Welcome to PhotoGrid!

Thanks for trying PhotoGrid, the easiest way to print your digital photographs.

This is a prerelease version; it's still undergoing testing. We run it every day, but we recommend you make sure your computer is backed up before running it.

A Quick Tour

1. Launch PhotoGrid by double-clicking its icon.

2. Drag the Sample Images folder onto PhotoGrid's window (you may need to switch back to the Finder first). PhotoGrid will import each image file in this folder, and lay them out in a grid. Note that it switched the page orientation (from portrait to landscape) so the images could be as large as possible.

3. Open the Preferences dialog (Edit : Preferences, or PhotoGrid : Preferences in Mac OS X). Click the Show File Dates checkbox.

If you have an Epson printer, you'll probably get better results if you click the Alternate Printing checkbox.

Click OK. PhotoGrid will give each of the images a caption consisting of the date the photo was taken.

4. Click the Crop-Zoom tool at the left of the window. Click the first image (of a boy holding a computer mouse). Note that the cursor changes to a cross-hair while you're pointing to this image. Click above the head, and while holding mouse button down, drag until you've drawn a dotted box around the head. Release the mouse button. PhotoGrid will crop the image to the area you selected, then zoom it up to the size of the other images (without distortion).

5. Click the printer icon at left of the window. Be sure your printer is ready, then click Print.

[screen shot showing images]

Using PhotoGrid

Choosing a Layout

PhotoGrid lets you control how your photos are printed by giving you a choice of different layouts, or print styles. Each window has one layout. When you launch PhotoGrid or choose File : New, your window starts as a Grid. You can pick a different style by using the Layout popup menu.

The layouts all work about the same way. The difference is how they arrange your photos, and whether they allow more than one different image. There are three basic layouts: flexible grid (or simply "Grid"), fixed grid (or simply "Fixed,") and School.
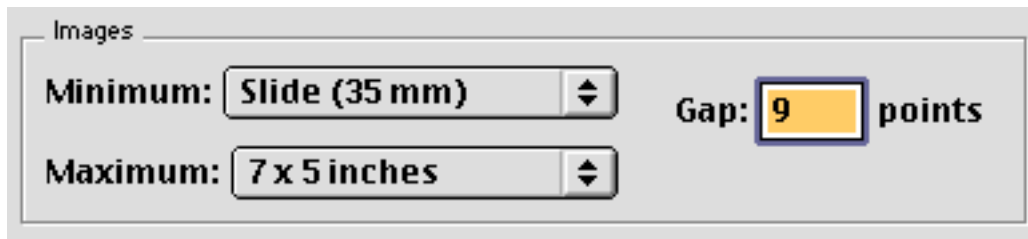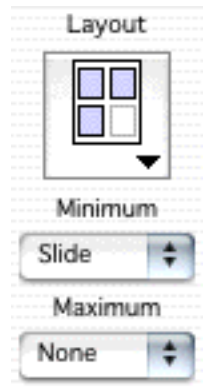
Grid

The Grid layout is the most flexible — you can use it to make index prints or full-page

portraits. Its flexibility comes from the fact that as you import more images into a window, they will be resized to fit.

It doesn't make sense to have index prints with images smaller than a dime, so PhotoGrid will create multiple pages rather than reduce past a certain size. You specify the minimum image size using the popup menu underneath the Layout menu. You can also specify a maximum size — if you plan on putting your photos in an album, there's no need to print them larger than 6 x 4 inches.

You can also set the minimum and maximum for new windows in the Images panel of the Preferences dialog.

Fixed
A Fixed layout lets you print photos at a specific size — unlike a Grid, photos will all be the same size, no matter how many you've imported.

With a Fixed layout, you can also choose to quickly make duplicate photos, all at the same size, by using the popup menu under the Layout menu.

School
The School layout is like the photos you got from your school portrait sitting, with a large copy for your parents, smaller copies for your grandparents, and even smaller ones for your wallet and other relatives and friends. PhotoGrid prints a single image in multiple sizes. You can change the number of multiples from the Layout popup.

Importing Images
PhotoGrid works with digital photos that are available on your Macintosh — either you've already transferred them to your hard disk, or you've got a SmartMedia or Compact Flash reader. If your photos are still stored in a camera, you'll need to copy them (see your camera's manual if necessary).

> **Some advanced features of PhotoGrid, like** Make Preview & Icon **and renaming require the photos to be on your hard drive so as not to confuse your camera.**

Most cameras save photos as JPEG files. PhotoGrid reads these, and also imports photos in a bewildering array of formats (essentially any image format that QuickTime can read, including GIF, PICT, and TIFF).

