

Introduction

FotoFix has been designed to generate a photo album or a collection of your digital pictures. Either to be used locally or on your website.

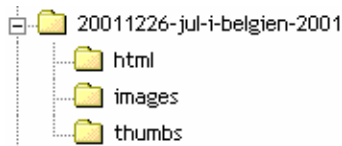
Before you start

To use FotoFix for generation of an album, either to be used on your local PC, email it to friends and family or upload it to your website, the following is required:

1. All pictures must be in JPG format
2. All pictures must be placed in the same folder (either on a local drive or on a network drive)

Folder - and file structure

When this is taken care of, you can start creating your first album. The structure FotoFix works by is:



First a root folder is created ('20011226-jul-i-belgien-2001' in this example). In this root folder, an index.html file is created. This is the file from which all thumbnails are displayed and links to all individual pages with the normal size pictures are placed.

In the 'html' folder, all individual html files are placed. This means that there will be 1 html file per picture in your album.

In the 'images' folder, all your normal size pictures will be placed. This means that copies of your pictures are placed here, so you don't have to make a backup or a copy of your pictures first. The originals will not be changed.

In the 'thumbs' folder, FotoFix will generate a small version of each picture, called a thumbnail. These are the ones displayed on the index.html page in the root folder.

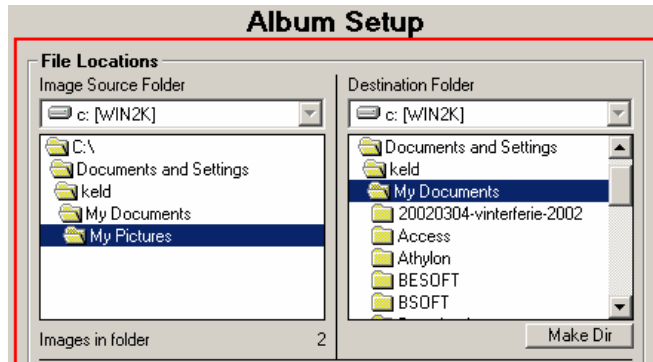
Your first album

How to make your first album is here described in 10 steps. First time you make an album, you should go through all 10 steps. The following albums can be made by just going through a few of the steps.

Step 1 - File location

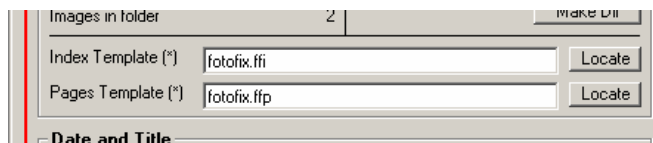
FotoFix needs to know in which folder you keep your original pictures.

When that's done, you need to tell FotoFix in which folder you would like to have your new album placed. It is possible to create new folders, but it's not necessary to create a special folder for the album, as one will be created automatically, inside the folder you choose.



Step 2 - Choose a template

FotoFix comes with 1 standard set of templates: One for the index file and one for the individual files. If you have made your own templates, you should make sure that the correct one is chosen.

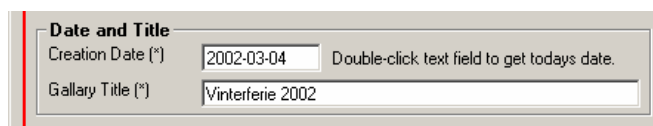


How to make your own templates is answered on <http://besoft.be/fotofix>, or in our forum on <http://forum.bsoft.dk>. You can also send us an email at fotofix@besoft.be. Please do note that it is mainly for experienced users with knowledge of HTML to create new templates or to alter the standard FotoFix templates, as it can be abit complicated.

