

ArcSoft PhotoImpression™

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Welcome to PhotoImpression

ArcSoft PhotoImpression is an easy-to-use photo-editing program specifically designed for general consumers. The program enables you to edit, retouch, enhance or add special effects to digital images with point-n-click simplicity. It also offers a great variety of project templates for creating greeting cards and calendars, plus the functionalities of the popular ArcSoft PhotoPrinter and PhotoFantasy programs.

Highlights of PhotoImpression

- **A robust, easy to understand graphical user interface** ensures that you can learn the program in the shortest time possible.
- **Powerful, comprehensive editing and retouching tools** provide a total digital image-editing solution.
- **A wide variety of special effect and enhancement options** give you the incredible power to manipulate images like a pro.
- **Huge collections of frames, brushes and shapes** let you add an artistic appeal to your images.
- **An easy to use text tool** allows you to add catchy titles and captions to images. You can even add a drop shadow to create a 3-D effect.
- **A dynamic image layer feature** enables you to work on one specific image layer at a time without affecting the whole picture.
- **Multiple undo/redo functionality** makes it possible for you to experiment with various commands and options without the fear of making irreversible errors.
- **Huge assortments of project templates** enable you to create customized greeting cards and calendars with your own photos.
- **TWAIN compliance** allows you to acquire images directly from TWAIN devices such as digital cameras and scanners.
- **Built-in “ ArcSoft PhotoFantasy” functionalities** let you create photo fantasies with your own photos right within the program.
- **Built-in “ ArcSoft PhotoPrinter” functionalities** allow you to print a single image, multiple images of different sizes, or thumbnails, on a single sheet of paper.
- **Internet capability** allows you to access (optional) online photosharing sites from within the program, uploading or downloading images directly to and from the Internet.

System Requirements

For PC

- Windows 95/98/2000/NT
- Pentium-based PCs (or equivalent)
- 125 MB free hard disk space
- 32 MB RAM
- 16-bit (or higher) color display
- CD-ROM drive
- Mouse

For Mac:

- Power PC
- Mac OS 8.5 or higher
- 120 MB free hard disk space
- 32 MB RAM (64 MB strongly recommended)
- 16-bit (or higher) color display
- CD-ROM drive
- Mouse

Installing PhotolImpression

1. Insert the ArcSoft PhotolImpression CD in your CD-ROM drive. The software will start running automatically on your PC.
2. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the installation.

Note:

If the Autorun feature on your PC is turned off, you'll have to install the software manually by taking the following steps:

- 1) Insert the CD into your CD-ROM drive.
- 2) Click *Start>Run*.
- 3) In the *Run* dialog box, type in *D:/Setup.exe* (where "D" is your CD-ROM drive).
- 4) Click *OK*.
- 5) Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the installation.

Working with PhotolImpression

Getting Started

1. Click *Start*.
2. Select *Program>ArcSoft PhotolImpression>PhotolImpression*.
The PhotolImpression *Main Screen* will appear.



Main Screen with Get Photo Button Selected

- **Options on the *Main Screen*:**
Command Buttons:
Get Photo - opens images from an album (*Album*), a disk drive (*From File*), or from an online photosharing site (optional). You can also acquire images from TWAIN devices (*Camera/Scanner*), get screenshots (*Screen Capture*), and create new images from scratch (*Create New*).
Edit - brings up editing tools for manipulating images. Options include *Layers*, *Select & Crop*, *Retouch*, *Text*, *Enhance*, and *Effects*.
Create - brings up creative options, including *Frames & Edges*, *Cookie Cutter*, *Calendars*, *Greeting Cards*, and *PhotoFantasy*. It also allows you to access other programs (*Cool Software*).

Save - lets you save the current image (*Save*), save the image as a different file (*Save As*), attach the current image file to an email (a MAPI-compliant email program is required), and upload images to an online photo sharing site (optional).

Print – offers different printing options: one image per page (*Standard Printing*), multiple images of different sizes per page (*Multiple Printing*), and album printing (*Thumbnail Printing*).

View Controls:

Navigation Window - shows a miniature view of the current image. Even if you zoom in on the image, you will still be able to see the whole image in the *Navigation Window*. A box will appear on the image, enclosing the area that is currently shown on the main screen. You can drag the box in the *Navigation Window* to display specific areas on the *Main Screen*.

Magnification Controls - display the currently viewed size of the image as a percentage. They allow you to zoom in (+), out (-), or reset the image to its original, full size (1:1). The *Full Screen* icon (to the right of the 1:1 icon) allows you to display the image on the entire screen. You can get out of the full screen mode by pressing the *Esc* key on the keyboard.

Toolbar:

Resize Tool - resizes the image when the corner handles are dragged. You can also reposition the image by dragging it.

Freehand Rotate Tool - rotates the image when the corners are dragged.

Flip Horizontal Tool - applies a mirror effect to your image by flipping it.

Orientation Tool - rotates the image in 90-degree increments.

Undo Tool - cancels the last unsaved change you've made.

Redo Tool – reverses the last action you have undone.

Copy Tool - copies the selected area, layer, or photo into Clipboard memory.

