

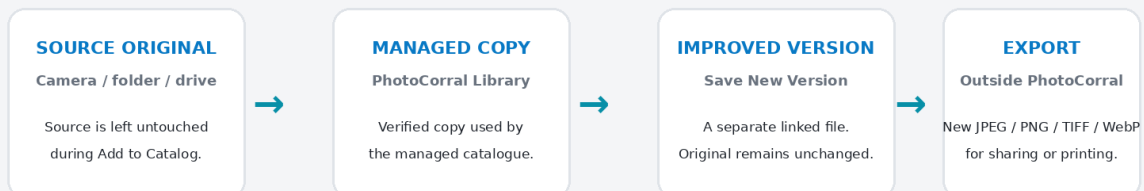


PhotoCorral 1.0.30

User's Guide

From your first import to organising, People, Places, Semantic Search, RAW development, masks, retouching, slideshow, sharing, export and printing

How PhotoCorral protects your originals



Removing a photo from a group does not delete the photo.

If you remove a photo from a Collection or a Person, it only disappears from that group. The photo stays in your Catalog, and the original file is not deleted.

Move to Photo Bin keeps the file recoverable. Empty Photo Bin permanently deletes it.

Made for first-time photo-management users

Windows 10 / 11 64-bit | Local & Private

HelpfulByte.com

Read This First

You do not need to be a photographer or a computer expert to use PhotoCorral.

The most important idea

PhotoCorral is designed to protect your source photographs. Add to Catalog leaves the source untouched, editing is non-destructive, and Save New Version creates a separate linked file.

Three words you will see often

Control	What it does
Catalog	PhotoCorral's organized record of your photos. A photo can appear in several views without being duplicated.
Managed storage	The location you choose for PhotoCorral's verified managed copies. Choose a drive or folder with plenty of free space.
Collection	A virtual album. Adding or removing a photo from a Collection does not move or delete the physical file.

A good beginner strategy

1. Install PhotoCorral and open it.
2. Choose the managed-storage location once.
3. Use Add to Catalog to import a small test folder first.
4. Learn the Library, Collections, People and Places with those photos.
5. Then import the rest of your collection.
6. Try Adjust on a copy-managed photo and use Save New Version when you like the result.

Do not worry about making a mistake while editing

The Adjust workspace is non-destructive. You can use Revert, return to the Library, or create a new improved version without overwriting the original.

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1. Install and First Launch

Start here if PhotoCorral has never been installed on this PC.

