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GraphicConverter 7

The Workshops

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This manual was written on a Mac using Adobe FrameMaker 6.

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Foreword

The aim of this book is to make starting work with GraphicConverter easier for you. It is made up of workshops that lead you to your goals step by step. This book does not contain all information on the respective areas. For a detailed look into all GraphicConverter options, I recommend my manual, which has around 400 pages.

The workshops have been conceived as a series. I therefore recommend starting with the first workshop and then working through the workshops in order. Once you have gathered a few experiences with GraphicConverter and with editing digital pictures, you can start with one of the later workshops.

We would like to write more workshops for GraphicConverter. Please send an e-mail to hagen.henke@gmx.de telling us which subjects you would like to see covered in a GraphicConverter workshop.

Please download the example images from this url:
<http://www.lemkesoft.org/pdf/example.zip>

We wish you every success in your work with GraphicConverter.

Hagen Henke

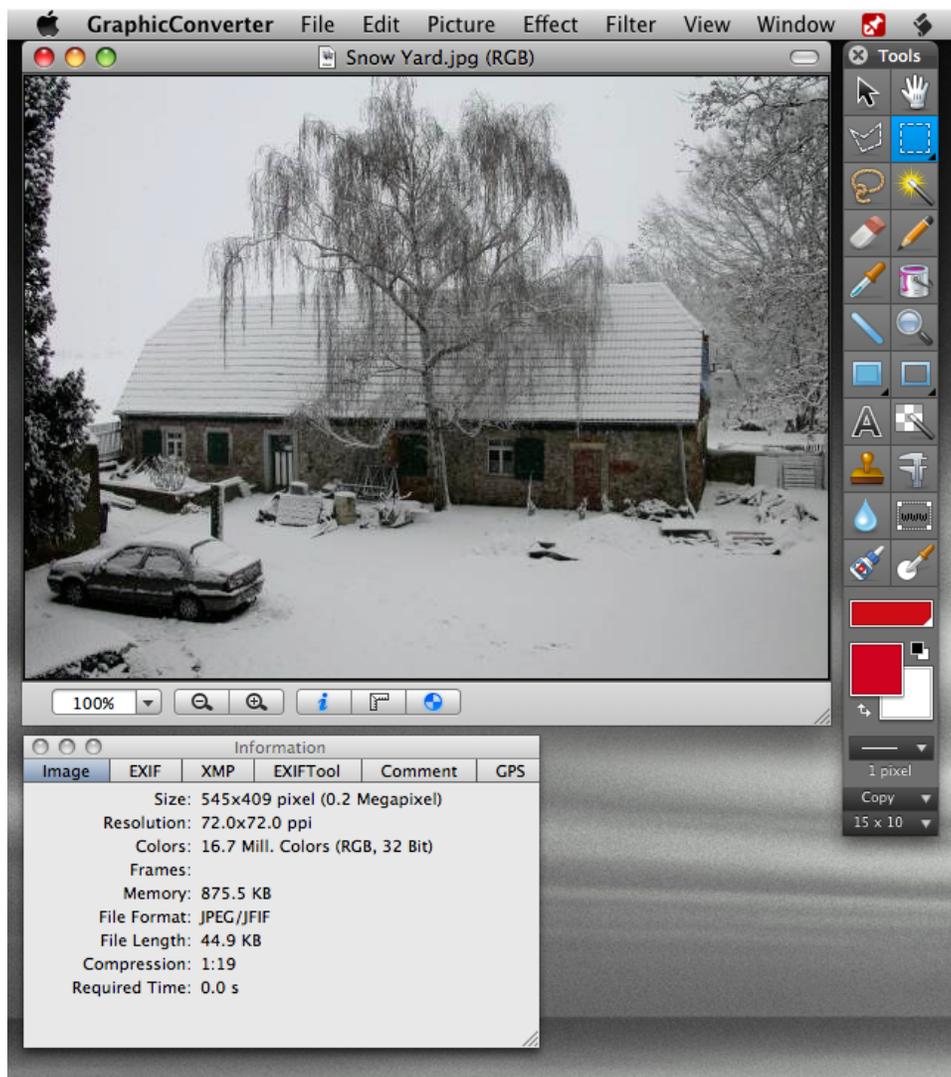
Workshop 1

Brightness – Trimming – Format

In this workshop, we will introduce you to the some basic functions like adjusting brightness and contrast as well as trimming pictures.

1. Start GraphicConverter and open the picture **Snow Yard.tif** in the **Workshop 1** folder in the **Example Pictures** folder by selecting **File / Open...** from the menu. You can download the example pictures from this url:

<http://www.lemkesoft.org/pdf/example.zip>

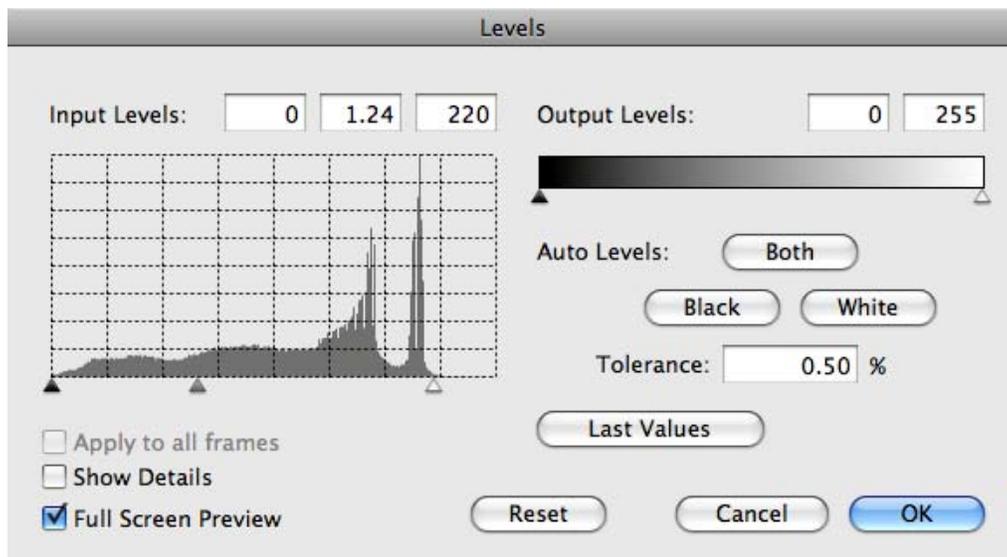


Next to the picture is the toolbox where you can select different tools to edit your pictures. In the lower section, you can make settings for lines and colors. You will learn about some of these in subsequent workshops. You will find a complete description of all GraphicConverter options with numerous examples in my GraphicConverter manual that can be opened from the Help menu.

The information palette is open under the picture. The technical information on the picture is shown in this palette. For example, **TIFF** appears next to **Document format**. This picture was saved in TIFF format. The TIFF format is the standard format in the printing industry. It saves all information on a picture without losses and can be opened on all computer platforms from almost all programs. The files are relatively large as the pictures are saved lossless. You can obtain considerably smaller files with JPG format. JPG pictures do, however, lose quality slightly each time they are saved.

The file extension for TIFF pictures is .tif or sometimes also .tiff. JPG pictures have the extension .jpg. Under classic Mac OS, these extensions were not required. Mac OS X recognizes the file type from the extension. Therefore you should always use the right extension. GraphicConverter will help you by automatically adding the respective extension to the end of the file name.

2. Our example picture is noticeably too dark because the bright snow confused the automatic exposure on the camera. To correct this later on, select **Picture/Levels...**. The following dialog opens:

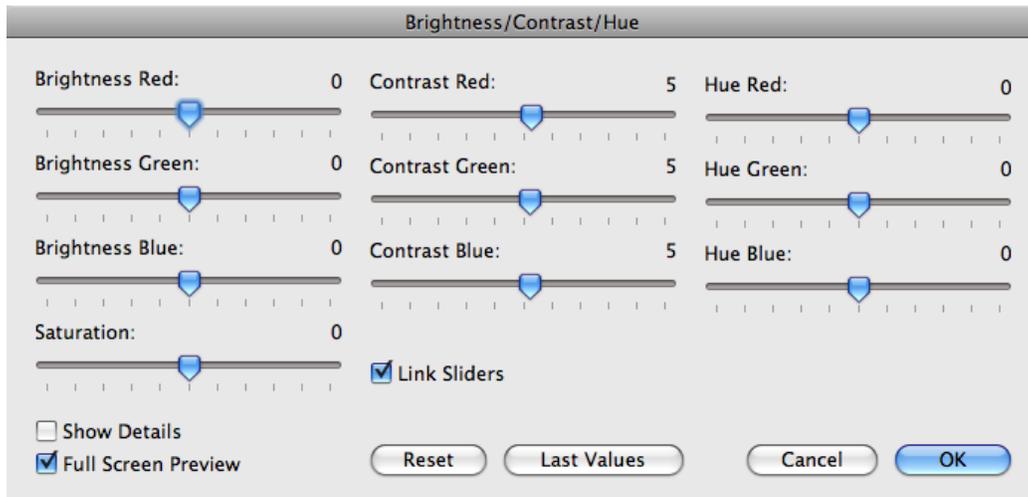


3. Enable the **Full Screen Preview** option and move the dialog as far as possible to the side of the picture so you can see the effects of our corrections.

4. Now move the right hand handle under the diagram to the left to a value around 220. This distributes the brightness values across the whole scale. Always trim unused ranges at the ends of the scale with this method. Now move the centre handle to the left until 1.24 is displayed as a value. The result already looks a lot better. The wall on the building

Workshop 1

still seems a bit flat. Therefore increase the contrast with **Picture / Brightness/Contrast...** to a value around +5.

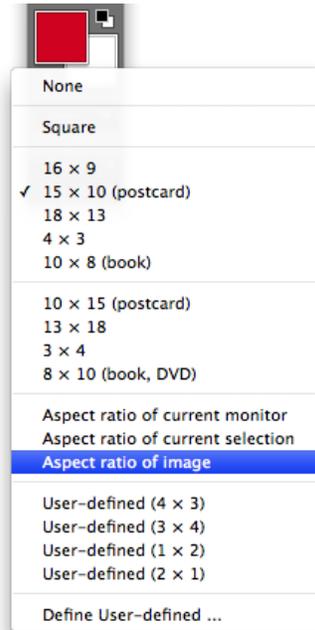


The wall now appears darker and bolder. If you increase the contrast too much, the details disappear in the bright and dark areas like the left-hand edge of the roof. Click **OK** to apply the settings to the picture.

Trimming

In the next step, we will cut away part of the picture containing the house to emphasize the subject more. Cutting out parts of pictures is called "Trimming". To do so you need the rectangular selection tool which is second from the top in the right hand column. It should be selected already.

5. In the toolbar at the bottom, select **Aspect ratio of image** as the aspect ratio for the selection so that the aspect ratio is not changed.

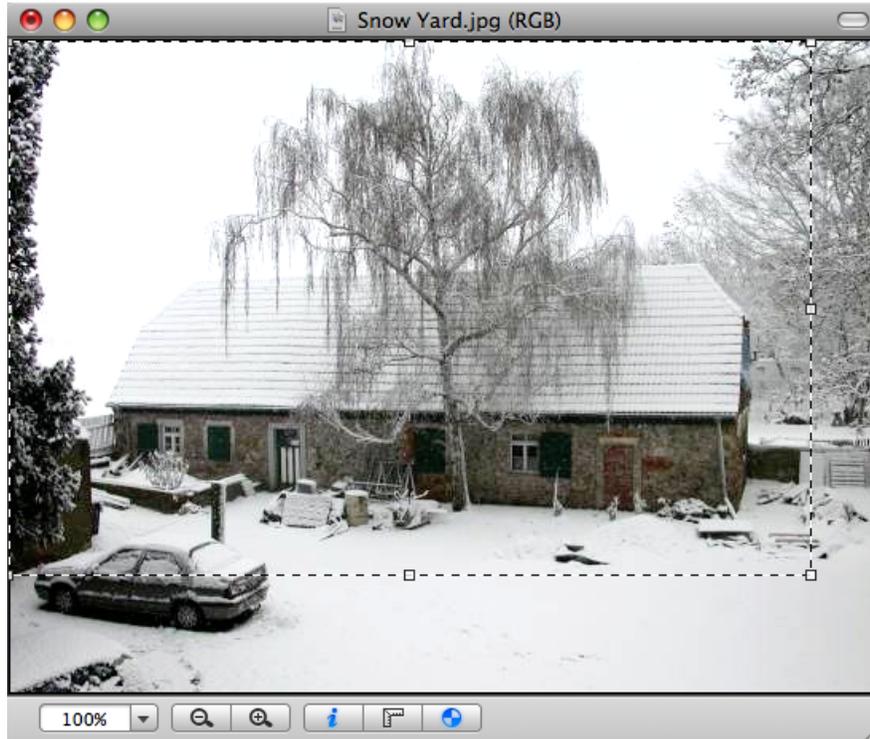


If the rectangular selection tool is not selected, simply click it.

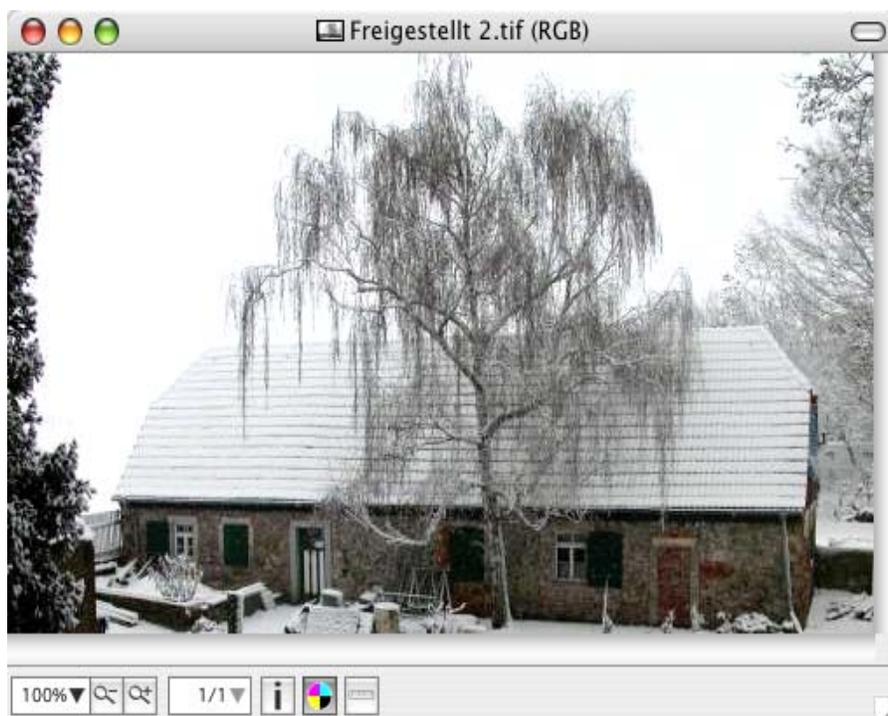
6. If you now move the mouse over the picture, the cursor will turn into a cross. Place the mouse cursor in the area at the bottom right of the house and, holding down the mouse button, drag open a rectangle to the top left. Move the mouse cursor past the edges of the picture at the top left to ensure that the selection goes right up to the edge of the image. If you are not happy with the results, you can use the mouse to adjust the selection with the handles. The handles are the small squares at the corners and in the middle of each side of the selection rectangle. Alternatively you can cancel the selection

Workshop 1

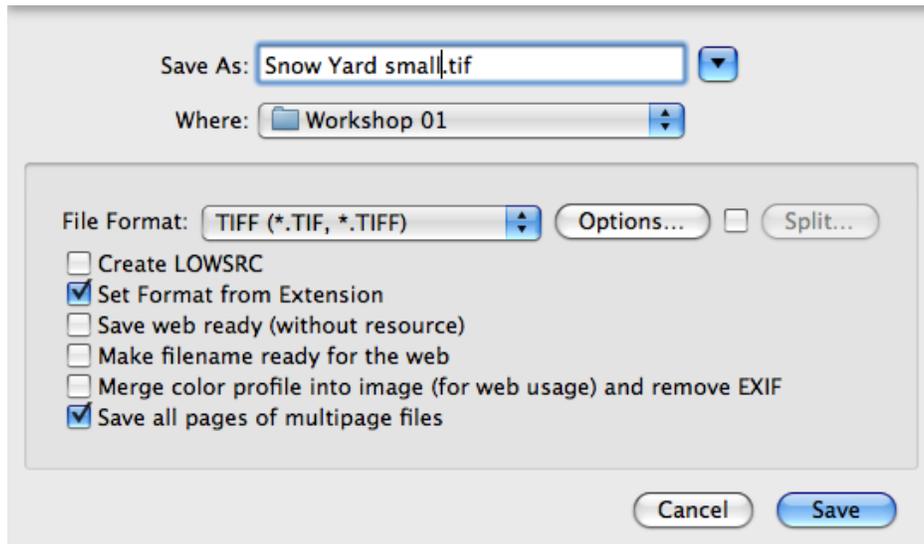
with the Escape key and start over. The Escape key (esc) is at the top left of the keyboard. The result should be as follows:



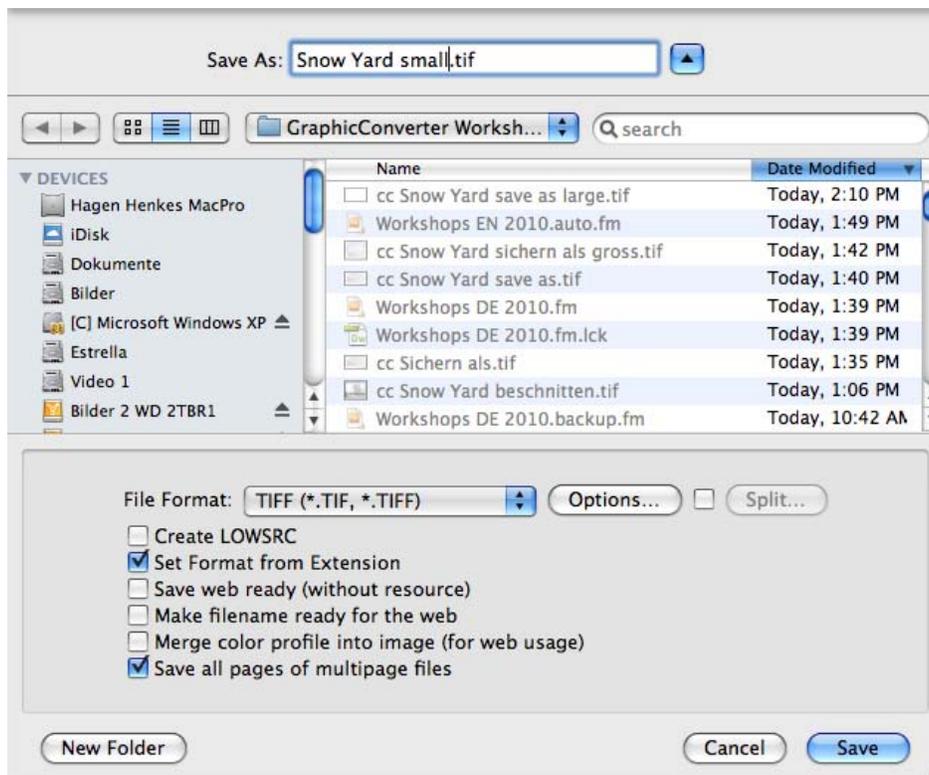
7. Now trim the selection by double-clicking inside the selection rectangle. Alternatively you can also trim the selection by pressing the Return key. The result is a trimmed picture.



8. Select **File / Save as...** to save the picture with a new name. The file selection dialog opens. Click behind the word "Yard" and enter "small" to change the filename to "Snow Yard small.tif".



9. Click the blue button with the black triangle at the end of the **Save as:** line to display the files from the folder selected at **Where**. A larger file selection dialog will open to aid navigation.



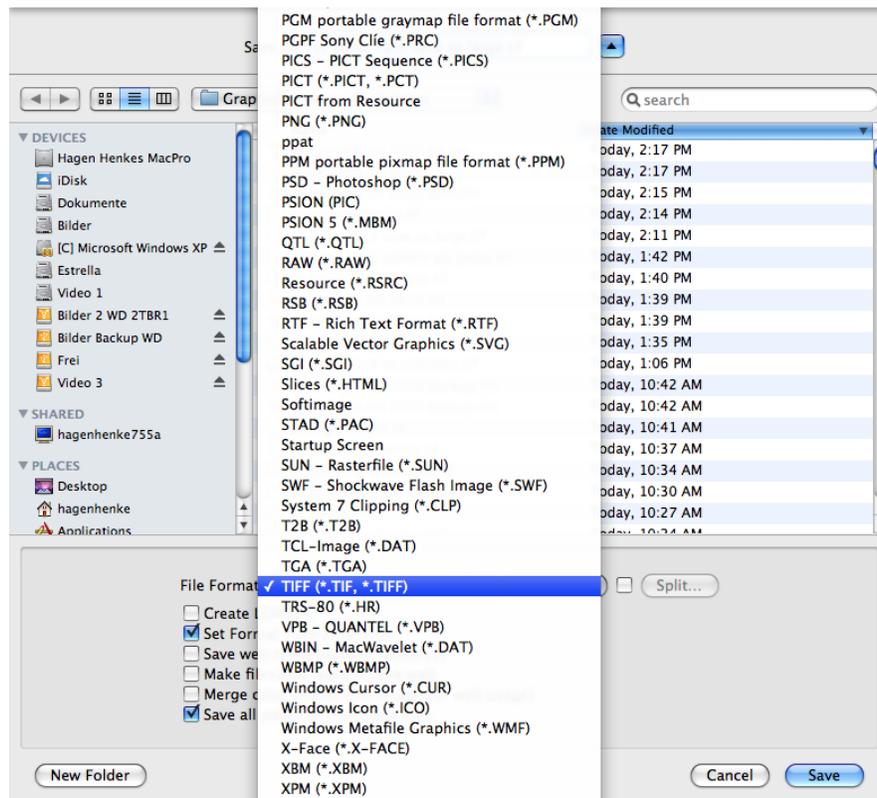
You can make the file selection dialog even larger by clicking the bottom right corner, holding down the mouse button and dragging down to the right. It is worthwhile making

Workshop 1

the file selection dialog wider if there are long filenames with well over 31 characters. Mac OS X and GraphicConverter X support long filenames with up to 256 characters.

10. Click **Save** to save the picture.

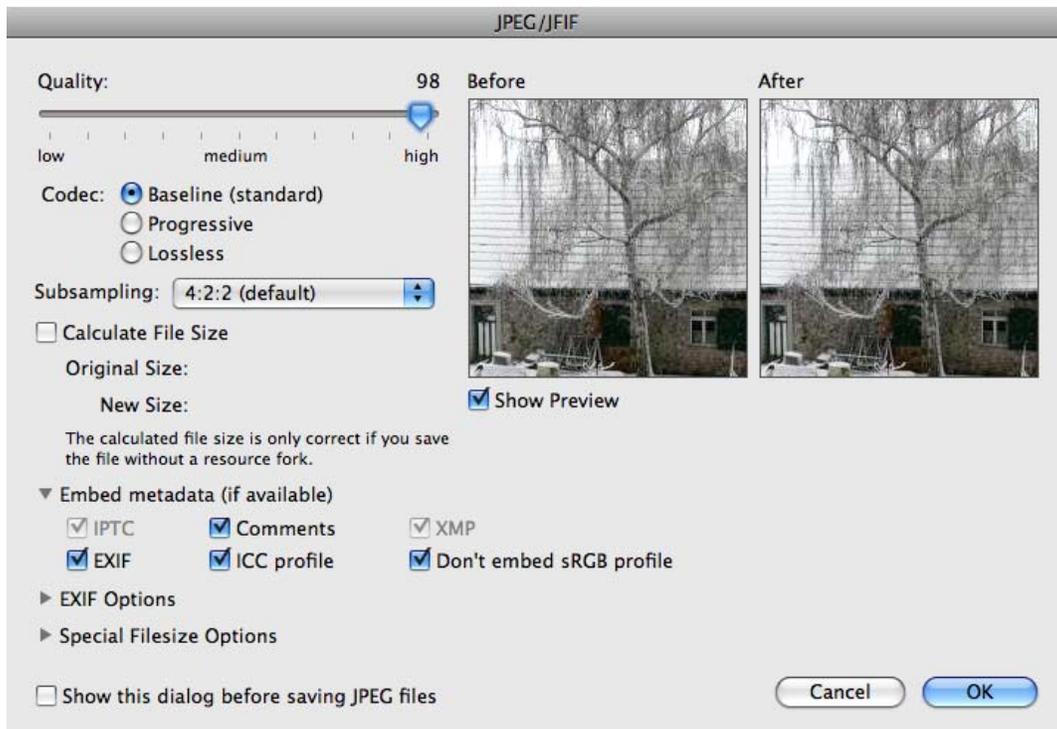
11. Select **File / Save As...** again and open the **Format** pop-up menu by clicking. Select **Show all** and open the menu again to display the complete list.



12. Move the mouse to the top or bottom of the pop-up menu to display the formats further up or down the menu. Select **JPG** format. The menu contains the full name **JPEG** and the **JFIF** variant. In the file names, the file extension is now automatically changed to .jpg. The file extensive is also called "Suffix".

You can select the format even faster if you enter the corresponding extension in the filename. In our example, you would delete the .tif extension and enter .jpg instead. A moment later the JPG format is displayed automatically in the Format menu. The **Set Format from Extension** option needs to be enabled in the file selection dialog.

13. Click **Save** again. The following dialog opens with the options for JPG format.



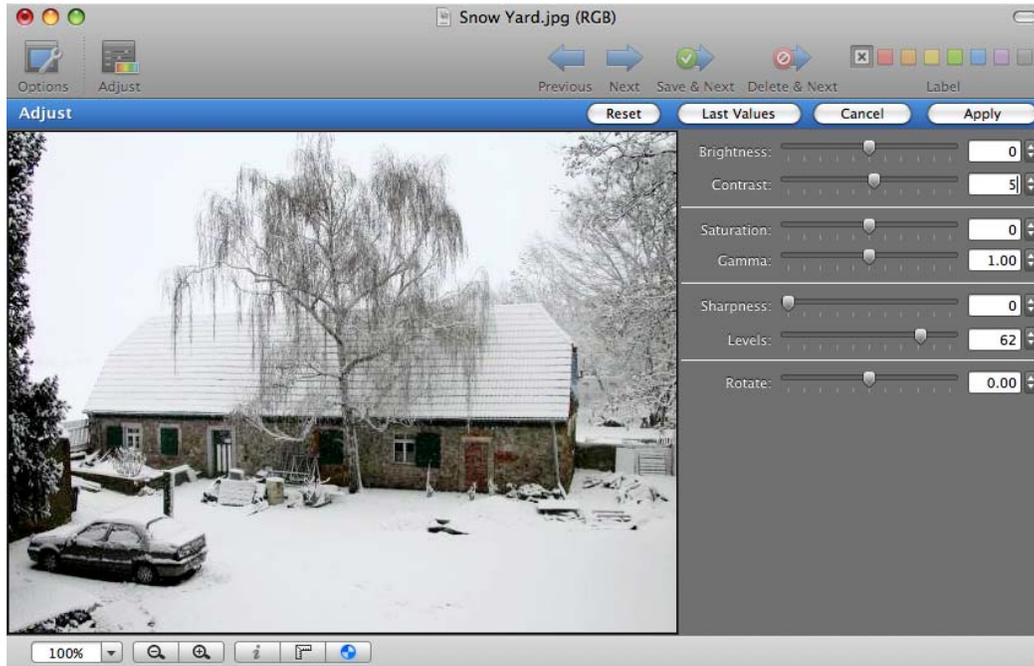
Do not let the various options confuse you. At the moment, only the slider for the **Quality** at the top left is important. The lower the quality, the smaller the file. At low quality levels under 60, there are varying degrees of faults in the picture. These faults are called artifacts.

14. Push the slider to the left to preview the artifacts in the **After** section. Now move the slider slowly to the right. The more you increase the quality, the fewer faults there are. We recommend a value around 77 for good picture quality with relatively small files. If you want to archive pictures, we recommend a quality level of 95. On slower computers, it may take a while for the preview to be calculated.

15. Select quality level 77 for our workshop picture and click **OK** to save the picture. The saved JPG picture is suitable for sending by e-mail. You will find out how to further reduce the file size even further in the Picture Size workshop.

Workshop 1

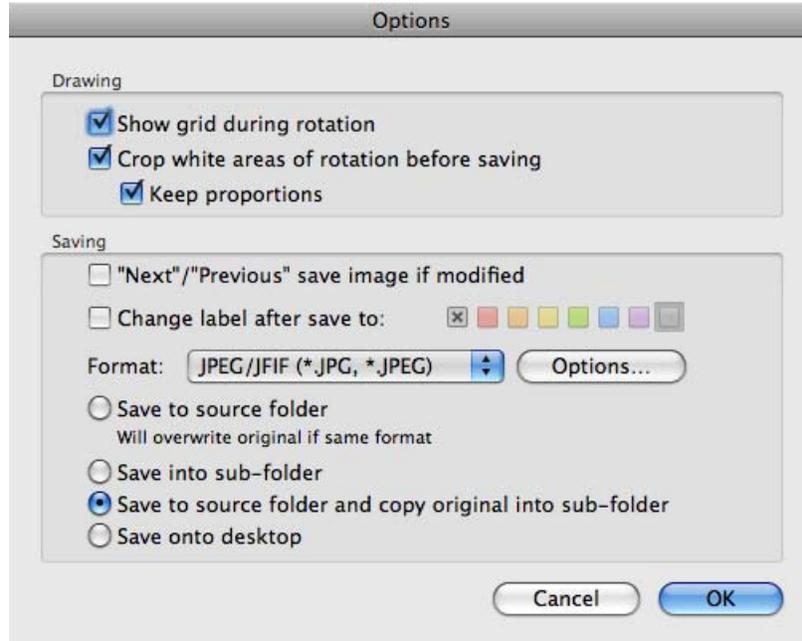
Alternatively, when a picture is open, you can click the oval button at the top right of the title bar to display the operator.



Before you click **Adjust** on the left in the operator, you should trim the picture if necessary as the toolbar is not active while you make adjustments. Then click **Adjust** again.

Next optimize the levels, contrast etc. with the sliders that you can also move left and right with the cursor keys as long as the mouse cursor is somewhere over the slider.

Click **Options...** The following dialog opens where you specify the location to save the edited picture and the format to use.



