

This help file contains topics about selected dialog boxes in your PhotoImpact package. You can access these topics through those dialog boxes or by navigating through a main help file associated with one of the PhotoImpact programs.

File dialog boxes

This class of dialog box allows you to decide the names, locations, and characteristics for files when opening or saving them. They may contain some or all of the following choices:

-  **Look in/Save in** Find the desired folder.
-  View the contents of the next higher folder in your system.
-  Toggles between displaying the folders on your desktop and the folder you last viewed.
-  Create a new folder.
-  List names.
-  List names with statistics.
- File name** Identify the file(s) selected for saving, opening, or loading.
- Files of type** Select a particular file format for opening or saving to.
- Open as read only** Protects an album or image from changes.
- Partial Load** Opens only a selected area of the image for editing.
- File information** See the data-type, size, resolution, and other file statistics.
- Convert color** Select if you want PhotoImpact to automatically convert the colors of your current image based on the new color table.
- Preview** View a thumbnail picture of the selected image. (Images with preview information automatically appear.)
-  **Options** Define format specific save options for the selected format. (Not all file formats have options.)
- Browse** Search for files or folders.
- Save to Album** Save a thumbnail image of the file to the listed album.
-  **Save Selection** Include the selection in the image when saving.
- Invoke Options dialog box** Opens the Save Options dialog box of the selected file format before saving the image.
- Album button** Select or create an album for the thumbnail images.

Some file formats do not offer any save options. In this case, the Options button is disabled.

Some file formats cannot save selections. In this case, the Save Selection option is disabled.

Browse dialog box

- **Look in** Find the desired folder.
 -  View the contents of the next higher folder in your system.
 - Create a new folder.
 - List names.
 - List names with statistics.
 - **File name** Defines the search criteria for finding files. You may use the * and ? wildcards to find files with similar names.
 - **Files found** Shows all files found matching the search criteria in the File name text box.
 - **Scan** Expand the search to include any folders inside the selected folder.
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True Color 48-bit to 24-bit

- ◊ **Dither** Choose a dithering option to create the most accurate reproduction. The best choice depends on the source material.

- ◆ **None** Choose None when the image is composed almost entirely of large single-colored areas.

- ◆ **Pattern** Choose Pattern if choosing None results in blotchy images and Dither results in too much "noise". The Pattern result may offer a pleasing alternative.

- ◆ **Diffusion** Choose Diffusion when the image has multi-colored patterns, shading, and other fine points. While you can't avoid losing some detail, this usually produces the most pleasing result.



Grayscale 16-bit to 8-bit

- **Dither** Choose a dithering option to create the most accurate reproduction. The best choice depends on the source material.

- ◆ **None** Choose None when the image is composed almost entirely of large single-colored areas.

- ◆ **Pattern** Choose Pattern if choosing None results in blotchy images and Dither results in too much "noise". The Pattern result may offer a pleasing alternative.

- ◆ **Diffusion** Choose Diffusion when the image has multi-colored patterns, shading, and other fine points. While you can't avoid losing some detail, this usually produces the most pleasing result.



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Insert Thumbnails into Album dialog box

Places thumbnails of newly saved image files into an existing album.



Album Choose the album to insert the thumbnail into from the drop-down list.



Thumbnail Information Displays the filename and description information for the thumbnail.



New Album Creates a new album to hold the thumbnail.



Description Adds a description for the thumbnail.



Apply To All Applies the same description to all thumbnails.



Thumbnail Description dialog box

Enter a description for the thumbnail being inserted into an album. This description is displayed when you click View: Photo Properties – Album Info.



New Album dialog box

 **General**

 Fields

 Advanced

Determines the name location, and size characteristics for a new album.



Title Enter the title for the album.



Create album file in folder Initially displays the current folder. Enter the desired folder or click Browse.



Browse Click to search for other folders.



Thumbnails Enter the size, compression, and color for the thumbnails in the new album.



Description Displays default image description. Enter new description, add new fields, or use the default.



New Album dialog box

 General

 Fields

 **Advanced**

Determines sharing and folder monitoring behavior for a new album.