Step 3 - Date and title

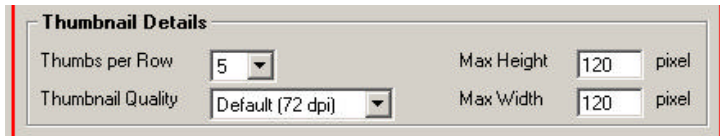
A date for the album is optional, but often a good idea. This will typically be the date the pictures were taken, or the period in which there were taken. To get the today's date, simply double click in the date field. The date entered (if filled in), will become a part of the root folder name.

It is mandatory to give your album a title. This could be 'Christmas with the family' or 'Skiing in Aspen' or whatever the reason was. The title will be used for the root folder name among other things.



Step 4 - Thumbnail size and quality

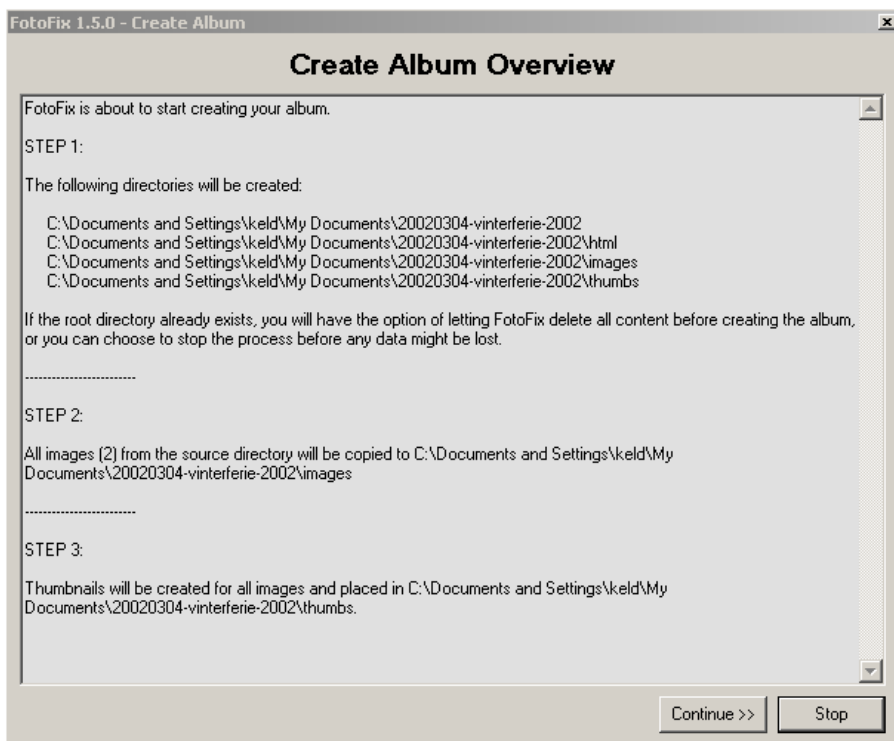
Now you have to choose some basic settings for your index file (index.html) and size and quality for the thumbnails. The default settings are usually correct, but you can always experiment for better results. One rule of thumb is though, that the higher the quality and the bigger the picture is, the larger the files will become (in kilo byte). If you are creating an album to be used on your website, usually it's a good idea with small thumbnails to increase the download time.



The resolution of 72 dpi is standard PC screen resolution. Only if you need to print the thumbnails, it might be an idea to choose a higher quality.

Step 5 - Creating folders and files

Once you have told FotoFix how and where you would like to have your album generated, FotoFix can start preparing the structure of it. To start this, you click the button 'Create Album'. You will now see a window similar to the one shown here:

