CHAPTER

# Getting Started with iPhoto



Apple designed iPhoto to help photographers manage and edit large numbers of digital images in a very easy and intuitive workflow. No matter the task, the iPhoto interface is designed so that the most important element of your work remains the main focus: the photographs. The iPhoto workflow is streamlined so that photographers of all skill levels can import, organize, edit, and share their photographic works of art.

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### Understanding iPhoto

Apple iPhoto is a powerful digital photo management and editing application. You can use iPhoto to import photos from your camera's memory card onto your computer for viewing, then organize and sort libraries of digital images in a variety of ways. iPhoto also possesses photographic darkroom tools that enable you to enhance colors, adjust tone, crop, and much more without altering the original image. iPhoto also enables you to distribute your photos by creating Web galleries and slideshows, and also by designing beautiful photo books, calendars, and greeting cards.



### iPhoto Is Powerful and Easy to Use

Apple designed iPhoto so that photographers could apply most of their efforts to taking great photographs and less time tweaking them on a computer. By using a simple workflow of import, organize, edit, and share, iPhoto makes it easy for anyone to use its robust capabilities to design and distribute beautiful digital images.

### iPhoto Is a Database

iPhoto enables you to organize a large collection of digital images along with their information, so that you can easily locate and sort photos. iPhoto retains the EXIF data the camera attaches to photographs, but also enables you to add additional information to the database as you rate and enhance images.





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### iPhoto Is an Organizational Tool

iPhoto enables you to group images by events, albums, and folders. You can view one image at a time or groups of images, while adding keywords and titles, and flagging and rating photos for increased organization. The viewing options enable you to view images as slideshows, side-by-side comparisons, or full screen.



### iPhoto Is a Digital Photo Editing Tool

iPhoto also gives you control over the look of your images by enabling you to crop, straighten, rotate, adjust exposure and color, add special effects, and more. iPhoto also enables you to remove common photographic problems such as red-eye or use the retouch tool to remove minor blemishes. All changes to an image's appearance are nondestructive, which means iPhoto never saves a new version over the previous one, but regards all changes as an edit list that can be reverted back to the original image.

#### **iPhoto Is for Presenting Your Photos**

You can use iPhoto to set up print options for books, calendars, contact sheets, and greeting cards. iPhoto has a variety of options that enable you to quickly view photos as slideshows or screen savers, or showcase them in an online Web gallery. iPhoto also enables you to distribute your photos by burning them to CDs or DVDs.





### Check Out the Features in iPhoto

Apple iPhoto is equipped with a wide array of features to help you locate, edit, and print your digital images. Once you have accumulated a large library of images, iPhoto enables you to efficiently locate specific images no matter where they are stored. You can also improve photos in iPhoto and quickly apply those adjustments to other photos, use Apple iPhoto themes, and print frameworthy works of art with your desired look and feel.



### Manage a Large iPhoto Library

iPhoto helps you locate a specific photo out of thousands of images through filters that use date, keyword, or rating. You can organize your photos based on who is in the image with facial recognition. iPhoto also uses data from the iPhone camera and GPSenabled cameras to categorize photos by location. If you do not have an iPhone or GPS-enabled camera, you can add the location information yourself.

### **View Images as Themed Slideshows**

iPhoto makes it simple for you to quickly play back your images as a slideshow using themes such as Scrapbook, Snapshots, and Ken Burns effect. Facial recognition is used during playback of the slideshow, so that no face appears off-screen.





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### **Share Photos Online**

You can quickly post your photos on Facebook and Flickr to share with friends and family without leaving iPhoto. When new photos are added to your Facebook account, iPhoto sends your friends notifications. When sharing images on Flickr, the location information that you assign your photos in iPhoto appears on Flickr photo maps. You can also share photos online using MobileMe, Web pages, and e-mail.



#### **Enhance Photos**

Perfect your photos by making a few simple adjustments using the iPhoto editing tools. iPhoto enables you to adjust saturation in your photos by using a slider, without affecting skin tones. The **Retouch** button () in iPhoto removes spots and blemishes without blurring details. iPhoto also uses facial recognition to remove red-eye with a single mouse click.

### **Create Travel Maps**

iPhoto uses the location information of your photos to create a custom map featuring all of the cities you visited. You can use these maps to create professionally printed photo books that feature vacation photos. Create a custom map by typing the locations you have visited and use them with any Apple book theme.





## Streamline the iPhoto Workflow

iPhoto was designed to streamline the digital photographic workflow by enabling you to import the digital images from a camera, organize the photographs, edit them, and then share the images. Understanding the iPhoto workflow before you begin to import your photos gives you a clear blueprint on how to get the most out of the application.