Install PhotoCorral

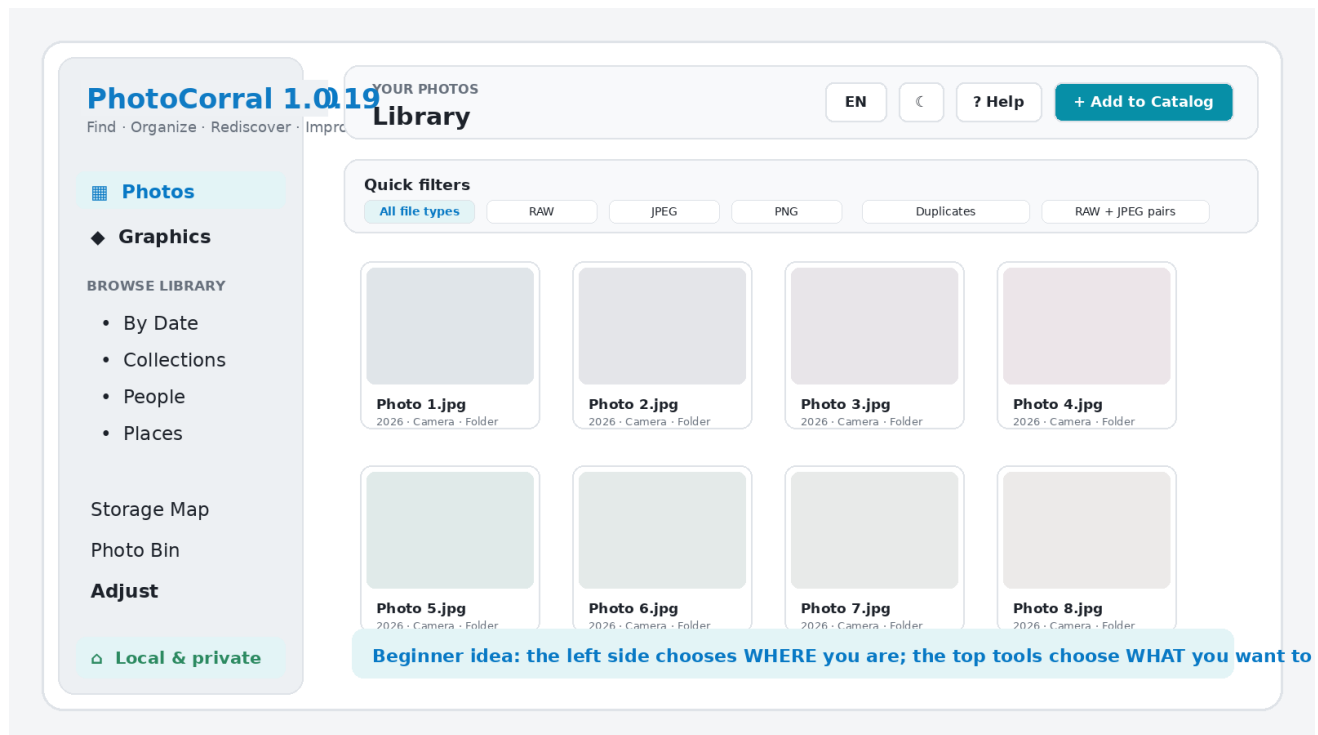
7. Locate the PhotoCorral 1.0.30 Windows .exe installer in the folder you received from HelpfulByte.
8. Double-click the installer.
9. Follow the normal Windows installer prompts.
10. When installation is complete, launch PhotoCorral from the Start Menu or its shortcut.

Only run the .exe installer

A .sha256 file, if supplied separately, is an advanced integrity-check file. It is not the installer.

First things to notice

- The left side contains Photos, Graphics and the Browse Library tree, including All Photos, Last Import, By Date, People, Places, Collections, Folders and Drives.
- The ribbon gives quick access to Add to Catalog, Adjust, Print, Export, Slideshow, Storage Map, Photo Bin, Help, language and theme controls.
- PhotoCorral can be switched between Light and Dark appearance.
- The interface language can be English, Italian, French, German or Spanish.



Illustrated layout guide. The exact contents of your Library will depend on your own photos.

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2. Choose Managed Storage

This is the first important decision: where PhotoCorral will keep the managed copies it imports.

What to choose

- Choose a drive or folder with enough free space for your photo collection and future growth.
- An internal drive is simplest. A permanently connected external drive can also be practical if it is reliable and has plenty of space.
- Avoid choosing a location that you routinely delete, rename or move.

Set the location

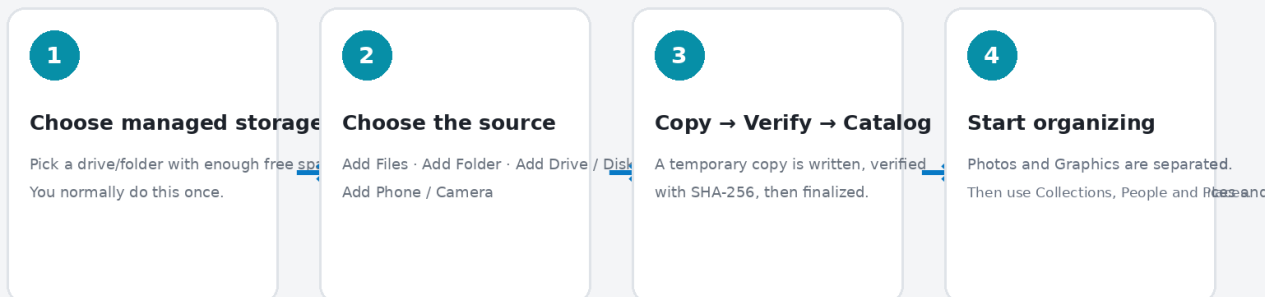
11. Click Add to Catalog.
12. At the top of the dialog, find Managed storage.
13. Click Choose Location.
14. Choose the parent location where PhotoCorral may create its managed library.
15. Confirm the selection. PhotoCorral remembers it for future imports.