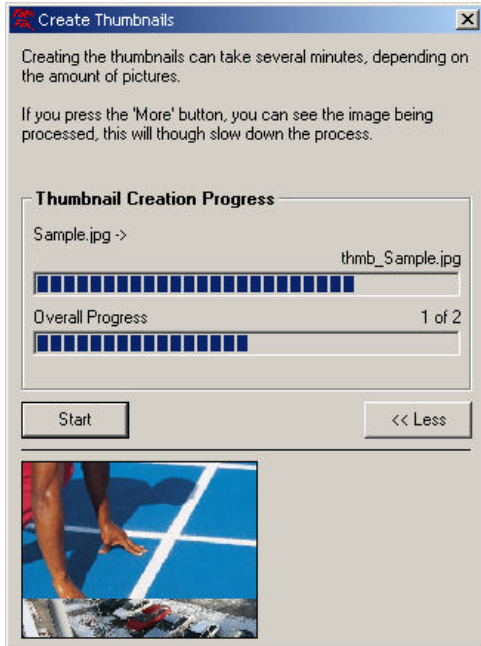


As you can see, FotoFix will create some folders and copy all your original pictures. Nothing will be changed in size and quality for the actual pictures.

Now click 'Continue >>' to start the process.

Step 6 - Generating the thumbnails

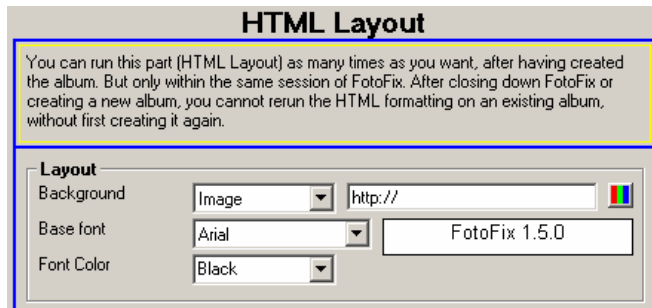
Once FotoFix is done creating the folders and copying your pictures, a new window will open, like the one shown here. This is the window to follow the generation of your thumbnails. Click 'Start' to start the process. Click 'More >>' to see the actual progress of each picture. If you have many pictures in your album, it is advised not to see the pictures while they are being processed. This will increase the performance significantly.



Once FotoFix has generated all thumbnails, click 'Close', to return to the layout part of FotoFix.

Step 7 - Layout of HTML files

Now, you have to choose how your album should be formatted; Colors, fonts etc.



Next you can choose a link. This one is a bit special. Imagine you have multiple albums on your website and you would like to have a quick shortcut/link back to your list of albums. Enter here the URL to the file or folder where you have your list. This link will (with the standard FotoFix template) be placed in the top left corner. If you are not interested in this link, just delete the content of the field and TAB on to the next field. You will then see '<none>' in the field and FotoFix then knows that it has to skip this part and not place a link on the index.html page.

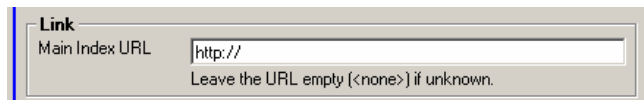
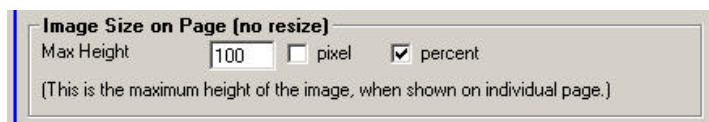


Image size on page is also a bit special. This function allows you to choose the size of the pictures on the individual pages (so not the thumbnails on the index page). This means that if you would like visitors (or yourself) to be able to see the complete picture without having to scroll down, you can e.g. Set the size to 450 and check the box 'pixel'. On the other hand, if you have many different sizes of pictures in your album, you can e.g. set the size to 50 and check the box 'percent'. Then all pictures will be displayed in half size. Or if you don't mind scrolling, you can set the size to 100 and check the box 'percent'. It is important to notice that this is a resizing done by your browser, and not an actual resizing of the picture.

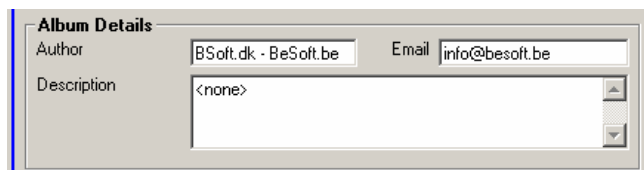
Clicking the picture once displayed in your browser, will display it in normal size (1:1) no matter how you choose to resize it.