Click **Options...** to select the quality for the JPEG image or change the format to TIF if necessary. Click **OK**.

Click **Save & Next** in the Operator to save the picture and display the next picture for editing. You can also save the picture with **File / Save** or **Save As...**

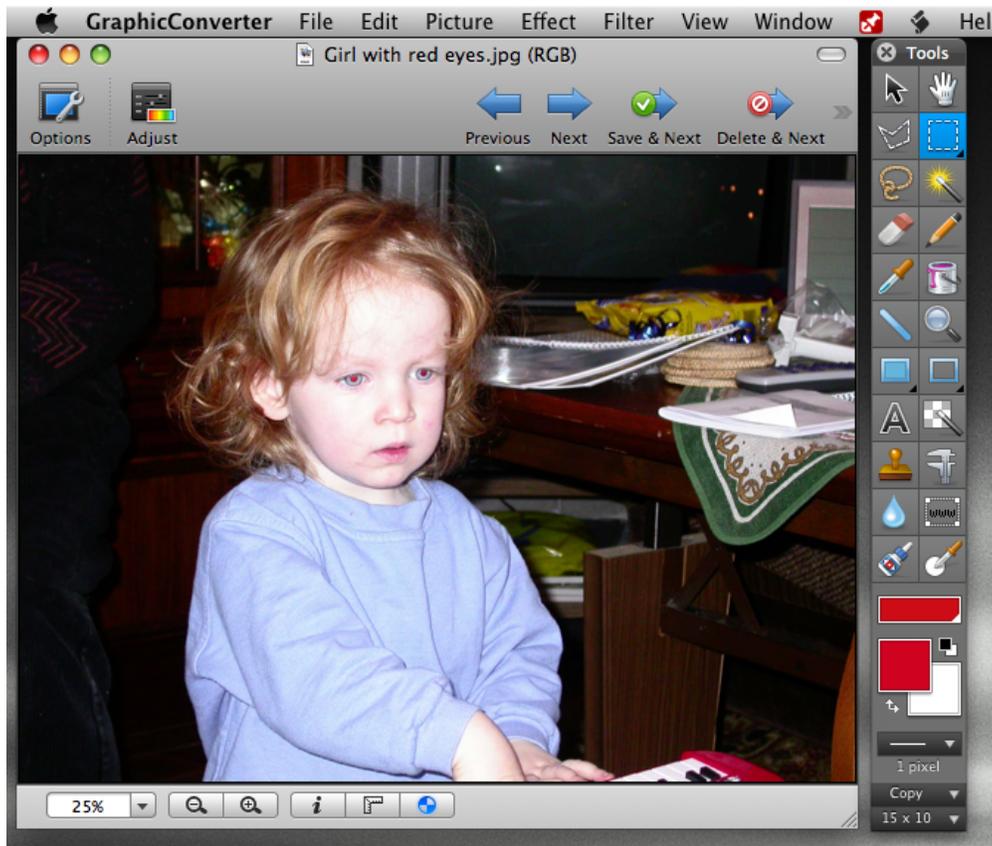
The Operator is ideal for editing large numbers of pictures quickly. Clicking the oval button at the top right of the title bar hides the Operator again. If you want to adjust the size of the window to the picture, you can click the green ball at the top left of the window.

Workshop 2

Red Eye and Zoom

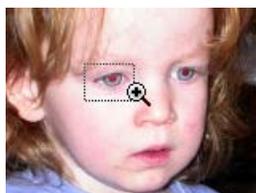
In this workshop, you will learn about the zoom function and about correcting red eyes that appear from time to time when you take pictures with a flash.

1. Open the file "Girl with red eyes.jpg". At the bottom left of the window frame, GraphicConverter indicates the current zoom level. In our example this is 25%. GraphicConverter displays the picture approximately in the printout size.



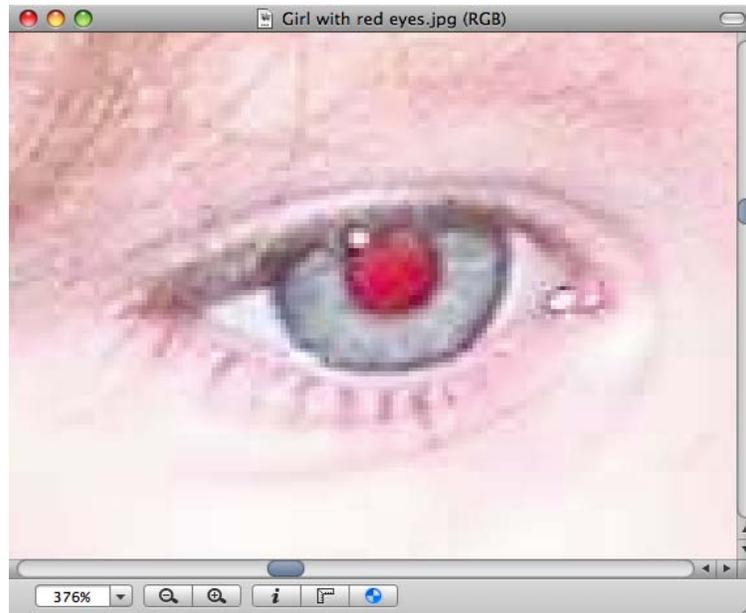
2. Select the magnifying glass by clicking it in the toolbox. The magnifying glass is seventh from top in the right-hand column.

3. Move the mouse over the left eye at the top left and drag open a rectangle holding down the mouse button.



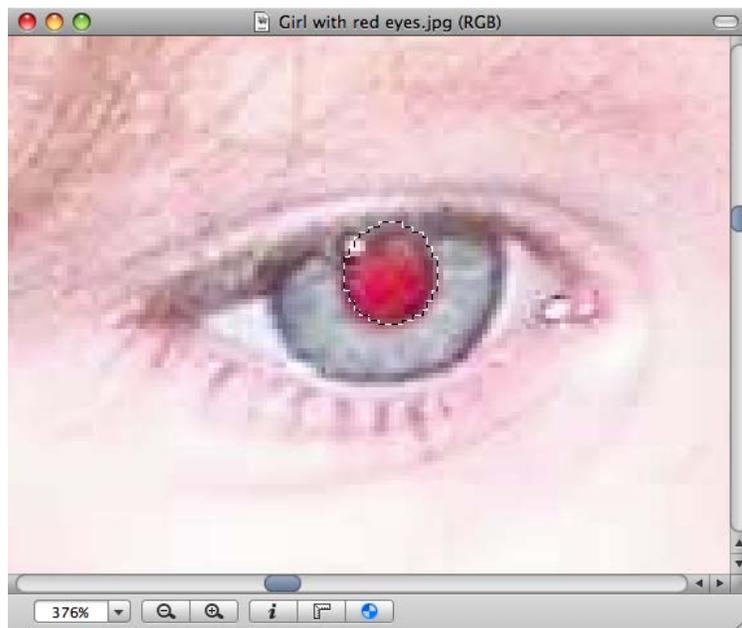
As soon as you release the mouse button, the content of the selection triangle is displayed enlarged. Enlarging the display will not change the size of the picture in any

way when you print it, for example. The zoom option only shows the picture enlarged without modifying it.



4. Click elliptic selection tool in the toolbox. It is second from top in the left-hand column.

5. Move the mouse over the red pupil and, holding down the mouse button, drag open a selection towards the bottom right to cover the red area with the border pixels as exactly as possible.



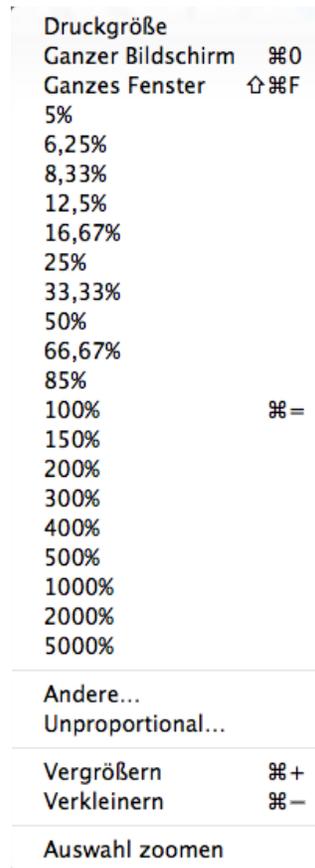
If you are not happy with the results of your first attempt, you can cancel the selection with the Escape key (esc) and try again.

Workshop 2

6. Select **Effect / Red Eye**. The pupil will be made considerably darker. GraphicConverter sets the colors in the selection to a dark gray therefore the brightness levels and any reflection are kept. The brightness value is also reduced. In our example picture, the flash reflection for the most part is outside the pupil.

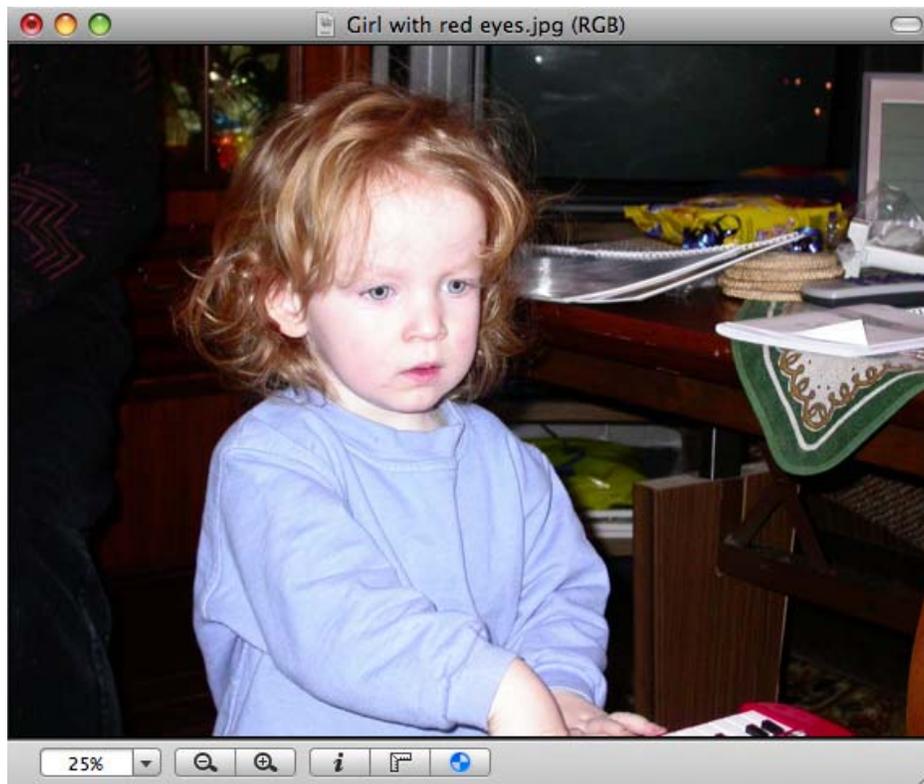


7. Cancel the selection with the Escape key and click the black triangle next to the percent figure at the bottom left of the window frame. A popup menu with different zoom levels opens.



Workshop 2

Set the zoom level to 25%. The eye now looks a lot better.

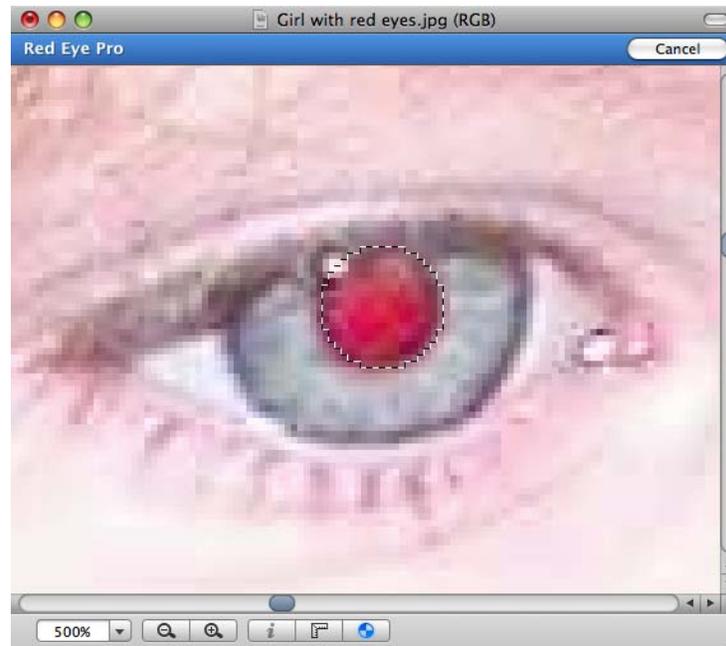


In our example picture, we have already edited the other eye. Repeat steps 2-7 of this workshop and edit the right eye as well to practice. Save the file under a new name like "Girl corrected eyes.jpg".

The pupil does not look completely natural as it is relatively large. GraphicConverter also has a solution to this problem that we will try in the next steps:

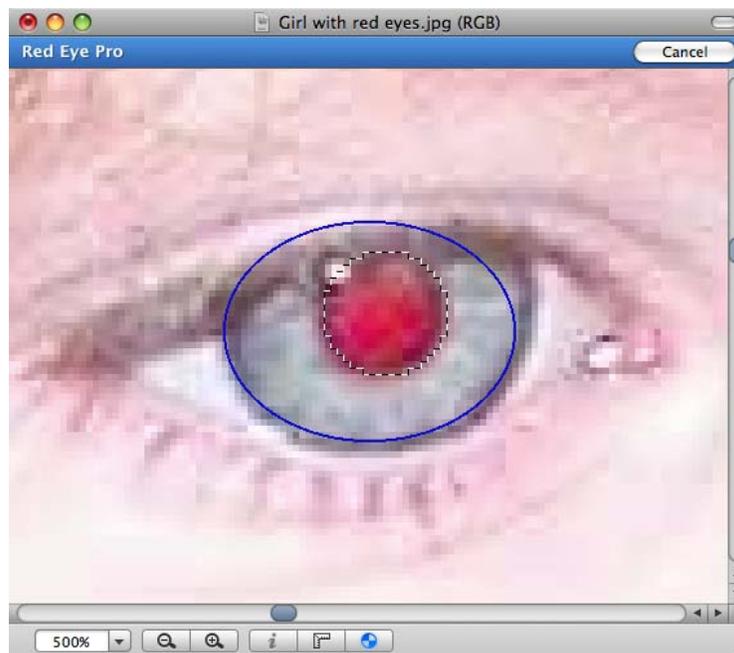
1. Open the file "Girl with red eyes.jpg" again.
2. This time select the pupil with the elliptic selection tool.

3. Select **Effect / Red Eye Pro**. Nothing will happen at first.



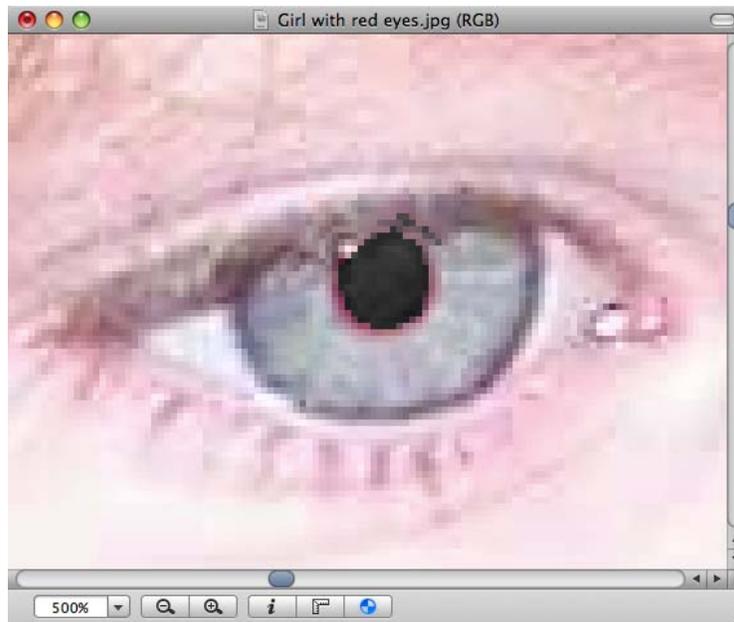
GraphicConverter switches internally to a special mode, in which the mouse works like the elliptic selection tool.

4. Select the iris with the mouse. The iris is the area around the pupil that can be blue, brown or gray-green. You can also select part of the eyelid over the pupil. The selection line is black, but it is shown thicker and in blue in the following picture so that it is easier to see.



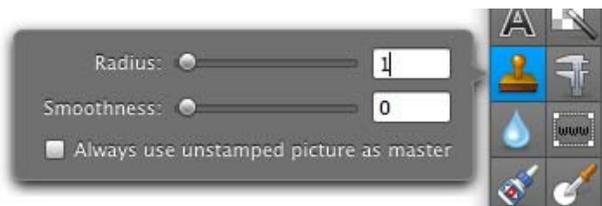
Workshop 2

The pupil size is reduced noticeably as soon as you release the mouse button.



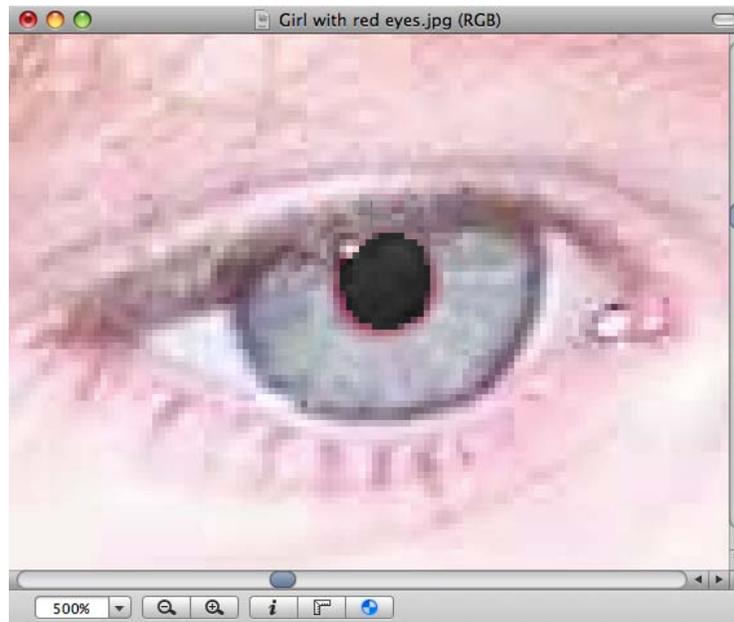
Reducing the pupil may cause lines to appear in the iris as at the top in our example. This kind of fault can easily be removed with the Stamp tool. The Stamp copies parts of the image to other areas of the picture.

1. Double click the Stamp in the toolbox again to open the following dialog and enter 1 for Radius:



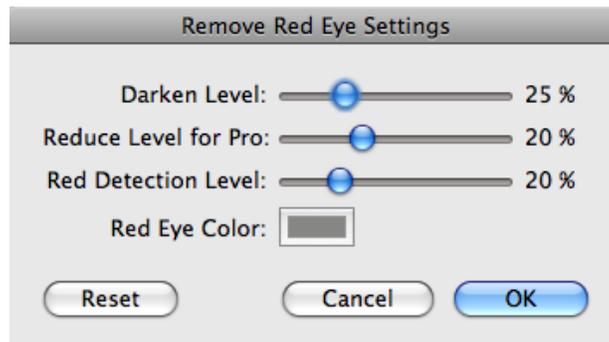
2. Hold down the Alt key and click the area to the left of the line to define the point that will be used as the source for the Stamp.

3. Holding down the mouse key, move the mouse cursor over the line to stamp this area with lighter pixels.



You do not need to make it perfect as, at normal zoom levels of 25% or 50% and on printouts, you will not see any small faults. Select 25% again as the zoom level and save the picture under a new name like "Girl eye pro.jpg".

You can specify the level of darkening under **Effect / Red Eye Settings...**. The following dialog opens:

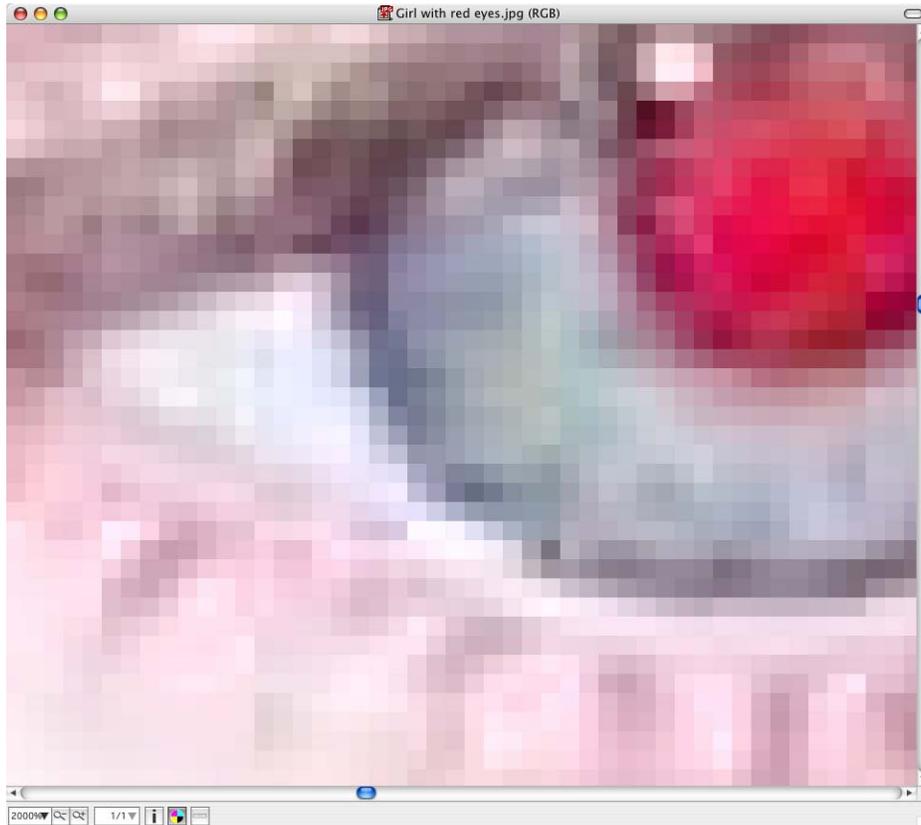


If the red in the pupils is very bright, you will need to increase the **Darken Level** accordingly. You can use **Reduce Level for Pro** to specify the extent of pupil reduction. Reduce the threshold value if not all areas of the red pupil are recognized and corrected. Click the color box next to **Red Eye Color** to specify the color that should be set in the corresponding scales.

Workshop 3

Picture Size

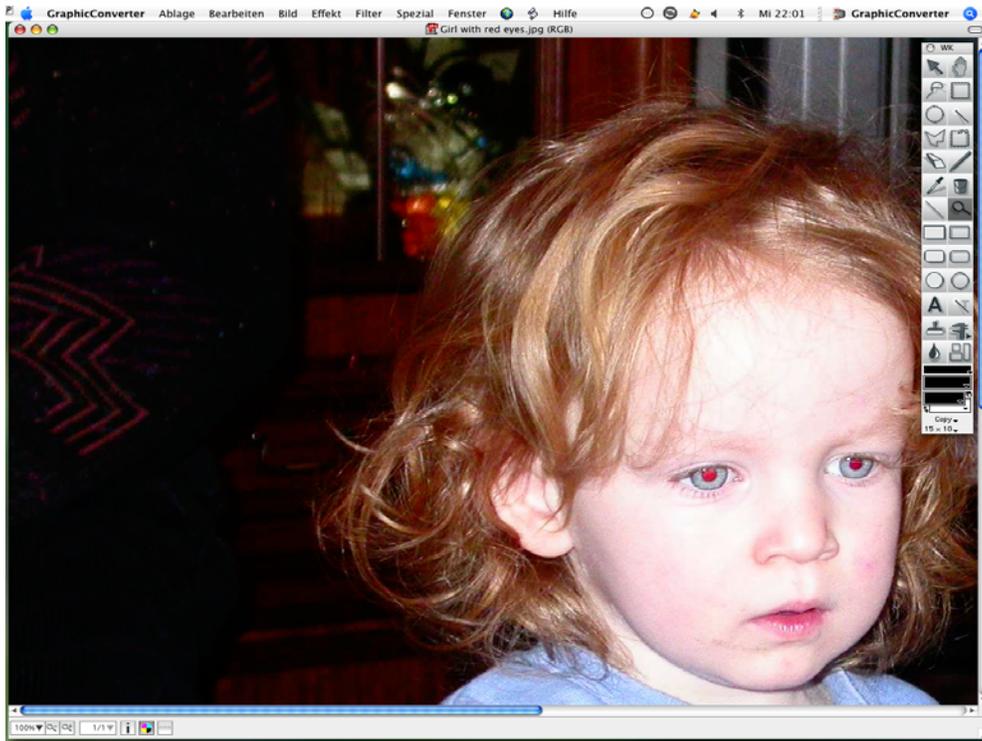
Open the example picture “Girl with red eyes.jpg” again from the first workshop. You can use the **File / Open Recent...** option here. A submenu containing the pictures last opened will open. Select the magnifying glass from the toolbox and click the picture until you can see the individual pixels. In our example, you can see part of the left eye.



If you want to move the visible section, hold down the spacebar and click the image. Now you can move the content in any direction. Each square is a pixel.

Now select zoom level 100% from the pop-up menu in the bottom left-hand corner of the window. There are keyboard shortcuts for some zoom levels that you can display under **Picture / Zoom** in the submenu at any time.

The picture is shown so big that it will not fit on the screen unless you have an enormous monitor. Now each pixel represents one pixel on the monitor.



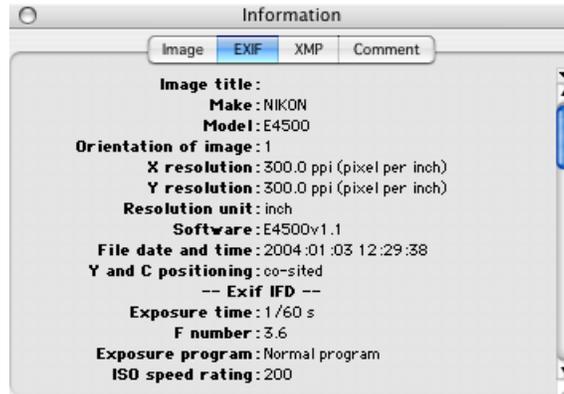
The picture is this size at a zoom level of 100% because monitors only have 72 pixels per inch. One inch is 2.54 cm. When printing on an inkjet printer, you need at least 150 pixels per inch or better 300. The pixels are reduced so that exactly 300 fit in one inch. The whole picture is subsequently reduced. The number of pixels that are “squeezed” into one inch can be indicated at two points in the image file.

At the start of each image file, there is an area called the “Head” that is invisible to users. The head can contain how many pixels per inch can be printed. A picture with 3000 pixels width would be exactly 10 inches (25.4 cm) wide when printed at 300 dpi. The number of pixels per inch is also called “Resolution”. If you use a scanner to scan in a photo, select the resolution in the scanning program. The resolution will then be written in the head of the file. For printing, the picture should have a resolution of 300 dpi which brings us to the second possibility:

Most digital cameras write an additional section in the image files called EXIF information. In the EXIF information, the resolution is given in addition to details like the exposure time and the aperture. If a picture contains EXIF information, it will be displayed

Workshop 3

in the information palette. Click the EXIF tab and scroll down for further information if necessary.



The resolution is given as x and y resolution. The values are always equal, however, because the picture would otherwise be distorted.

Let us use the knowledge we have gained on resolution to practice. Imagine a picture that is 15 cm wide and has 300 dpi. If you insert this image in a layout and reduce it to a width of 7.5 cm, what will the resolution be for the printer?

Answer: 600 dpi because no pixels are deleted upon reduction. The pixels simply become smaller. This is why more pixels fit in each inch.

In the other direction, the resolution is reduced to 150 dpi when you enlarge our example picture to 30 cm width.

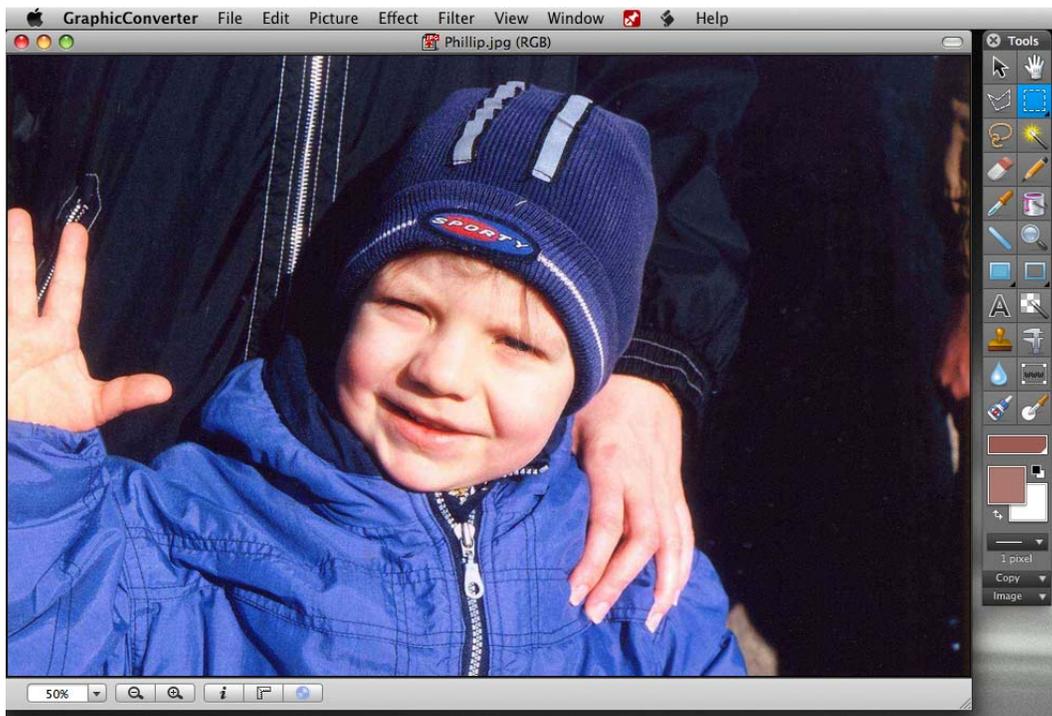
Workshop 4

Pictures for the Internet and for E-mails

On web pages the resolution of pictures does not matter as the information concerning resolution from the head of the file are not used. Web browsers always display pictures 1 by 1. If you save a picture with 600 pixels width with 72 dpi and again under a different name with 300 dpi or any other value and drag the files onto a web browser such as Safari, they will be displayed with equal size.