You normally choose this once

PhotoCorral creates its managed library inside the location you choose. You do not need to pick the folder again for every import.

Your safest first import

Use Add to Catalog. PhotoCorral copies, verifies and catalogues your pictures while the source stays untouched.



IMPORTANT

Fresh Start / Reset Test Data is not a normal cleaning tool. It clears PhotoCorral catalogue data and managed imports.

Use it only when you deliberately want to reset PhotoCorral and you know your source originals are safe.

3. Import Photos Safely

For beginners, Add to Catalog is the recommended way to bring photographs into PhotoCorral.

Choose the source

Control	What it does
Add Files	Choose one or more individual image files.
Add Folder	Copy supported images from a folder and its subfolders.
Add Drive / Disk	Discover supported images on a selected drive while protecting system folders.
Add Phone / Camera	Import supported photos from a connected portable phone or camera.

What happens during import

16. PhotoCorral reads the source without deleting it.
17. A new managed copy is written to a temporary file.
18. The copy is verified using SHA-256.
19. The verified copy is finalized in PhotoCorral managed storage.
20. The item is added to the Catalog and classified into Photos or Graphics.

Pause, Resume, Skip Current File and Stop & Keep Imported

During a long import, use PhotoCorral's import controls rather than closing Windows abruptly. Skip Current File bypasses a troublesome phone/camera item; Stop & Keep Imported preserves everything already completed. Skipped device items are remembered for later scans.

Cloud-synced folders

Synced OneDrive, Dropbox and Google Drive folders can be added like ordinary folders. Online-only files must first be readable by Windows and the sync provider so PhotoCorral can copy and verify them.

Fresh Start / Reset Test Data - use with extreme care

This is not a normal housekeeping button. It clears PhotoCorral Catalog data, cached thumbnails, scan locations, portable-device skip/do-not-reimport history and PhotoCorral-managed imported copies. Use it only when you deliberately want to reset PhotoCorral and your source originals are safely available elsewhere.

Phone / camera imports

- PhotoCorral retries a failed portable-device file once before asking you to intervene.
- If an iPhone or camera transfer appears stuck, click Skip Current File. PhotoCorral keeps the completed imports and continues with the remaining device items.
- A device file you skip is remembered for that device and is bypassed automatically on later scans, so the same troublesome item does not stop every import.
- If Windows reports a copy failure normally, PhotoCorral may offer Skip File & Continue, Retry, or Stop & Keep Imported. The original file on the phone or camera is never changed.

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4. Understand the Library

The Library is the main place where you browse, select and organize your pictures.

Photos and Graphics

PhotoCorral automatically separates ordinary photographs from graphics. Use Photos for your photographic library and Graphics for image files that PhotoCorral classifies as graphic artwork.

Selecting photos

- Click a thumbnail to select it.
- Use Ctrl+click for several individual photos.
- Use Select All to select the complete current result, not just thumbnails currently visible on screen.
- Use Deselect All to clear the selection.
- The thumbnail-size slider makes the Library grid smaller or larger.

All Photos order

In Photos > All Photos, use Newest first or Oldest first to browse chronologically. PhotoCorral uses the effective photo date: the original capture date when available, or a PhotoCorral manual date when you have corrected it. Exact duplicate sets remain adjacent where applicable.

Useful actions from the Library

Control	What it does
Open / Viewer	Inspect a photograph at a larger size.
Photo Info	View file, capture, camera/lens, GPS, People and Places information.
Adjust	Open the non-destructive Editor.
Export	Create an external copy for use outside PhotoCorral.
Print	Prepare page layout and open the Windows printer dialog.

Control	What it does
Slideshow	Create a full-screen carousel from selected photos or the current view.
View in Folder	Locate the physical file in Windows Explorer.
Edit Date & Location	Correct a catalogue date and/or location without rewriting the original file metadata.
Show Original Location	Open the original source location when it is currently available.