Drag & Drop
The easiest way to import images into PhotoGrid is to drag their icons onto an open

PhotoGrid window.

You can also drag a group of image icons or folder icons onto the PhotoGrid icon in the Finder. This will import the images into a Grid layout.
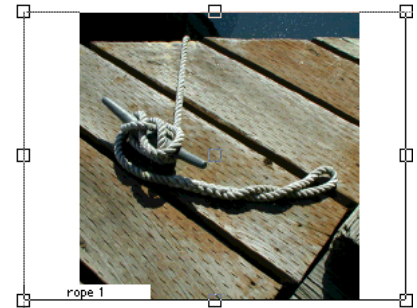
Open Dialog
You can also use the File : Open command to select one or more images to import. (You can't select an entire folder in this dialog, however.)

Customizing
Cropping
The Crop tool lets you trim a photo without changing the size of the image. Choose the Crop tool, then click on the photo you want to crop. Drag one of the handles. Once you have cropped, you can slide the image around by clicking and dragging inside it.

Expanding
The Crop-Zoom tool lets you enlarge a portion of a photo.
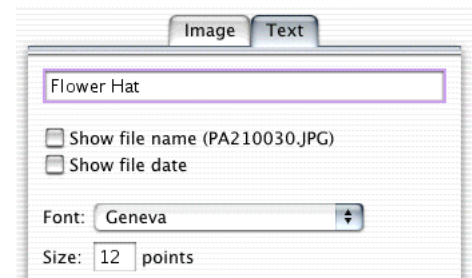
Rotating
If an image is a little tilted, you can correct it by clicking the Rotation tool, then clicking and dragging on the edge of the image.

You can also rotate an image in 90° increments from the Image Options dialog.

Captions
In the Preferences dialog, you can choose to have all photos labelled with their date or file name, and where this caption is placed.
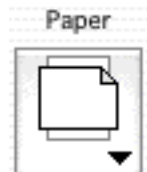
The Image Options dialog lets you type an additional line of caption for individual images.

You can choose the font for each caption from the Image Options dialog, or by selecting the images and using the Font menu.

Choosing Paper Orientation
Normally, PhotoGrid switches between landscape and portrait pages to best fit the photos to the printed page. You can pick a particular orientation from the Paper popup menu.

Printing
You can also print by clicking the printer button in the window.
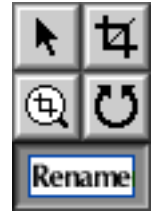
Other Features
Icons
Most cameras give photos cryptic file names. To help identify photos on your hard disk,

import them into PhotoGrid (a Grid layout works best), select them, and choose Image : Make Preview & Icon. This creates a custom icon for each file, so you can identify them in a Finder window. It also creates a preview thumbnail, which is shown in the Open dialog of some applications.

(You can use the Make Preview & Icon Icon command with photos on a SmartMedia card or Compact Flash card, but this takes some of the card's storage space, so we don't recommend it.)

File Names
Another way to help identify photo files is to give them meaningful names. PhotoGrid can help here, too. Import the images you want to rename, then click on the Rename tool at the left of the window. A name badge appears at the upper left of each image. Click in an image or badge, and type the new name. When you switch to a different badge or turn them off, the file will be renamed on your hard disk. You can cycle through the badges by using tab and shift-tab.

Some applications may prefer that you leave a use a file extension such as .JPEG or .JPG, but PhotoGrid does not require this.

(You can rename photos on a SmartMedia card or Compact Flash card, but this may confuse your digital camera, so we don't recommend it.)

Tips
You can convert a high-resolution photo to 72 dots per inch (suitable for use on a web page) by selecting it, and choosing Edit : Copy. The clipboard will contain a 72 dpi picture, the same size as the photo appears on the screen.

If you want your photos to be sorted on a page, use the Images tab in the Preferences dialog. Note that if you turn sorting on, you won't be able to drag images around to rearrange them (since they will be kept in sorted order).

Reporting Bugs
Please run SoloBug for PhotoGrid, enter as many details as possible, save the report,and e-mail it to us as an attachment at <photogrid-bugs@electricfish.com>.

Support
Please e-mail us at <photogrid-support@electricfish.com>.

System Requirements
Power Macintosh
32 megabytes of RAM
MacOS 8.6 or later
CarbonLib 1.2 or later
QuickTime 4.0 or later

Feedback

We welcome your comments on how you use PhotoGrid, and how we can make it better. Please e-mail us at <photogrid-feedback@electricfish.com>.