How large the visitors of a web site see the picture depends on the pixel count and the size of the display's pixels. On an iPhone for example the pictures are displayed very small. To be able to see details better many users zoom in with the two fingers split gesture (pinch).

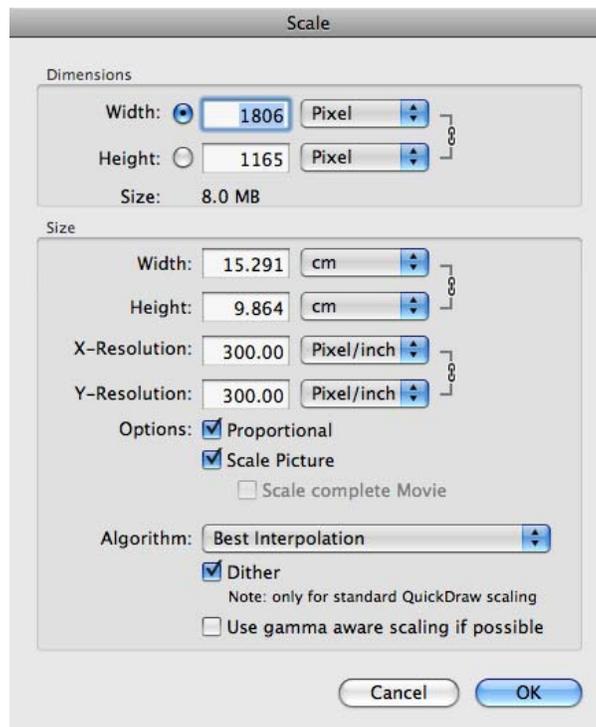
1. Open the image "Phillip.jpg" from the folder **Workshop 4**, which is in the **Example Pictures** folder and set the zoom level to 50%. You can reduce the zoom level by clicking the magnification glass with the minus sign to the right of the zoom at the bottom left of the window frame. With a click onto the green marble in the upper left corner of the window you can adjust the window size to fit the content.



This picture has been scanned in. It does not contain EXIF information as it does not originate from a digital camera.

Workshop 4

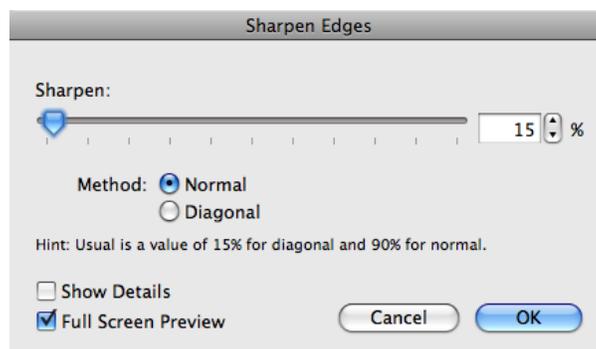
2. Select **Picture / Size** and then **Scale...** from the submenu. The following dialog opens:



3. At the bottom, you will see the **X** and **Y resolution** of 300 dpi which you can ignore. Enter 750 as the **Width** under **Dimensions**. Our example picture should be big for the Internet page.

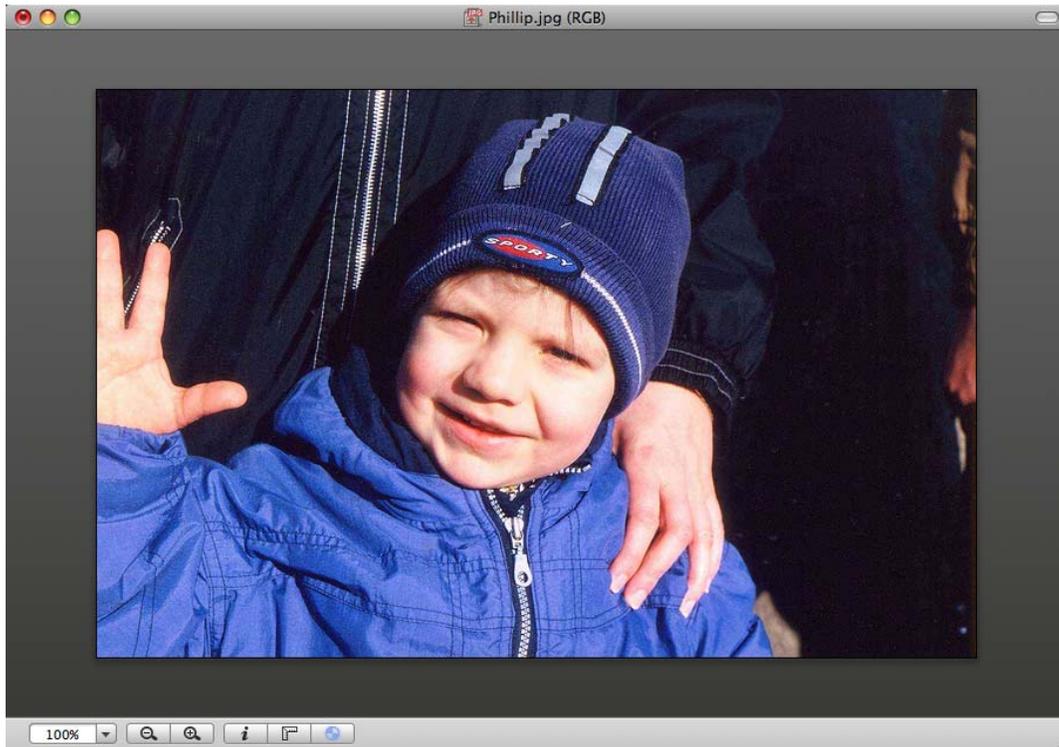
4. Make sure that the **Scale Picture** and **Proportional** options are enabled and click **OK**. On the screen, the picture will appear slightly smaller and at a zoom level of 100%.

5. Select **Effect / Sharpen Edges...** as pictures always lose some sharpness after reduction. The following dialog opens.



6. Move the slider for the sharpness to a value of around 14 and click **OK**. The result is a noticeably sharper picture. The ideal value depends on the picture, of course. Simply try it and let your eye decide. The best preview will be at a zoom level of 100%. Avoid

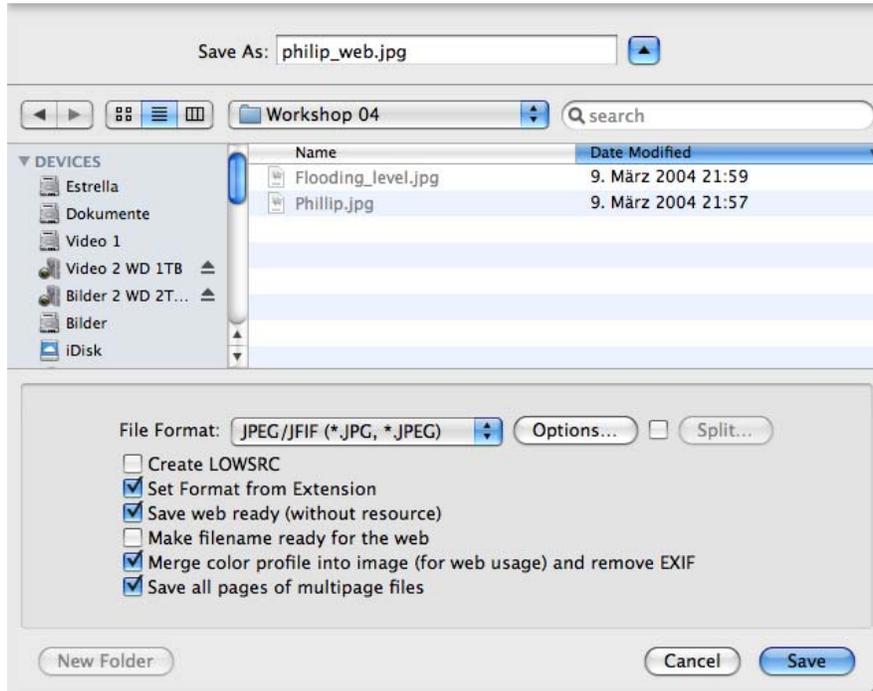
sharpening too much. Over-sharpened pictures seem unnatural and additional lines are formed on all edges.



In this PDF file, however, you cannot see the sharpness gained as well as in the original picture for technical reasons.

Workshop 4

7. Select **File / Save As...**. The file selection dialog opens where you can enable the **Save web ready** option so that the image is saved without a preview. Also enable **Merge color profile into image (for web usage)** as Web browsers do not evaluate profiles.



The preview is the small picture that is displayed in the Finder and the GraphicConverter browser. As it saves in several size versions into the image file, it enlarges the file by 50 kb. That would approximately double the size with small pictures.

Save the picture with **File / Save As...** under a name like "phillip_web.jpg". It is worthwhile replacing the space with an underscore character because spaces are not allowed on Internet servers. If you enable the **Make filename ready for the Web** option, spaces are automatically changed to underscore characters and uppercase characters are changed to lowercase characters etc.

You can now add the picture to a web site using a program like Dreamweaver from Adobe and then upload it to an Internet server.

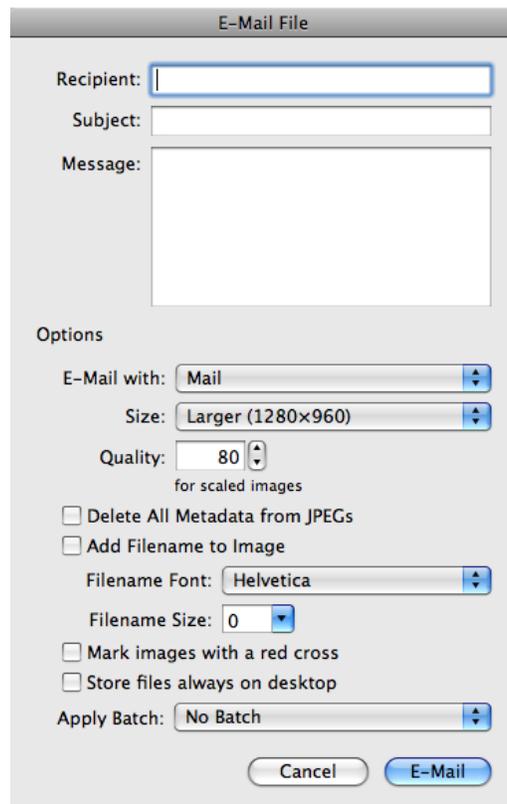
Pictures for E-mails

Even if you want to send a picture by e-mail, it should be as small as possible so it can be sent and received quickly. If the recipient only wants to view the picture and does not want to print it in large format, you should reduce the picture as in the first part of the workshop. As this requires quite a bit of work, GraphicConverter has an option to help you.

1. Select **File / Browse Folder...**. The file selection dialog opens where you can select the folder "Workshop 04". A browser window will appear on the screen in which you should click the picture "Phillip.jpg". The picture will then appear on the right-hand side enlarged with the information.



2. Click the **Email...** icon above the small preview in the middle of the browser. The following dialog opens where you can select **Medium (640x480)** from the **Size:** pop-up menu:

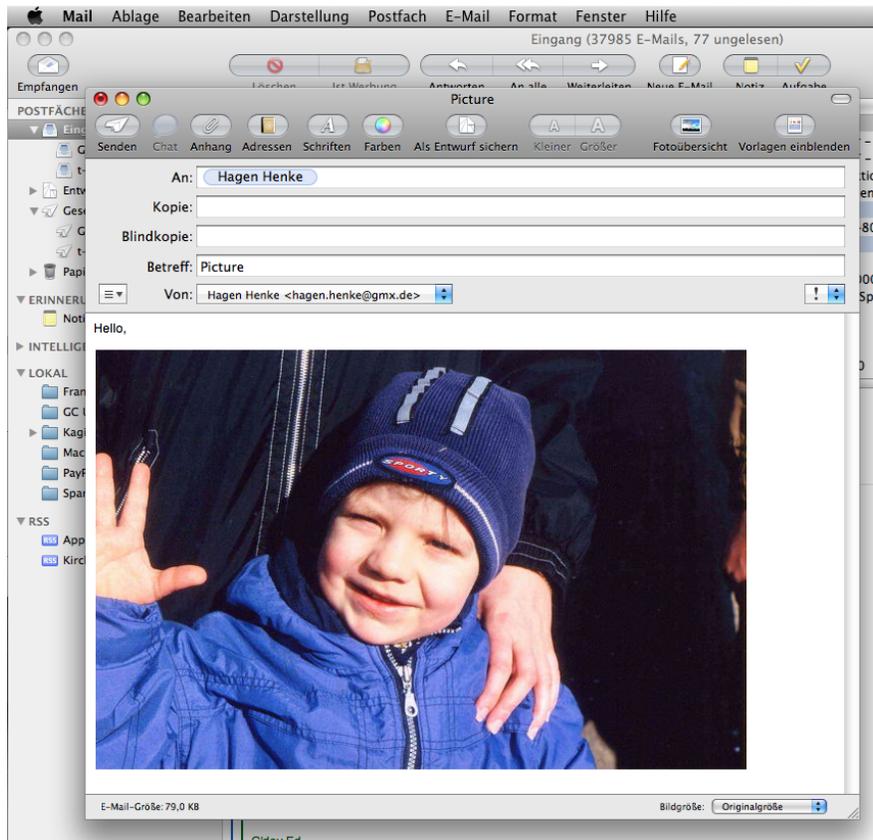


Under **E-Mail with**;, you can select an e-mail program if you do not use **Mail** from Apple. You can fill in the **Recipient**, **Subject** and **Message** boxes in this dialog or delete the entries to fill them in your e-mail program. This has the advantage that you have

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probably saved the recipient's e-mail address there and do not have to enter it again. Click **Send** to transfer the picture to your e-mail program.

GraphicConverter will now reduce the picture automatically to the selected size and save it invisibly as a temporary file on your hard drive. This file is automatically deleted once the e-mail has been sent. Your e-mail program will open automatically and show a new e-mail that already contains the picture as an attachment.



3. Now enter the recipient, the subject and message if you did not already do so in the last dialog.

One final question: How large can the e-mail recipient print the picture if he or she is using an inkjet printer that requires a resolution of 150 dpi? Our picture has a width of 640 pixels.

Solution: Divide 640 by 150 to obtain the number of inches for the printable width. $640/150=4.266$. The e-mail recipient can print the picture with a width of 4.266 inches (10.835 cm).

If the recipient wants to print the picture larger, you need to select **Large (1280x960)** or **Original size** as the size in the Send dialog. Also for development on photo paper at a photo laboratory you need a higher resolution of 300 dpi. Our example picture should therefore have at least 1,800 pixels widthways to appear brilliant and sharp for a print on 4x6 inch (10x15 cm) photo paper. If you are prepared to lose a small amount of quality,

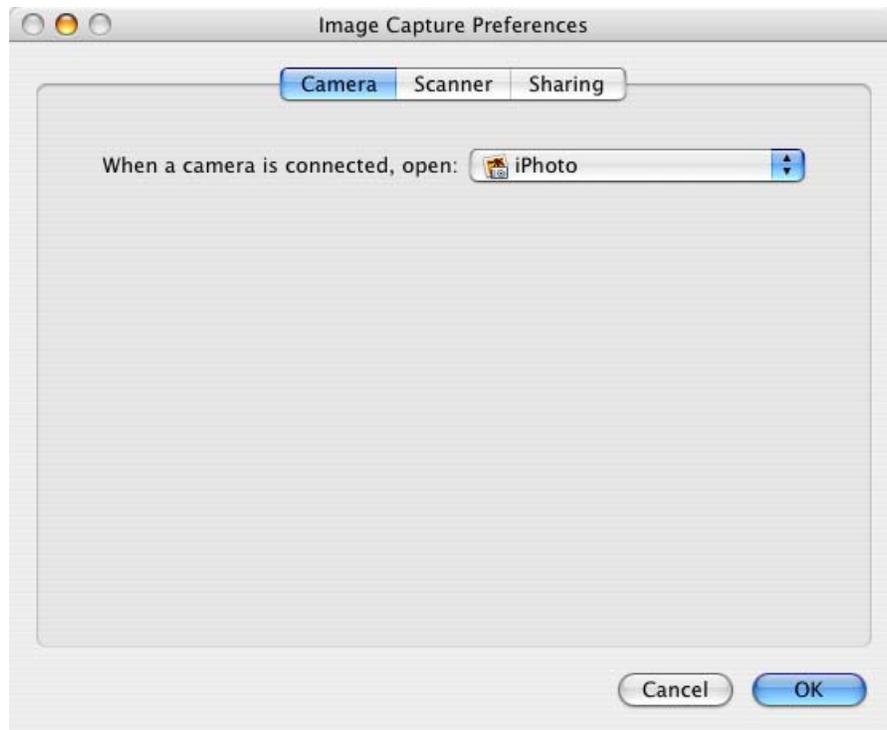
1280 pixels will also be sufficient. A good solution with a low number of pixels would also be to select a smaller photo paper format.

Workshop 5

Importing and Managing Digital Photos

If you like taking photos and have your own digital camera, you'll find that several thousand photos will gather on your hard drive in next to no time. GraphicConverter can help you keep track of your collection with its browser. In this workshop, you will learn how to import, organize and archive pictures. Take a few pictures with your digital camera.

1. Start the "Image Capture" program in the Programs folder. In this program, you specify which program is started when a digital camera is connected.
2. Select **Image Capture / Preferences** and click the **When a camera is connected, open:** pop-up menu. iPhoto appears by default.



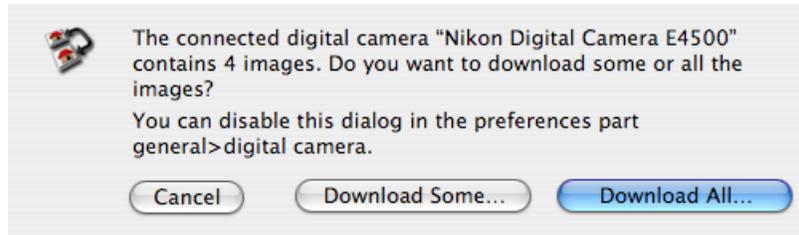
Select **GraphicConverter** if it is already in the list. If it is not listed, select **Other...** The file selection dialog opens with which you can select the GraphicConverter program file. Close the Image Capture program.

3. Connect your digital camera to your computer. GraphicConverter will now start automatically or is brought to the front if is already open. You need to be using Mac OS X

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for this. Under Mac OS 9, use the software that came with your camera or a card reader that is compatible with the memory card from your camera.

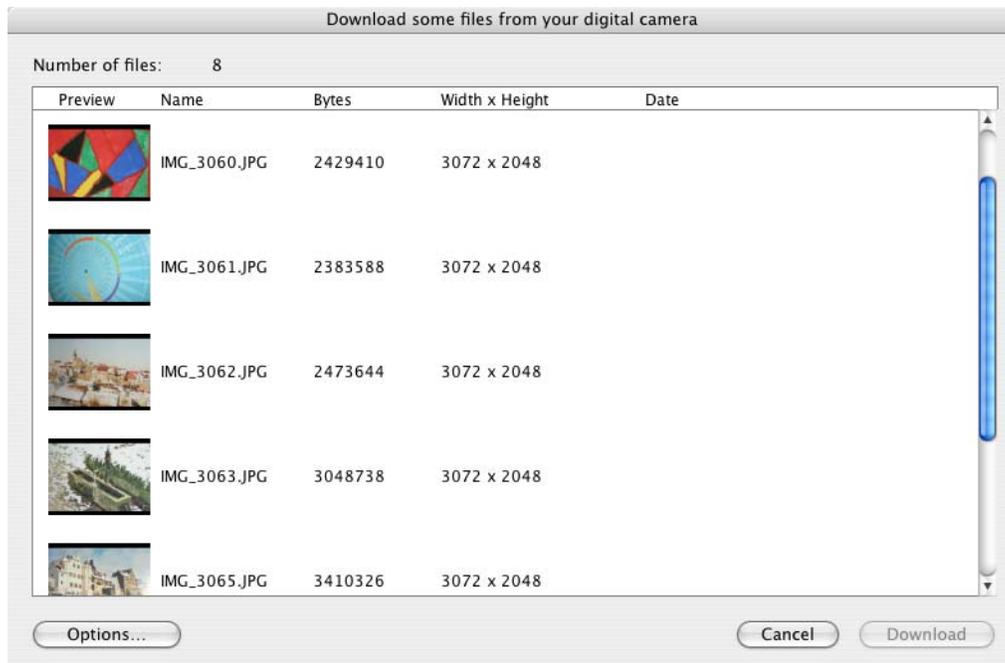
4. The following dialog opens where you should click **Download Some...** and continue reading at point 6:



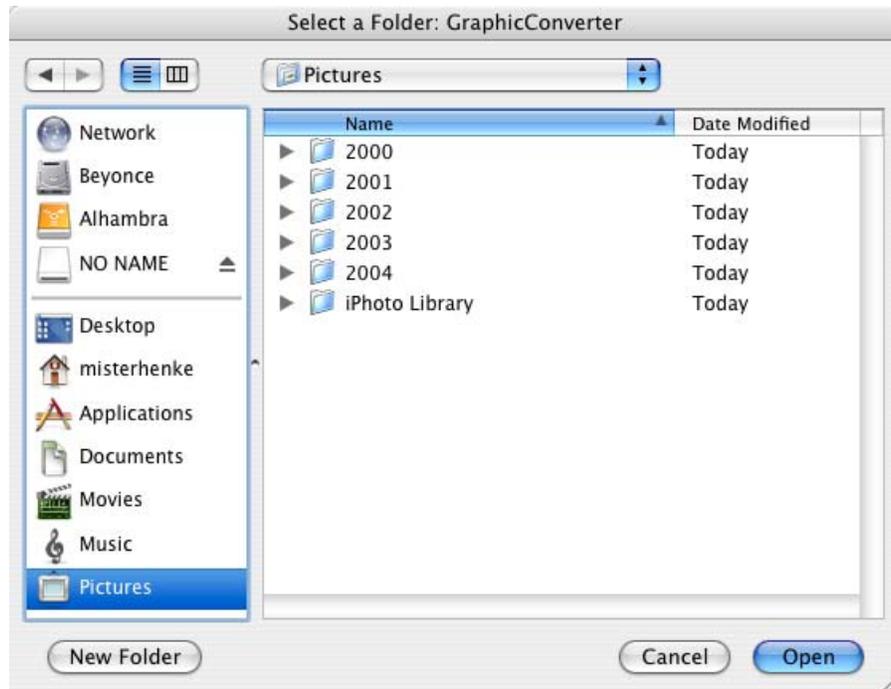
5. If GraphicConverter was already open, in Mac OS X 10.4, it will simply be brought to the front. In future versions of Mac OS X, the dialog should then also appear automatically if GraphicConverter is already open.

If GraphicConverter is not started, open it manually. In both cases, select **File / Acquire** and then **Download some files from your digital camera...** from the submenu.

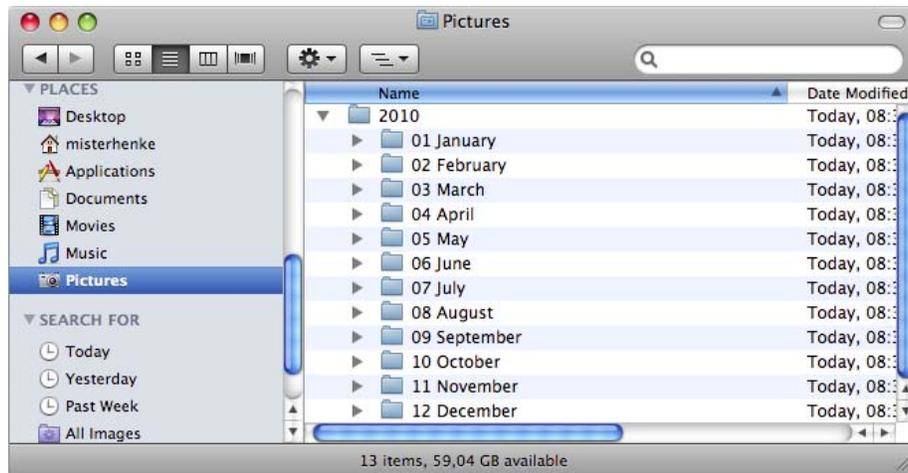
6. The dialog for selecting pictures for loading from the camera will open. Select the pictures you require with Shift-click or Command-click. Enable the **Sort images into sub folders depending on date** option so that the pictures are organized into a useful structure on your hard drive. Click **Download**.



7. The file selection dialog opens where you select the **Pictures** folder.

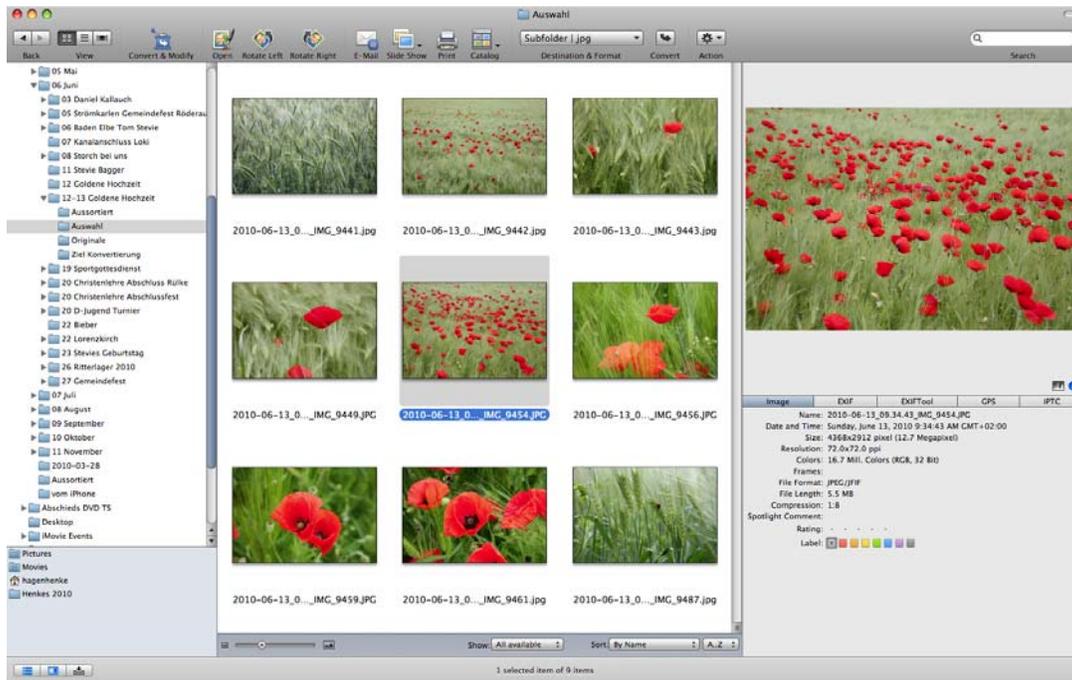


GraphicConverter will create a folder for the year according to the data from the picture files, a subfolder for the year and then a further subfolder for the tag. We will add a subject, like "Winter Scenes", to the day folder later on.



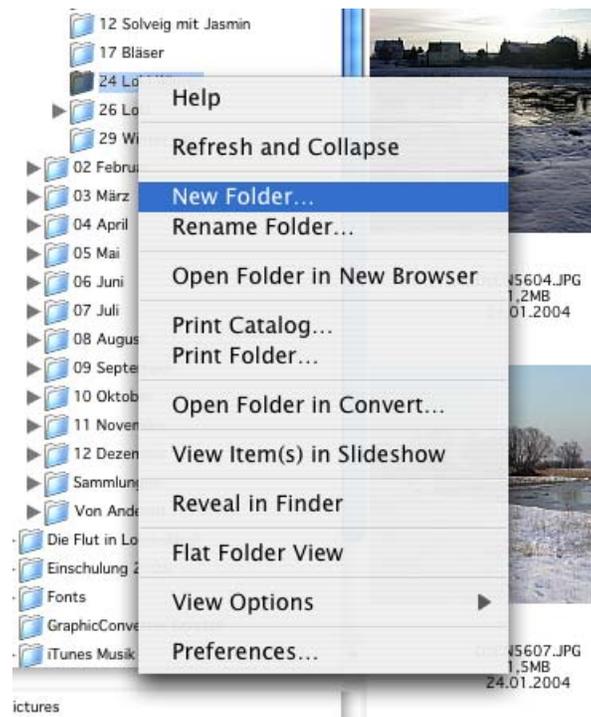
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As soon as all of the pictures have been imported to your hard drive, GraphicConverter opens a browser window with the loaded pictures. If the pictures were taken on different days, the parent folder will be displayed. In this case, click the day or film folder you require.

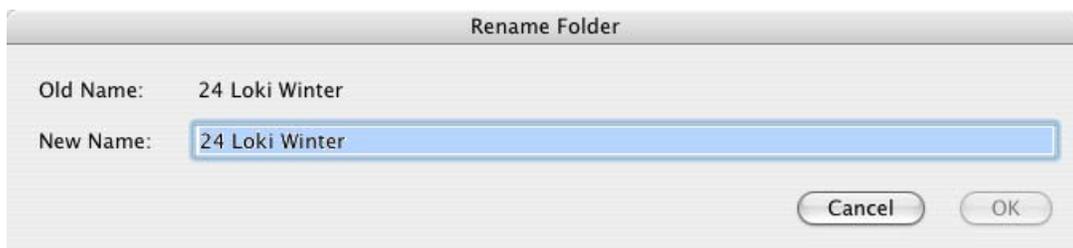


If you want to copy all pictures from a weekend to a folder, you can do this later on in the browser. Click the second day folder and select all pictures in the central area of the browser. Drag the pictures to the day folder of the first day to move them there.

8. Holding down the Control key and click the current day folder on the left-hand side of the browser. The context menu opens. Select **Rename Folder...**



9. The following dialog opens where you can describe the content of the folder with a few keywords next to the date.



If a folder contains pictures from several days, we recommend noting this in the name. In this case, you could change the name to "24-26 Winter Scenes". To load pictures taken on several different days straight from the camera to a folder, you can use the **File / Acquire / Download images from connected camera...** option or select **Download all images into selected folder** in the selection dialog. In both cases, you need to create the target folder manually in the file selection dialog and then select it in the file selection dialog.