PHOTO CORRAL 1.0.30**Collections, People and Places are separate branches**

This is one of the most important ideas in PhotoCorral. Collections, People and Places are not folders inside one another. They are separate catalogue views of the same photographs. By Date is another view of the same catalogue.

A photo can therefore appear in several branches at the same time without creating extra copies of the file.

Branch	What it means
Collections	Albums or projects you create yourself. Example: Holidays > Italy 2025.
People	Who appears in a photo. Example: Ester.
Places	A separate catalogue branch built automatically from embedded GPS information. Places do not move physical files.
By Date	When a photo was taken. Example: 2025 > September.

One photo, several views

One photo of Ester taken in Messina could appear in Collection: Italy Holiday 2025; Person: Ester; Place: Italy > Sicily > Messina; and By Date: September 2025. It is still one catalogue photo, not four copies.

5. Find Photos with Date, Quick Filters and Semantic Search

PhotoCorral combines structured browsing and Quick Filters with local Semantic Search, so you can find photos either by catalogue information or by what is visibly in the picture.

Browse by date

Use the top-level By Date branch to browse by year and month. GPS Places stay focused on geography and do not add redundant By Date sub-branches.

Quick Filters

Control	What it does
File type	RAW, JPEG, PNG, HEIC, TIFF, WebP or Other.
Duplicates	Show exact duplicates identified by PhotoCorral.
RAW + JPEG pairs	Show paired RAW/JPEG items.
Location	Narrow the current view by location.

Control	What it does
Camera	Narrow by camera make/model.
Lens	Narrow by lens.
From / To	Limit results to a date range.
Needs Date and/or Location	Show photos missing a usable date, a location, or both.

Filters do not move anything

Quick Filters only change what you are currently seeing. Reset filters clears the filters but keeps your selected Collection, Person, Place or date scope.

Folder browsing

The Folder Quick Filter is not in the top ribbon. Browse folders from the Folders branch in the left Library tree, or use Show in Folder / Show Original Location from a photo's right-click menu.

Edit Date & Location

- Right-click one photo or several selected photos and choose Edit Date & Location.... Manual values are stored in the PhotoCorral catalogue; the original image file and its EXIF metadata are not rewritten.
- For one photo, known date and location values are pre-filled. Leaving a pre-filled value unchanged keeps the original metadata source and does not create an unnecessary manual override.
- For several selected photos with the same known date, that shared date is pre-filled once. For photos with different dates, leave the date field blank to preserve each photo's existing date while applying one common location.
- Date entries may use YYYY, YYYY-MM or YYYY-MM-DD. Manual dates participate in chronological sorting and By Date.

Safe metadata correction

Changing a PhotoCorral catalogue date or location does not create another photo and does not mark the item as a duplicate. File identity, file path and SHA-256 duplicate detection remain separate from catalogue metadata.

Semantic Search

- Click Semantic Search beside the date filters, then describe what you want to find - for example pizza, church interior, sunset over water, or girl by the sea.
- The first time you use Semantic Search, PhotoCorral builds a local visual index. The first index can take time in a large catalogue; you can keep using PhotoCorral while the counter and timer progress.
- The index is saved on this computer. Later Update Index runs analyse only new or changed photos, so you do not need to re-index the whole catalogue each time.
- Use Strict for only the strongest matches, Balanced for normal everyday searching, and Broad for a wider set of related results. You can switch modes directly above the results.
- Semantic Search compares visual meaning rather than relying on filenames or keywords. It runs locally and does not upload your photographs to a PhotoCorral search service.