Folder Enter the folder for monitoring.



Browse Click to search for other folders.



File types Enter the file format to monitor or select from the file formats drop-down list.



File formats list Select the file format to monitor.



Enable folder monitoring Check to monitor defined folder.



Password Enter a password for access security.



Verify Enter the password again for verification.



New Album dialog box

 General

 **Fields**

 Advanced

Assigns fields for thumbnails in the album.



Field name Enter the field name to add or modify.



Field type Select the data types for each thumbnail. Add/modify/delete from the user-defined list.



Add Click to add new field name to the fields list.



Change Click to change the selected field name's current field type.



Remove Click to remove field name from the fields list.



Total fields Displays the total number of fields in the album.



Fields list Displays the field names and their field types in the album.

Certain field types can be modified provided that the field name is not a computer default field by clicking on the Edit button.

Options dialog box

 Calibration

 Postscript

 Halftone

Redistributes the color distribution in the image to correct for the printer's idiosyncrasies.

 **Use printer's default** Check to have the printer determine how to print colors and shades. This disables all other options in the dialog box.

 **Map** Drag the curve to remap the color distribution according to your needs. The horizontal axis represents the current image color values and the vertical axis represents the final values. The line shows the equivalent new value for each existing one.

 **Channel** Choose which channel to edit. Master mainly affects brightness and contrast. The other channels affect specific colors.

 **Show control points** Check to add handles to the mapping curve. This may make it easier for you to reassign color values.

 **Accumulatively** Check to have each change you make to the mapping curve add on to previous changes.

 **Smooth** Check to smooth the mapping curve after you create a freehand map. This may make the change to the image more natural.

 **Load** Use a previously saved map file to remap the colors.

 **Save** Saves the current map settings to a file for future use in another image.

 **Apply enhancement** Choose from a list of pre-defined mapping curves or functions.



Options dialog box

 Calibration

 **P**ostscript

 Halftone

If you are printing to a Postscript printer, you can select the following options:

-  **Use Postscript Level 2 features** Select to take advantage of Postscript 2 quality and compression features.
-  **Best quality** Select to print at the best possible quality.
-  **Compress bitmap** Select to compress the data being printed to conserve disk space.
-  **Default** Click to use PhotoImpact's default settings.
-  **Compress** Select the type and level of compression.
-  **Type** Select a compression scheme.
-  **Level** Select the level of compression. A lower value will compress the image more, resulting in a higher loss of detail.
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Options dialog box

 Calibration

 Postscript

 **Halftone**

If you are printing to a printer that does not support PostScript features, you can select the following options to configure the printer to print halftone images.

 **Use printer's default** Check to have the printer determine how to print colors and shades. This disables all other options in the dialog box.

 **Shape** Choose a desired shape for each pixel in the image.

 **Optimized screen** Correct range of colors in the image for the best printout.

 **Frequency** Set the desired distance between the centers of each halftone dot.

 **Angle** Set the angle for printing the dots.

 **Default** Click to reset all the custom settings to the printer defaults.



Convert to Black & White dialog box

Define the image characteristics for capturing or converting to black and white images.

Resolution

 Choose the desired resolution from the preset choices or define your own. When choosing a resolution, consider what you will use the image for. If displaying on-screen, do not exceed the maximum resolution of the display. For printing, use the printer's resolution.

Halftone Screen:

 **Shape** Choose a dithering option or a halftone screen shape. Here are some guidelines to help you decide which to choose:

 **None** No dithering or patterns are used for the image. All lighter colored pixels are changed to white and all darker ones to black.

 **Dispersed** and **Diffusion** Surrounding pixels are considered when determining whether to apply a black or white pixel. These options usually produce the best results.

 **Frequency** Choose a higher frequency for smaller dots. As the frequency increases, the pattern becomes less noticeable.

 **Angle** Choose the relationship of one pattern to the next. 0 degrees means the patterns are arranged horizontally across the image.



When you choose a shape, the Frequency and Angle settings become available.

Convert to Indexed 16 Color dialog box

Palette Select a palette type to apply.



Standard Applies the standard Windows 16 color palette.



