



Photo Print

Version 1.7

Revision: January 18, 2010

True North Software

www.TrueNorthSoftware.com

User Guide

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Introduction

Photo Print is an application that simplifies the printing of pictures. Photo Print is a layout driven program that allows you to create pages from layouts and then drag and drop your photos into picture frames on the pages. After you finish sizing and positioning the photos on each page, then you print. Photo Print also allows you to batch process your photo library to produce pictures suitable for Digital Picture Frames.

Installation

Photo Print is supported on Mac OS X 10.4 or later. It will probably run on earlier versions of OS X, but is not officially supported. To install Photo Print, simply drag the “Photo Print” **folder** that was created after uncompressing the archive to your application folder. The Photo Print folder contains resource that Photo Print needs in order to run. You will also probably want to install the Photo Print application in the Doc.

A license for Photo Print can be obtained through the True North Software website.

www.truenorthsoftware.com

Navigate to the “Web Store” and select the Photo Print item.

When in demo mode the following restrictions will apply.

- The Photo Print splash screen window will be shown when the application starts up.
- The words “Demo Mode” will be printed on all output to the printer.
- When converting photos for a Digital Picture Frame, only the first 20 pictures will be processed.

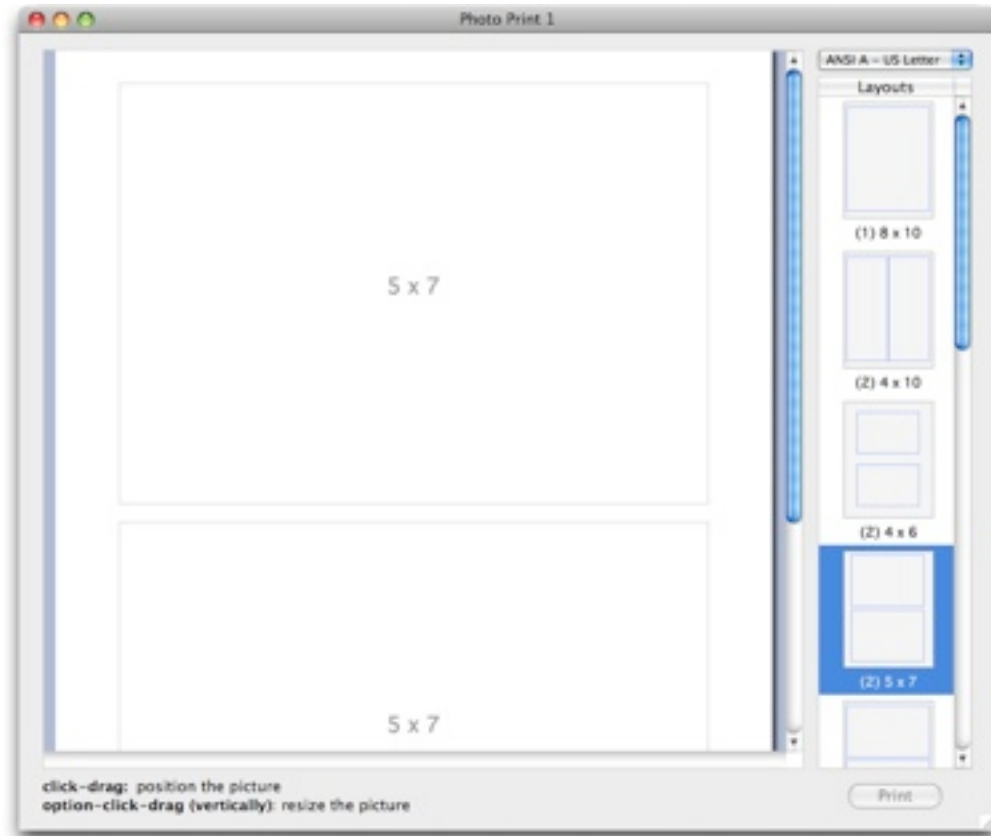
If you have questions or need technical support with Photo Print, send email to our support email.

support@truenorthsoftware.com

Printing Photos

Usage

Using Photo print is very easy. Shown below is the main Photo Print window.



Here are the steps for printing from Photo Print.

- **Start the Photo Print application**

Double click on the Photo Print application or launch it from the Doc.