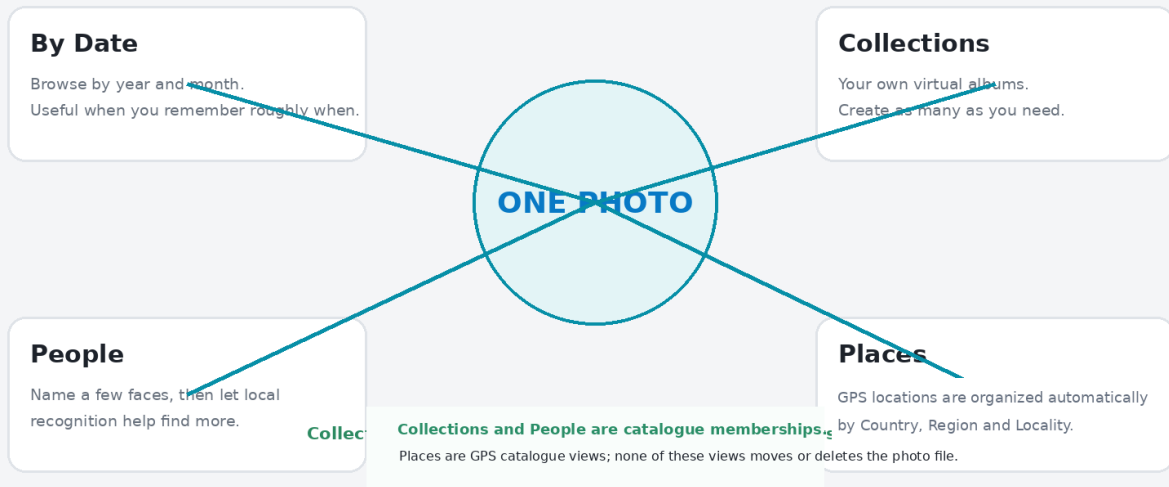
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6. Collections and Subcollections

Think of a Collection as a virtual album. You can create as many as you need.

Four easy ways to rediscover a photo

A single photograph can appear in several views without being duplicated or moved.



Create a Collection

21. Click + Collection.
22. Give the Collection a clear name such as Travel, Family, Recipes or Portfolio.
23. Select the Collection in the left tree when you want to view it.

Create a Subcollection

24. Select the parent Collection.
25. Click + Subcollection.
26. Name it, for example Travel > Italy > Rome.

Add photographs

27. Select one or more thumbnails.
28. Click Add Selected.
29. Choose the Collection or Collections you want.
30. A single photo may belong to several Collections without creating duplicate files.

Remove photographs from a Collection

31. Open the Collection.
32. Select the photos to remove.
33. Click Remove Selected or use Remove from This Collection from the context menu.
34. Read the confirmation and click Remove only when you are sure.

Safe removal

Removing a photo from a Collection does not delete, rename or move the physical photo. The photo remains in Photos or Graphics and can also stay in other Collections.

Parent Collections

A parent Collection includes photos assigned to its descendant Subcollections. Its By Date view reflects the same combined scope.

Browse a Collection or Subcollection by Date

Every Collection and Subcollection automatically has its own By Date view. You do not need to create date folders yourself.

35. Open Collections and select the Collection or Subcollection you want.
36. Expand its By Date entry.
37. Choose a year and month to show only photos from that Collection scope and that period.
38. Return to the Collection name to see its complete contents, ordered newest first.

A parent Collection also includes photos from descendant Subcollections, so its By Date counts include those descendant photos.

People and Places stay with the photo

Adding a photo to a Collection does not remove or change its People or GPS Place information. The same photo can appear in a Collection, under a named Person, under a Place and under By Date without creating another physical copy.

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7. People and Face Recognition

People is a local face-finding and grouping system. Photos and face data stay on your PC.

Privacy

Face detection, descriptors and recognition run locally. PhotoCorral does not intentionally upload your photos or face embeddings to PhotoCorral servers.

The easiest first-time method

39. Choose a few clear photos of one person.
40. Click + Person and enter the person's name.
41. Select the clear photos and click Tag Person, then choose that name.
42. Repeat until PhotoCorral has several confirmed examples of the person.
43. Open People and click Update Faces.

For reliable automatic recognition

PhotoCorral uses only People with enough user-confirmed reference faces. The current recognition system expects at least 3 confirmed faces from at least 2 photos before a Person can become a useful automatic reference.

What automatic recognition does

- YuNet detects faces locally.
- Intel OpenVINO creates local face identity embeddings and compares them with People you have already confirmed.
- Strong known-person matches are added directly to the matched Person.

- Unknown or uncertain faces remain under Suggested Face Groups for you to review.
- PhotoCorral never creates a new named identity automatically.