Album details can be used to give a more thorough explanation or description of your album. It is also possible to enter your name and email. This will give you a link to your email around your name and be placed on top of the index page, right below the album title.

If you do not wish to use this, just leave the fields empty and TAB on to the next field, FotoFix will then fill in '<none>' and know that it has to skip these steps.

In Description you can use HTML codes. If you e.g. would like to have a part of you text in bold you use the tag `BOLD` (but you probably figured that out already). You can also place a link to a picture or a small animation here. This is the place where it's only your imagination that sets the limit.



Step 8 - The album is ready

You have now told FotoFix all it needs to know to format your album and generate the last files. Click on 'Format/HTML' to start the process.

Depending how many pictures you have in your album, it will take from less than a second to several seconds before everything has been processed.

Once the album is completely finished, you will see a message like this:



Click Yes, No or Cancel depending what you would like.

Yes - Upload the album directly to your website (this requires a connection to the internet).

No - Don't upload the album right now, but open it in your browser so you can see what it looks like.

Cancel - None of the above, just return to FotoFix.

Step 9 - Upload via FTP

If you choose to upload your album to your website, you will see this window. Here you must enter the address to your FTP server. If you don't know this, your internet provider can help you.

You can also enter a specific folder where you would like to have your album uploaded to. If you e.g. have all your albums in a subfolder called 'album', you should enter 'album' as Init Dir. When uploading, FotoFix will create a new folder under the one you specify. The name of this folder will be the same as the root folder (album title).

Username and password should also be entered. If you don't know this, your internet provider can help you.



When clicking 'Upload Album', FotoFix will open a DOS window and start the transfer. Surely this is not a very user friendly interface, so unless you are experienced with FTP and know the structure of your FTP server, you should not upload this way, but use a 'normal' FTP client.

FotoFix has not been developed to be used as an FTP client, which is why we did not make a nice looking and super user-friendly interface for FTP. You might ask why we did make the feature in the first place then. Simply because a lot of users requested this specific feature.

Step 10 - Edit your layout

If you chose to have your album opened in your browser or to return to FotoFix, you can now reformat your album. Maybe you selected a background color and a text color that doesn't match as well as you expected, or you forgot to write something in the description. Basically everything on the right side of the main FotoFix window can be changed as many times as you wish. Do note that this is only possible until you choose to make a new album (File -> New Album).

Upload via FTP at a later moment

Your album is completely done. You have changed the layout and everything looks like it should. If you want to upload it to your website with FotoFix, you can do so or you can do it with your preferred FTP client. Regardless, the album is stored on your local PC in the folder specified in Step 1.

So much for so little

It seems like a lot of things to do just to create a single album. But once you have made a few albums, you'll realize that it only takes a few moments and that most settings always stay the same and doesn't have to be changed. As well, FotoFix remembers all settings every time you close it down. So next time you start FotoFix, you don't have to reenter all settings.

More help

Remember, you can always get an answer to your questions in our forum at <http://forum.bsoft.dk> or by sending an email to fotofix@besoft.be.

Enjoy!

Disclaimer

FotoFix is freeware and can be distributed freely as long as it is not altered or become an object with profit as purpose.

BeSoft can at no point in time be held responsible for any possible damage, on hardware or software, nor loss of data due to installation and use of FotoFix. Possible damage to your original pictures can never become the responsibility of BeSoft. As long as FotoFix is used according to the guidelines stipulated in this document, nothing should be able to go wrong, but we all know that a computer does not always act as you expect.

FotoFix is naturally 100% virus free. If you have downloaded or received FotoFix from any other source than one of BeSoft's servers, you should use a virus scanner and check the file(s) before installation. Possible contamination from viruses after download from other servers than the one(s) of BeSoft can never become the responsibility of BeSoft.