- **Select the paper size**

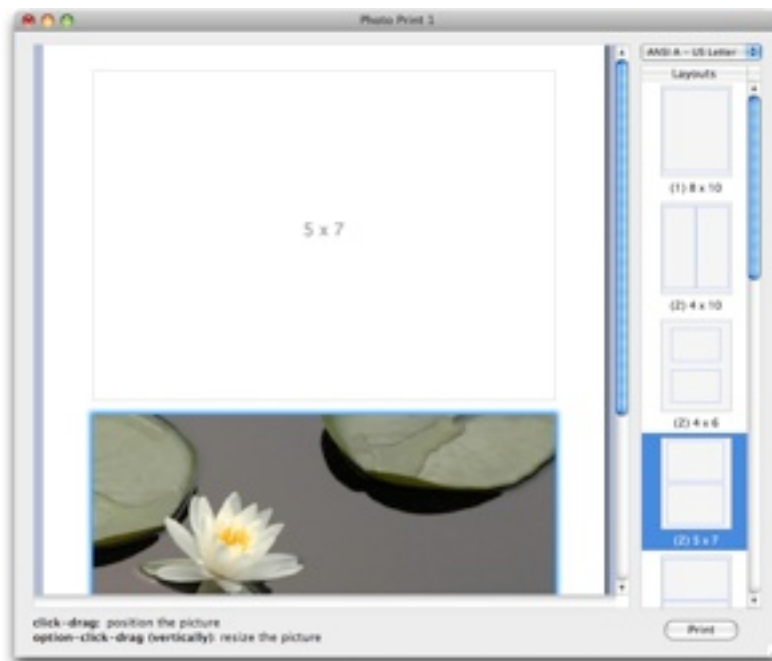
Choose the paper size in the main window. When you print, the paper size you select here must match the paper size in the in the Page Setup dialog.

- **Create the pages**

Double click on one of the page layouts to add a new page to the page display. You may add as many pages as you like.

- **Drag and drop photos into the picture frames**

Shown below is an example.



You can also paste in pictures by right-clicking on the desired picture frame and selecting the “Paste” contextual menu item.

- **Adjust the pictures**

When a picture is initially dropped into Photo Print, it sizes and centers the picture to fit the picture frame. This may not be what you want, so Photo Print allows you to reposition, resize and filter the picture.

- *Reposition the pictures*

Move the mouse cursor over the picture until it becomes the open hand cursor and then left-click-drag to reposition the picture.

- *Resize the pictures*

Move the mouse cursor over the picture until it becomes the open hand cursor and then **hold down the option key** and left-click-drag in the vertical direction. The cursor will change to north-south arrows. The picture will scale bigger when you move the mouse down and smaller when you move mouse up.

- *Applying filters*

You can apply filters to a picture by bringing up the Filters floating window from the Image menu. See the “Applying Filters” section for more information.

- **Printing the pages**

Once you have your photos arranged as want them, you can simply click on the “Print” button or select the Print command from the File menu. When you print, empty pages will be skipped and the empty gray picture frames and page numbers will not be printed.

Modes of Operation

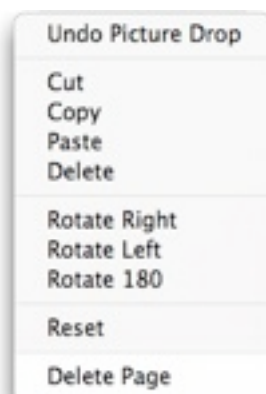
Photo Print is meant to be mouse driven program because the most likely scenario is to drag images into the picture frames and manipulate the pictures directly through a contextual menu. This saves time from moving your hand back and forth to the keyboard. Beginning with version 1.5, a new mode of operation that is directed at a selected frame within a page can be done. When a picture frame is selected on a page, menu items on the “Image” menu becomes active so that you can access that functionality with the main menu or the equivalent menu accelerators. A selected picture frame is shown with a light blue outline as shown below.



The Filters floating window (accessed via the “Image” menu) also acts on the selected picture frame.

Contextual Menu

When you right click on picture frames with a picture in it in, you will see a contextual menu as shown below.

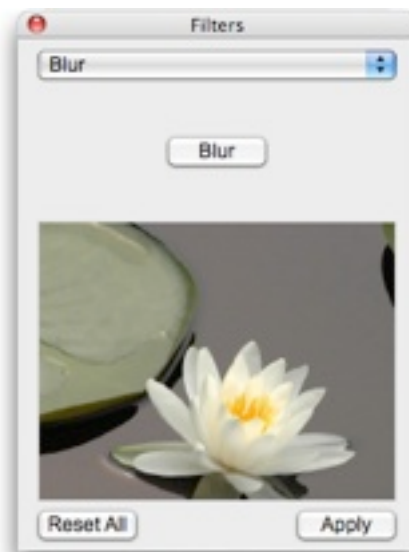


Items in this menu will be show according to their availability at the moment you invoke it.

