TAKE CONTROL OF
PHOTOS

Master Apple’s Photos app for Mac • iPhone • iPad

by JASON SNELL
$14.99

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This book helps you get started with Apple’s Photos app on a Mac, iPhone, and iPad. 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.

If you want to share this ebook with a friend, we ask that you do so as you would with a physical book: “lend” it for a quick look, but ask your friend to buy a copy for careful reading or reference. Discounted classroom and user group copies are available.

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**Updates and More**

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Click here to buy the full 161-page “Take Control of Photos” for only $14.99!
In 2002, Apple introduced iPhoto as a way for us to save our photos on our Macs inside a “digital shoebox.” I’d owned a digital camera for three months, and had only a few hundred digital images. Over the years, as my photo collection grew, Apple revised iPhoto—and, in 2014, transformed it into Photos. Over time, this has allowed Apple to unify the photography apps it had created for its devices.

In this book, I describe how to perform essential tasks with Photos on a Mac, iPhone, and iPad. 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 collection more accessible and discoverable.

My daughter, whose birth was the motivator for my very first digital-camera purchase, is in college now. 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 my devices. 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 here.

The version of the book you are reading has been updated to reflect the changes in Photos version 6.0, which was released along with macOS 11.0 Big Sur, iOS 14, and iPadOS 14 in the fall of 2020. 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 macOS, iOS, and iPadOS) 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 macOS 11 Big Sur, iOS 14, and iPadOS 14 in *What’s New in Photos*.

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

**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 on a Mac*.

**Perfect your photos:**
- Give photos a little extra “pop” by cropping, applying filters, and fixing red-eye and rotation problems. See *Make Quick Photo Fixes*.
- Learn how to *Make Edits to Your Files* by removing unwanted details and applying adjustments, as well as editing with external apps 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 and iPadOS) a
customizable movie. Check out Unearth Old Photos with Memories 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 Name and Search People.

**Connect with other devices:**
- Thanks to the cloud, you can access your entire photo library from any device you own. But some Mac users may need to change the way they think about managing their photos to make it work. Read Sync with iCloud 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 Files 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.

- Put photos right on your iPhone and iPad’s Home screen with new widgets. See Decorate Devices with Widgets.

- 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 11 Big Sur, iOS 14, and iPadOS 14, Photos has grown and changed. Here are the highlights of the biggest changes in the new versions of Photos.

iPad and Mac Versions Get Closer

The iPad version of Photos got a big overhaul this year that made it even more like the Mac version. The new sidebar gives you quick access to For You, Albums, Search, Shared Albums, and Media Types. Learn more in Navigate the Photos Interface.

The iPad and iPhone versions also now support Captions. Now you can add searchable text descriptions across all platforms, and have them synced via iCloud. See Add Captions on iPad and iPhone.

More Editing Features on Mac

The Mac version got some major photo and editing improvements:

- For video, adjustments, filters, and cropping are now supported. See Edit a Video on an iPhone or iPad for more.

- The Retouch tool has been updated to use advanced machine learning to better remove blemishes, dust specks, and other objects from a photo. See Remove Blemishes and Dust on a Mac for more.

Improvements to Memories

Memories has received an algorithm boost to make its automatic media selections more relevant. Videos are automatically stabilized when playing back Memory movies, and there are more music tracks that automatically adapt to the length of a Memory movie. See more in Unearth Old Photos with Memories.

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Import Your Files into Photos

If you use iCloud Photos, the images you take on your devices automatically sync to all your other devices (see Sync with iCloud Photos), but sometimes you may end up taking photos with a standalone camera, or get handed a memory card or USB device loaded up with images or videos. Photos can handle these classic methods, of course (Figure 1).

Figure 1: When you attach a camera or iOS device or insert a memory card, Photos displays the contents in the Import pane.