Optimized Applies an optimized palette to the image. This often provides a better looking image, especially if your image has many shades of the same color. Colors not present in the image are not represented in the optimized palette.



Color Weight Select to reserve entries in the palette for Black & White, or 8 primary colors (Red, Green, Blue, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black & White). The remaining entries will be filled by dominant colors in the image.



From file Uses a previously saved palette (*.PAL) file. Click Load to select a palette.

Dither Select a dithering method. Dithering reduces the effect of sharp edges between pixels of differing colors by adding noise to an image.



None Choose None when the image is composed almost entirely of large single-colored areas.



Pattern Select Pattern if choosing None results in blotchy images and Dither results in too much "noise". The Pattern result may offer a pleasing alternative.



Diffusion Choose Diffusion when the image has multi-colored patterns, shading, and other fine points. While you can't avoid losing some detail, this usually produces the most pleasing results.



Convert to Indexed 256 Color dialog box

The Convert to Indexed 256-Color dialog box offers options for creating Indexed 256-color images. Depending on the format of the source, it may contain some or all of the following items:

Palette Specify the colors to include in a new image.

-  **Standard** Choose standard to use the default 256-color palette shared by most windows programs. This is most useful when you plan to use multiple images in the same program and you want them all to appear consistently.
-  **3-3-2 bits** Choose 3-3-2 Bits to assign a unique color to every spot in the color palette. This offers the widest range of colors, but may introduce some inconsistencies when displayed by programs that do not recognize the unique palette.
-  **6-7-6 levels** Choose 6-7-6 Levels to fill 252 assignments in the color palette. This is more than the number of assigned colors in the standard palette, but may introduce some inconsistencies when displayed by programs that do not recognize the unique palette.
-  **Optimized** Choose optimized to have PhotoImpact use the 256 most needed colors in the image it creates. This usually results in a much more accurate reproduction, but can cause compatibility and consistency problems with other programs.
-  **Color Weight** Select Even to have balanced colors in the image. If you choose a particular color, red for example, it will be the most predominant color in the image.
-  **Max number of colors** Limit the number of colors to include in the palette here. This can be useful if you wish to add your own custom colors to the palette after the image is created without affecting any existing pixels in the image.
-  **From file** Use a previously saved 256-color palette as the basis for the new image. Click Load to search your system for the desired palette.

Dither Choose a dithering option to create the most accurate reproduction. The best choice depends on the source material.

-  **None** Choose None when the image is composed almost entirely of large single-colored areas.
-  **Pattern** Select Pattern if choosing None results in blotchy images and Dither results in too much "noise". The Pattern result may offer a pleasing alternative.
-  **Diffusion** Choose Diffusion when the image has multi-colored patterns, shading, and other fine points. While you can't avoid losing some detail, this usually produces the most pleasing results.
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Black & White to Grayscale dialog box

Determine how many shades of gray to use when converting a black and white image to grayscale.



Cell size For line-art images, where contrast and distinct lines are important, choose 1. For photos or other images where you wish to introduce finer shading, choose higher settings.



Scale down Reduce the physical size of the image according to this setting. This may be useful for minimizing a "mosaic-like" effect that often results from conversions using large cell sizes.



Edit Keywords dialog box

Allows you to add, change, or remove items in the items list.



Total items Displays the total number of items defined in the Keyword field types.



New item Enter the new item to add to the current list.



Items list Displays the items defined in the selected field type. Click on an item to change or remove it.



Add Adds the new item to the items list.



Change Changes the selected item in the list with the newly defined item.



Remove Deletes the selected item from the items list.



Remove all Deletes all items from the items list.



Load Loads previously saved items from other files.



Save Saves the current items list for future use.



Edit List dialog box

Allows you to add, change, or remove items in the items list.



Total items Displays the total number of items defined in the List field types.



New item Enter the new item to add to the current list.



Items list Displays the items defined in the selected field type. Click on an item to change or remove it.



Add Creates an entry in the list.



Change Replaces the name of the selected list with the new list name entered.



Remove All Deletes all list names.



Load Imports a previously saved list.



Save Saves the list as a text file for future use.