If you want to display the pictures from an existing folder in the browser, you can drag this folder from the Mac OS onto the GraphicConverter icon or select the required folder in GraphicConverter with **File / Browse Folder...**

The selected folder is displayed in the left-hand column as a file tree. If you click another folder, its contents will be displayed in the center area.

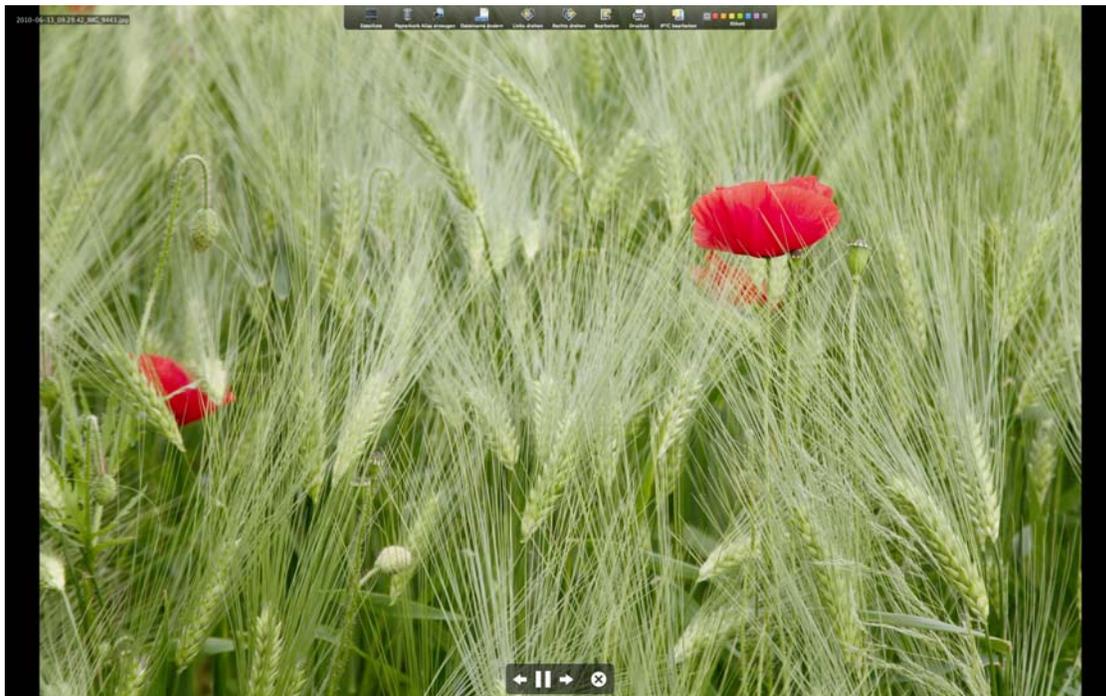
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10. If you have taken pictures in portrait format and your camera does not have a position sensor, these pictures will be turned the wrong way in the browser. Click all pictures that have to be turned counterclockwise and click the Turn left icon in the toolbar. The pictures will then be rotated. You can use the same procedure for the pictures that have to be turned clockwise by clicking the Turn right icon.



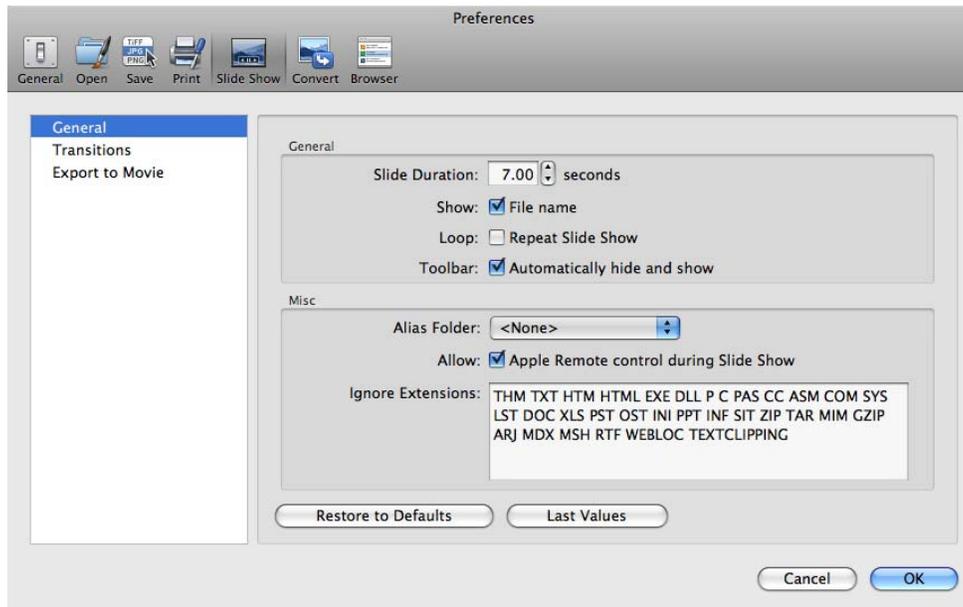
One strength of GraphicConverter is the possibility to turn pictures in the browser via the context menu in 90-degree steps without losses because the pictures are not opened and saved again with losses in quality. GraphicConverter only changes the information for the alignment in the image file. iPhoto does have a faster option for this, but only rotates the preview.

11. Firstly, you will probably want to view your pictures. The slide show option in GraphicConverter is ideal for this. Click one of the preview pictures in the middle and select all pictures with Command-A. Now click the icon for the **Slideshow** in the toolbar above the preview pictures. GraphicConverter shows the pictures one after the other in a full screen view. When you move the mouse, the controls will be displayed in the lower middle section of the screen.



12. The path and filename are shown at the top left. You can hide this information by ending the slideshow with the Escape key and selecting **GraphicConverter /**

Preferences (under Classic: **Edit** instead of **GraphicConverter**) to open the following dialog. Select **Slideshow / General**.



13. Under **General**, disable the **Show: File name** options and click **OK**.

14. Start the slideshow again by selecting all pictures and clicking the slideshow icon. The browser window will appear again after the final picture.

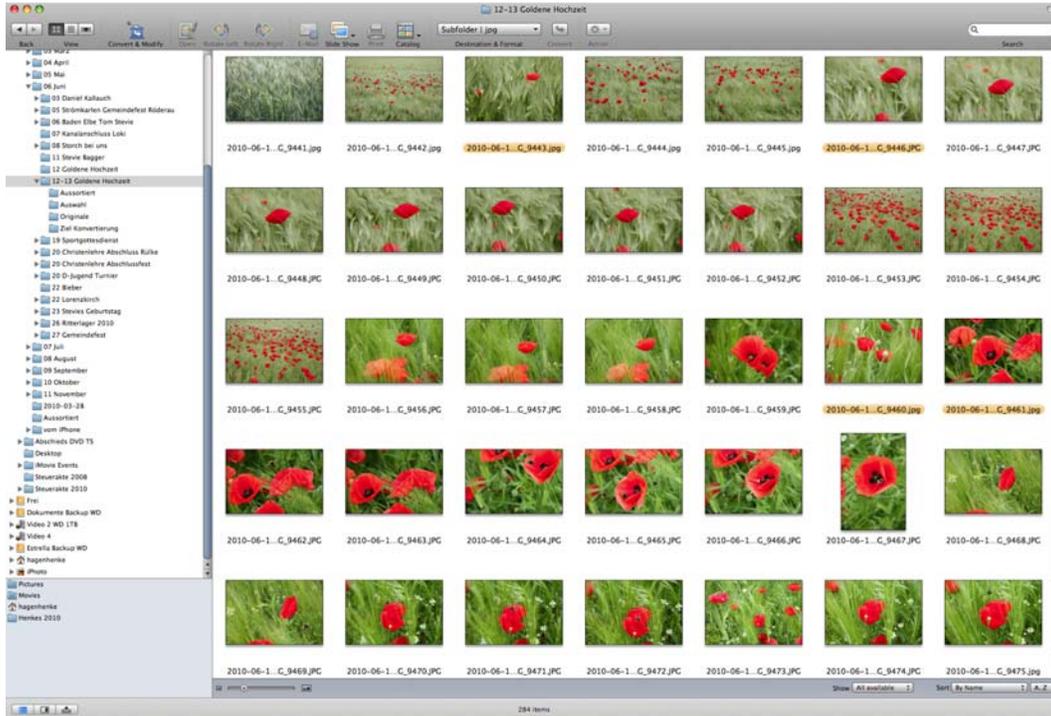
15. The right-hand side of the browser window can be hidden to create more space for the preview pictures. Click onto the middle one of the three icons in the lower left section of the browser.

The right-hand area of the browser is hidden and a palette with the picture currently selected in the preview area appears in its place. You can click the preview palette at the bottom right with the mouse and enlarge or reduce it as required.

16. Click the icon again to close the preview palette. Now delete any poor pictures that you do not want to keep. Click the pictures and delete the files with Command-Backspace.

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17. Scale down the thumbnails with the control in the lower left part of the browser so you get a better overview.

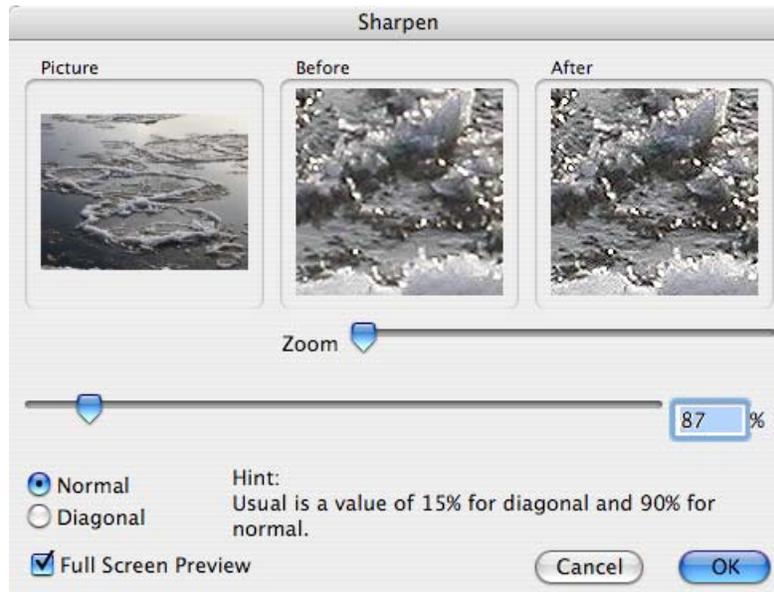


18. Open one of your pictures by double-clicking the preview in the preview area of the browser. If necessary, optimize the brightness and contrast with **Picture / Brightness/ Contrast...** or correct any red eyes as described in workshop 2.

Pictures from digital cameras almost always need slightly more contrast and brightness. The basic setting for the contrast in the cameras is relatively low so that you can see as many details as possible in the light and dark areas of the picture.

19. It is often worthwhile adjusting the sharpness of the pictures with **Effect / Sharpen Edges**. We recommend values between 8 and 90 depending on the picture. For a precise

preview, you should select 100% as the zoom level beforehand. Switch the **Full Screen Preview** option on and off after each new value so you can see the effect of sharpening.



Once the pictures have been optimized, you should save them in a lossless format like TIFF format. Quite often you may want to make changes later on. If you save your pictures over and over again in JPG format, they lose a little quality as the file is compressed each time with losses. This even applies to a certain extent with quality level 100%.

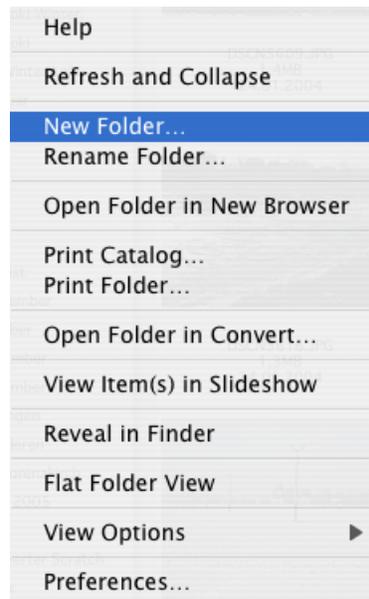
20. If you edit all or almost all pictures from a folder, we recommend creating a new folder where you can save the edited pictures. To avoid confusion, you should also copy the pictures that have not been edited to this folder.

If you only edit individual pictures, you can save the edited pictures in the source folder and leave the originals there or place them in a subfolder called "Originals".

21. Let us presume you will edit all pictures slightly. Create a new folder via the context menu by Control-clicking the day folder. Select **New Folder...** from the context menu that opens. Use the name of the day folder as the name and add a ".t" to indicate that the folder contains edited versions in TIFF format. Whenever you want to edit pictures, always use the edited picture in TIFF format. If you take a lot of pictures, you can also use

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JPG format instead of TIFF format to save on hard drive space. Select the value 98 as the quality level in the JPG options by clicking **Options** when you save files.

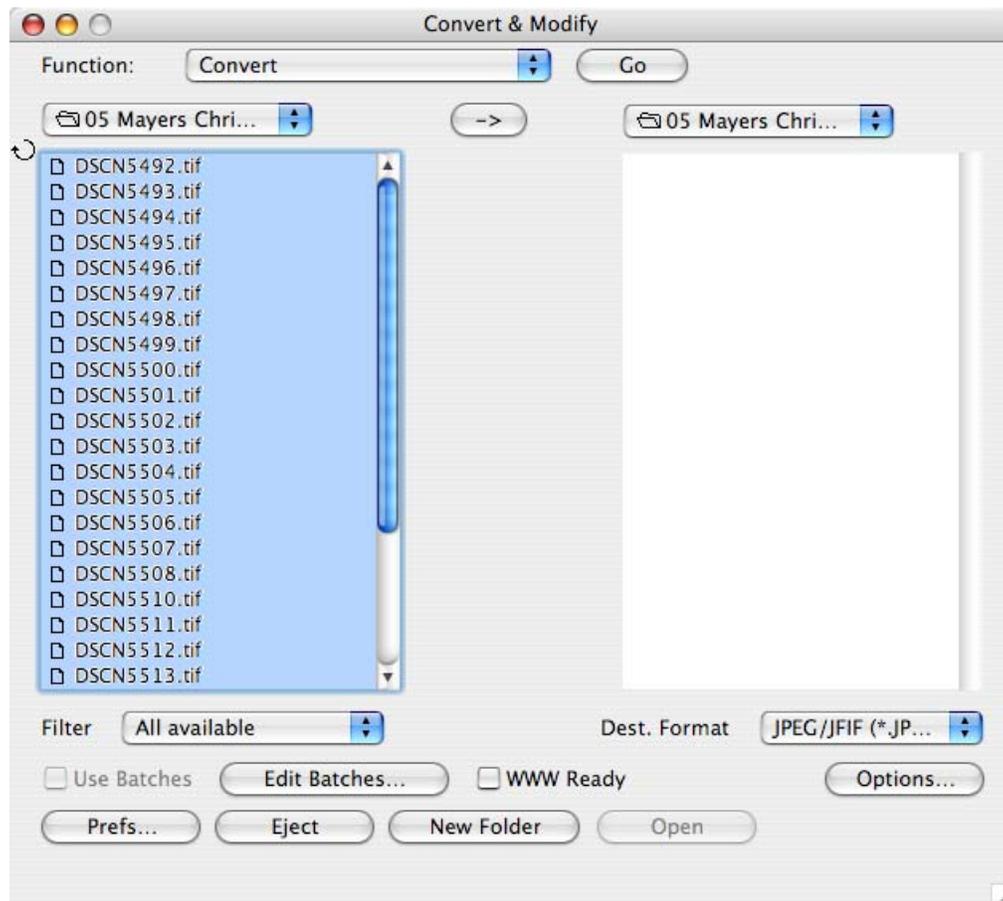


If you now want to start a slideshow of the original picture files, you should make sure that you do not also select the subfolder you just created as the pictures in the subfolder will also be displayed. Simply select the first picture in the browser and Shift-click the last picture. Alternatively you can select all pictures and remove the folder from the selection with a Command-click.

22. Once you have optimized all of the pictures and saved them in the TIFF folder, you can save other versions of the pictures in JPG format in the final step. This is useful for saving space on the hard drive because, after backup on CD, for example, you can delete the folder with the TIFF pictures from the hard drive and will then still have optimized versions of all pictures at hand whenever you want to send them by e-mail or print them. This step is not necessary if you have already saved the edited pictures in JPG format.

Create a new folder in the day folder via the context menu giving it the same name as the day folder, but with the ".tj" extension. "tj" stands for TIFF JPG since these are the JPG versions made from the TIFF pictures.

23. Select **File / Convert....** The Convert dialog opens that you can enlarge using the bottom right-hand corner. 24. Select **Convert** in the top pop-up menu and disable the **WWW Ready** option.

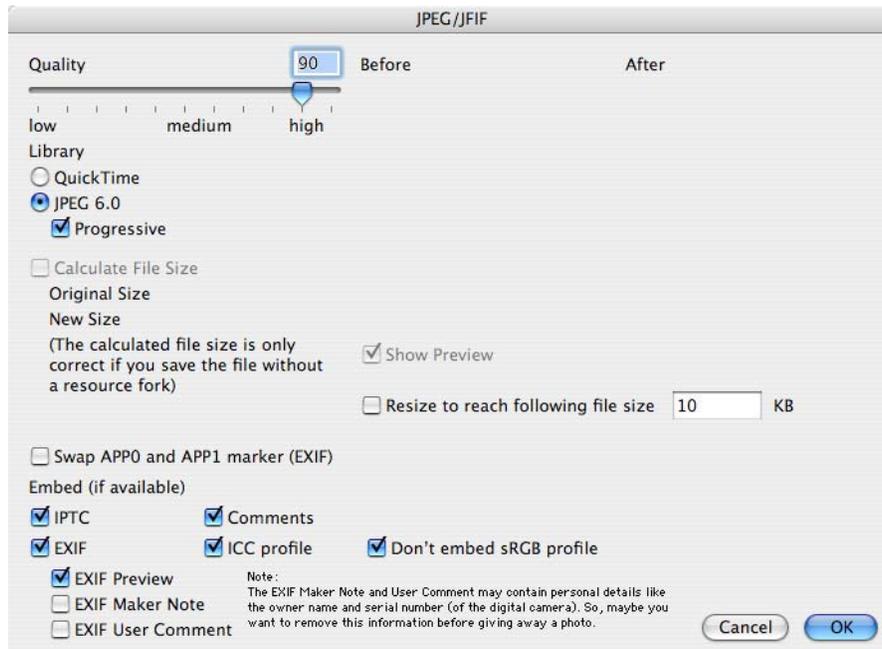


25. Open the source folder with the TIFF pictures in the left-hand file window. Click the button with the arrow between the two pop-up menus to transfer the path for the left-hand file window. This will normally allow you to select the target folder more quickly via the pop-up menu.

26. To select the pictures, click one of the files and then select all by pressing Command-A. Note that the first click only selects the file window when you change to the other file window. You can only select a file with the next click. This is necessary so that when you click the New Folder button it is clear in which file window you want to create the folder.

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27. Select **JPEG** as the target format and click the **Options...** button under the format pop-up. JPEG is the long form of JPG. A dialog opens where you can set the quality to 98.



In this dialog, a preview picture is not shown under **Before** or **After** since several pictures are being processed.

28. Now click the **Convert** button to start the multiple conversion. Each picture will take a few seconds and then you're finished.

If you are using a camera with 4 megapixels and about 35 shots, the new picture folder with the two subfolders normally fits on a 700MB blank CD. Burn a CD or DVD or save the pictures on another durable medium.

Give the media systematic names such as "Digi Backup 0001" so that you can find your media quickly using a catalogue program like "FindIt" or in your archive boxes. We recommend setting the speed to 8X when burning CDs because the laser reaches the highest temperature at this speed and the data is burnt onto the CD better in this way.

You can select a speed of 4X for DVDs without any problems. Eight times speed is not recommended for DVDs yet. Protect your burnt CDs and DVDs against sunlight and dirt. Avoid touching the underside.

Test the media you have created before you delete the folder with the TIFF versions from your hard drive. We do not advise deleting the original files at this point even after making a backup because the original files do not take up much space on the hard drive.

Workshop 6

An Album for the Internet

Do you like taking pictures? Have you ever tried showing your best pictures on the Internet? GraphicConverter will help you with its automatic catalog option. When you are working with images of people and works of art, please observe the respective legal regulations in your country.

The first snow of winter starts to fall, you grab your digital camera and head out to take some pictures. You then return to your computer room with a cold index finger and postcard-like shots. Optimize and archive your pictures as described in the first workshops and then learn about the catalog option in GraphicConverter in this workshop.

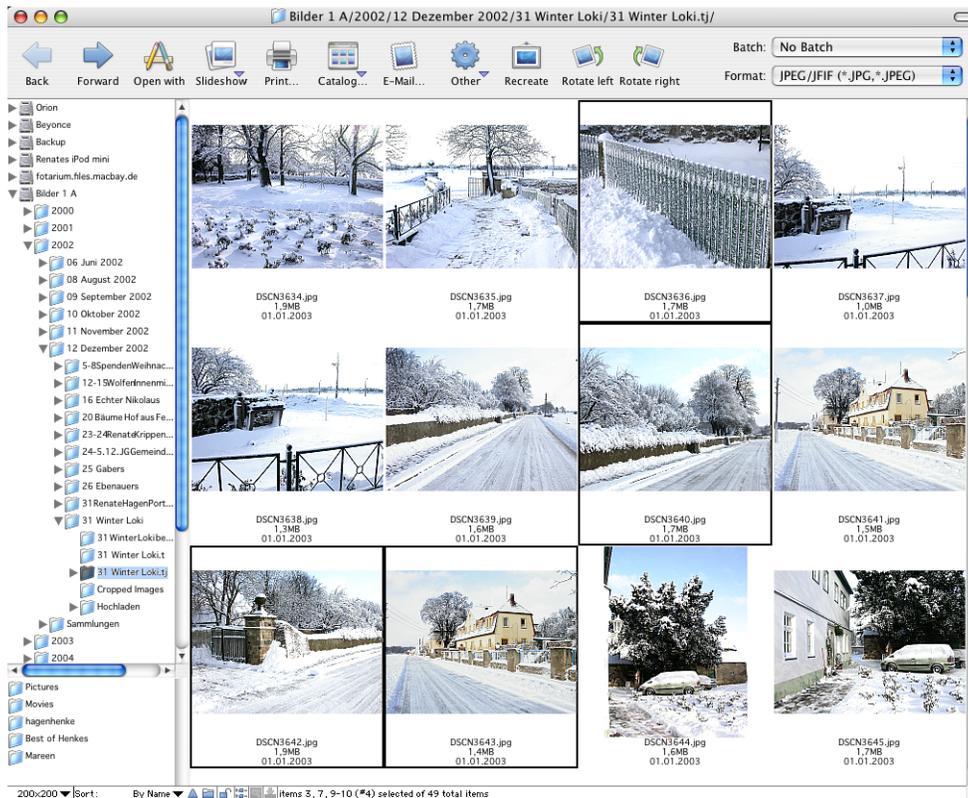
Choosing the Best Pictures

Choose the best shots from your pictures. Keep the number of pictures to a reasonable level if you want to make a impression on the viewer. The browser and slideshow in GraphicConverter will help you to pick out pictures.

1. Open GraphicConverter and drag a folder containing finished edited pictures from your digital camera or scanned pictures onto the GraphicConverter program icon.

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According to our filing system, the folder with digital pictures should have a name ending with “.tj”. A browser window displaying the pictures opens.



2. Before you start sorting, you create a destination folder. If your day folder is called “31 Winter Scenes”, for example, create a new folder called something like “31 Winter Scenes best of”. Hold down the Control key and click the day folder. Then select **New Folder** from the context menu. The result should be as follows:



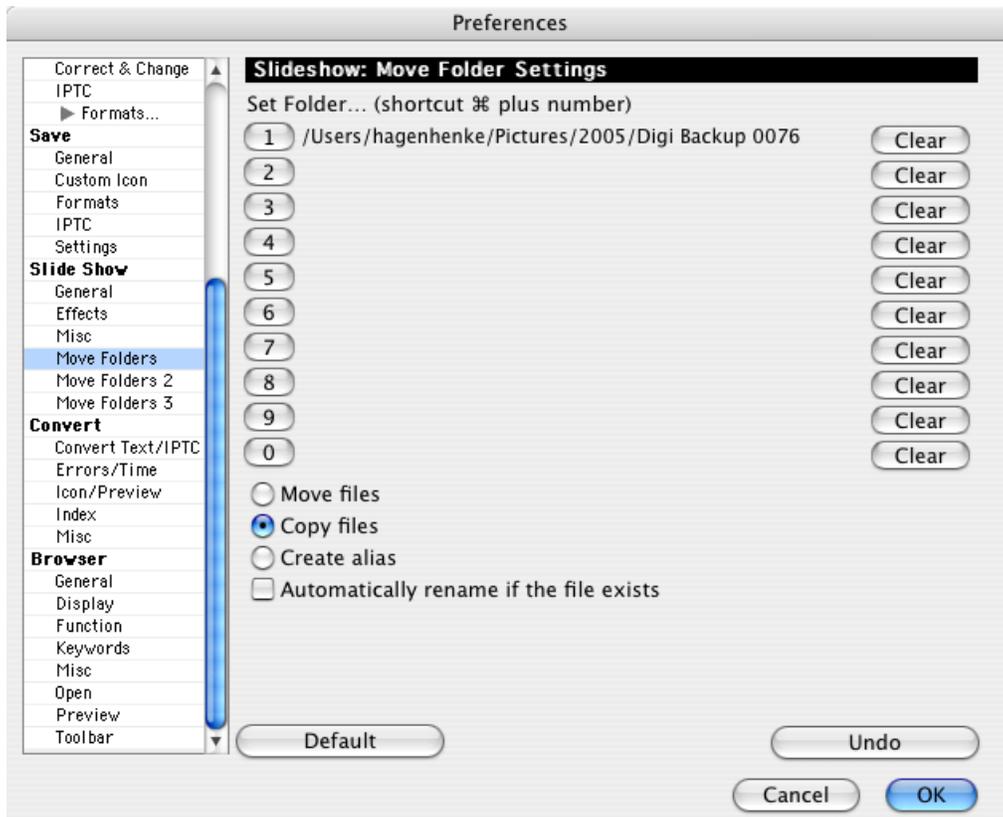
3. If some pictures are very similar, you should use the slideshow for sorting as described in step 4. If you can also make a selection using the preview pictures, select the best pictures by Ctrl-clicking. Shift-click selects consecutive pictures from the first one selected to the next one you click. Now hold down the Option key and drag the selected pictures to the new target folder on the left hand side of the browser. As in the operating system, the pictures are copied and not moved. The advantage of this is that the structure of your picture archive on the hard drive is not changed.

If a new folder does not appear on the left-hand side of the browser, Ctrl-click one of the folders and select “Refresh and Collapse” from the context menu.

4. If you have taken several shots of the same scene or person, it is often difficult to pick out the best one in the browser. In this case, we recommend using the slideshow to sort

pictures. If you press one of the number keys 1, 2, 3 etc. during the slideshow, the current picture will be moved to the folder assigned to that key.

Select **GraphicConverter / Preferences** or, under Classic Mac OS **Edit / Preferences**. Click **Slide Show / Move Folders** on the left-hand side of the dialog that opens. The **Set Folder 1** button opens the file selection dialog where you can select the target folder you created, in our example, "31 Winter Scenes best of". Enable the **Copy files** option to keep the original structure.



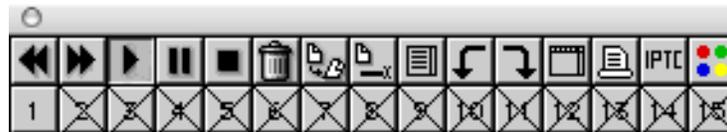
If you do not have much space on your hard drive, you can also move the files. In this case, we recommend creating a backup on a CD, for example. Close the dialog with **OK**.

5. On the left-hand side under **Slide Show**, click **Misc** and enable the **Show move folders** option.

6. Start the slideshow by selecting the pictures in the browser and clicking the **Slideshow** icon in the top toolbar. The slide show displays the pictures as large as possible. GraphicConverter displays the options for controlling the slide show at the bottom left of the screen. Pressing the "1" key or also "Command-1" copies or moves the current picture to the previously selected folder depending on the preferences. If you would rather work with the mouse, you can click the "1" button on the bottom line to

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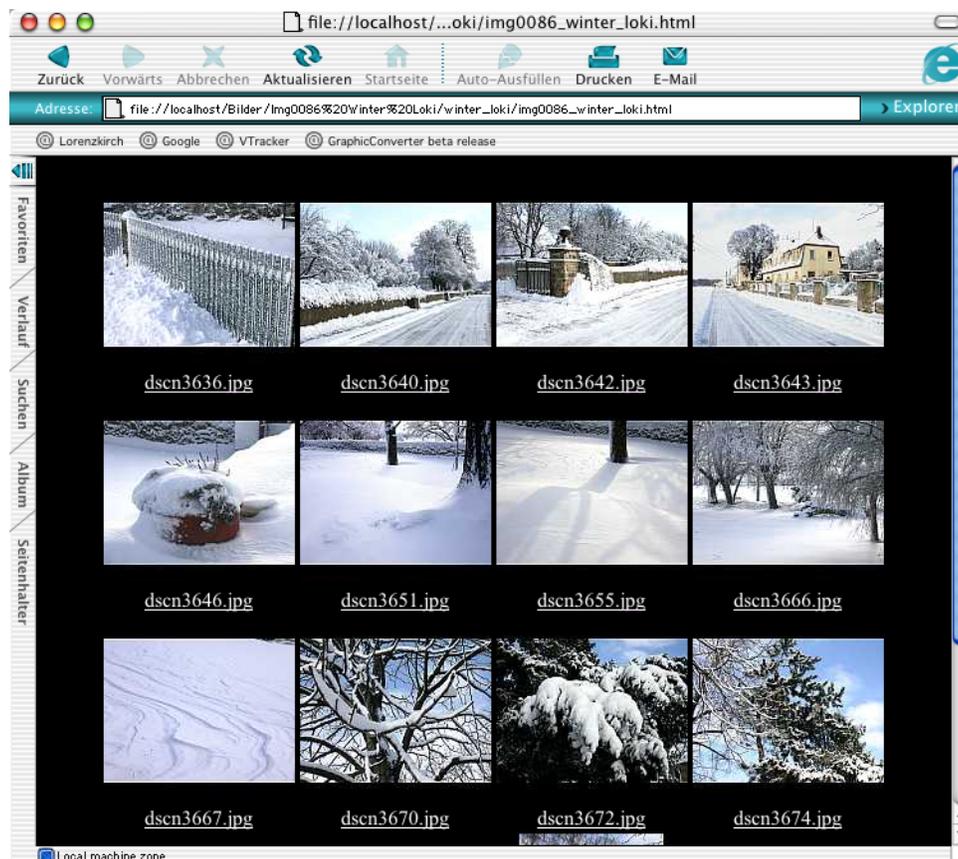
copy or move the picture to the destination folder. The buttons 11 and higher are for the folders that you specified in the **Move Folders 2** preferences dialog.



