

CREATING BOOKS

If I had to pick one feature that sets iPhoto apart from the crowd, I'd have to choose the customized photo albums you can use iPhoto to create and have professionally printed and bound. Numerous programs can help you edit and organize photos. But when it shipped, iPhoto instantly became the undisputed champion of sharing pictures in attractive ways, with the customized photo albums iPhoto calls “books” leading the way.

The beauty of the books, apart from their linen covers and quality printing on heavy, glossy paper, is that they help bridge the gap between the analog and digital worlds. Those of us who have grown up with computers are happy sharing our photos via slide show, a digital camera hooked to a TV, or on a Web page. But many people are still more comfortable with prints ensconced in acetate in a traditional photo album. Forget all the advantages of the digital world; for these people, the images somehow aren't real unless they're in a book. It's the “That's nice, dear” syndrome.

By the time you're done with this chapter and the next one (which covers ordering the books you create), you won't have to worry about your digital photo collection being a second-class citizen when it comes to being displayed in a “real” book.

Switching Modes while Creating Books

To switch into book mode, click the Book button while one of your albums is selected in the album list. That's both predictable and easy, but book mode is unusual in that you'll want to switch back and forth with other modes—mostly organize and edit—while working in book mode.

To enter book mode:

- ◆ Select an album (other than Photo Library or Last Import), and click the Book button under the display pane (**Figure 4.1**).

Reasons to switch out of and back into book mode:

- ◆ To rearrange photos so they appear in the desired order in your book, switch to organize mode by clicking the Organize button, drag pictures into the right order, and then switch back by clicking the Book button.
- ◆ To crop a photo, eliminate red-eye, or make a photo black-and-white, double-click the photo to switch into edit mode. Alternatively, click it to select it, and then click the Edit button. When you're done, switch back into book mode by clicking the Book button.

✓ Tips

- You can rearrange photos by dragging pages of the book around, but it's easier to make changes in organize mode with the thumbnails at a small size.
- When you're in book mode, clicking another album name lets you work on a book for that other album without switching modes. Each album remembers its own book settings.



Figure 4.1 To switch into book mode, click the Book button under the display pane.

Book Tools Overview

Here's a quick reference to the tools available to you in book mode (**Figure 4.2**).

Album pane. Select an album before switching to book mode.

Titles and comments you edit here appear in your book.

Click to run a slide show.

Click to add an album.

Click to hide or show the info pane (currently showing).

Click to rotate the selected image(s) counter-clockwise. Option-click to rotate clockwise.

Figure 4.2

Current book page. You can select images in the page for editing or removal, and enter text into the areas marked by the guides (underneath this photo).

These page thumbnails show you what pages will look like. Drag one to rearrange it; double-click one to view it in a large preview window. Note that you may have to scroll right and left to see all your pages.

Size slider. Adjust this slider to zoom in and out of the page in the display pane.

To see a large preview of the pages in the book, click the Preview button.

Choose the number of photos per page and their layout from the choices in the Page Design pop-up menu.

To prevent a page from changing, select it, and click the Lock Page checkbox.

Click these checkboxes to determine if titles, comments, and page numbers appear in the book.

Number of photos selected (1) in the current album (25).

Pick a theme from this pop-up menu to change the basic layout of the book.

Click to show or hide guides around the areas in which you can type text.

Creating Books

Books may be iPhoto's coolest feature, but they're still easy to create. Here we'll skim over the process of making a book; subsequent pages go into the details.

To prepare a book:

1. Make an album containing the photos you want in your book (see "Creating Albums" and "Adding Photos to Albums" in Chapter 2, "Organizing Photos").
2. Click the album name to switch to it.
3. Click the Book button under the display pane to switch to book mode.
4. Pick a theme from the Theme pop-up menu in the book pane. Each theme offers different layout options.
5. Decide if you want titles, comments, and page numbers to show in your book. Not all themes display them regardless of how you set the checkboxes.
6. For each page of the book, choose the design from the Page Design pop-up menu. To keep a page from changing, click the Lock Page checkbox.
7. Click Preview at any time to see your book in its own window at a larger size. You can also print a draft book; choose Print from the File menu (**⌘P**).
8. When you're done, click the Share button, click Order Book in the share pane, and order your book. For details about this process, see "Ordering Books" in Chapter 5, "Sharing Photos."

✓ Tips

- Your book must contain between 10 and 50 pages (if you have fewer pages, you'll get blanks in the printed copy).
- Remember that books cost \$3 per page.

Stick with Color Photos

Although I haven't seen this personally, Apple is warning that black-and-white photos print poorly in books. Until Apple resolves this issue, which is related to the printing process used for books, stick with color images when you're creating a book.

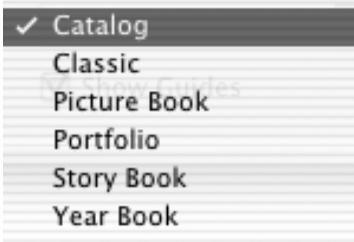


Figure 4.3 To switch between book designs, choose a theme from the Theme pop-up menu in the book pane.