### **Import Digital Photos**

You begin to work with iPhoto by importing images from an electronic device or digital medium, or just an image file located on your Mac. You can import from a digital camera, CD, DVD, flash drive, or memory card reader. Scanned photos can also be used in iPhoto. To import your photos from an electronic device you must first make the necessary hardware connections.

### **Organize Your Photos**

After you have imported a large number of images into iPhoto, sorting and categorizing photos makes them more easily accessible for manipulation. Imported photos are automatically organized by date into events and are placed in the iPhoto Library. You give the events specific names such as Family Reunion, Graduation, Birthday Party, and so on. To further organize the images, iPhoto enables you to rename, merge, and split events, as well as create photo albums and folders.









### **Edit Your Photos**

iPhoto provides a number of tools that can help you fine-tune and enhance your photos. Use the iPhoto edit tools to crop, rotate, fix red-eye, adjust color and exposure, as well as add special effects. Edit photos to improve not-soperfect photos and add a unique look and feel.



### **Share Your Photos**

Now it is time to share your photos with others either in print or online. iPhoto has many options that enable you to create and order your own calendars, photo books, greeting cards, or to print your photos. Distribute your photos electronically by publishing photos to Facebook, Flickr, or MobileMe, designing your own blog, or creating photo CDs and DVDs.



## Start iPhoto for the First Time

You can start iPhoto on your Mac and begin to import, organize, edit, and share your digital photographs.



### Start iPhoto for the First Time

Click the **Finder** icon () in the Dock.

You can also click the iPhoto program icon in the Dock to start the program and skip the rest of these steps.

The Finder window appears.

2 Click Applications.

3 Double-click iPhoto.



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The Welcome to iPhoto '09 screen appears.



**Note:** If there was an earlier version of iPhoto located on your computer, iPhoto asks to convert its photo library.



### iPhoto starts.

**Note:** To learn how to begin the process of importing photos from a digital camera, see Chapter 2.



## How can I prevent the iPhoto Welcome screen from launching each time I start iPhoto?

You can uncheck the **Show this window when iPhoto opens** option ( $\mathbf{v}$  changes to  $\mathbf{v}$ ) at the bottom of the Welcome screen.



### Explore the iPhoto Preferences

Although you can use iPhoto without changing any preferences, you can customize some of the ways iPhoto appears and functions. The iPhoto preferences enable you to customize your workspace to fit your needs so that you can work more efficiently. To access the Preferences window, in the main menu, click iPhoto and then click Preferences. You can now change the preferences according to your particular needs.

### General

You can select the General preference options to customize the basic functions of iPhoto, such as what happens when you doubleclick a photo and where photos are edited.

### Appearance

You can select the Appearance preference options to change the look of the iPhoto interface and how information is presented.

### Events

You can select the Events preference options to manage the function and organization of events.

### Sharing

You can select the Sharing preferences to enable photo sharing across a computer network, so that other iPhoto users can view your photos on their own computers.

General Appearance Events Sharing Web Advanced
Sources: 🗹 Show last 🛛 12 🗘 months album
Show item counts
Double-click photo: O Edits photo
Rotate: 🔿 🐧 💿 💆
Edit photo: In main window
Email photos using: 💽 Mail 🔷
Connecting camera opens: No application
Check for iPhoto updates automatically

### 🛛 Web

You can select Web to configure and manage your MobileMe account as well as publish photos to your account.

### Advanced

You can select the Advanced preference options to manage photo importing, RAW image handling, and whether iPhoto looks up location information.

## Using the iPhoto Interface

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The iPhoto interface is designed so that your photos remain the center of focus throughout the entire iPhoto workflow, and so that you can concentrate on what matters most: the image. The General layout consists of four main parts that enable you to view, organize, edit, and search the iPhoto Library. Images can be reviewed and edited in full screen, where the interface switches to a neutral-grey-and-black color scheme, so that there is limited interference in color perception.

### 🔹 iPhoto Main Menu Bar

The iPhoto main menu bar includes all of the main options for the open windows. The main menu bar gives you quick access to all of the iPhoto functions.

### Source List

The iPhoto Source list displays the organizational structure of all of the photos imported into iPhoto. From the iPhoto Source list you can access your photos based on their organization in the form of Events, Albums, Slideshows, and Projects.

### Photo Viewing Area

This area is for viewing and editing photographs. What appears here is largely dependent upon what is chosen in the Source list. If you are opening iPhoto for the first time, this area is empty because you have not imported any photos into iPhoto.



### Information Pane

The Information pane provides information on selected photos in the viewing area. If you have not selected a single photo in the viewing area, the Information pane displays information on the group of photos you have selected in the Source list.

### Toolbar

The iPhoto toolbar provides a number of buttons that enable you to search, edit, and share photos. The tools in the toolbar change, as does the availability of certain tools, depending on what is selected in the Source list.