Album Properties dialog box



General



Advanced



Fields



More



Album title Enter or edit the name of the album.



Thumbnails Allows you to set display options for thumbnails. Choices here do not affect the actual source images.



Size Displays the size of thumbnails. Use the drop-down list in the Status bar of Album to change the thumbnail size.



Compression Sets the compression scheme of thumbnails. Choose JPEG to save on disk space. Since JPEG compression is lossy, you may notice some degradation in quality. To improve on this, choose lossless.



Color Sets the number of colors for thumbnails. Select Same as Original for thumbnails to be displayed with the same colors as the source images. Other color options display thumbnails in lesser colors and saves more on disk space.



Description Enter a description that tells about what the selected album contains.



File monitoring immediately updates your album when you add or delete an image file from the selected folder.

Marks allow you to tag thumbnails to easily identify your files within an album.

Album Properties dialog box



General



Advanced



Fields



More

Displays the number of fields within the album and their names. You can add, edit and remove fields in Album.



Album Properties dialog box

 General

 Advanced

 Fields

 More

 **Folder monitoring** Determines sharing and folder monitoring behavior for the selected album.

 **Folder** Enter the folder for monitoring.

 **Browse** Click to search for other folders.

 **File types** Enter the file format to monitor or select from the file formats drop-down list.

 **File formats list** Select the file format to monitor.

 **Enable folder monitoring** Check to monitor defined folder.

 **Password** Allows you to specify a password of up to 22 characters to prevent the selected album from being modified by unauthorized users.

 **New** Enter a password for access security.

 **Verify** Enter the password again for verification.



Album Properties dialog box



General



Advanced



Fields



More



File attributes Displays information about an album including name, size and date last modified.



No of records Displays the number of items in an album.



Mark file Displays the mark file associated with the selected album.



True Color 48-bit to 24-bit dialog box

Dither Select a dithering method. Dithering reduces the effect of sharp edges between pixels of differing colors by adding noise to an image.



None Choose None when the image is composed almost entirely of large single-colored areas.



Pattern Select Pattern if choosing None results in blotchy images and Dither results in too much "noise". The Pattern result may offer a pleasing alternative.



Diffusion Choose Diffusion when the image has multi-colored patterns, shading, and other fine points. While you can't avoid losing some detail, this usually produces the most pleasing results.



Print dialog box

Determine how images appear when printed.



Printer Identifies the currently selected printer.



Copies Set how many copies to print.



Scale to fit the page Check to resize the image to fill the page according to the printer's horizontal or vertical margins.



Center image horizontally Print the image with equal amounts of white space on the left and right.



Center image vertically Print the image with equal amounts of white space above and below it.



Title Enter a caption to print with the image. "&" tells PhotoImpact to use the file name as the caption.



Preview Click to switch to preview mode. In preview mode you can get a rough idea of how the printout will look before printing.



Options Click to customize the color map and dithering characteristics for the printer.



Printer Click to access the Windows Print Setup dialog box.



Visual Open dialog box

-  **File directory** Displays a hierarchy of folders on your disk drive. Click a folder to display its contents in the right pane. Click the plus or minus sign to show or hide all the folders within a folder.
-  **Thumbnail preview** Displays thumbnails of recognized image file types. Click a thumbnail to open the file in PhotoImpact. The file name is automatically updated every time you click a thumbnail.
-  **File name** Identify the file(s) selected for opening.
-  **Files of type** Select a particular file format for opening.
-  **Open as read-only** Protects an image from changes. Any changes you made after opening a file as read-only will not be saved.
-  **File information** Shows the data type, size, resolution, and other file statistics.
-  **Open** Opens the file with the name, file type, and location you specified.
-  **Cancel** Closes the dialog box without saving any changes you made.

Customize dialog box - Associate

Displays a list of all custom-made file extension you have created along with their default file formats. Click Add or Edit to enter or modify an entry. Click Delete to remove a file extension from the list.



Add / Edit dialog box

Type a file extension of your choice or modify your entry in the Custom extension box. Select a default extension that will be equivalent to your entered file extension as displayed in the Customize dialog box.