Hold the mouse cursor over the buttons briefly to find out their function. The angled arrows are particularly useful as they rotate pictures. If you press the Alt key at the same time, the pictures will turn temporarily.

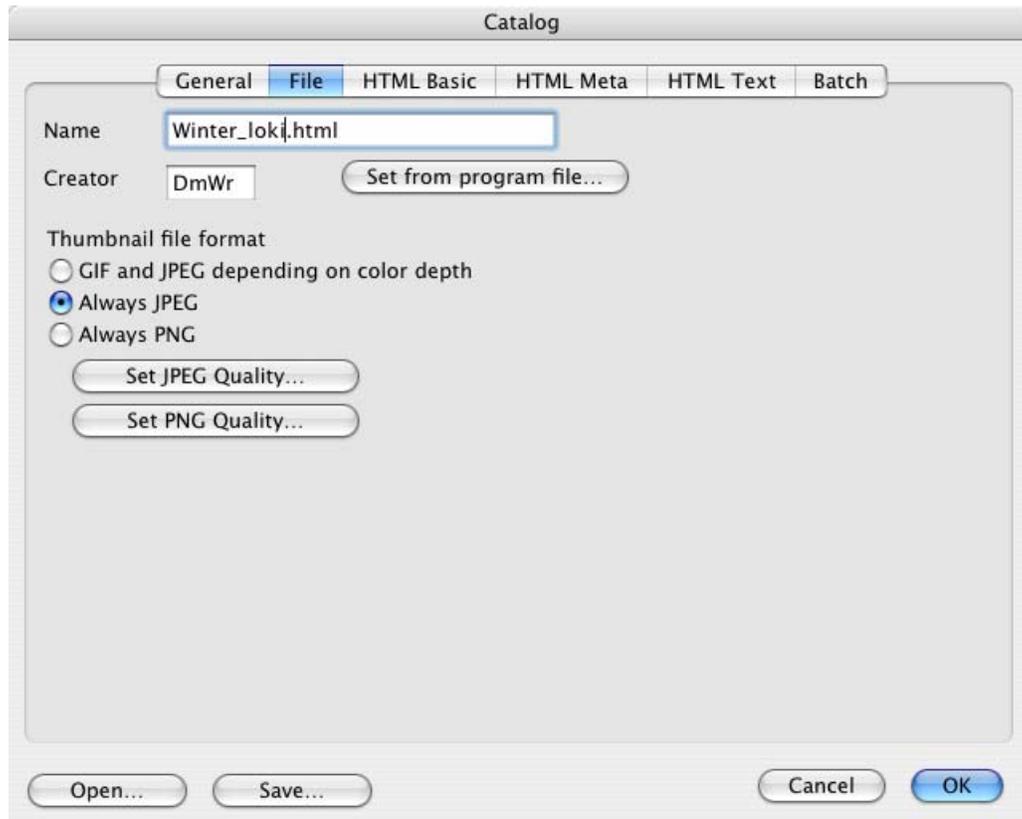
Getting onto the Internet

The catalog option in GraphicConverter creates HTML pages with small preview pictures. When you see this kind of page in an Internet browser, you can click one of the pictures to display it full size.



The linked large picture will often not fit in the browser window display area, but this is not a problem as it is mainly intended for download. Start the download using the context menu in the Internet browser. Visitors to your Web site can print out the downloaded pictures or have them developed by a photo lab.

1. To create this kind of catalog, select all pictures in the “31 Winter Scenes best of” folder of the GraphicConverter browser. Click a picture and press Command-A to select all pictures. You can cancel the selection with the Escape key. Click the **Catalog** icon in the toolbar and select **HTML** from the pop-up menu that opens. The dialog for creating catalogs opens where you should enter “Winter_Loki.html” as the name for the page with the preview pictures on the **File** tab. Place a link to this page on your homepage once you have finished.



2. Select **Always JPEG** as the format for the preview as this format is used very frequently. Click **Set JPEG quality...**. A dialog with JPEG settings opens. Set the quality to the value **50 (middle)**.

3. On the **General** tab, enter 3 pictures per line and 10 per column or a few more if you have a large amount of pictures. If all of the pictures do not fit on the preview page,

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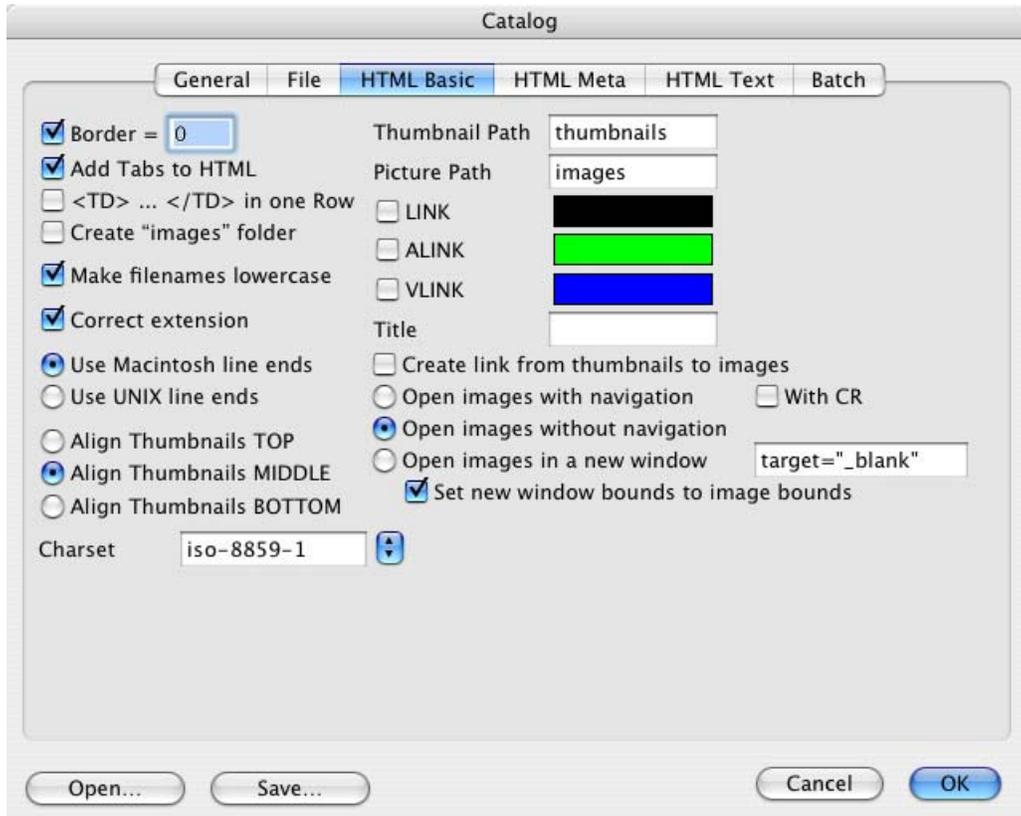
GraphicConverter will automatically create further preview pages and add navigation links between the pages.



4. Under **Thumbnail**, enter 250 pixels as the width or height of the preview pictures. The width applies to landscape format pictures and the height to portrait format pictures. You will only get an even grid for displaying the previews if you enter the same value in both boxes and enable the **Make Square** option.

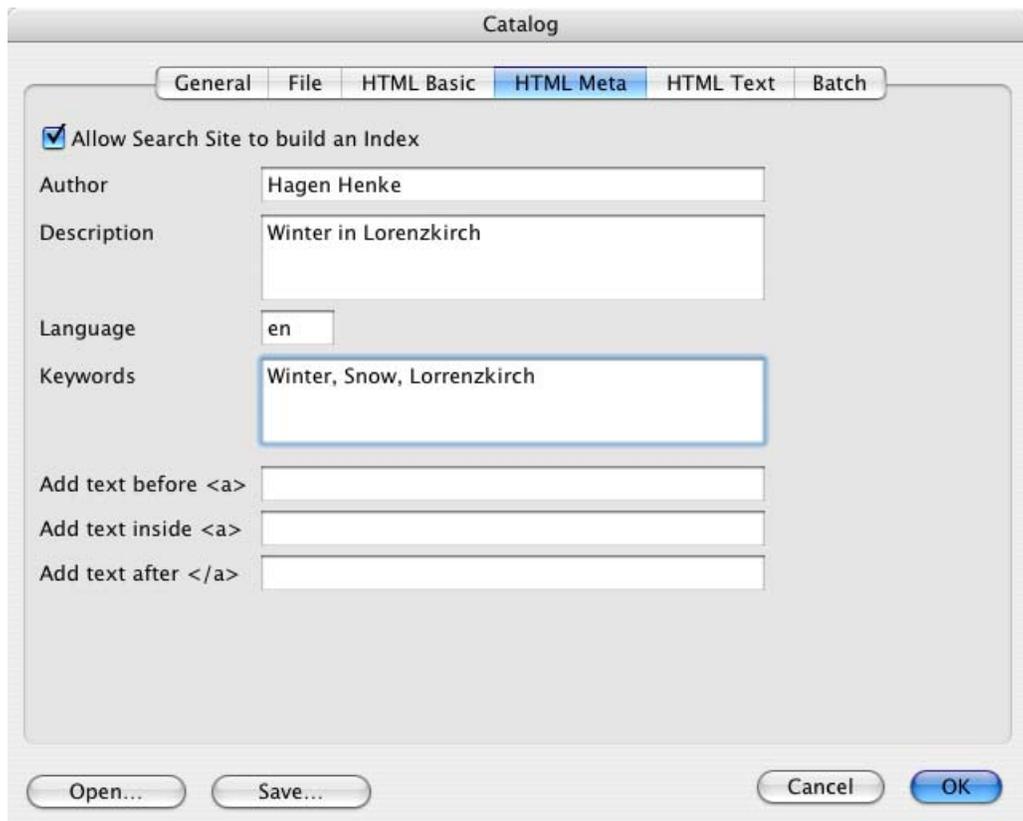
You should leave the **Sharpen** option enabled as the preview pictures will otherwise be too blurred.

5. Click the HTML Basic tab. You can set details for your Web sites in this dialog. Leave all settings as they are. You can find out how the various options work in my manual on GraphicConverter.



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6. Switch to the **HTML Meta** tab. Enable the **Allow Search Site to build an Index** option if you want your page to be found using search engines.



7. Enter yourself as the **Author** and write a short **Description** of the page using a maximum of 15 words. This limit also applies to the **Keywords** which describe your page. Search engines like www.google.com, however, only use the first words that are visible on the Web site and need up to 10 months to add newly registered sites in their directories. Close the dialog with **OK**.

8. The file selection dialog opens where you can create a new folder, for example, in the folder for your Web site. "winter_scenes" from our example could be used as a name. Select this folder and click **Select**. GraphicConverter will now create the HTML pages and preview pictures. The picture files are placed in the "thumbnails" subfolder while the large pictures are copied into the "images" subfolder without any changes.

Copy the "winter_scenes" folder onto your web server and don't forget to add a link to the "winter_scenes.html" page with the previews on your homepage. We recommend using the program "Dreamweaver" from Macromedia for designing Web sites.

Here's one final tip for loading the large pictures via the context menu. Write, for example:

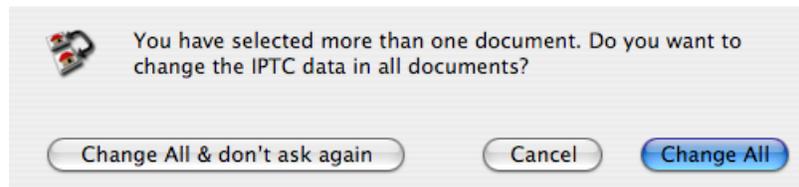
"This is how to load the pictures onto your computer: Click the link under the small pictures so that the picture is displayed large. Under Windows, you open a context menu by right-clicking the picture. In this context menu, select the command for loading the

picture onto your computer. Under Mac OS, open the context menu by Control-clicking the picture.”

Author Information

When you put your pictures on the Internet, it may well happen that a publisher, for example, finds the shots and wants to use them. In this case, it is easier for the publisher to reach you if you include IPTC information with the pictures. The picture is not saved again so there is no loss in quality due to repeated compression. IPTC stands for “International Press Telecommunications Council”, i.e. the body that introduced the standard.

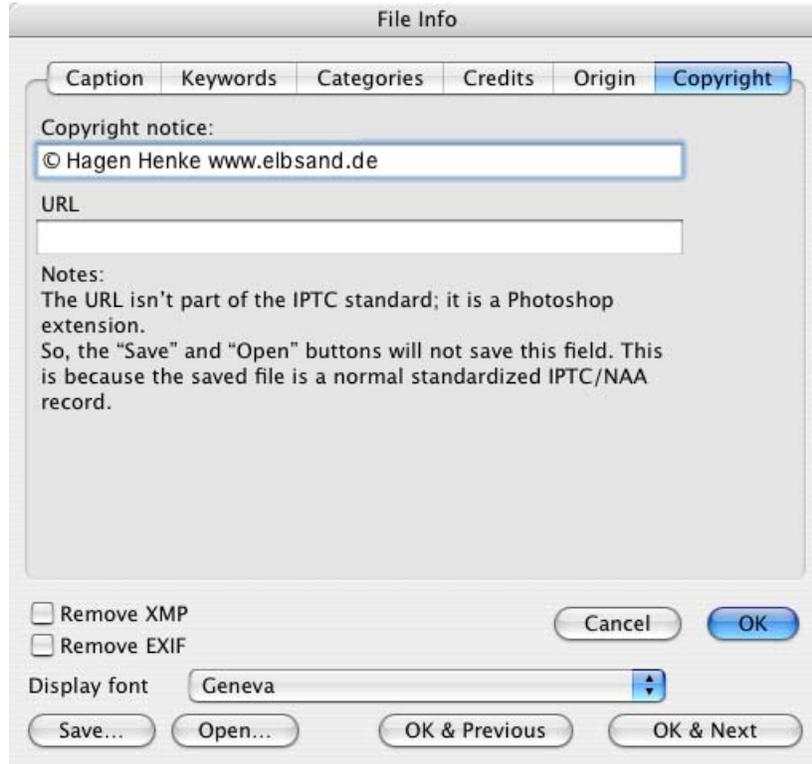
1. Select any number of pictures in the GraphicConverter browser and open the context menu with Ctrl-click. Select “Edit File Info (IPTC)”. You will first be asked whether you want to modify all selected pictures.



2. Click **Change All**. A dialog opens where you should enter yourself on the **Copyright** tab. We recommend entering your own homepage on the **Copyright** tab so anyone interested can quickly obtain your address. The **URL** box is not part of the IPTC standard

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and, apart from GraphicConverter, is only supported by Photoshop. Therefore make sure you enter your URL in the **Copyright** box.



When you make entries in the boxes, in particular on the **Keywords** tab, they will only be set for all selected pictures if the check box for the field is selected. IPTC information can only be added to pictures in JPEG, TIFF and Photoshop (PSD) format.

Workshop 7

Printing and Trimming

Giving friends and relatives pictures on CDs is practical. You no longer have to worry about ordering reprints. But how many people say “wow” when they’re given a home-made CD?

You can still really impress your friends in the digital age, however, by giving them a real picture on real paper. You have already found out how to prepare your pictures in the previous workshops. In this workshop, we will tell you how GraphicConverter can help you hit the big time with your pictures.

Printing your own Pictures

These days inkjet printers are both good and reasonably priced. Color laser printers are also now affordable for home users at around 1000 dollars. In many cases, people who do a lot of printing soon reach the point where the low running costs make the high purchase price of color laser printers relative. This depends greatly on the size of the area printed in color. One factor that is often overlooked is the other service parts in color laser printers like the filters. Normal servicing work can easily cost 1000 to 2000 euros.

When you are deciding between inkjet and laser, you should remember that inkjet printers provide slightly better picture quality, but have more problems with print-outs smudging and fading in the sun. These standard problems have been solved to the greatest extent possible with the Epson C82. Unfortunately this printer does not allow printing without margins, only the Epson “Photo” models have this feature.

In our tests, we used a Canon Pixma 4000 that can print the most common paper formats without margins and, at a retail price of around 130 euros, will not break the bank. The ink prices have been reduced thanks to separate tanks and can be cut even further if you buy cheaper cartridges from other manufacturers. You should always seek good advice when buying replacement cartridges. Poor quality ink can cause permanent damage to the printer heads.

Photo Paper

If you print out a picture on normal paper using an inkjet printer, the colors will mostly turn out too pale. You need special photo paper. However, not all kinds of paper provide the same results with all printers. We therefore recommend testing various types of paper — you may be able to find packages with various samples in good stores. We basically recommend gloss paper. The gloss reflects more light and this brings out the colors better.

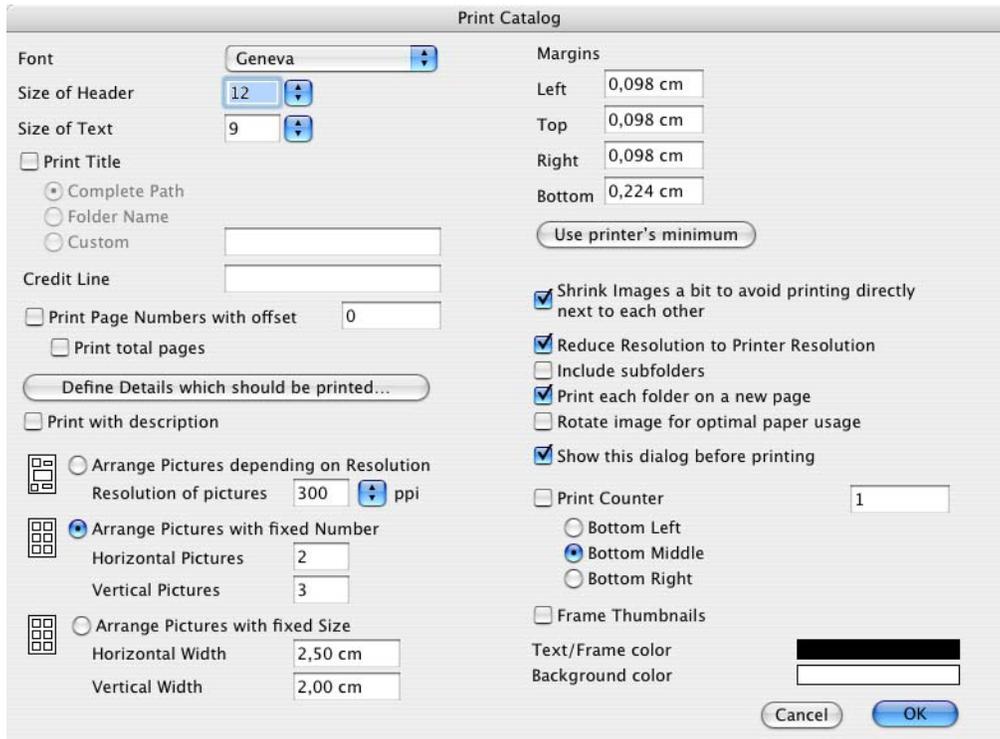
Overview

When you take analog photos, you often receive an index with the prints. These overview cards are very useful when you want to order reprints and as a reference for your own archive. GraphicConverter can print indexes using the **File / Print Catalog...** option or from the browser via the icon.

1. Select **File / Catalog / Print....** A file selection window opens where you can select the picture folder.

Mac OS 9: The print dialog then appears where you should select "GraphicConverter" from the second pop-up menu from the top. The center part of the dialog will now show **GraphicConverter Options...** button. Click this button. A dialog with a variety of settings opens.

Mac OS X: A dialog with a variety of settings opens:



2. Click the **Use printers minimum** button at the top right to transfer the margins from your currently selected printer.

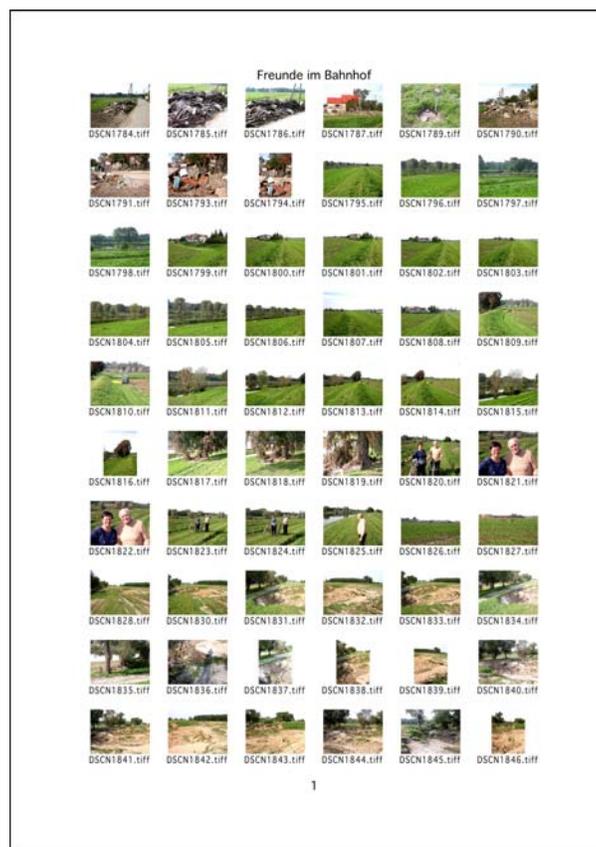
3. The option of printing out a title above the index pictures is particularly important when you are printing catalogs. You can enter the title in the **Customized Title** box once you have enabled **Print Title**. You can print a comment in the **Footer**. If you want to print page numbers, set the **Offset** to 1 or a higher value depending on the catalogs you have already printed out.

4. There are three ways of arranging and setting the size of the pictures: If you select the picture size **depending on resolution**, each picture will be printed in a size as it would appear at the selected resolution on a layout page. It is difficult to judge how large the pictures will be with this option. Therefore use one of the two options described in the following section.

5. Click **Arrange Pictures with fixed Number** to determine how many rows and columns should appear on the page. The size of the pictures is adjusted. If you would rather set the size, select **Arrange Pictures with fixed Size**. The number of lines and columns is then determined from the selected size.

6. The **Include subfolders** option is also important. Enable it if the pictures are to be also printed from subfolders as if they were stored in the selected folder.

7. Click **OK** and then **Preview** or **Print** in the print dialog underneath. A dialog opens indicating the printing progress and also how much space is used on the hard drive. The



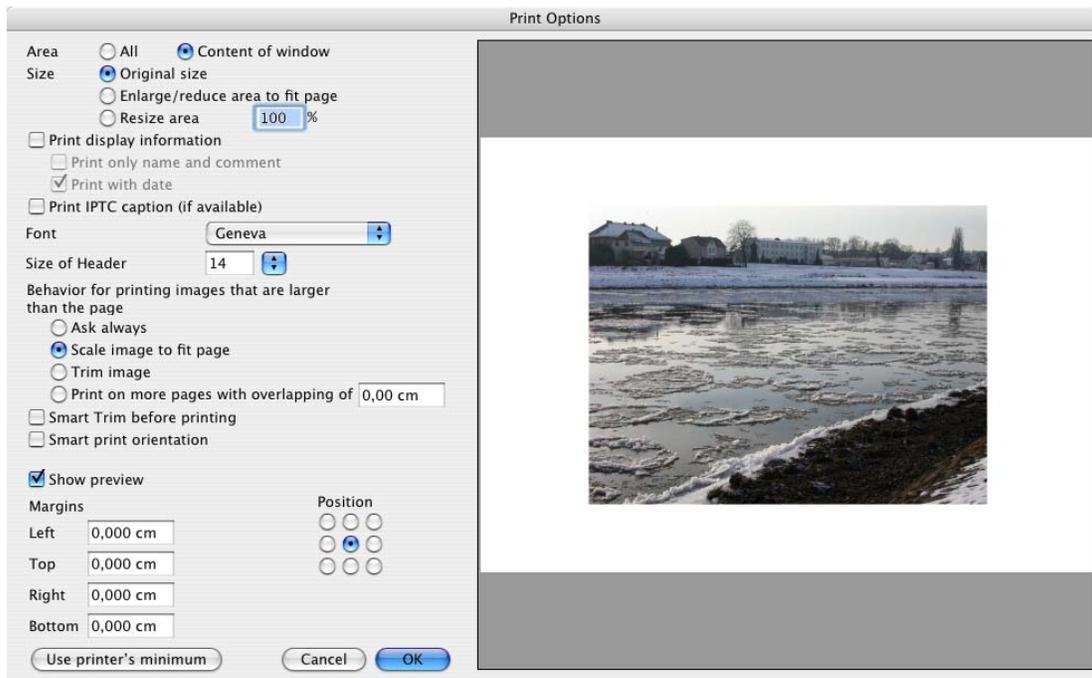
result could be as follows:

When you print out catalogs, large quantities of data are stored temporarily on the hard drive as there is often a large number of pictures. You can select a **scratch folder**, for example, on a different drive with more space for this purpose in the **Preferences** in the **General / Memory** section.

Workshop 7

8. GraphicConverter can also print open pictures separately on one sheet of paper if you do not have time for layout work. Open a picture and select **File / Print**. You can select the position of the picture in the settings dialog. The centered position between all page edges is the default.

9. In the third pop-up menu in the Print dialog, select GraphicConverter and click the **GraphicConverter Options...** button. The following dialog opens where you should click the **Use printer's minimum** to obtain the values for the currently selected printer. At the bottom right, you can select the **Position** by clicking one of the radio buttons. The top left-hand radio button places the image as far to the top left as the printer margins will allow.



Development

As an alternative to printing yourself, you can also send your pictures to a photo service provider for printing on photo paper. The data can often only be uploaded from Macs via a Web site and not using a special program. Some providers have networks of shops and you can simply indicate your local branch in the order and then pick up the prints a few days later to save on postage fees.

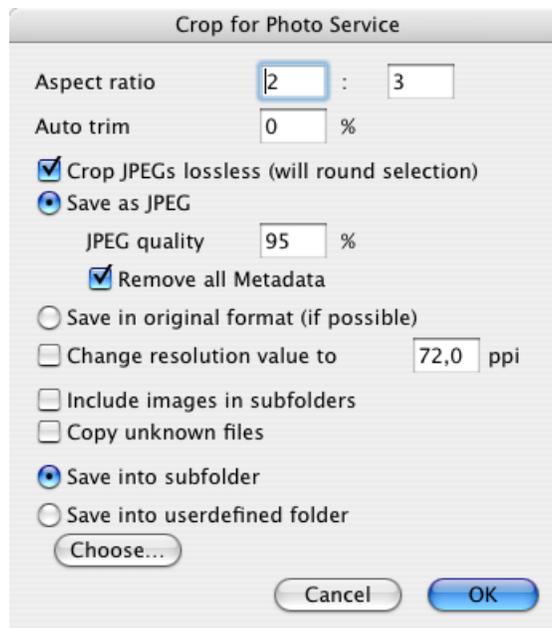
Make sure that your pictures have sufficient resolution for the selected size. Four megapixels are enough for a 20x30 cm print. If you reduce this kind of picture to around half the size using **Picture / Size**, the data quantity is theoretically sufficient for a 10x15 cm print. It is better to allow your pictures a few more pixels.

The developers mostly use laser technology to print on photo paper with a 2:3 format as you will know from small 10x15 cm prints, for example. However, most digital cameras

have a chip that takes pictures with a 3:4 aspect ratio. Many photo labs allow you to choose whether the prints should be trimmed slightly at the top and bottom to fill the paper completely in 2:3 format or whether a white border should be left on the left-hand and right-hand sides so you can crop it yourself later on.

The best way to solve this problem is to trim the pictures to 2:3 format yourself, if possible, before you upload them. GraphicConverter can help you here with the **Crop for Photo Service** option.

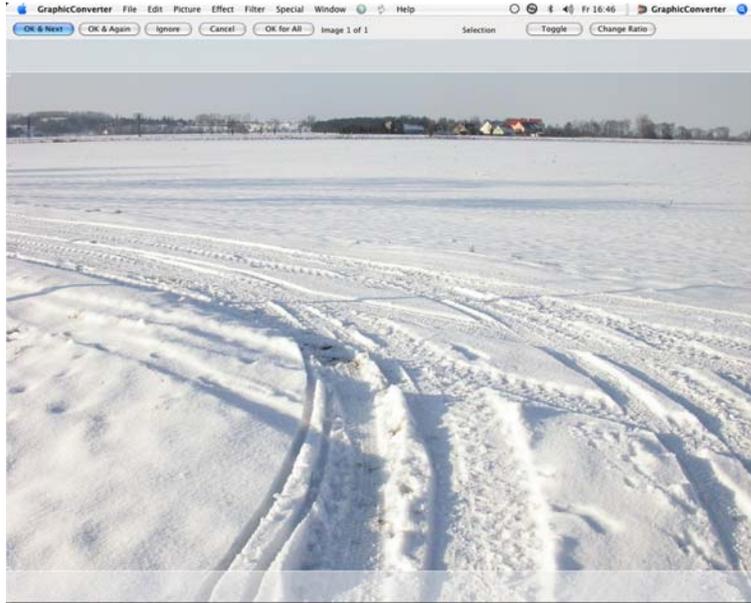
1. Select the pictures to be trimmed in the browser.
2. Open the context menu in the browser preview area by Control-clicking a picture. Select **Export** and then **Crop for Photo Service** in the submenu. A dialog opens where you can make settings for trimming.