- **Undo** - Undo the specified action.
- **Cut, Copy, Paste, and Delete** - Action on the current picture frame.
- **Rotate Right, Left, and 180** - Rotate the image in the picture 90 or 180 degrees.
- **Reset** - Reset the image back to the original when you first dropped it in.
- **Delete Page** - Delete the current page from the page display.

Applying Filters

You can apply filters to an image in a picture frame to adjust them for printing. This saves time so that you don't have to apply such filters in iPhoto or other image editors. Shown below is the Filters floating window that can be access via the "Images" menu.



To apply a filter, open the Filters window and then click on a picture in a picture frame and the filters will become active. The following filters are available for you to apply.

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| • Blur | • Equalize | • Oil Paint |
| • Brightness | • Gamma | • Saturation |
| • Contrast | • Gray Scale | • Sepia |
| • Desaturate | • Hue | • Sharpen |
| • Diffuse | • Invert | • Smooth |
| • Emboss | • Lightness | |

When you apply a filter it works on the current state of the image in the Filters window. To apply a filter, select the filter from the popup menu such as "Blur" or "Contrast" menu and then manipulate the controls that appear just below the popup menu. You may apply as many filter operations to the image as you wish and they will build upon the last filter operation. When you are satisfied with the results, click on the "Apply" button to send it back to the main window.

You can move the preview of the filtered image by click and dragging on the image in the floating window preview and dragging it to the spot you want to look at.

Button Definitions:

- **Reset All** - Restore the image within the Filters window (removes all effects).
- **Apply** - Sends the current state of the filtered image back to the main window.

Resetting an Image

If for some reason you don't like the current results of what you have done to a picture, you can reset the image back to the first state when you originally dropped it into the picture frame. You can do this through the contextual menu item "Reset" or through the "Reset" item from the "Image" menu after you have selected the picture frame.

Remembering the First Window Position

As you use Photo Print, you will want to optimize your work flow and have as few clicks as possible to print your pictures. One feature in Photo Print to help you do that is the ability to remember a Photo Print window position and size and use that information to position the first window that is opened when the application starts. For example, let's say you use iPhoto as the source of your pictures. What you would do is open iPhoto and then open Photo Print and then position and size the main Photo Print window and then select the menu item "Special->Window Position->Remember." The next time you open the Photo Print, the first window opened will move to that position and size. To reset to the default window position, choose the menu item "Special->Window Position->Reset."

Built in Layouts

Photo Print comes with several built in page layouts for you to choose from. These include layouts for US Letter, US Legal, and A4 paper sizes. These Layouts are found in the "Layouts" folder next to the application. You may add, remove, or change layouts in this folder.

Note - If you change the content of this folder, you must restart the Photo Print application to pick up any changes.

Creating Layouts

Photo Print does not have layouts for every paper size that exists and may not have the desired picture frame layout for your needs, so you have the option in Photo Print to create new page layouts that you can drop into your “Layouts” folder.

To create a new layout, select the “File->New->Page Layout” menu item. You will then see a new window like the one shown below.



All measurements within this window are in inches and have an accuracy of two decimal digits.

You add a new picture frame by hitting the “+” button and then you fill in the values

- **Left** - The distance from the left side of the paper.
- **Top** - The distance from the top side of the paper.
- **Width** - The width of the picture frame.
- **Height** - The height of the picture frame.

Use the “-” button to delete selected picture frame layouts.

The **Display Name** field is the text that will be shown in the main window just below the icon of the page layout.

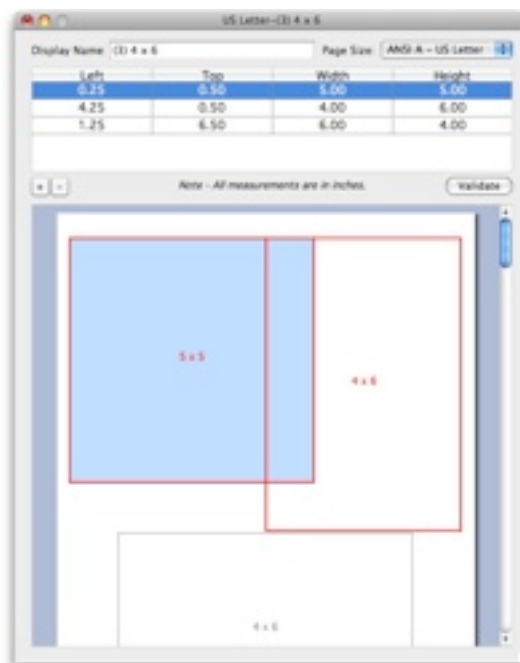
The **Page Size** popup allows you to select the page dimensions.