Figure 4.4 To control whether or not titles, comments, and page numbers appear in your book, click the appropriate checkboxes in the book pane.

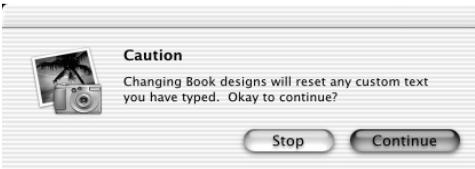


Figure 4.5 iPhoto warns you if you try to switch themes after entering custom text.

Designing Books

The first thing to do after selecting an album and switching into book mode is to pick a theme for your book and set the book-wide options that affect all pages.

To design your book:

1. From the Theme pop-up menu, choose one of the six themes built into iPhoto (**Figure 4.3**).

iPhoto switches the page design to the new theme.

2. Click the Titles, Comments, and Page Numbers checkboxes to determine whether or not those items will appear in your book (**Figure 4.4**).

iPhoto adds or removes those items from the current book design.

✓ Tips

- The Picture Book theme contains no text other than the book title on the cover page, so selecting the Titles and Comments checkboxes has no effect.
- If you enter custom text (any text other than titles or comments) in one theme, you'll lose it if you switch themes (**Figure 4.5**).

Designing Pages

Once you've chosen which theme you want and set the other options that affect the entire book, it's time to turn your attention to the individual pages in your book. The first page must always be the cover design, and it will appear on the cover of your book. You control the layout on all other pages.

To set a page design:

1. Select a page thumbnail by clicking it.
2. From the Page Design pop-up menu, choose a design (**Figure 4.6**).
iPhoto changes the design of the selected page, reflowing photos as necessary.

✓ Tips

- Each book theme offers different page designs, so spend some time looking at the page designs in each theme to get a feel for which ones you like best and which ones are most appropriate for your purposes.
- After the cover page, which is required, the other page designs are entirely optional. You could use all of them or only a single one—it's up to you.
- The more photos in a page design, the smaller they appear on the page.
- The page designs all assume an aspect ratio of 4:3, so if you use a non-standard cropping ratio, photos may not line up as you expect (see "Cropping Photos" in Chapter 3, "Editing Photos"). A different page design might help, or you may have to crop the image again with a 4:3 aspect ratio or revert to the original.
- If you want your cover image to appear inside the book as well, you'll have to duplicate the photo (see "Duplicating Photos" in Chapter 3, "Editing Photos").

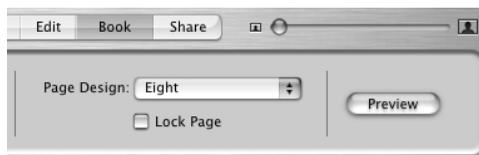


Figure 4.6 To switch page designs, select a page and choose a design from the Page Design pop-up menu.



Figure 4.7 Drag your desired cover photo into the top-left position so it's the first image in the album.



Figure 4.8 To move an entire page, drag it to the desired location. iPhoto rearranges the photos in the album in organize mode automatically.



Figure 4.9 To prevent a page from being affected by photos sliding around to accommodate other pages, select the page and click the Lock Page checkbox. A small lock icon appears underneath the page to indicate that it's locked.

Arranging Photos on Pages

As you design pages, you'll need to arrange photos so they appear in the right order.

To arrange photos on pages:

1. Make sure that your desired cover photo is the first (top left) image in the album in organize mode. If not, drag it into the top-left position (**Figure 4.7**).
 2. Switch to book mode and select the second page. Choose a page design for it; all themes have an optional Introduction design with plenty of room for text.
 3. Click the next page thumbnail and choose a design. Choosing a design with more spots for photos pulls them from the pages to the right; choosing a design with fewer photo spots pushes the photos to the pages on the right.
 4. To move a single image so it appears in a different spot, switch to organize mode, and drag the image to the desired location. Switch back to book mode.
 5. To move a page containing multiple photos, drag it to the desired location. The other pages hop out of the way as you drag (**Figure 4.8**). iPhoto rearranges the photos in organize mode for you.
 6. Repeat steps 3 through 5 for the remaining pages.
- ✓ **Tips**
- Work left to right because the pictures to the right move around based on the page designs you pick.
 - Once you get a page looking just right, click the Lock Page checkbox to prevent it from being affected by photos flowing onto or off of other pages (**Figure 4.9**).

Dealing with Low Resolution Warning Icons

One problem that crops up any time you print a digital photo is quality, or rather, your inability to predict the quality of the result. There are numerous variables that can play a part in reducing the quality of a printed image, but iPhoto tries to help prevent one of the most common—printing an image at a size larger than is ideal for the image's resolution. Whenever you have an image that's too low resolution for the proposed size in a book, iPhoto attaches a triangular warning icon to the photo to alert you to the problem (**Figure 4.10**).