Paste Tool - pastes the contents of Clipboard memory into the selected photo on a new layer.

Delete Layer Tool - deletes the currently selected layer.

Close Image Tool - closes the currently selected image.

Opening an Image from a Disk Drive

You can open an image that is stored on your hard drive, floppy disk, and CD-ROM, etc.

1. Click on *Get Photo* on the *Main Screen* and select *From File*. The *Quick Access List* will show recently opened files.
2. Click *Browse* if you want to open another image. An *Open* dialog box will appear.
3. Navigate to the drive and location of the file that you wish to open.
4. Highlight the file and click on *Open*.

Acquiring an Image From a TWAIN Device

PhotoImpression accepts images acquired via standard TWAIN devices.

1. Click on the *Get Photo* button on the *Main Screen* and select *Camera/Scanner*.
A list of your TWAIN devices will appear.
2. Select the device you want to use.
3. Follow the procedures specific to your image-acquiring device to import the image into PhotoImpression.

Working with Albums

Photo albums allow easy identification and access to images for viewing, editing, printing and emailing. It is important to remember that albums **do not** store images. When an album is created, thumbnails are generated and a reference to where the image files are located is recorded in the album file. For example, if a thumbnail is added into an album from a floppy disk, that floppy disk must be in the floppy drive in order to view the full image. Click on the *Get Photo* button on the *Main Screen* and select *Album* to see the album options.

- **Album Tools:**
 - Album Select** - allows you to view your albums through a pull-down list. You can select “[New]” to create a new, blank album. You can give the new album a name by typing over the words “New Album” that come up.
 - Add** - launches an *Open* dialog box that allows you to browse through your system to select files you’d like to add to the current album. You can add multiple files at once by holding down the *Ctrl* key while clicking on each file to be added. You can also add a range of files by holding down the *Shift* key while clicking on the first and last file (all files in between will be selected).
 - Search** - launches a *Find* dialog box that allows you to find image files in an album or on your system.
 - Acquire**- displays a list of TWAIN devices on your system. Selecting a specific device will run the respective driver for acquiring images.
 - Slide Show** - launches the *Slide Show* dialog box with options that allow you to run a slide show of the images in the current album.
 - Sort** - allows you to sort the thumbnails in your album by name, type, size, or date.
 - Delete** - removes the selected thumbnail(s) from your album. You have the option of removing only the thumbnail or both the thumbnail and the image file. Removing the image file will delete it permanently from your drive.
 - Video Camera** - captures an image from a Video For Windows compatible device. Once a device is selected, its software will automatically open and allow you to select or create photos to import into PhotoImpression. You may consult the documentation for the camera for more information on using the respective software.

Editing Images

Click on the *Edit* button on the *Main Screen* to display the various editing options.

- **Layers:**

The layer screen shows thumbnail images of each layer. The currently selected layer will have a highlight around the thumbnail. Toggling the green light above the thumbnail on and off displays and hides the layer, respectively. The slider above the thumbnail adjusts the transparency of the layer.

Note: An image can have multiple layers. You can retain separation of the multiple layers of an image only if it is saved as a PSF file.
- **Select & Crop:**
 - Rectangle Select Tool** - allows you to select a rectangular area of an image.
 - Circle Select Tool** - works the same as the *Rectangle Select Tool*, except a circle is drawn instead of a rectangle.
 - Polygon Select Tool** - allows you to make a “freehand” selection by clicking and dragging over the image in a desired path or shape. You can select a polygonal area by clicking on the points of the desired shape in a connect-the-dots fashion.
 - Magic Wand Select Tool** - selects an area of your image based on color similarity.
 - Select Inverse Tool** - inverts the selection on an image. For example, if you’ve created a rectangle selection, then used the *Select Inverse Tool*, the area selected would be outside of the box instead of inside.
 - Copy Selection as New Layer** - creates a new layer out of the selected area.
 - Soft Edge Slider** - gives cropped edges a warm fade based on the position of the slider.
 - Apply To All Layers** - crops all image layers to the selected area when the checkbox is checked.
 - Crop**- crops the image to only show areas that have been selected with the select tools.
- **Retouch (Tools):**
 - Brush Palette** - offers various sizes for certain editing tools. The larger the brush size, the larger the affected area. The *Intensity Slider* adjusts the degree of effect applied.

Color Palette - offers various colors for use when painting or doing other color editing. The two color squares on the left of the *Color Palette* show you the active (top) and alternate (bottom) colors. You can change the alternate color to the active color simply by clicking on it.

Paintbrush Tool - turns the mouse pointer into a paintbrush tip and applies an opaque layer of the selected color to the current layer.

Pen Tool - works similar to the *Paintbrush Tool* but draws like a felt-tip pen or marker.

Airbrush Tool - simulates the effect of a spray can, putting a light layer of color on the active layer.

Eraser Tool - removes color on a layer, making it a transparent background (white).

Clone Tool - duplicates a selected area of an image to another location. Right-click the area that you'd like to clone. A plus sign (+) will appear. Move to the area that you'd like to paint over with the referenced location, and draw by holding down the left mouse button while moving over the desired area.