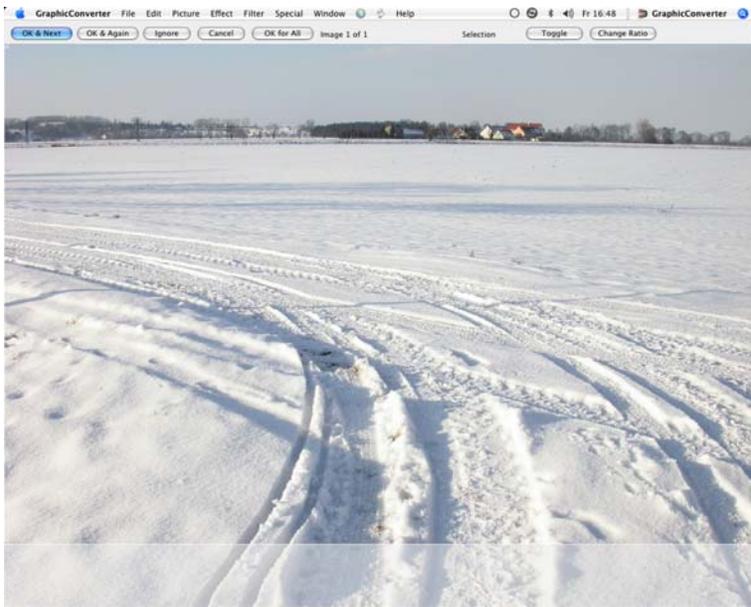
3. Enter 2:3 as the aspect ratio. Please resist the temptation to reduce the JPEG quality of the pictures from about 95 to 76 to make the files smaller and shorten upload times. Tests have shown that the sharpness of pictures deteriorates and JPEG artifacts appear.

Workshop 7

4. Click **OK**. A large dialog will open showing the picture with a vertically centered selection rectangle.



5. Click inside the selection rectangle and, holding down the mouse button, move it up or down to set the section that will be left after cropping. In our example picture, we recommend moving the section right to the top as the sky would otherwise be too low and we do not need all of the foreground.



6. Click **OK & Next** at the top left to continue with the next picture. p 80 The cropped pictures are saved in the "Cropped Images" folder which GraphicConverter automatically creates in the source folder. Send the cropped pictures to the photo service to obtain your prints.

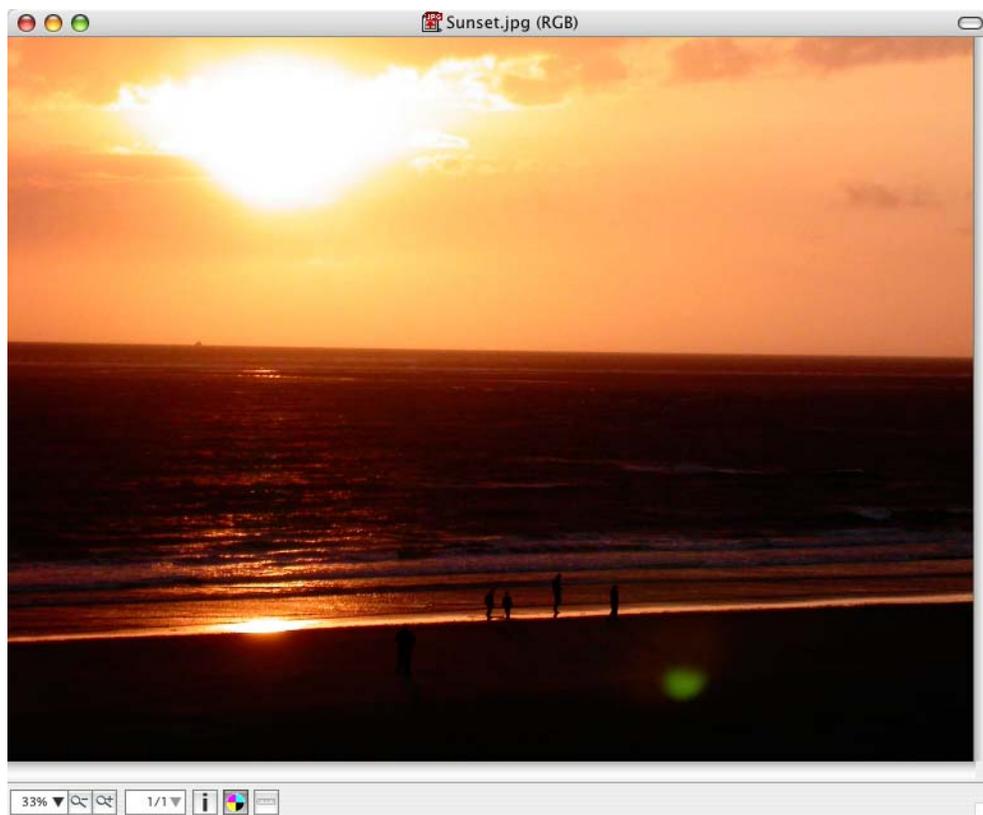
Workshop 8

Rotating and Scanning

Not all pictures come from digital cameras. Scanners will remain the input device of choice for photos and drawings on paper. This workshop will teach you how to import and edit pictures from both sources using GraphicConverter.

GraphicConverter has a very simple option for rotating pictures that have been taken at a slight angle. If you have the original photo, you should place it in the scanner turned slightly so that the horizon or a vertical wall on a house is straight. If the picture was taken with a digital camera, however, you can only edit it on the computer.

1. Open our example picture "Sunset.JPG" in GraphicConverter.



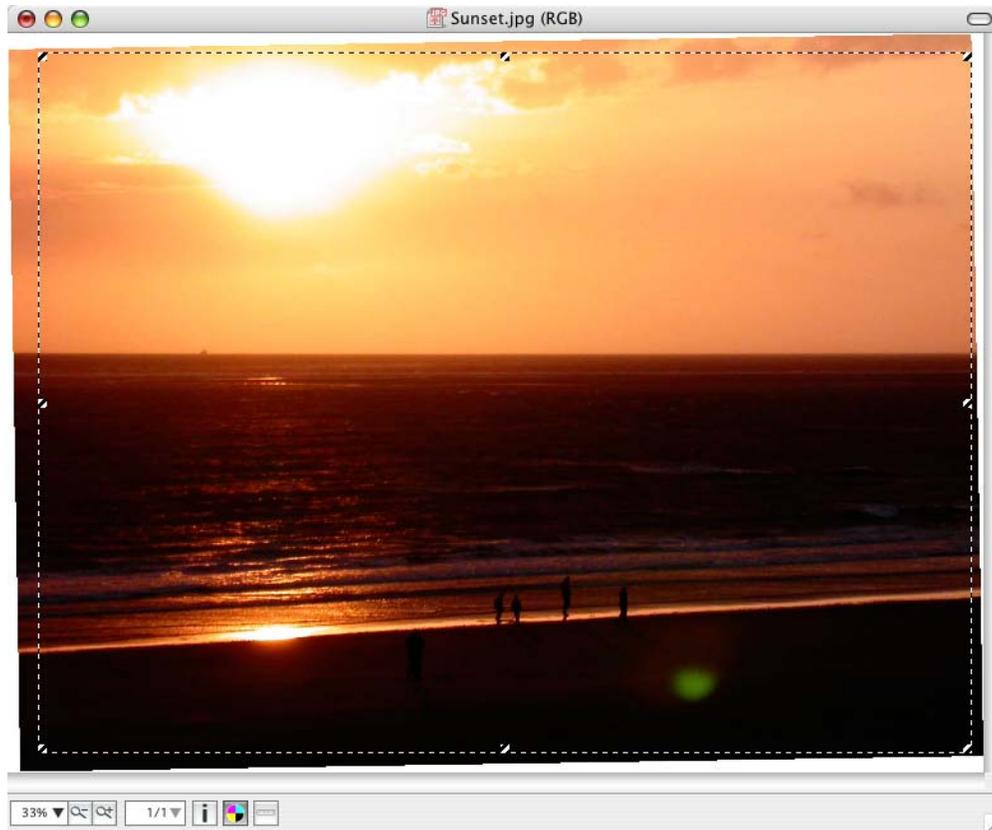
2. Select **Picture / Rotate / Other Value with Line**. The mouse cursor turns into a cross with which you should click the left end of the line between the sea and sky. Hold down the mouse and drag a helper line along the horizon as far as possible to the right. The picture will be rotated as soon as you release the mouse button.

This may take a while depending on the size of the file. If you want to straighten a picture with a house, drag the helper line along the crooked side of the house from top to bottom. Horizontal lines on houses are only suitable if the house was photographed head on without distortions and thus without a perspective. As this is almost never the case, you should always work with the vertical lines on buildings. GraphicConverter always turns the picture towards the closer 90-degree step.

Workshop 8

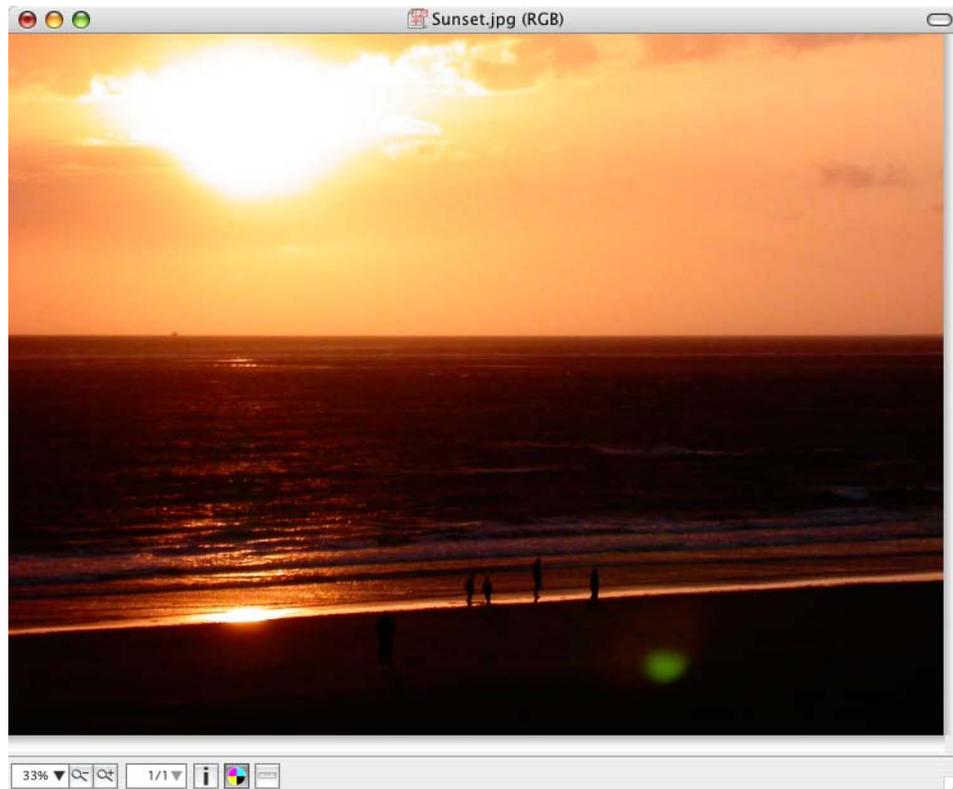
In our example, the result is a picture with a straightened horizon. The slightly diagonal line on the beach may seem slightly crooked, but this is an optical illusion. This effect is increased due to the slight distortion from the wide-angle lens: The horizontal line is in fact not absolutely straight.

3. In the next step, another section needs to be selected as the sides of the picture are now at an angle and you can see white edges around the outside. Click the selection tool at the top right of the toolbox and drag open a roughly centered rectangle as in the following picture.



4. You can adjust the size using the handles if necessary and move it around anywhere when you click along the lines of the rectangle between the handles.

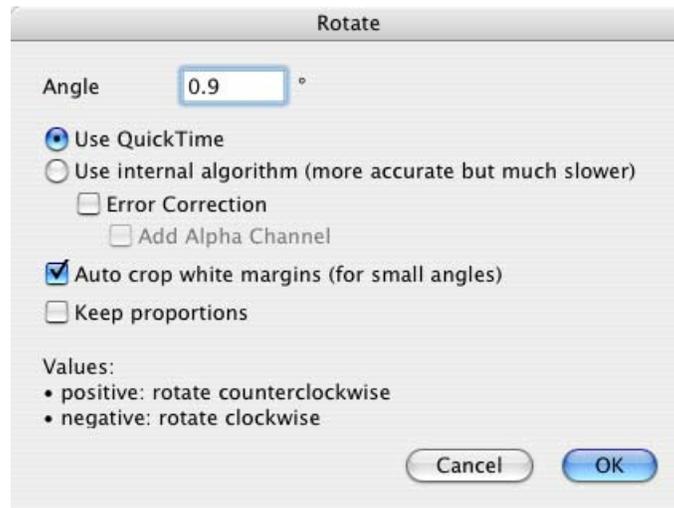
5. Now trim the picture by double-clicking inside the rectangle or pressing Return.



6. Save the picture in a lossless format like TIFF by selecting it from the Format pop-up menu in the file selection dialog and burn the file onto a CD or DVD when you get the chance.

GraphicConverter also supports rotating by 90 or 180 degrees or any angle you enter. In the browser, JPG pictures can be rotated without losses using the context menu or with the corresponding icons in the top toolbar.

The **Other Value with Line...** option does not directly open the dialog for rotating as the three periods would normally indicate. The dialog opens once you draw the helper line.



In this dialog, you can read the angle resulting from the helper line you dragged and you can choose whether QuickTime or a GraphicConverter algorithm should be used. Rotating with the algorithm takes considerably longer, but provides better results that can be further improved with the “Error Correction” option.

The “Add Alpha Channel” option adds an alpha channel to the picture containing the picture as a mask without the added corners. This alpha channel, for example, be used in layout programs to hide the corners.

Automatic trimming only works with small angles. Enable **Keep proportions** if the trimmed picture should have the same aspect ratio as the original picture. The more you turn, the smaller the trimmed picture will be.

In low resolution pictures with 72 dpi, for example, step effects occur on edges after rotating. It is better to leave these kinds of picture crooked or to enlarge the image first with the “S-Spline” program that adds the missing pixels with intelligent edge recognition. You can rotate pictures enlarged in this way with GraphicConverter without a step effect occurring on the edges.

Scanning

GraphicConverter supports scanning via the TWAIN interface and using Photoshop plug-ins. In both cases, the picture is opened immediately in GraphicConverter after scanning and can then be edited. Almost all scanners support both methods.

TWAIN

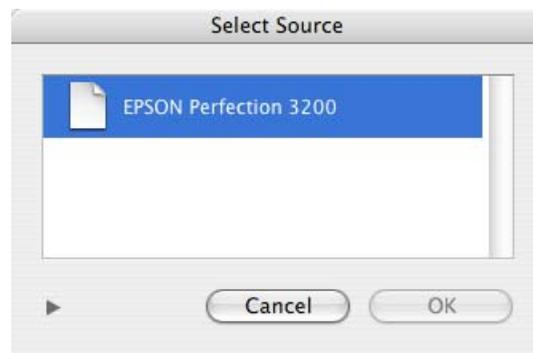
Classic Mac OS: You will need to use the “Install TWAIN Support 1.7” program to install TWAIN data and then restart your computer if you want to use GraphicConverter in the Classic Mac OS to scan via the TWAIN interface. The installer can be loaded from the following Web site:

http://www.lemkesoft.com/en/graphdownld_en.htm

Mac OS X: TWAIN installation for the Mac OS is not necessary as the TWAIN software is integrated in the Carbon version of GraphicConverter.

In Classic Mac OS and Mac OS X: Install the software for your scanner and select installation of the TWAIN software if this option is available. The TWAIN software is normally installed automatically with the software. Often it is worthwhile downloading the latest version of the driver from the manufacturer’s Web site.

1. In GraphicConverter, select **File / Acquire / TWAIN Open Source...** A dialog listing all installed scanners is displayed. Click the required scanner and close the dialog.



2. Open your scanner software with **File / Acquire / TWAIN Acquire...** or with Command-T. The picture will be opened in GraphicConverter after scanning.

If there are any problems, you can disable the **Close TWAIN Source after end of scan** or **Ask TWAIN driver for color table** options in the GraphicConverter preferences in the **General / Plug-ins** section.

Plug-in

Classic Mac OS: If you are working with the PPC version of GraphicConverter under Classic Mac OS, copy or install scanner plug-ins in the “Plug-ins” folder located in the GraphicConverter folder.

Mac OS X: In Mac OS X, plug-ins should be copied to the **Library / Application Support / GraphicConverter** folder. If the plug-ins should only be available to one user

on your system, install them to this path: **Users / ~ / Library / Application Support / GraphicConverter / Plug-ins**. The tilde character ~ stands for the name of the user. You can only use carbon plug-ins, however. Restart GraphicConverter before using the plug-in.

Some scanner drivers only install their plug-in in the corresponding Photoshop folder: **Adobe Photoshop 7 / Plug-Ins / Import/Export**. Simply copy the plug-in from there into the corresponding folder in GraphicConverter.

Starting Scanning

1. Select **File / Import** and then **TWAIN Acquire...** or your scanner plug-in from the submenu. Your scanner software opens so you scan your picture.

2. You should always sharpen your picture slightly after scanning. Only professional scanners provide sufficient sharpness so that resharpening is not really necessary. Select **Effect / Sharpen Edges...**

3. You should also take a critical look at the brightness and contrast. Increasing the contrast by around 7 to 17 is almost always worthwhile with pictures from digital cameras. You should be extremely careful with the contrast on scanned pictures. You normally do not need to increase it. If your scanned pictures seem low contrast, you should increase the contrast slightly in the scan program.

Sometimes a picture is too bright without it being immediately noticeable. If you are unsure, it is therefore worthwhile reducing the brightness in the **Picture / Brightness/ Contrast...** dialog by trial and error. In some cases, it may happen that a picture appears too bright, but is actually too dark or vice versa. Therefore try not only brightening, but also darkening with problematic pictures.

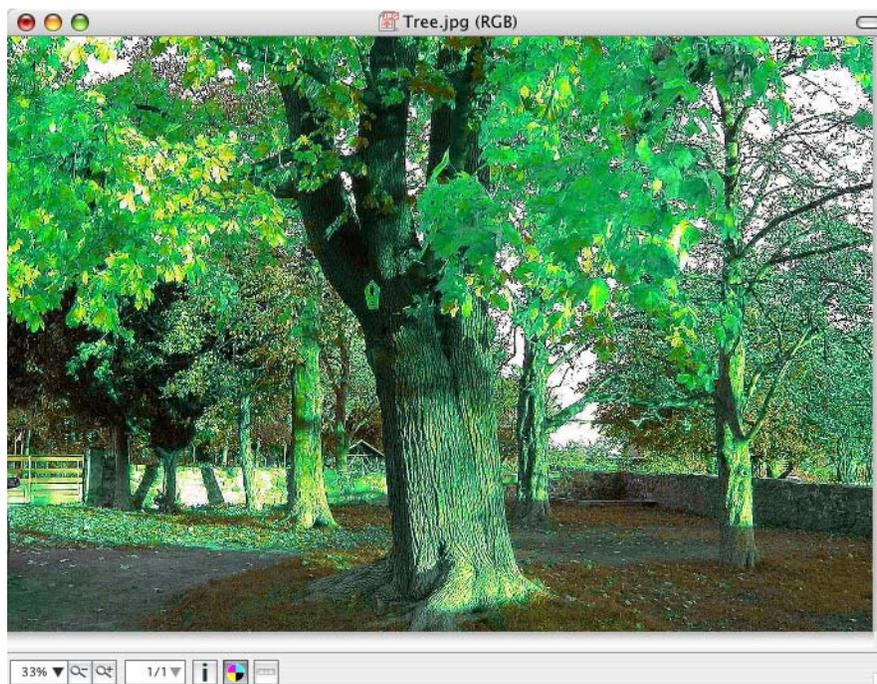
Workshop 9

Effects with Filters

Do you find your pictures too boring? No problem. GraphicConverter mixes the colors and offers countless possibilities to make your pictures special with plug-ins.

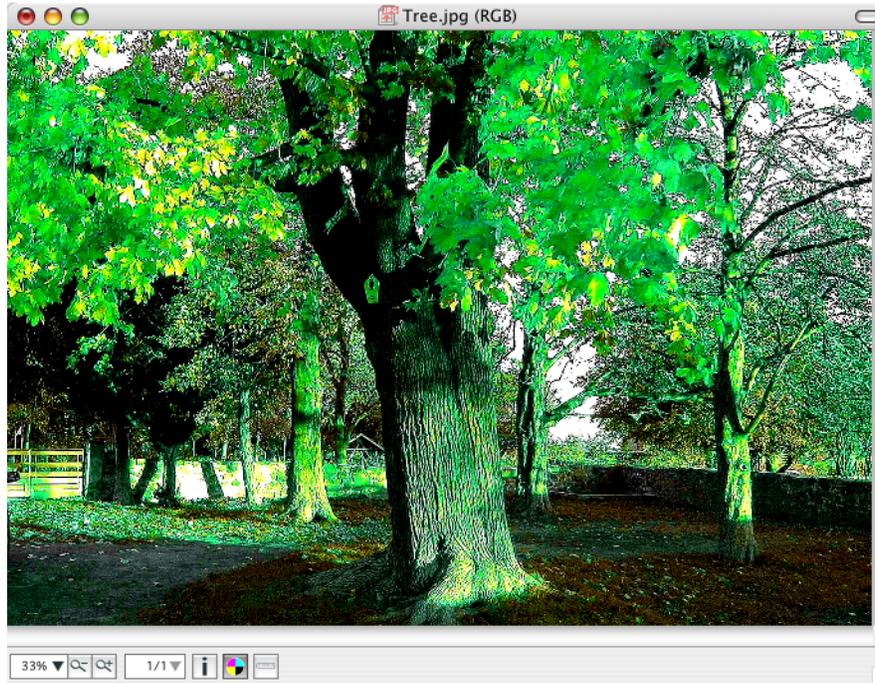
Don't be afraid to try out new tricks. Try printing a picture with modified colors on the invitations to your next party. You'll be surprised at the reactions as, if it is interesting, you'll catch peoples' attention.

1. Open the picture **Tree.jpg** from the **Workshop 9** folder, which is in the **Example Pictures** folder with GraphicConverter and select **Effect / Color Permutations**. A submenu opens where you should select **Chromatic Involution**. It will take a moment for the effect to be calculated. The effect is very interesting. The yellow fall leaves from the original pictures have become bright green leaves.



2. The whole picture is green in color and seems surreal. We can now increase this effect by raising the contrast by around 60 and reducing the brightness to around -7. Select

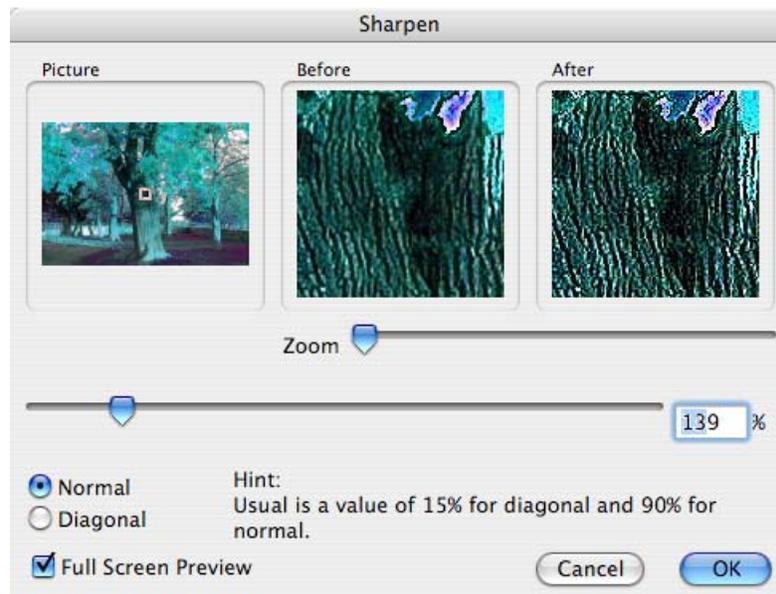
Picture / Brightness/Contrast and move the sliders with the **Link Sliders** option enabled until the values are reached. The results are even more amazing.



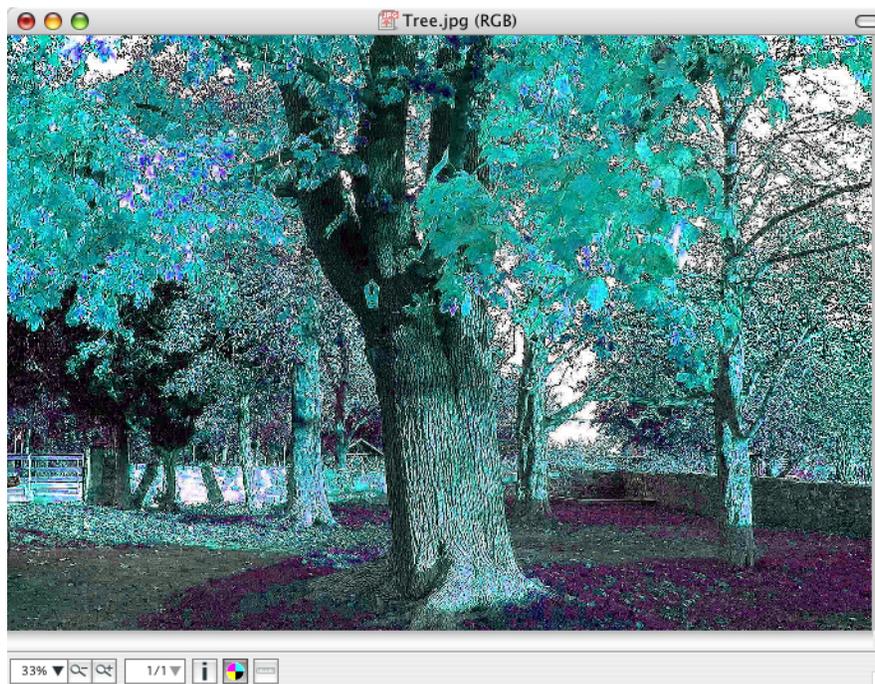
Chromatic Involution shifts the colors in a similar way to how music changes when you transpose it to another key. After applying the filter, the colors are therefore not always green making experimenting particular fun. Save your results with a name like "tree chromatic.jpg" and open the source picture **Tree.jpg** again by selecting it from the **File / Open Recent** submenu.

3. Next we will use the **Centric Involution** filter, which you will also find under **Effect / Color Permutations** in the submenu. The result is a blue-turquoise tone. The ground in

the garden has partly become violet. To make the picture even more wilder, we will add exaggerated sharpness. Select **Effect / Sharpen Edges** and enter a value of around 139.



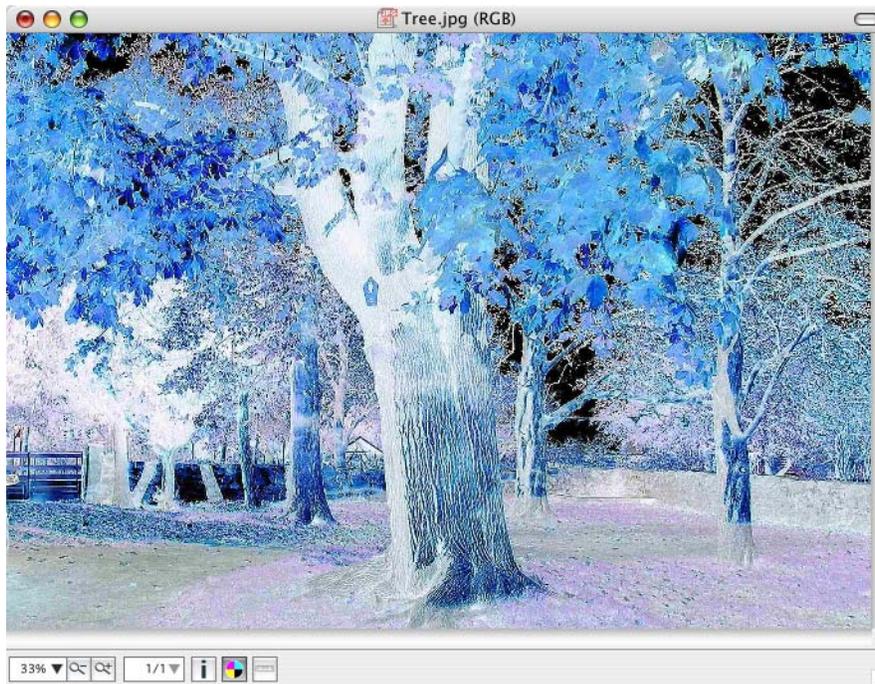
In our example, we have used the **Normal** mode. It is always worthwhile also trying out the diagonal sharpening. Experiment with high and very high values.



Centric Involution replaces all colors with their complementary colors.

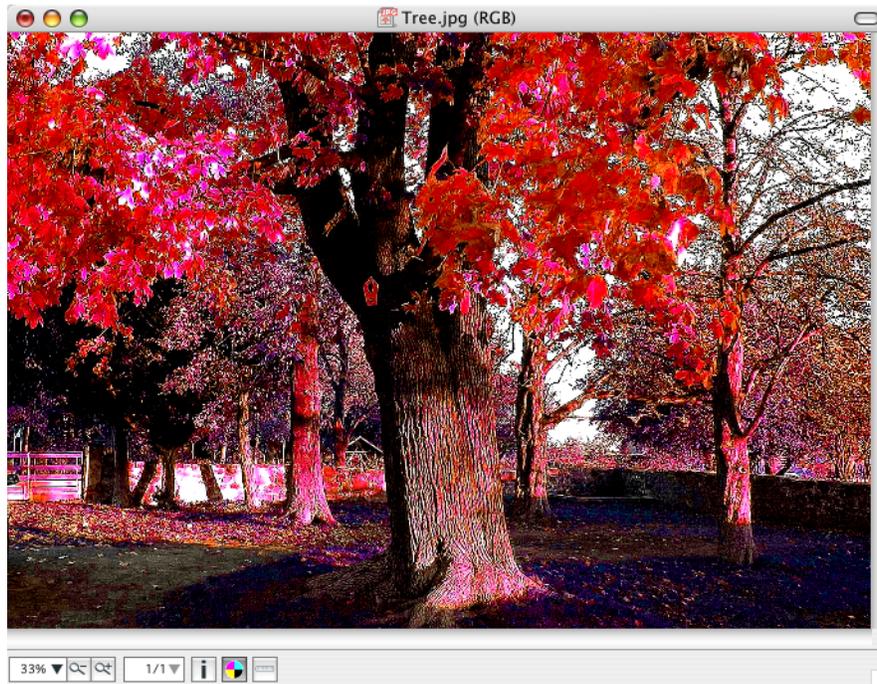
Workshop 9

4. If we use the **Picture / Invert / Normal** option as an effect starting with our source picture again, the result is a blue tone that gives our collection a cool accent. Save the blue picture under a name like "Tree inverted.tif".