You probably want to import your files directly into Photos, though there are some instances where you might prefer to import them into your device’s file system first and then add them to Photos later. If you plan to modify your images in some way before Photos ingests them, or (on a Mac) if you’d prefer to manually manage where your files are stored, use the second approach.
Import Files Directly

On a Mac, you can always import image and video files directly into your library by dragging them out of Finder and into the main Photos window, or onto the Photos icon in the Dock. You can also choose Import from the File menu. Unless you’ve turned on the manual management of photos (see Manage Files Yourself on a Mac), the file is copied into the Photos library.

![Selecting multiple video files in the Files app.](image)

**Figure 2:** Selecting multiple video files in the Files app.

On an iPhone or iPad, you can select a file in the Files app, tap the Share icon, and choose Save Image or Save Video to import that file into the Photos library. If you want to select more than one file, tap Select, select the items you’d like to import, tap Share, and tap Save (Number) Videos or Photos.
Manage Multiple Libraries on a Mac

Most people will probably use a single library with Photos. But if you’re using a Mac and want to keep strict separation between different media collections, it’s easy to create multiple libraries in Photos and switch between them (Figure 10).

![Figure 10: Two different Photos libraries, with entirely different sets of media.](image)

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 11), click the Create New button.

![Choose Library dialog](image)

**Figure 11**: Hold down Option while opening Photos to see the Choose Library dialog.

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 searches your Mac for any Photos libraries as well as not-yet-imported Aperture and iPhoto libraries.
Navigate the Photos Interface

The main focus of the Photos interface is the Photos view, which is populated by a curated selection of your photos. Mac and iPad users can navigate to other views by clicking on items in the sidebar; for iPhone users those views are in the other tabs at the bottom of the screen. If you need to see everything, the All Photos view still shows you everything (Figure 15).

![Figure 15:](image)

**Figure 15:** While the main Photos interface is broken up into curated Years, Months, and Days views, you can still see all your photos in the All Photos view.

If you don’t see a sidebar on your iPad, you can make it appear temporarily by swiping from the left edge of the screen. To make it appear permanently, tap the Sidebar icon in the upper left corner of the screen.
Browse Your Library Through Time

The Photos view organizes your Photos library through time, with older photos at the top and the newest ones at the very bottom. At the top of the screen is a set of tabs that let you choose whether to view Years, Months, Days, or All Photos. (You can also pinch, tap, or double-click to zoom in and out of the three different view levels.)

Here’s what the different views show:

- **Years:** Tiles depict single years in your library (Figure 16), with an image or video selected from the same time of year as the present day. In the summer, you see lots of beaches. In the fall, a bunch of kids going back to school.

![Figure 16: Revisit this month in past years with the Years view.](image)

- **Months:** Tiles appear in a couple of sizes (Figure 17), segmented by Photos in an attempt to detect discrete events based on time and location. An event might just be a single day at home, or it might be a weeklong trip to Europe. Apple uses a massive database of loca-
Sync with iCloud 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 31).

Figure 31: Check the iCloud Photos box in Photos > Preferences > iCloud to sync with iCloud.

Uploading your Photos 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 iPhone and iPad backups as well as 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 at parity with Google Drive and Dropbox. Amazon Photos 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 the System Photo Library on a Mac

iCloud syncing works 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 Libraries on a Mac), 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 32).

![Figure 32: Click Use as System Photo Library to make your currently open library iCloud eligible.]

Start Syncing With iCloud Photos

When you sync with iCloud Photos, you also have to choose which items are retained on your device’s local storage. Here are the details.

Turn On iCloud Photos

To turn on iCloud Photos on a Mac, choose Photos > Preferences > iCloud and select the checkbox next to iCloud Photos. Photos immediately begins uploading the entire contents of your library to iCloud. On an iPhone or iPad, toggle this setting on in the Photos section of the Settings app.
I used to manually tag and keyword all my digital photos and curate photo albums for every major life event, but the number of shots I took kept accelerating, and at some point I just gave up. I’m not alone—but advanced computer vision technology has come to the rescue!