Suggested Face Groups

44. Open People.
45. Review a suggested group of similar faces.
46. Click a face thumbnail if you want to open its source photo.
47. Use Assign to Person... for an existing person, or Create Person... for someone new.

Correct a wrong automatic match

48. Open the Person who contains the wrong photo.
49. Right-click the wrong photo while you are viewing that Person.
50. Choose Correct / Move Person....
51. PhotoCorral corrects that Person assignment while preserving other People in a multi-face photo. The rejected Person is also remembered so the corrected face is not immediately auto-assigned back to the same wrong Person.
52. Choose an existing Person, or choose Create New Person... when the correct person does not yet exist. Only the current wrong Person assignment is corrected. Other People already present on a multi-person photo remain unchanged. PhotoCorral remembers the rejected Person for that corrected face so automatic recognition does not immediately place it back under the same wrong Person.

Ignore faces you do not need

- Select suggested groups and choose Ignore Selected Groups.
- Ignore All Remaining Suggestions removes all remaining unassigned suggestions after confirmation.
- Show Ignored Groups loads ignored groups in manageable batches rather than rendering hundreds at once.
- Restore Group gives immediate busy feedback and restores one ignored group. Restore All displays progress while it works.
- Ignored faces persist after restart and do not immediately reappear.

Named People face thumbnails

The Named People dashboard shows a representative face thumbnail for each person whenever PhotoCorral has a usable assigned face. The thumbnail is cropped and fitted automatically; the face is not stretched.

Choose the face you want to represent a Person

53. Open People and click the named Person.
54. Find a photo that contains a clear face you prefer.
55. Right-click that photo and choose Set as Person Thumbnail.
56. Return to the Named People dashboard. That face now represents the Person.
57. To change it later, repeat the same steps with a different photo.
58. To let PhotoCorral choose again, right-click a photo while viewing that Person and choose Use Automatic Person Thumbnail.

Changing a Person thumbnail is display-only. It does not retrain recognition, move face assignments or change the number of photos assigned to that Person.

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8. Places and GPS

Places is a separate branch of the PhotoCorral catalogue. It answers “Where?” without creating Windows folders or Collections. In PhotoCorral 1.0.30, the visible Places tree is built automatically from GPS information in your photos.

GPS-based places

When a photo contains GPS coordinates, PhotoCorral resolves them locally using its bundled GeoNames gazetteer and builds a hierarchy such as Australia > New South Wales > Sydney. A readable place path can appear with the photo, while Photo Info keeps the original latitude, longitude and altitude where available.

How the automatic Places hierarchy works

59. Open Places in the left Library tree.
60. Expand a Country to see its Regions.
61. Expand a Region to see its Localities.
62. Click a Country, Region or Locality to view the photos that belong beneath that level.

Parent levels aggregate their descendants automatically. For example, selecting Italy shows photos from Sicily, Messina and any other GPS locations beneath Italy. This is a catalogue view only; no photograph is physically moved.

Automatic GPS hierarchy

PhotoCorral 1.0.30 presents one clear Places tree built from GPS metadata: Country > Region > Locality. Select a parent level to include all GPS photos beneath it. Places are virtual catalogue views and do not move files.

What Places information means

Type	How it works
GPS hierarchy	Created automatically from embedded GPS coordinates and named locally with GeoNames as Country > Region > Locality.
Parent levels	Country and Region nodes include photos from all descendant locations, so you can browse broadly or drill down to a locality.

GPS privacy

GPS-to-place naming runs locally. PhotoCorral 1.0.30 does not need a public reverse-geocoding service at customer runtime.

Manual locations and the Places tree

- A manual location can be entered as a readable path such as Messina, Sicily, Italy. It is catalogue information and does not rewrite the source file.
- If the manually entered Country > Region > Locality exactly matches an existing visible GPS-derived Places path, PhotoCorral reuses that branch instead of showing a second identical branch.
- This reuse is display/catalogue logic only. PhotoCorral does not merge, rename or delete existing stored Place records when applying this safeguard.

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9. Photo Viewer and Photo Info

Use the Viewer when you want a larger look without entering the Editor.

Open a photo

Open a thumbnail from the Library. The Viewer lets you inspect the photo and move through neighboring items with Previous / Next.