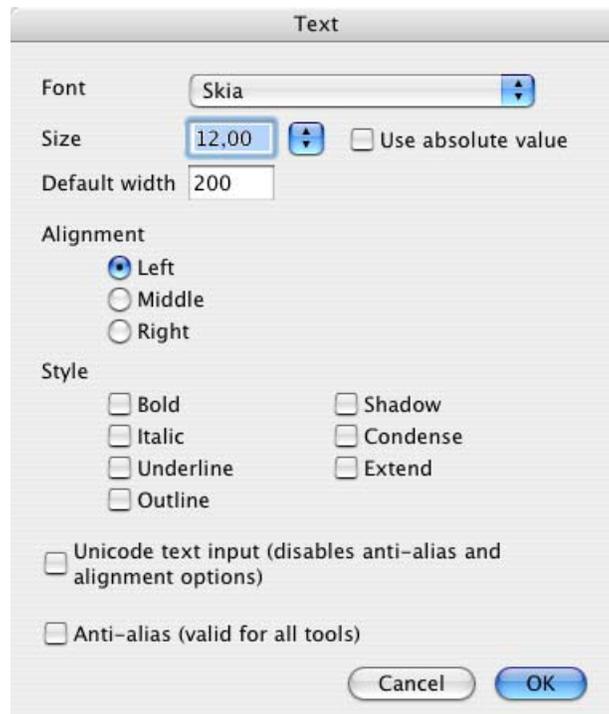
5. For the next experiment, open our source picture again and select the **Isothermal Involution** option from the color permutation submenu. This color permutation leaves cold colors cold and warm colors warm. Yellow-green colors are replaced with violet hues, however. The result is a red maple tree which somehow reminds you of a red beech.

We will also give this picture a considerably higher **Contrast** with +80 and reduce the **Brightness** by -5. Andy Warhol himself would have been proud of the results.



6. To turn the picture into the front of an invitation card, we will add the text "Invitation". Select the text tool from the toolbox by clicking the large "A". If the toolbox is not opened, select **Window / Show Toolbox**.

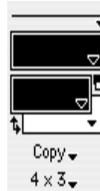
7. Click the selected tool again to open the dialog for selecting the font and font size.



Workshop 9

For a cool picture, we recommend a special font like **Skia** that belongs to the Mac OS. 110 points as the **Size** should provide an appropriate font size. You need to enter the value in the input box. The pop-up menu only has small font sizes.

8. As we want to write in a white font, we first need to set the foreground color to white. Click the toolbox at the bottom on the small angled double arrow to the left of the white color box. This swapped the foreground and background colors. If other colors than black and white are selected, you can click the small black/white box to the right of the foreground color.



9. Click the center of the picture. A selection rectangle is displayed. Enter the text "Invitation". Move the rectangle to the bottom right corner. End the text input by switching to another tool like the rectangular selection at the top right of the toolbox. The text can now no longer be changed. We looked at how to print pictures to the right size and in the right position on an A4 sheet of paper using the GraphicConverter Layout option in workshop 7.

Style is Style

Bright colors are not always ideal for every subject. The album "Stripped" by Christina Aguilera is, for example, strikingly different because of its black and white cover design. On the rear, you see Christina's face together with an effect that we will now try out with GraphicConverter using one of our own pictures: The picture is only made up of black and white pixels. All grayscales are either "rounded up" too white or "rounded down" too black. This results in almost hardly any completely white or black areas because a special filter was used.

1. Open the picture "Angel.jpg" from the folder **Example Pictures**. Select zoom level 100% and select **Effect / Black&White / Floyd-Steinberg**. GraphicConverter shows the result in a new window. Save the results under a new name.



So that the structure can still be recognized, you should convert some pictures to 72 dpi before editing with **Picture / Resolution** and then reduce them to a smaller size with 500 pixels for the width using **Picture / Size**. You should find out which values provide the best results for the final print size simply by trial and error.

Also experiment with the **Ordered-Dither**, **Threshold** and **Dither** filters in the submenu under **Effect / Black&White**. In the **Effect** menu, there are other interesting filters under **Plug-In Filter** and **User-defined Filter**. Close the picture window with the black and white angel under which the original still lies.

Workshop 9

2. To make a normal B&W picture out of this picture, select **Picture / Mode** and **Grayscale** from the submenu that opens.



After this step, you will always need to optimize the brightness and contrast as color pictures have too little contrast after conversion into a grayscale picture. In our example picture, we recommend values of around +7 for the contrast and +16 for the brightness.

Plug-In

If that is not enough for you, you can install additional Photoshop-compatible plug-ins that appear at the bottom of the "Effect" menu next time GraphicConverter is started.

Under Classic Mac OS, copy your plug-ins to the **Plug-Ins** folder in the GraphicConverter folder. In Mac OS X, plug-ins are copied to the **Library / Application Support / GraphicConverter / Plug-ins** folder. If you are using the carbon version of GraphicConverter in the Classic Mac OS from Mac OS 8.5 with the respective latest version of Carbon Lib, the plug-ins should be in the **System Folder / Application Support / GraphicConverter / Plug-Ins** folder.

GraphicConverter recognizes all plug-ins that are found up to one folder level down in the Plug-Ins folder. Therefore if you copy a folder containing a plug-in into the Plug-In folder, the plug-in needs to be located in that folder and not in a further subfolder. You can also copy plug-ins from the Photoshop subfolder "Plug-Ins" to the corresponding folder for GraphicConverter.

If the plug-ins do not appear in the Effect menu, the path for the plug-ins folder may be wrong. You can check the path under **Preferences... / General / Plug-Ins** and correct it if necessary.

You can download plug-ins at: <http://www.flamingpear.com/download.html> This page offers numerous commercial filters and a free package under "Free Plugins" that will be listed at the bottom of the **Effect** menu as **Freebies for X** with a submenu. The **Ornament X** filter has a particularly great effect on our tree picture.



At: www.nikmultimedia.com, you can download demo versions of other professional filters from the download section.

Workshop 10

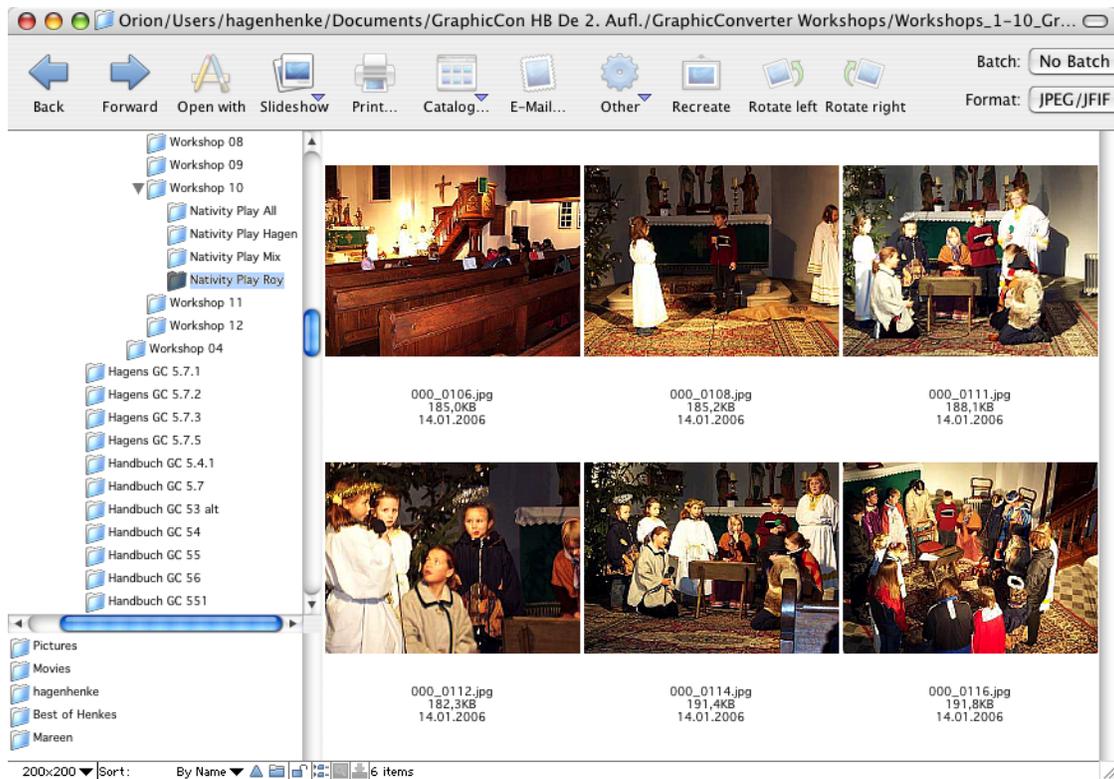
Sorting and Burning

When you go on vacation with friends, you will all have taken your own pictures. If you want to give several friends CDs with the pictures after you return, you will probably want to create a slideshow with all photos. In GraphicConverter, you can simply copy all pictures into a folder and sort them **By Creation Date** via the pop-up menu at the bottom of the window frame. Once it has been sorted, you can select all pictures and start the slideshow with the button in the top toolbar.

Unfortunately the creation date for image files is often wrong because the time in the camera was not set correctly or because other programs modified the creation date to the date of import to the computer. If, however, you want to burn the pictures in chronological order onto a CD or DVD to give to friends, this is the right workshop for you.

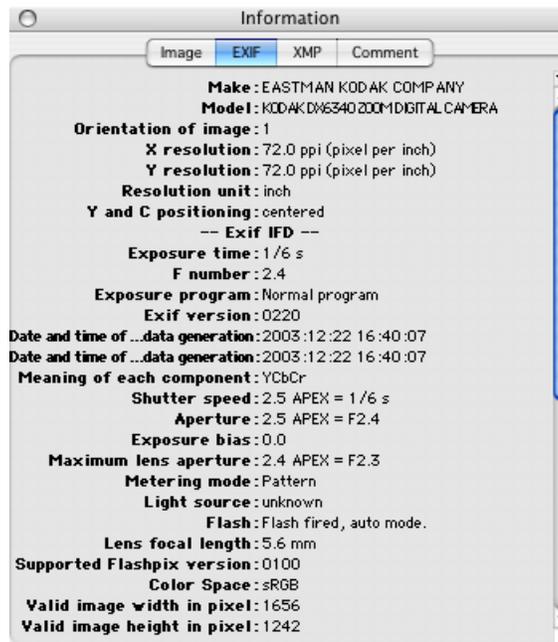
First, copy pictures from the other people who went on vacation with you into a separate folder. You will find a similar folder among the example files:

1. Open the **Nativity Play Roy** folder in the **Workshop 10** folder that is in the **Example Pictures** folder by dragging the folder onto the GraphicConverter icon. Alternatively you can also select the folder via **File / Browse Folder...**



2. 14 January 2006 is displayed as the file date because the pictures were edited on that day and saved again. Double-click one of the pictures to open it and click the small **i** on

the bottom of the window frame. The information palette opens where you should click the EXIF tab.



3. The pictures were taken on 22 December 2003, however, as you can see in the center of the palette under **Date and time of original data generation**. The date is in the format: year:month:day. The time then follows in the format: hour:minute:second.

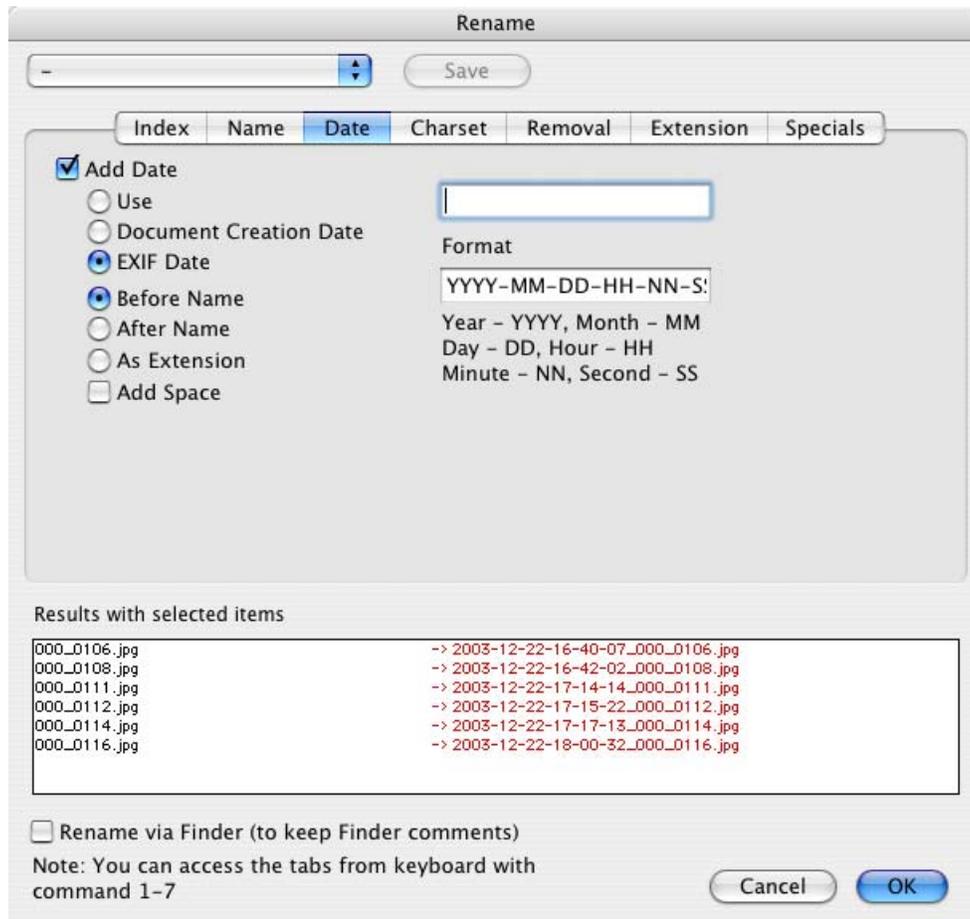
4. Close the picture again with Command-W or by clicking the red ball at the top left of the window frame.

5. Select all pictures in the browser window using Command-A and click the **Forward** button in the top toolbar. A long menu opens. It is identical to the context menu that you can also open by Ctrl.-clicking a picture. Select **JPEG** from this menu. A submenu opens where you should select **Set File Date depending on EXIF**. The document date is then displayed in the browser under the pictures as 11.12.2003.

You could now copy these pictures into a folder together with pictures from another camera if the document date is also set correctly for them. If **By Creation Date** is selected as the sort criterion, all pictures will be displayed in the correct chronological order.

6. So that this works after it has been passed onto your travel companions, for example, whose programs may not be able to sort according to creation date, we will rename the files so that the date is added at the start of the document name. This keeps the chronological order even if the files are displayed sorted by name.

7. Select the picture in the browser and select **Rename selected Files...** from the context menu that you can open easiest by clicking the **Forward** button in the toolbar. Click the tab **Date** in the dialog that opens.



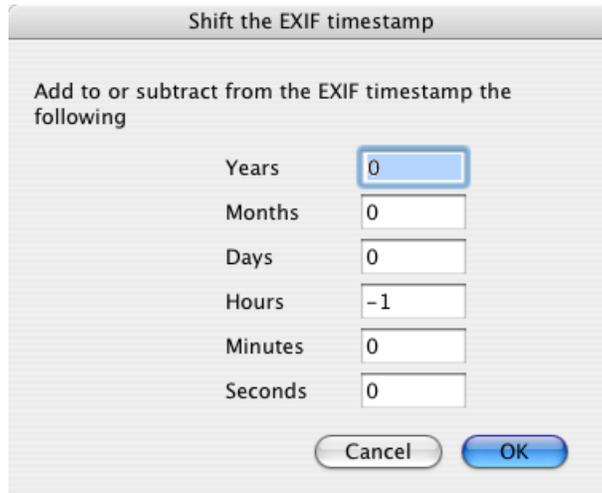
8. Enable **Add Date** and select **EXIF Date** and **Before Name**. **YYYY-MM-DD-HH-NN-SS_** should appear under Format. You can also use an underscore character instead of the hyphen. Make sure you use the same separator for all files so that the sort is correct. Click **OK** to rename the files.

9. Select all pictures and move them to the still empty **Nativity Play All** folder.

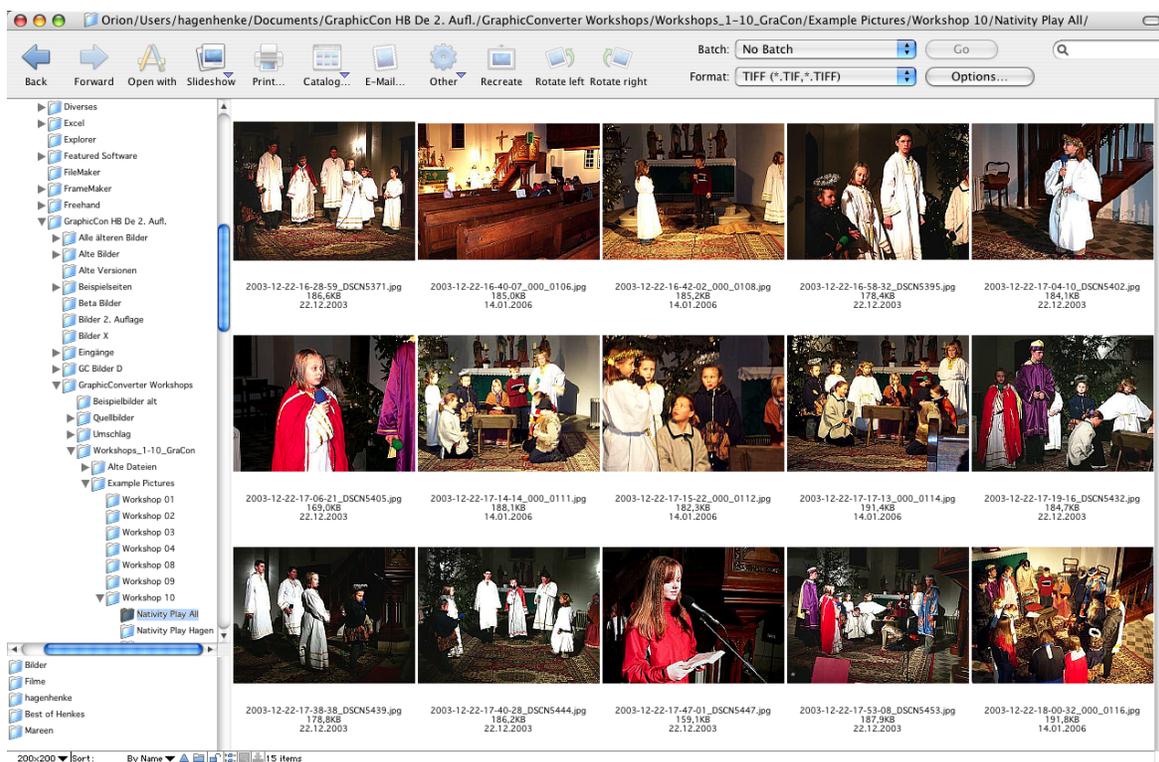
The time for the pictures in the **Nativity Play Hagen** folder is out by one hour because somebody forgot to switch from summer time to normal time. Before we process these pictures in the same way as the pictures from the first folder, we will therefore need to correct the time in the EXIF information.

10. Show the **Nativity Play Hagen** folder in a browser window and select all pictures. Click the **Forward** button again, select **JPEG** and then **Shift the EXIF timestamp...** from

the submenu that opens. The following dialog opens where you should enter **-1** for the **Hour** to adjust the values in all pictures by one hour.



11. Continue with the corrected pictures as with the pictures from the first folder by repeating steps 6 to 9. Once you have copied all pictures into the **Nativity Play All** folder, it should appear as follows:

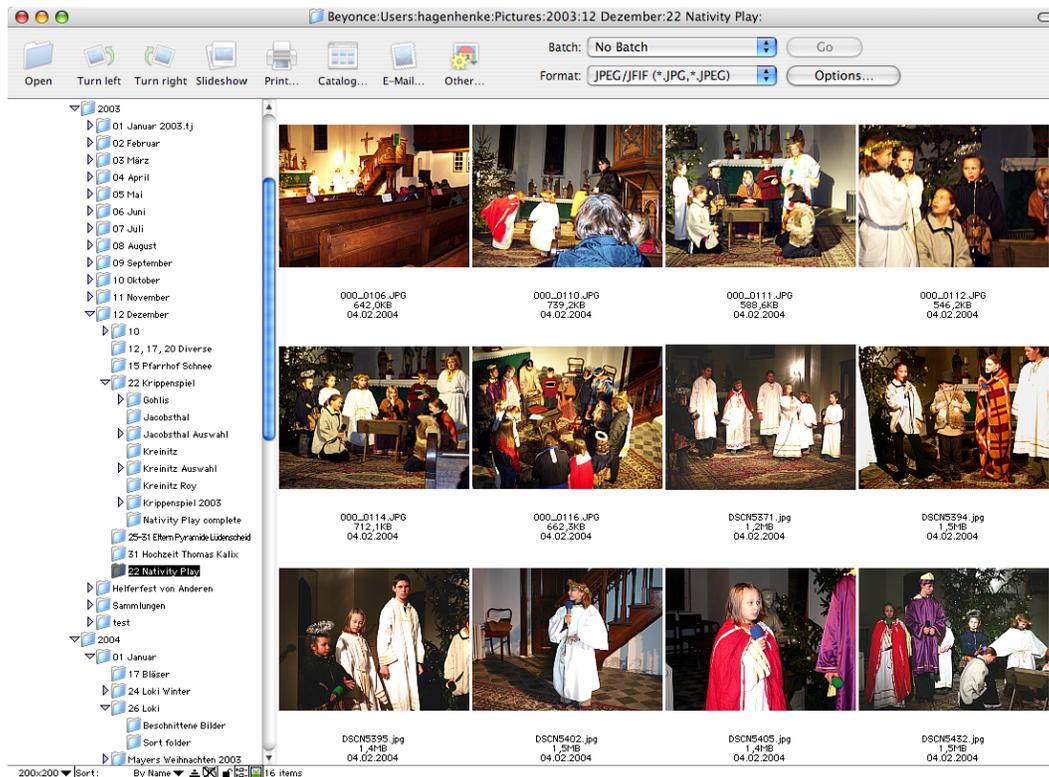


The pictures are now sorted in chronological order and no longer according to the different filename systems of both cameras. You can also use this method if you have collected pictures in a Best Of folder and the numbering is not in a continuous series because the counter in your camera has run back to zero several times.

Workshop 10

If you want to sort pictures without EXIF information, you can use another GraphicConverter option:

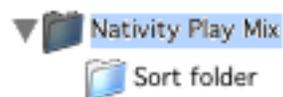
1. Take a look at the **Nativity Play Mix** folder in the **Workshop 10** folder in a GraphicConverter browser window by dragging the folder onto the GraphicConverter program icon in the Finder.



When you work with your own pictures, create a copy of the picture folder that you want to sort as the filenames will be changed. You can hold down the Option key and drag the folder to another folder in the Finder or browser.

2. Click one of the pictures in the browser window and open the context menu with a Control-click or by clicking the **Other** icon in the top toolbar. Select **Create Sort Folder** from the menu that opens. GraphicConverter creates a folder called **Sort Folder** in the current folder.

3. Open the picture folder on the left-hand side of the browser so that the sort folder is visible.

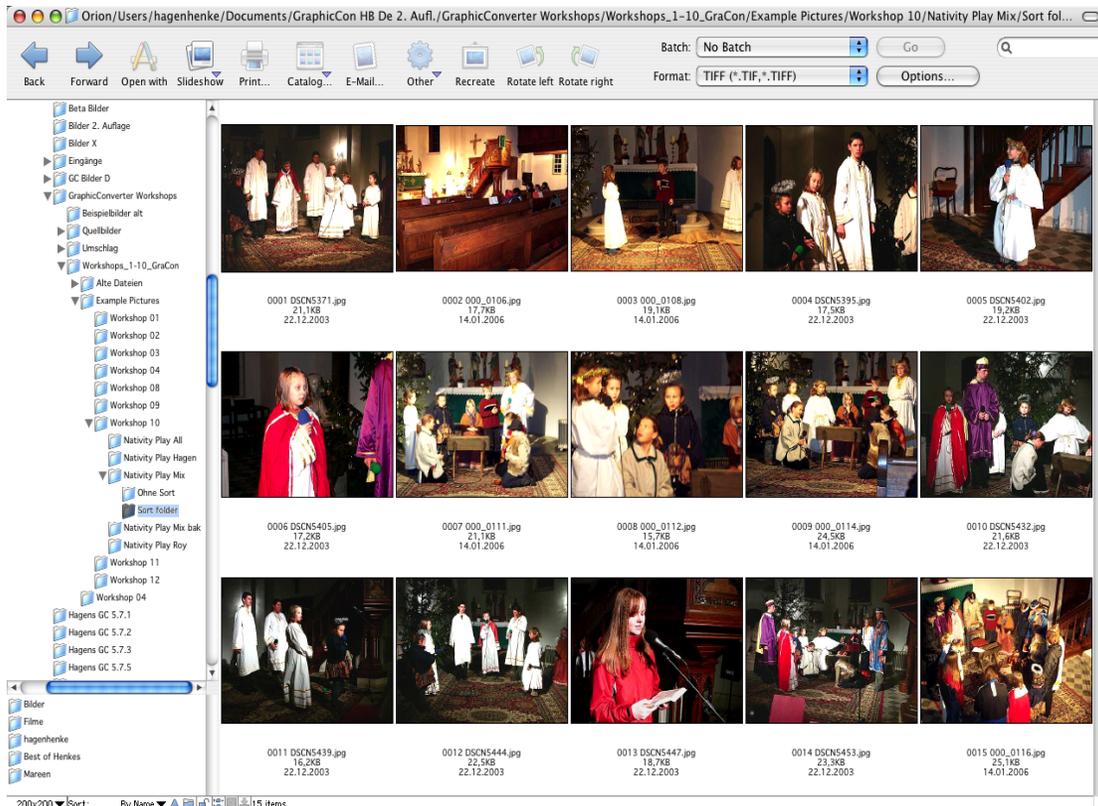


4. Drag the individual pictures in the required order from the preview area to the sort folder in the left-hand column. Start with the first picture in our example: 000_0106.JPG and continue with a picture from the section of pictures that start with DSCN. Drag the

pictures alternatively with different name beginnings into the sort folder. You can also select several pictures with Shift or Command-click and move them to the sort folder.

If you are working with your own pictures, stick to the chronological order when sorting.

5. Click the **Sort folder** in the left-hand column of the browser window. In the preview area, the pictures will now be shown in the order that they were dragged into the sort folder. Make sure that **By Name** is selected as the sort method at the bottom left. The result should be more or less as follows:



So now you can make a perfect collection CD with all pictures from the trip. In the next steps, we will show you how to burn the picture collection on a CD.

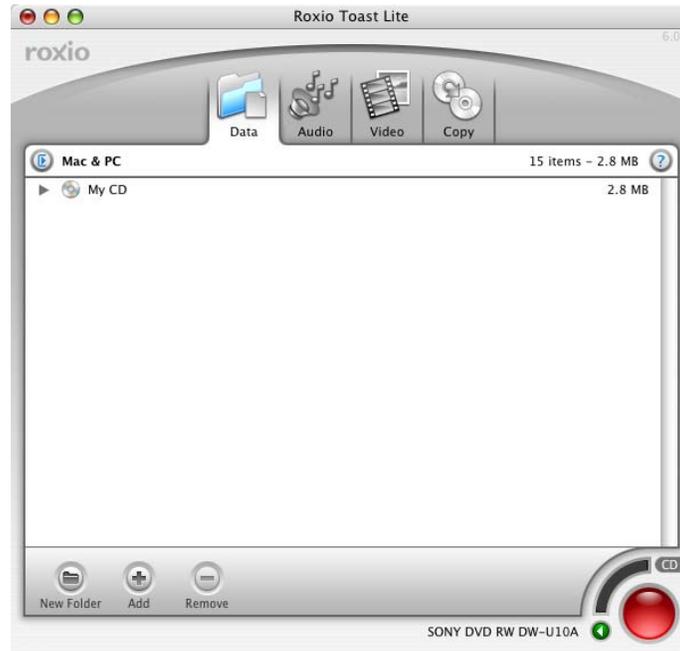
Burning Picture CDs

In this section, we will show you how to burn pictures to CD from GraphicConverter using Toast or simply using the Finder.

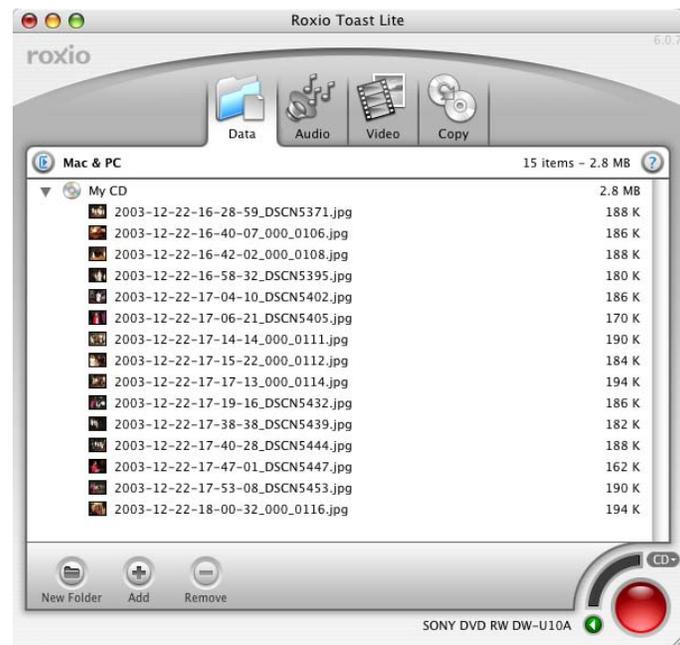
1. Click a picture and press Command-A to select all pictures. Open the context menu by Control-clicking one of the pictures or clicking the **Other...** icon and then select **Export**. Select the item **Toast...** from the submenu if Toast is installed on your computer.

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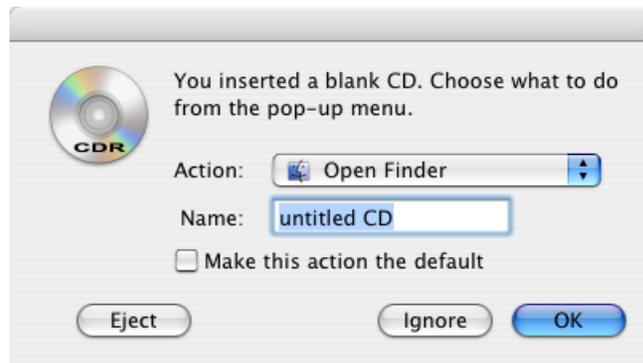
If you do not have the program Toast, please continue at point 3. Toast then opens or is brought to the front if it was already open. If the Toast window does not come to the front, fetch it from the dock. In the Toast window, **My CD** appears as the title.