All the images in Photos libraries are scanned millions of times with machine-learning algorithms to identify more than 4,000 different scenes or objects as well as unique faces (see Name and Search 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 provides you with possibilities (**Figure 37**). And that’s just the beginning. While you may *want* to keep manually organizing your photo library, you may find that the search features in Photos make that labor unnecessary.

**Figure 37:** Photos can do tricks like identify dogs in photos. (Nobody’s perfect, though—it also found a few cats.)
Embrace the Search Box

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 38), titles, or descriptions. Enter a year, or a month and a year, and you see all the photos taken during that time.

Figure 38: Type the name of a location (here, the island of Maui) to see all the pictures you took there.

I rely on the Search feature for navigating my library of more than 86,000 photos, and I highly recommend it. When in doubt, use the search box!

On a 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.

On an iPhone or iPad, search by tapping on the Search tab in the bottom-right corner of the screen.
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 need to do some work in the People view (Figure 45), located in the sidebar on a Mac or iPad and in the People & Places section of the Albums view on an iPhone, to teach Photos who’s who.

Figure 45: 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 select an item to see all the photos that Photos has matched to that face. You also find a map showing all the places where photos of this person were taken, a list of other people who are frequently seen with this person, and even automatically-generated Memories (see Unearth Old Photos with Memories) that this person appears in (Figure 46).
Figure 46: The page for my friend John lets me browse all pictures, locations, and Memories he appears in, and even shows me other people he’s usually seen with.

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 can use a smart album on a
Unearth Old Photos with Memories

Memories (Figure 53) 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 53: The Memories view shows collections of images and videos that Photos thinks you might like.

On a Mac, the Memories collection is located in the sidebar. On an iPad, it’s in the For You section on the sidebar. On an iPhone it’s on the For You tab. 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 other machine-learning-related themes (“In Nature”, “Around the Table”, “Fluffy Friends Over the Years”). It may seem a bit scattershot, but the idea is to help rediscover photos that you’d never otherwise revisit.

What’s In a Memory?

Every Memory begins with a large header image and text describing the Memory (Figure 54). This is actually a video you can customize. (See Edit a Memory Video, later in this chapter.)
Figure 54: At the top of a Memory is a large header that’s actually a customizable video slideshow.

Below this is an automatically generated summary of what Photos considers the “best” images from this Memory. Select Show More 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 55), a map of locations represented within the Memory, and related Memories.
Manually Manage Your Photos

Apple knows most of us don’t have a lot of time to organize our photo libraries. That’s why Photos uses machine learning to deeply analyze each image to figure out its contents.

But not everyone is ready to embrace the power of machine learning and let an algorithm make decisions about personal memories. 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 All Photos and album views, all your Favorites appear with little white hearts in their bottom-left corner (Figure 58). Awwww. (There’s even a subtle drop shadow, so if that corner of your photo is white, you can still see the heart.)

Figure 58: Find the fave: it’s the one with the white heart in the bottom-left corner.
Click Favorites in the sidebar (on an iPhone, it’s on the Albums tab) to see just your very best shots, as judged by you (Figure 59)!

![Favorites](image)

**Figure 59:** If I had a favorite view of my photos, it would probably be quite similar to the Favorites view.

**Make a Favorite**

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

- Select an image and then click the heart icon located toward the right side of the toolbar (Figure 60).

![Toolbar with heart icon](image)

**Figure 60:** 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.

To favorite a photo on an iPhone or iPad, touch and hold on the image and choose Favorite from the pop-up menu. If you’re viewing the individual image, you can also tap the heart icon on the toolbar. (If the heart is filled in, the image is already a favorite. You can un-favorite the photo by tapping it again.)
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 Files.