Return safely to the Library

Use Back to Library or press Esc to return from the Viewer. The Viewer-specific close X is intentionally omitted so it cannot be confused with the Windows title-bar X that closes PhotoCorral.

Open Adjust directly

The Viewer includes an Adjust button. It opens the photograph currently being viewed directly in the Adjust workspace without requiring you to return to the Library first.

Photo Info

- File details and source/version information.
- Capture information where present.

- Camera and lens details where present.
- Geographic place name and GPS coordinates where present.
- Assigned People and resolved GPS place information.
- Additional readable EXIF information.
- Improved versions identify their source photograph.

You can also right-click a Library thumbnail and choose Photo Info to open the Viewer with the Info panel displayed.

Metadata is read-only here

Opening Photo Info does not rewrite the file or its metadata.

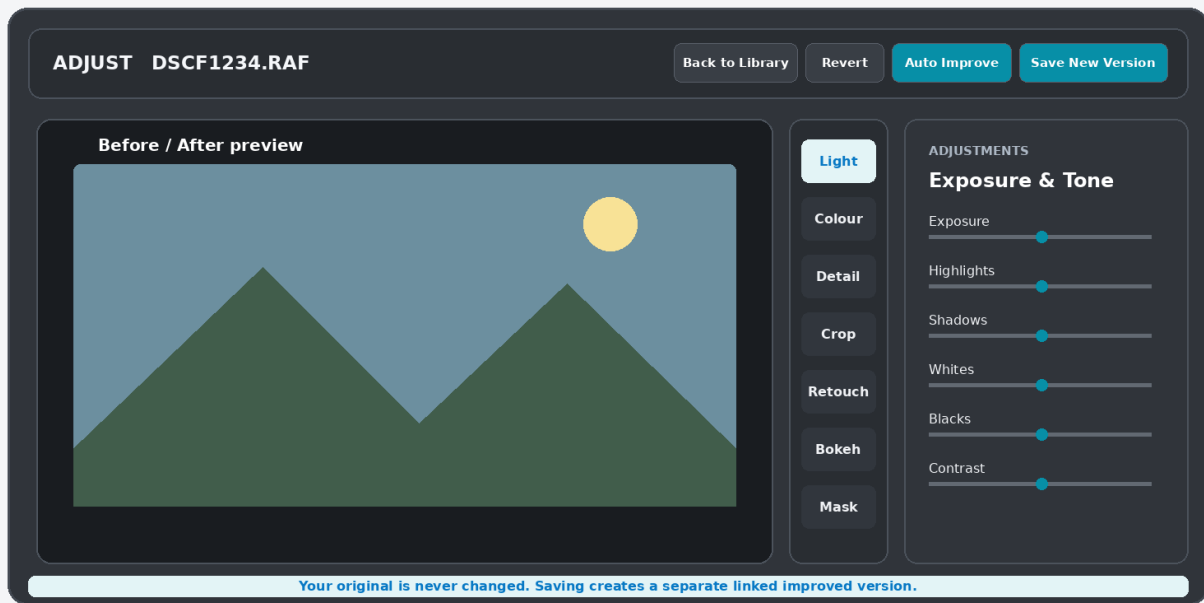
If you have corrected a date or location in PhotoCorral, Photo Info shows the catalogue value while preserving the original file metadata separately where it exists.

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10. Adjust Workspace Basics

Adjust is PhotoCorral's non-destructive photo editor for JPEG and supported RAW photos.

Adjust workspace - what each area does



Open Adjust

63. Select a photo in the Library.
64. Choose Adjust from the context menu or open the Adjust workspace with that photo selected.
65. Wait for RAW preparation if the file is a supported RAW photo.

Before / After

- Split shows Before and After together.
- Drag the divider to compare different parts of the image.
- Before shows the untouched starting appearance.
- After shows your current edit.
- Use Fit, 100%, zoom out and zoom in to inspect details.

Main controls at the top

Control	What it does
Back to Library	Leave the Adjust workspace.

Control	What it does
Revert	Return the current edit to its previous/unadjusted state.
Auto Adjust	Apply a conservative automatic starting correction.
Save New Version & Return	Render a separate improved file and return to the Library.
JPEG quality	For JPEG output, Match Original is the normal default. 100% means maximum JPEG quality, not lossless.