To deal with a low resolution warning icon:

- ◆ Choose a different page design so the photo with the warning icon shrinks to a size small enough that the icon disappears.
- ◆ Move the image to a different location on the current page or another page where it will appear at the necessary smaller size (**Figure 4.11**).
- ◆ Cropping photos makes it more likely that the image won't be large enough to print properly. To remove cropping, switch back to organize mode, select the image, and from the File menu, choose Revert to Original. Be warned that this will remove all of your changes, not just the cropping. Try again after cropping the image less heavily.
- ◆ If you run into this problem regularly, make sure you're taking pictures at the highest resolution offered by your camera.



Figure 4.10 When a page design calls for a photo to be printed higher than its resolution will allow (for good quality), iPhoto places a warning icon next to the offending image (all three on the page that's showing above).

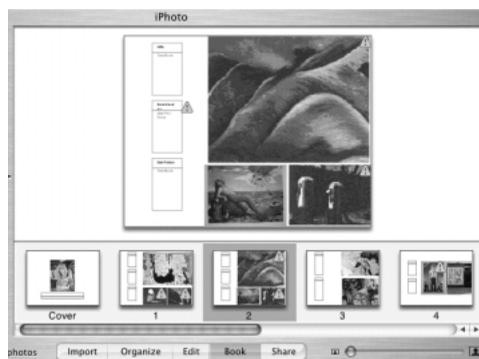


Figure 4.11 To make the warning icon disappear, move the offending image to another location where the printed size better matches the resolution of the image. Note how the mermaid picture no longer has the warning icon now that it's set to print smaller.

Previewing Books

You'll certainly want to preview what you've done before having your book printed at \$3 per page.

To preview a book:

- ◆ Either double-click a page thumbnail or click the Preview button on the right side of the book pane (**Figure 4.22**).

iPhoto opens a new window that shows only the contents of the current book page, along with controls for moving between pages and a checkbox that shows or hides the outlines of text boxes (**Figure 4.23**).

✓ Tips

- You can enter and edit text in the preview window just as though you were working in the display pane. Working in the preview window may prove easier than using the display pane.
- Turn off the guides by deselecting the Show Guides checkbox for a better representation of what your page will look like.
- You can leave the preview window open behind the main iPhoto window and it will change as you switch pages. If it doesn't reflect some small change you've made, switch pages to force an update.



Figure 4.22 To preview a book, either double-click a page thumbnail or click the Preview button in the book pane.

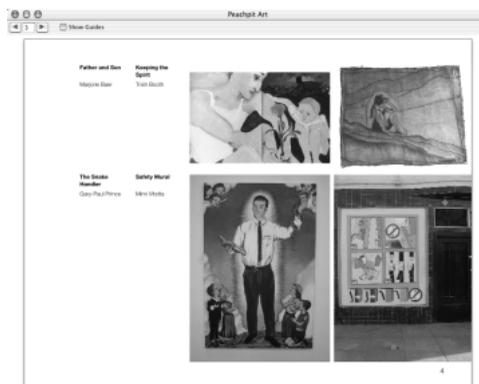


Figure 4.23 The preview window shows exactly what your pages will look like. Click the arrows at the top to switch pages, or enter a page number and press Return or Tab to go to a specific page. Click the Show Guides checkbox to see the text box outlines.

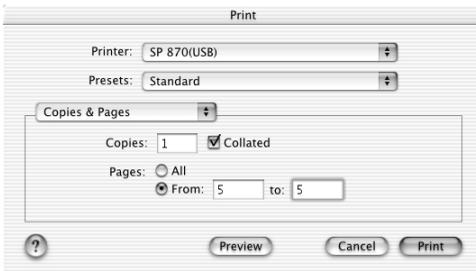


Figure 4.24 To print a book on your own printer, make sure you're in book mode, then choose Print from the File menu to open the Print dialog. Set the options you want, such as a custom page range as I've done here, and then click the Print button.

Printing Books on Your Own Printer

iPhoto makes it easy to preview a book on screen, and it's equally as easy to print a book on your own printer. Printing on your own printer is not only a good way to see what your book will look like on paper, it's also a great way to print multiple photos on a page with more control over text and size than you get when printing using iPhoto's normal printing options.

To print a book on your own printer:

1. Making sure you're in book mode, choose Print from the File menu ((**Cmd**)**P**).
iPhoto displays the standard Print dialog (**Figure 4.24**).
2. Choose the options you want, and click the Print button.

✓ Tips

- To print only one or two of the pages in your book, enter the appropriate page numbers in the Print dialog's Pages fields. Be sure to add one to the page number iPhoto displays underneath the page thumbnails, since it doesn't count the cover page, but your printer will.
- If you want a high-quality printout rather than just a draft, set the Print Settings and Color Management options appropriately for your printer from the Print dialog's pop-up menu.
- Remember that you can also click the Preview button in the Print dialog to generate a PDF instead of printing. I like to do this before printing to double-check that I entered the correct page numbers. You can even save the PDF from Apple's Preview application for sending to a friend.

Ordering Books

For instructions on how to order books from Apple, read "Ordering Books" in Chapter 5, "Sharing Photos."