To edit your photos, enter Edit mode. On a Mac, select an image and press Return. (If you’re already viewing a single image, you can either press Return or click the Edit button in the top-right corner.) Move between different photos with the arrow keys without leaving Edit Mode. When you’re done, click Done to exit the view. On an iPhone or iPad, tap to open a single image and tap Edit.

When you’re in Edit mode, the entire Photos interface changes. You’ve got access to three different sets of editing tools, which are displayed as tabs on a Mac and as icons on an iPhone or iPad: Adjust ☑, Filters ☀, and Crop ✂ (Figure 69). (You can also edit Live Photos from this mode. For more information on that, see Edit Live Photos.)

![Figure 69: The Edit pane consists of a large image preview, tabs, and a strip of controls down the right side.](Image)
Tip: Two of the quick-editing features in Photos are so quick, they don’t even require you to enter editing mode on a Mac. These items appear on the toolbar in the top-right corner of the Photos window. Rotation is accessible at all times, and Auto Enhance is accessible after you double-click any photo. You can also press ⌘-E at any time to auto-enhance a selected 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 clicking the Auto Enhance icon, which is always visible on the toolbar on a Mac, and accessible from the Adjust controls on an iPhone or iPad. When you Enhance an image, Photos analyzes it and makes its best guess about the proper levels, color, and more (Figure 70).

Figure 70: 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.)

Since it’s operated by a computer and not a human, the Enhance icon won’t solve every problem. Sometimes it makes your photo look worse, and other times it can be a bit too timid. But it’s always worth a try if you’re not confident using the more advanced features under the Adjust icon. Even better, Auto Enhance’s techniques aren’t meant to be a mystery—every adjustment it makes is reflected in the detailed...
Make Edits to Your Files

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.

On a Mac, select an image and press Return (or if you’re viewing a single image, click the Edit button in the top-right corner) to enter Edit mode. On an iPhone or iPad, tap to view an image and then tap the Edit button. Then click or tap Adjust 📼, which is an icon on an iPhone or iPad and a tab on a Mac. You see numerous tools you can use to make your images look their best (Figure 76).

![Figure 76: Exterminate all your images’ flaws with the Adjust tab of the Edit view.](image)

Learn to Adjust Your Photos

The adjustment controls in Photos are slightly different on a Mac and on an iPhone or iPad. On a Mac, you find 13 different controls on the
right side of the window. When you hover over them, you 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 77).

![Color Adjustment](image)

**Figure 77**: Many adjustment options on a Mac have a primary control (visible once you click the disclosure triangle) made up of component options you can display by clicking another triangle.

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 becomes increasingly saturated. If you slide it to the left, the color gradually drains away.

On an iPhone or iPad, the controls vary depending on your device and its orientation. In Adjust mode (Figure 78), 16 controls display as icons inside circles either on the right side of the screen (iPads and iPhones held horizontally) or at the bottom (iPhones held vertically) (Figure 79).
Share Your Files

What good are photos and videos 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 Shared Albums). And if your desired sharing method requires that you get your files out of Photos, you can do that too (see Export and Resize Images).

Transfer Your Files Directly

Sometimes you just want to get your photos or videos right out of Photos and into the hands of another person or another app. There are lots of different ways to do this:

• **Drag and drop:** On a Mac, the most direct way to do this is to select a file or files and drag them out into Finder or other apps. In older versions of macOS, Photos didn’t play well with other apps in terms of dragging and dropping files, but in Catalina it works pretty much everywhere. You can also drag and drop items from Photos into other apps using multitasking on an iPad.

• **Other apps:** You can pass your photos directly to another app by tapping on the Share icon and choosing that app, whether on a Mac, iPhone, or iPad, though there are far fewer options on a Mac.