The **Validate** button checks your layout for correctness. If a problem is found, a dialog will be shown to alert you to the problem. If it is correct, then it will just beep. Layouts that do not pass validation will not be loaded when the application starts up, so it is your responsibility to have valid layouts. The one thing you must be aware of is that picture frames cannot overlap one another (though the edges may touch each other).

As you add new frames to the layout, they will be displayed in the bottom half of the window. When you select a line in the upper portion of the window, it will highlight the frame in the lower portion of the window as shown below.



As you edit the layout, it will show you which frames have a problem (overlapping frames) by outlining them in red as shown below.



When you are done creating your layout, save it with the "File->Save" menu item. To see your layout in action, copy it to the Layouts folder next to the application and restart Photo Print.

You may also open existing layouts via the “File->Open” menu item or by double clicking on the specific layout file.

Creating Digital Picture Frame Photos

As digital picture frames (DPF) become more popular, there is a need to optimize photo sizes so that they fit within the constrained memory of these devices. When a picture is created on a Mac, it may contain a lot of meta data. This meta data, such as preview icons, can consume a lot of space. For example, a photo that is 1 MB in size may contain 300 KB of actual picture data and the rest is meta data. All of this meta data is completely unnecessary for a DPF and may be stripped out. Another aspect of DPFs is that they have fixed display dimensions such as 1024 x 768 pixels. Most pictures taken with a digital camera may be two or three times that size, so all those extra pixels are wasted space since the DPF will scale it to fit the display size. So by stripping unneeded meta data and rescaling the picture to the actual display size, huge space savings can be realized. This means you can put more pictures on your DPF!

Photo Print allows you to batch process photos by rescaling the pictures and stripping out meta information. To initiate this process, select menu item “File->Convert Photos...” and the following window will be shown.



There are five pieces of information that Photo Print needs in order to convert the photos.

- The location of the pictures to convert.
- The output directory for converted photos.
- The width in pixels of DPF.
- The height in pixels of the DPF.
- The algorithm to use.

Once you enter this information into the window, the “Convert” button will become active. Clicking on the convert button will start the conversion process. Depending on the number of pictures in your photo library, this process may take a while to complete.

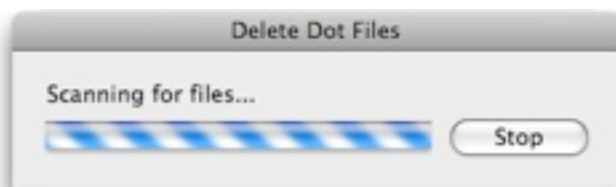
When Photo Print scales a picture to the target frame dimensions, it needs to know how you want it done. There are three methods for cropping which include the following.

- **Horizontally** - Try to preserve the vertical dimension of the picture. This means it will cut off the sides of the picture if necessary. This is good for portraits. In a group shot of people, people on the edges may get cut off.
- **Vertically** - Try to preserve the horizontal dimension of the picture. This means it will cut off the top and bottom of the picture. This is better for wide group shots.
- **Best Fit** - Photo print will take its best guess and apply one of the above algorithms.

In general, you will want to crop horizontally. If the cropping of a picture has space at the top and bottom, Photo print will favor placing the cropping towards the top of the original photo. The reason for this is that most people want to see peoples faces rather than their feet.

A DPF may allow the use of memory cards like jump drives or SD cards as input devices. You will want to have Photo Print directly write to this device as the "Target Directory (Output)." The reason for this is two fold. First it saves a copying step from your hard drive to the target device. Second the target device may be formatted in non-Mac file system such as Windows FAT. The Mac treats a non-Mac files system like a Mac volume. In order to do this, it will write out hidden files to store meta data. When you view a FAT file system with a Mac, you will not see these files because the Mac OS filters them out of your display. When you look at these files from a Windows computer, you will see the original files plus a file with "." prepended to the file name. So if you copy over 20,000 pictures to an SD memory card that is formatted with a FAT file system, you will also be creating 20,000 extra "." files. There is nothing harmful about these "." files other that they are visible to DPF or other non-Mac computer. When you tell Photo Print to write directly to the memory card, Photo Print directly deletes these "." files as they are created by the Mac OS.

If you choose to create the target directory on you hard disk and then copy over the files to the target device at a later time, then you can use the menu item "File->Delete Dot Files..." to clean out the extraneous "." files from the memory card after you copy them over. When you select this menu item you will be asked for the root directory you wish to clean. Once you select the root directory, you will be shown the following window.



It will scan the root directory for files and then go through and delete the "." files.

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