle) made up of component options you can display by clicking another triangle.](image)

Many, but not all, of the adjustment controls offer an interface where you drag a control across a horizontal bar. The center position generally means no effect is applied, while dragging to the right or left applies an effect positively or negatively. For example, as you slide the Color control to the right, your image will become increasingly saturated. If you slide it to the left, the color will gradually drain away.

Rely on Non-Destructive Editing

An important thing to understand about using Adjustments is that everything you do is non-destructive.

In macOS, every adjustment can be turned on and off at any time by clicking the checkmark ✅ icon. (A checkmark means the adjustment
Share Your Photos

What good are photos if you can’t share them with friends? Traditionally, sharing photos meant sending prints or making albums. You can still do that—see Build Books and Calendars—but sometimes you want sharing to be more immediate. iCloud Photo Sharing lets you share an entire album that others can update and comment on (see Share Using iCloud). And if your desired sharing method requires that you get your photos out of Photos, you can do that too (see Export and Resize Images). At the end of the chapter, I discuss how to Share from iOS.

Use the Share Menu

One way to share images with other apps and macOS system features is to use the Share menu in Photos for macOS. Select a photo, and then choose File > Share, control-click an image and choose Share (Figure 84) from the contextual menu, or select a photo and click the Share icon in the toolbar.

Figure 84: Access the Share menu by Control-clicking a photo.
Tip: Mojave removes integration with social media services like Facebook, Flickr, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Vimeo, which means you can’t share directly with those services from Photos on your Mac anymore.

Transfer a Photo

Some options in the Share menu directly transfer a photo to another person or a privately shared area:

- **iCloud Photo Sharing:** If you have this feature turned on, click here to add a photo to any of your shared albums. (See **Share Using iCloud**, later in this chapter.) Images shared using this feature are reduced to 2048 pixels on the longest edge.

- **AirDrop:** Quickly transfer a photo to another device—Mac or iOS—using Apple’s AirDrop technology.

- **Messages:** Send a photo directly to one of your contacts via the Messages app (Figure 85)—all without ever leaving Photos.

Figure 85: You can send an iMessage to someone without even leaving the Photos app.
View Photos on Apple TV

Your living room is a natural place to share photos, and your big high-definition TV set can be an excellent canvas. If you have a fourth-generation Apple TV or Apple TV 4K connected to your set, you can view your iCloud Photos, as well as Albums and Memories, in the Apple TV Photos app (Figure 96).

![Figure 96: The Apple TV Photos app gives you access to your iCloud Photos library, Memories, and albums.](image)

Don’t Use iCloud Photos?
Photos for Apple TV is really designed for iCloud Photos. If you just want to share photos from your Mac to your Apple TV, you can use Home Sharing on your Mac and the Computers app on your Apple TV. (See Photos and Older Apple TVs for info on Home Sharing.)

Scroll Through Photos

The Photos app on the Apple TV is designed to show off your photos and videos, not to let you make edits. The Photos pane displays the
entire contents of your iCloud Photos Library separated into Moments, with the newest on top.

To view an image full screen, select the photo with the Siri Remote and click. From this view, you can swipe left and right to move to the next and previous photos in your library.

**Tip:** The Apple TV can play back the video version of a live photo.

Swipe up to display the date and time the photo was taken (Figure 97). Swipe back down to zoom back to full size.

![Figure 97: Swipe up on a selected photo to see the date and time the photo was taken.](image)

**Note:** Photos not showing? Your teen’s photos showing instead of yours? Read *Use iCloud Photos on the Apple TV* for help.

**View Memories**

All your Memories are viewable in the Memories pane (Figure 98). You scroll through them from left to right. Click a selected Memory to open that collection.
Make Slideshows in Photos

I can’t go to a school function without seeing at least one slideshow. Photos provides seven different slideshow themes (**Figure 100**), and if you’re the type who wants your slideshows *just so*, you have a lot of power to control exactly how yours behave.

![Figure 100: The Vintage Prints theme may be my favorite of the Photos slideshow themes.](image)

This chapter begins by talking about the slideshow options in Photos for macOS; for iOS information, read **Make Slideshows in iOS**, at the end of the chapter.

Create a Slideshow

To create a Slideshow select photos and choose File > Create > Slideshow > Photos. Give your slideshow a name, and click OK. A new entry appears in the My Projects section of the sidebar.
In the slideshow editor that opens, you can organize the images, choose a theme and music, and determine how long your slideshow lasts, as I describe next.

**Choose a Theme**

Click the Theme Picker icon at the right and then click a theme name. You can re-order the images in all themes by dragging their thumbnails around in the strip at the bottom of the window—drag the rule above the thumbnails up a bit if they’re too small (Figure 101).

![Thumbnails](image)

**Figure 101:** Choose a theme from the list at right. You can drag around the small images at the bottom of the screen to re-order the Slideshow.
Build Books and Calendars

For many years, Apple let you use iPhoto and then Photos to create designs with your photos, upload those designs to Apple’s servers, and then take delivery of custom-printed objects in a few days’ time. My family created annual calendars and books. These physical products are great ways to keep our photos in view throughout the year, even when we aren’t staring at a device.

Unfortunately, Apple has decided to get out of the business of producing books and calendars. Instead, it’s allowed third-party services to create special apps and make them available for download in the Mac App Store. These free apps allow you to create projects based on your Photos library and order them from right within Photos. It’s a new approach, but there are a lot of encouraging signs.

Here, then, are various ways to get your photos out of your library and into the real world.

Design Books with Mimeo and Motif

As of this writing (in late 2018), there are two apps that really excel at letting you build paper books and calendars within Photos: Mimeo Photos and Motif, both free. I’ll describe the process of building books in both of them below.

Build with Mimeo Photos

I’ve been very impressed with Mimeo Photos (Figure 109). In general, I found it to be a suitable replacement for Apple’s own book-building tool, with some features that surpass the ones that Apple previously offered.
Figure 109: Mimeo Photos lets you build books within Photos, and offers some features that Apple’s implementation never did.

To create a project using Mimeo Photos, first download the app from the App Store. After you launch the app and give it permission to access your photos, you can start a new project by selecting images or choosing an album in Photos and then selecting File > Create > Book > Mimeo Photos.

Choose the type of book you’d like to create (Mimeo offers six styles of hard- and softcover books). Click Create, select a theme, and Mimeo generates an automatic layout based on the images you add to the project. Though, I found myself deleting all those pages and then slowly building my own.

In the sidebar on the right side of the window, click Layout to view all the optional layouts for a page (Figure 110). Mimeo provides dozens of layout designs based on how many photos you want on a page or spread.
About This Book

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Jason Snell has been writing about Apple since it was doomed—1994, to be exact—and was the lead editor for *Macworld* for more than a decade. He writes about technology at sixcolors.com, and is a columnist for *Macworld*. He hosts many podcasts on the Incomparable and Relay FM networks, including the award-winning *The Incomparable, Upgrade, Download, Liftoff, Robot Or Not*, and *TV Talk Machine*.

Jason lives with his wife and two children in Mill Valley, California.

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