• **AirDrop:** If you’re trying to directly transfer files to a device that’s near yours (whether it’s a Mac, iPhone, or iPad), Apple’s AirDrop is the best method to use. Click or tap the Share icon, choose AirDrop, and pick a target device. The owner of the target device is prompted to accept the file transfer. (Your recipient may need to adjust their AirDrop settings in order to be visible on your device.)
• **iCloud Photo Sharing:** If you have this feature turned on, click or tap the Share 🗂️ icon and choose Shared Albums (Mac) or Add to Shared Album (iPhone and iPad) to add a photo to any of your shared albums. (See Share Using Shared Albums, later in this chapter.) Images shared using this feature are reduced to 2048 pixels on the longest edge.

**Tip:** Photos offers a few different ways for you to select more than one photo for use with the Sharing menu. On a Mac Shift-click or ⌘-click to select a batch of photos. On an iPhone or iPad, tap Select and then tap or slide your finger on photos you want to select.

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**Export and Resize Images**

Sometimes you need to export an image or collection of images, but don’t want or need them at full resolution. (This often happens when I’m uploading a photo as an avatar or background image for a social-media service, where there are very specific file-size and image-size constraints.) This is easy to do on a Mac and more complicated on an iPhone or iPad.

**Export and Resize on a Mac**

Photos for Mac’s Export command is powerful. Here’s how to use it:

1. Select the photos.
2. Choose File > Export > Export X Photos. (Where X is the number of photos.)
3. Choose whether to export the images in JPEG, TIFF, or PNG format; whether or not to embed metadata such as titles, keywords, and locations; and which file naming convention to use.
4. To resize the images or set a compression level, click the disclosure triangle ▼ by the Photo Kind pop-up menu to reveal those options.
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 111).

Figure 111: The Apple TV Photos app gives you access to your iCloud Photos library, Memories, and albums.

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.

Apple TV would be the perfect platform for the new curated Years/Months/Days view found in today’s Photos app. Unfortunately, in tvOS 13 the Photos app is unchanged—it only displays the All Photos view.
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 112). Swipe back down to zoom back to full size.

![Figure 112](image)

**Figure 112:** Swipe up on a selected photo to see the date and time the photo was taken.

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

### View Collections of Photos

You can do more than just scroll through a library on the Apple TV. You’ve also got access to collections of photos, from Memories to Albums.
I can’t go to a school function without seeing at least one slideshow. Photos provides eight different slideshow themes (Figure 115), 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 115: The Vintage Prints theme may be my favorite of the Photos slideshow themes.

This chapter begins by talking about the slideshow options in Photos for Mac; for information about iPhone and iPad, read Make Slideshows on iOS or iPadOS, at the end of the chapter.

Tip: Don’t forget that Photos can also automatically generate movies, which are very much like slideshows, for every Memory as well as many events in the Months and Days views. Click or tap the Play icon ▶️ at the top of any Memory. In Month and Day views, click or tap the More ⬇️ button on a tile and choose Play Movie.
Create a Slideshow on a Mac

To create a Slideshow select a group of 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 116**).

![Figure 116: 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.](image)
Build Books and Calendars

My family has a tradition of curating our very best photos and creating 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.

On a Mac you can create books and calendars directly within Photos via third-party app extensions 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.

The story’s not as strong on an iPhone or iPad, though a recent arrival makes it more plausible to create and order books right from your iPad or iPhone.

Design Books with Mimeo and Motif

There are two apps that really excel at letting you build paper books and calendars within Photos on a Mac: Mimeo Photos and Motif, both free. I describe the process of building books in both of them below.

Build with Mimeo Photos on a Mac

I’ve been very impressed with Mimeo Photos (Figure 124). 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.

Click here to buy the full 161-page “Take Control of Photos” for only $14.99!
**Figure 124:** 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 an album in Photos and then choosing 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 from one of more than 50 themes, and Mimeo generates an automatic layout based on the images you add to the project. (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 125**). Mimeo provides dozens of layout designs based on how many photos you want on a page or spread.
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About the Author

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](http://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*, *Liftoff*, *Robot Or Not*, and *TV Talk Machine*.

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