2. Click the title **Untitled CD** so that the text is selected. Enter **Nativity Play** as the name. Click the triangle in front of the CD icon to display the content and start the burn process by clicking the **Record** button at the bottom right.



3. If Toast is not installed, you can also burn the CD using the Finder. Place a blank CD or DVD in your computer drive. You will be asked what you want to do with the CD.



4. In the **Action** pop-up menu, select the **Open Finder** entry and click **OK**. A few seconds later the blank CD will appear like a written CD on the desktop under your drive icons.



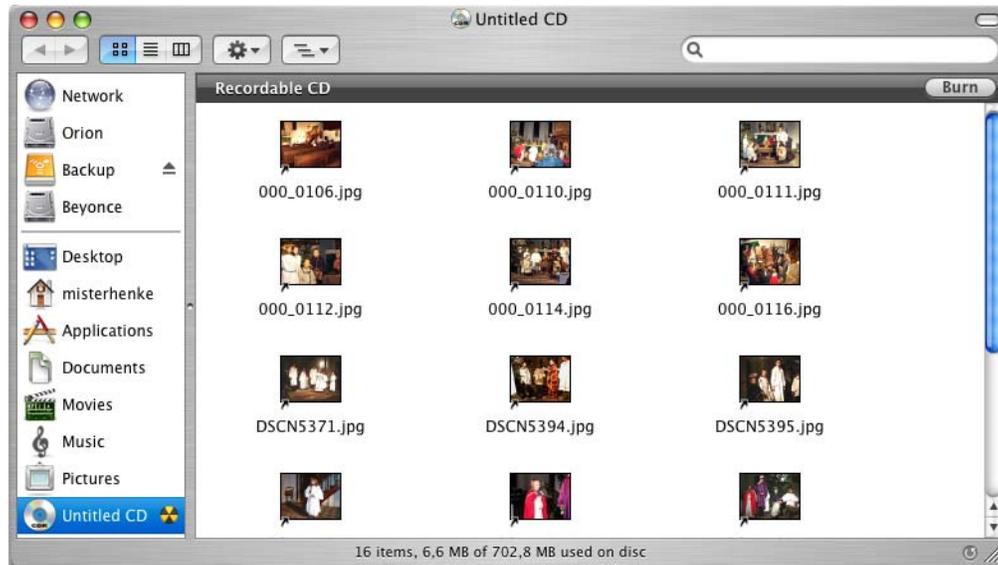
5. Drag the selected pictures from the browser window onto the blank CD icon. The data will not be written to the CD immediately, but copied invisibly to the hard drive. The hard drive therefore needs to have enough space for the data to be burnt.



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6. Click the name of the blank CD and enter **Nativity Play** as the name. You can check and change the content of the blank CD by opening the blank CD with a double-click. Start the burn process under Mac OS X Panther with **File / Burn Disc...**

Under Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger, you can also open a CD window and click the burn button there.

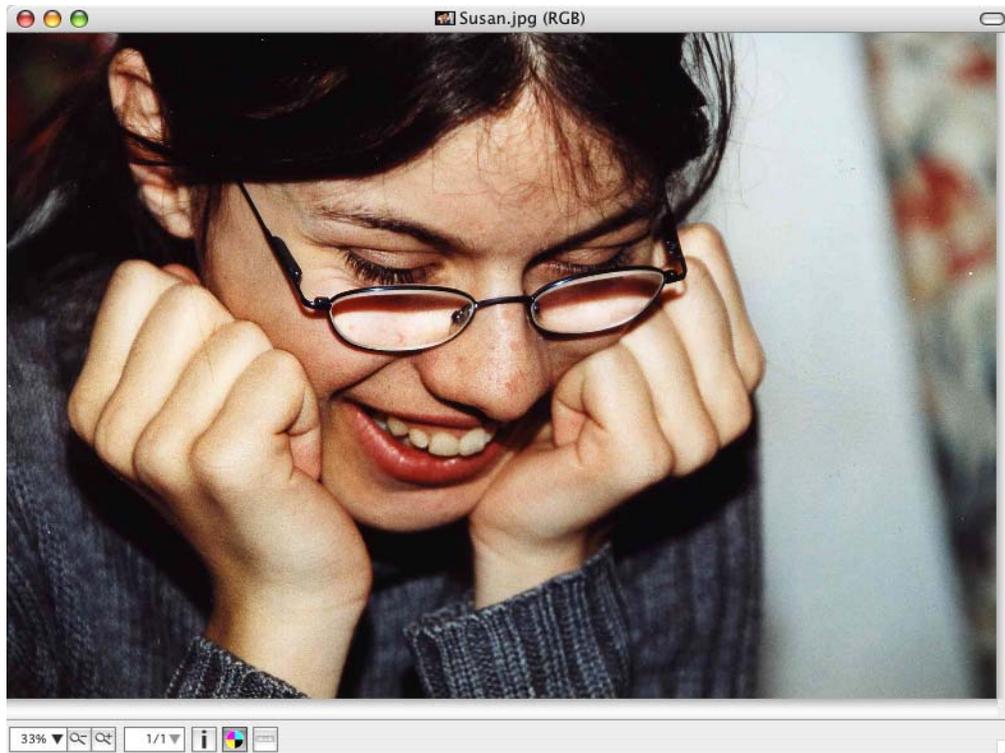


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Black&White, but still colorful

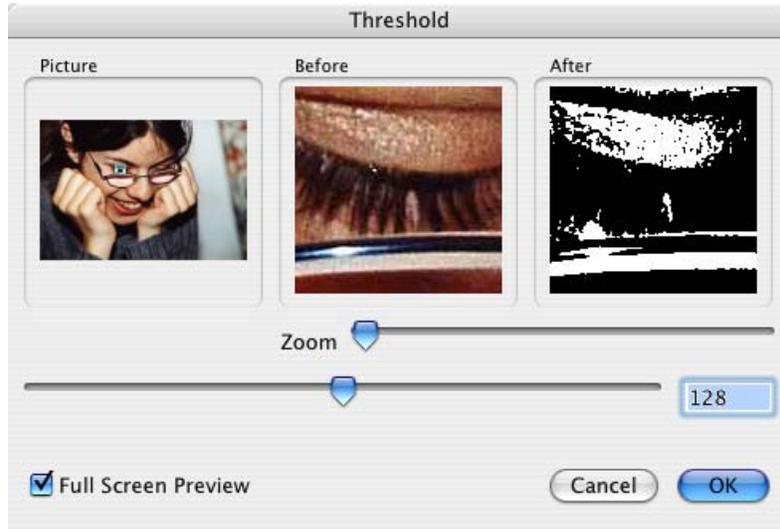
To make a picture particularly striking, graphic designers often use a combination of two effects. A picture is reduced to pure black and white and is then colored. It may at first sound simple, but it does require a certain amount of skill, which brings us to our workshop.

1. Open the picture "Susan.jpg" from the folder "Example Pictures".



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2. Select **Effect / Black&White** and **Threshold...** from the submenu that opens. The following dialog opens where you can select the threshold with a slider.

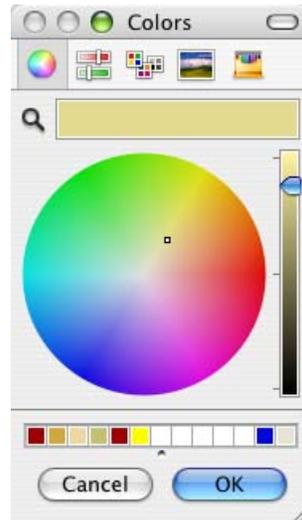


A value of 128 is suitable for our example picture. Click **OK** to obtain the following result:

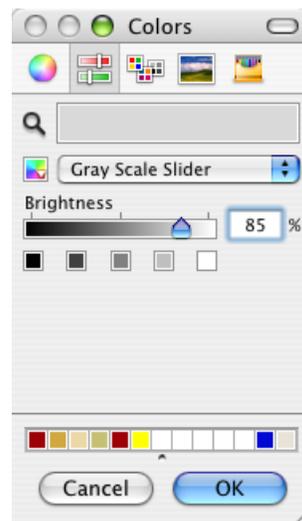


3. To color the picture, we will need to convert it into an RGB image. Select **Picture / Mode** and **RGB Color** in the submenu that opens. You will not see any change to the picture, but you have laid the foundations for the next steps by changing the mode.

4. Select **Picture / Colors** and then **Colorize...** in the submenu that opens. The Color Picker opens. This may look different depending on your Mac OS. The Color Picker from Mac OS X 10.3 (Panther) is used here.

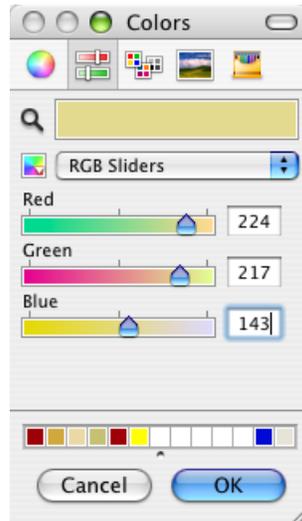


5. You can select a color in the color circle by clicking the corresponding point. To select the color easier for our requirements, click the second button from the left at the top of the Color Picker that shows the slider.



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6. Select **RGB Sliders** in the pop-up menu instead of **Gray Scale Slider**. The sliders for red, green and blue will then appear in the area below the pop-up menu.



7. Enter the values 224 for red, 217 for green and 143 for blue and click **OK**. The result is a colored picture.

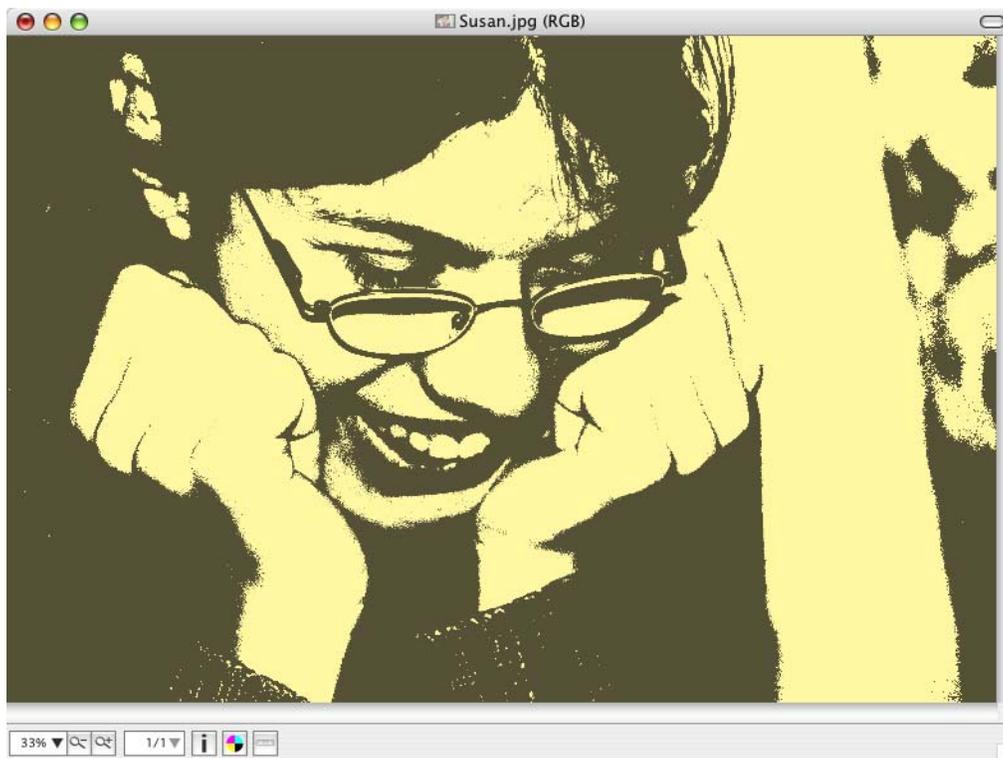


8. Save the result in TIFF format with a new name like "Susan yellow.tif". The picture is already very attractive and would be ideal for a cover of your own video DVD, for example. In the next step, we will refine the result even more.

9. Select **Edit / Find and Replace...** and the following dialog will open.



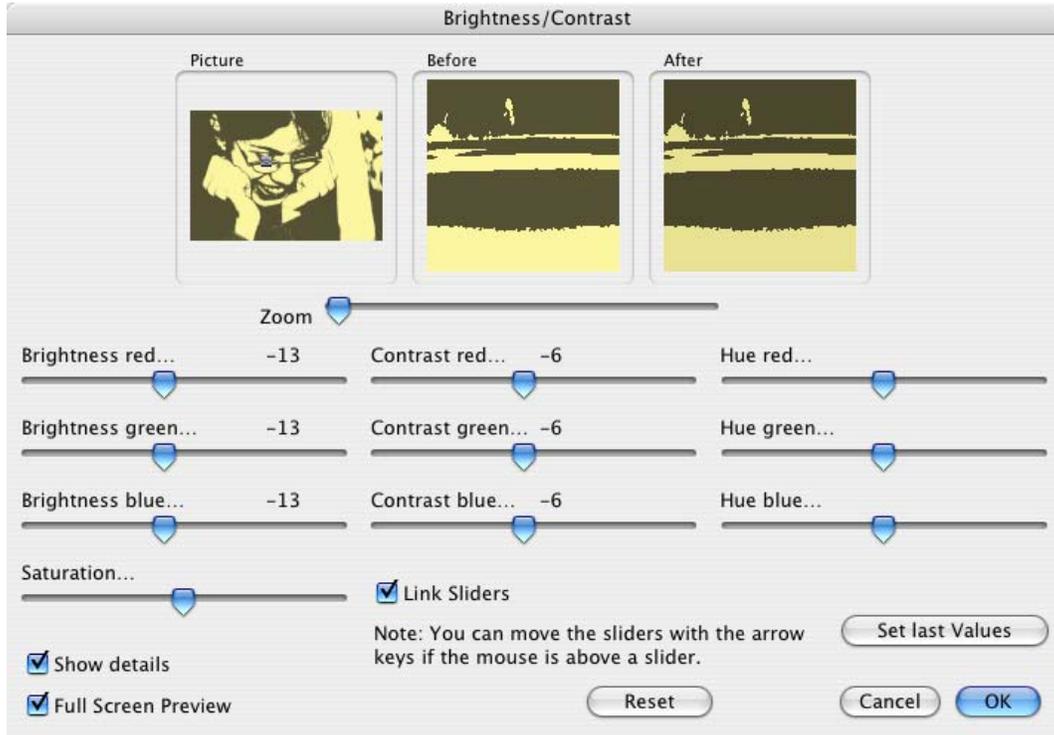
10. To color the black areas of the picture with a dark olive hue, click the lower color box. The thick frame then switches to the lower color box. Click the color box again to open the color picker. Now enter the values 84 for **Red**, 81 for **Green** and 54 for **Blue**. Click **OK** and then **Replace** in the dialog below. As a result, the colors are more balanced.



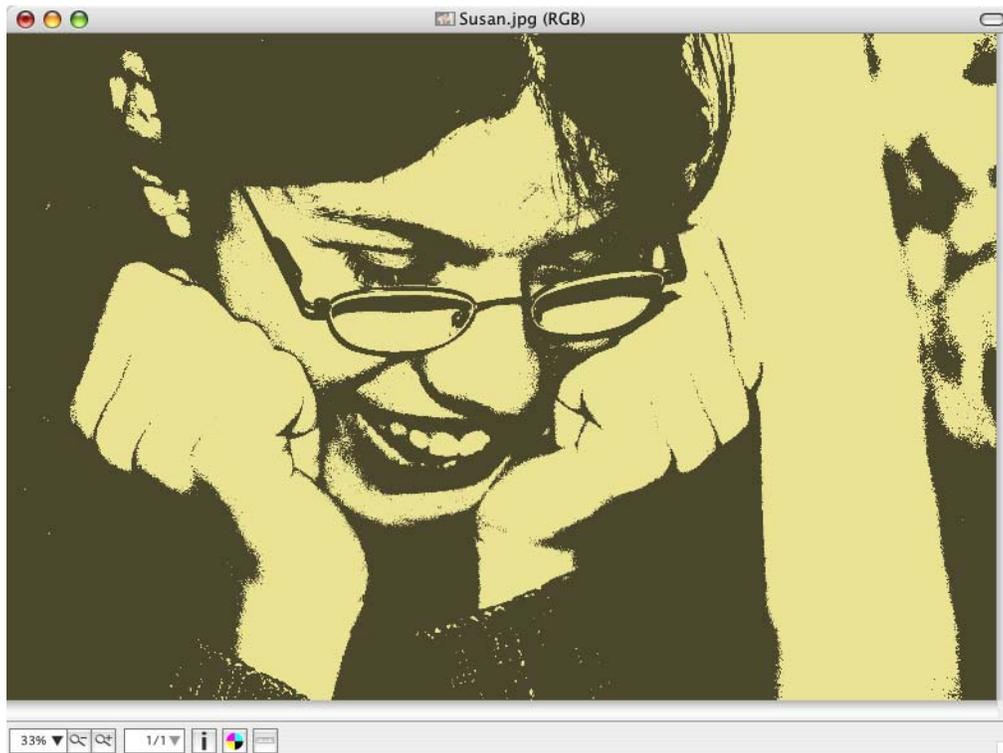
11. When printed, the colors will lose some of their brightness, therefore it is good if they seem far too strong and bright. However, if you want to use the picture for a Web

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site, it may be better to adjust the brightness slightly. Select **Picture / Brightness/ Contrast...** and try different settings.



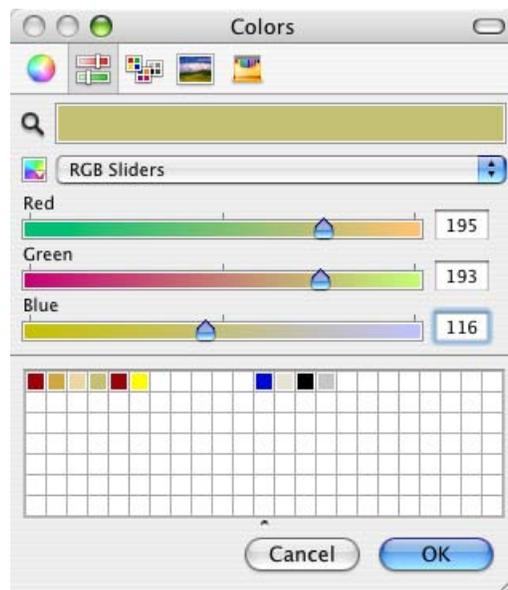
The result seems considerably easier on the eye with our values of -13 for the **Brightness** and -6 for the **Contrast**.



You can also change the result greatly with the **Saturation**. It is best to save several versions of the pictures and decide later which version to use.

You can also try seemingly unsuitable colors when experimenting with your pictures and do not shy away from use the results on Web sites or printed media. The effect often depends on the right choice of color and only skillful adjustment can help here.

Once you have found a color, you can drag it from the top color box onto the palette. From there, you can drag the color back upwards onto the color box at any time to select it. Incidentally, the color selection can be enlarged at the bottom right corner and the area of the lower palette can be enlarged with the small dot under the palette:



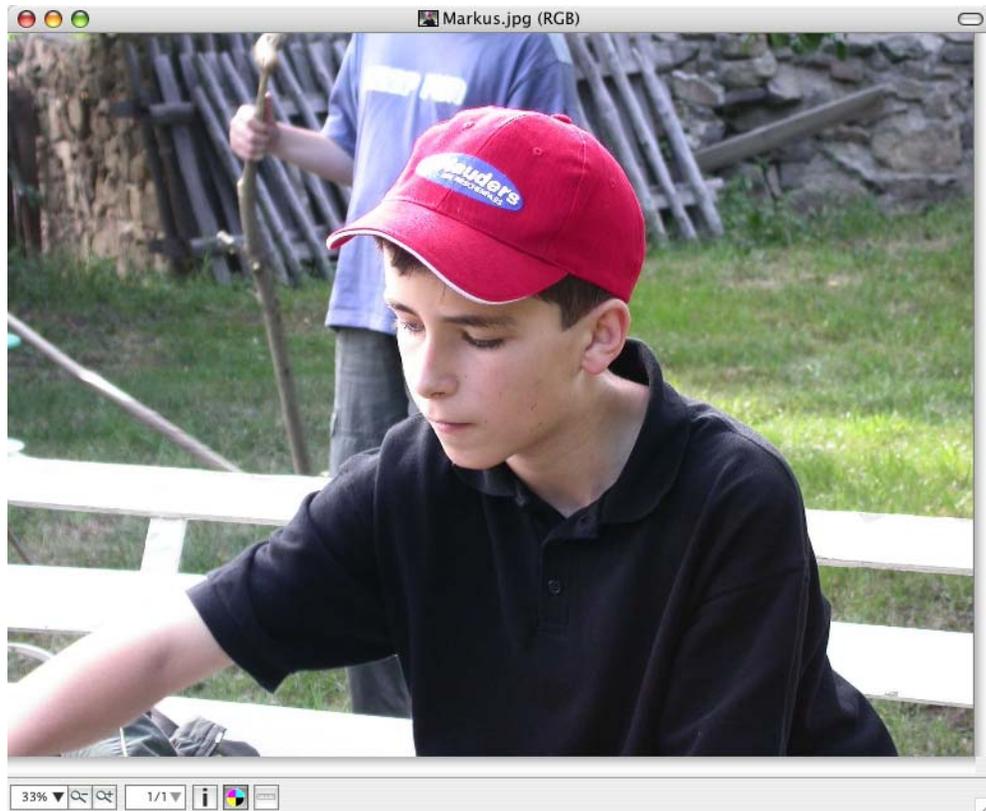
This workshop was inspired by the cover of the album "N*E*R*D, In Search Of (New Version)" that you can see at www.amazon.de (not amazon.com).

Workshop 12

Selection and Aspect Ratio

You will often want to keep the aspect ratio when trimming an image so, for example, it fits into the set layout of a Web site or is simply the right size for a photo album.

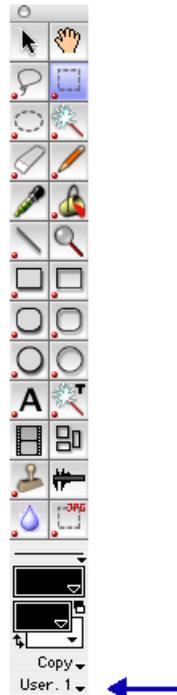
1. Open the picture **Markus.jpg** from the Example Pictures folder. The picture is actually a good snapshot:



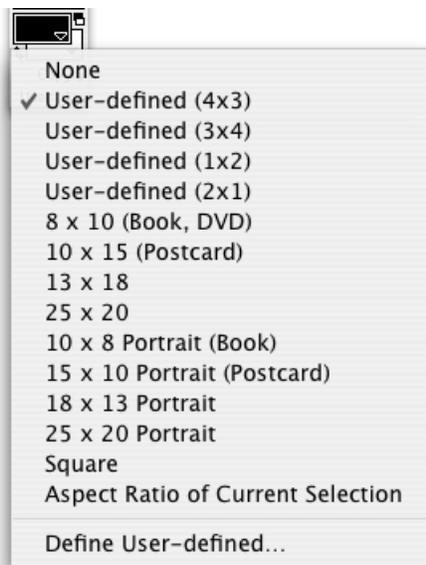
If you look closer, the face could be more in the foreground — the writing on the T-shirt in the background is a bit distracting.

You will know how to drag open a selection from Workshop 1. To drag open a selection with a specific aspect ratio, you will need to define this aspect ratio first of all.

2. Click **None** at the bottom of the toolbox. If you have already used this option, there may be another entry here instead of **None**.



3. A pop-up menu opens where you should select **Define User-defined...**



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The following dialog opens:

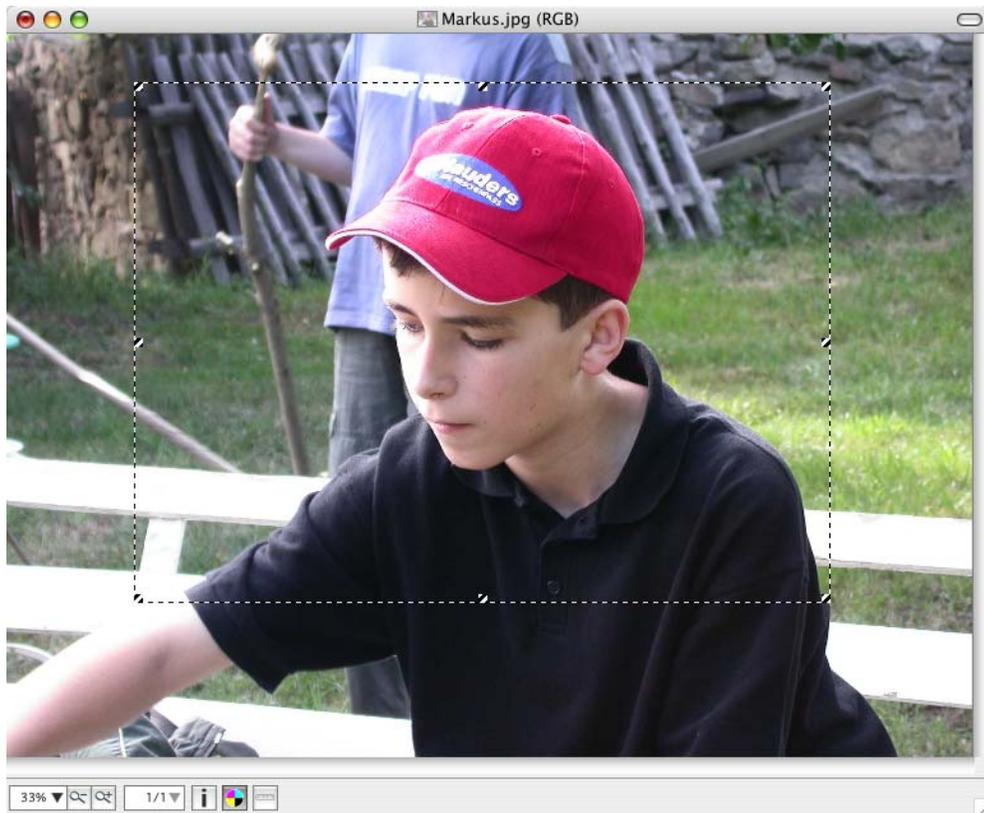


4. Enter 4:3 as the aspect ratio at the top and click **OK**. If you are working with your own pictures, you will first have to determine the aspect ratio of your pictures. Almost all viewfinder digital cameras produce pictures with an aspect ratio of 4:3.

Userdef. will now be displayed at the bottom of the toolbox.



5. Drag open a selection rectangle across the boy's face.



You can improve the position and size of the rectangle later on. Click the handles at the corners to change the size. The aspect ratio of 4:3 is kept. If you use one of the center handles, the aspect ratio will not be kept. You can cancel the selection with the Escape key.

You can change the position of the rectangle by clicking the line between the handles. Only click the line when the mouse cursor changes to crossed arrows:



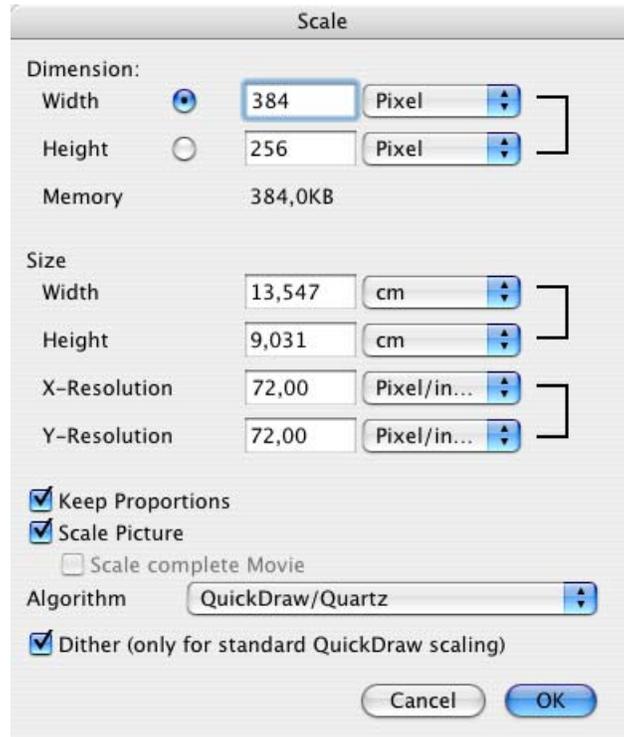
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6. Crop the selection by double-clicking inside the rectangle or pressing Return. The result is a clearly accented picture in which the lettering on the boy's T-shirt in the background is not so distracting.



The new cropped picture has exactly the same aspect ratio as the original. If, for example, you scale this picture to 384 pixel **Width** at 72 dpi for a Web site with **Picture /**

Size / Scale, its height will also fit in a table with many other pictures that you have not trimmed.

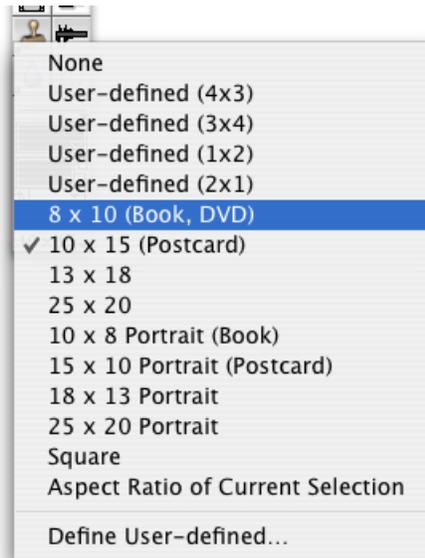


You will find some example pages with pictures in tables at www.lorenzkirch.de. If the aspect ratio of one of the pictures was different, there would be gaps between the pictures.

7. Select **None** again as the aspect ratio in the pop-up menu at the bottom of the toolbox so that you have the normal mode next time you edit pictures.

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In this pop-up menu, you will find further pre-defined aspect ratios, for example, **8 x 10 Portrait (Book)**, that you can use to select a section for a DVD case.



Aspect Ratio of Current Selection allows you to select the aspect ratio of the current selection. If you enlarge or reduce a selection at the corners with this setting, the aspect ratio will be kept.