Smudge Tool - simulates a "smudge" effect by smearing the colors on the image.

Remove Red-Eye Tool - automatically reduces the red-eye effect common in flash photographs.

Blur Tool - smoothes rough edges.

Sharpen Tool - sharpens fuzzy areas.

Darken Tool - darkens the area that you draw over.

Lighten Tool - brightens areas you draw over.

Eyedropper Tool - lets you set a color on your image as the active color.

Bucket Fill Tool - selects an area that you click on, and based on color similarity, covers that area with the active color.

Pattern Fill Tool - fills a layer or image with a selected pattern.

Gradient Fill Tool - fills the current image or layer with a gradient from the alternate color to the active color. A gradient is a transition from one color to another, like a rainbow.

Select the desired colors in the *Color Palette*, click at the point where you want the gradient to start, and drag to designate the length and direction of the transition.

- **Text:**

When text is added, a new layer will be automatically created. Settings include font, style, size, and color. A shadow effect can be added, with controls for the degree of shadow readily available. You can even edit existing text at a later time.

- **Enhance:**

Auto Enhance - automatically applies a variety of enhancements to fix common digital image problems.

Brightness and Contrast - allows you to adjust the brightness and contrast of the current layer.

Hue and Saturation - allows all the colors on the layer to be shifted by the same degree on the "color wheel" (hue), and adjusts the intensity of the colors (saturation).

Tone Adjustment - can be used to adjust the highlights, midtones, and shadows of the selected layer. It offers more control than the *Brightness and Contrast* enhancement.

Blur - decreases the contrast between adjacent pixels, creating a fuzzy effect over the entire layer.

Sharpen - pixelates the entire layer, eliminating smoother edges in the image.

Equalization - redistributes the grayscale or color values of the pixels in a photo evenly. The effects are varied depending on the photo, but in general, the lines in the highlight and shadow areas will be sharpened.

Negative - inverts the grayscale or color brightness values for the entire layer. This will make your image look like a photographic negative.

- **Effects:**

Photompression includes a variety of special effects to transform photos in interesting, novel, and unusual ways.

Clicking on a desired effect will automatically apply it to your photo. You can use the *Intensity Slider* to adjust the intensity of the effect. To keep the effect, click *OK*. To cancel the effect, choose any other effect or check a different button.

Creating Designs, Calendars, Cards, etc.

Click on the *Create* button on the *Main Screen* to see the create options.

- **Frames & Edges:**
You can add a frame, edge, or border to an image by selecting the option you wish, and then clicking *Apply*. (You can preview different options before settling on a particular one).
- **Cookie Cutter:**
You can “stamp” out a template of your image by selecting the shape you want to use, and then clicking *Apply*.
- **Calendars:**
You can create customized calendars by inserting your image into a calendar template. Select the month, year, and style that you want, and then click *Apply*.
- **Greeting Cards:**
Several different styles of greeting cards are available for you to use with your images. Simply choose a style that you like, and click *Apply*.
- **PhotoFantasy:**
You can create hilarious “fantasy” pictures from many templates in various categories. Simply select the template that you want, use the *Toolbar* to fine-tune your image within the fantasy template, and click *Apply* when you’re done.

Note: With ArcSoft PhotoFantasy, you have access to more templates and have the ability to easily create your own PhotoFantasy templates! Visit www.arcsoft.com for details.

- **Cool Software:**
You can easily open images in your favorite image-editing programs from the *Cool Software* section. To add a program, click the *Add* button, and then browse through your computer to find the application file for the program you wish to add. A thumbnail representing the program will appear.

Saving Images

Once you’ve clicked on the *Save* button on the *Main Screen*, three save options will become available:

Save - saves the changes that you’ve made over the existing file.

Save As - allows you to save the file in a new location, with a new filename, and as a new file type.

Upload To A Photo Sharing Site - allows you to upload images to an online photo sharing site (optional).

Emailing Images

If your mail program is MAPI-compliant, you can use PhotoImpression to open a new mail message and automatically attach the current image to it. Click on the *Save* button on the *Main Screen* and select *Email*.

Note: If your email program is not MAPI-compliant, or if MAPI is not enabled in the program, you will not be able to use this function. You can use the “insert” or “attach” function in your mail program to manually select the image file(s) for inclusion in an email.

Printing Images

PhotoImpression provides three different print options:

- **Standard Printing:** prints one image on a page. You can add a title, center the image and title, change the paper orientation, add a frame (a black outline) around the image, resize the image, and select the number of copies that you want printed.
- **Multiple Printing:** prints more than one image per page. There are several templates for you to choose from. Your albums will be displayed. You can easily drag and drop images from your album to specific areas on a selected template. You can change the space between the images on a template as well.
- **Thumbnail Printing:** prints contact sheets of thumbnails in your albums. You can print an entire album, or specific thumbnails you want from an album (hold down the *Ctrl* key on your keyboard and click on the thumbnails that you want printed). Choose between small, medium and large thumbnails, and the spacing between them. File names can be printed below the images, and you can preview every page.