Non-destructive editing

Your original file remains unchanged. PhotoCorral stores the adjustment recipe and creates a separate improved version when you save.

11. Auto Adjust and White Balance

Use these two features as starting points, not as rules you must accept.

Auto Adjust

66. Open the photo in Adjust.
67. Click Auto Adjust.
68. Watch the visible sliders move to the exact values PhotoCorral used.
69. Compare Before and After.
70. Fine-tune any slider you want before saving.

Auto Adjust applies conservative tone, colour/detail decisions and includes highlight protection so meaningful bright areas are less likely to be washed out.

Auto Adjust does not change white balance

Temperature and Tint are deliberately separate. If you want automatic white balance, press Auto White Balance yourself.

Auto White Balance

71. Open Colour.
72. Click Auto White Balance.
73. Check whether the colour cast improves.
74. Fine-tune Temperature and Tint manually if needed.

If PhotoCorral cannot make a reliable neutral-colour estimate, it may leave the correction small rather than forcing a large change.

Histogram and clipping warnings

- The Histogram displays RGB and luminance information.
- Highlight clipping can show a red preview overlay.
- Shadow clipping can show a blue preview overlay.
- These overlays are preview-only and are never saved into the image.

12. RAW Development

RAW files are treated as digital negatives: PhotoCorral develops them without changing the original RAW.

Open a RAW file

75. Select a supported RAW file and choose Adjust.
76. The editor opens; allow RAW controls to finish preparing if a status message appears.
77. Use Exposure, Highlights, Shadows, White Balance, Detail, Crop, Masks, Retouch and other tools as required.
78. Click Save New Version & Return when finished.

What gets saved

PhotoCorral renders the edited RAW at full developed resolution into a separate JPEG improved version unless your intentional crop/rotation changes the output dimensions. The original RAW remains separately catalogued and unchanged.

RAW Save New Version may take longer

Full-resolution high-bit RAW rendering is more demanding than editing a normal JPEG. Wait for the render to finish rather than closing the app.

If a RAW file is not supported

- RAW compatibility depends on the camera model and RAW/compression variant. If PhotoCorral cannot decode a RAW file, it marks the item RAW UNSUPPORTED instead of silently failing.
- When the camera file contains a usable embedded preview, PhotoCorral may still show that preview for browsing. The original RAW remains untouched.
- Sensor-based Adjust, printing and full-quality export are unavailable for that unsupported RAW until the decoding engine supports it. This does not affect supported RAW files from the same or other cameras.

RAW + JPEG pairs

Use the RAW + JPEG pairs Quick Filter to locate camera pairs. The RAW and JPEG remain distinct catalogued items.

13. Light, Colour and Detail

These are the core manual controls for everyday photo improvement.

Light

Control	What it does
Exposure	Makes the overall photo brighter or darker.
Highlights	Recovers or brightens the brighter tonal areas.
Shadows	Opens or deepens darker areas.
Whites	Moves the bright white point.
Blacks	Moves the black point.
Contrast	Increases or reduces overall tonal separation.

Colour

Control	What it does
Temperature	Moves the photo warmer or cooler.
Tint	Corrects green/magenta colour bias.
Vibrance	Adjusts colour intensity more gently.
Saturation	Adjusts overall colour intensity.

Detail

Control	What it does
Clarity	Adds or reduces midtone contrast/definition.
Texture	Changes fine surface detail.
Dehaze	Cuts or adds atmospheric haze.
Sharpen	Increases edge definition.

Control	What it does
Luminance	Reduces brightness noise.
Colour Noise	Reduces coloured speckling.
Detail Preservation	Balances noise reduction against retained detail.

Begin gently

For natural-looking photographs, make small changes and use Before / After often. Strong settings can make an image look artificial.

14. Black & White and Auto Recolor

PhotoCorral can convert colour to monochrome and can also estimate plausible colour for grayscale photographs.

Black & White

79. Open Colour.
80. Enable the Black & White section.
81. Choose Natural, Portrait, Landscape, Dramatic or Custom.
82. Use Red, Yellow, Green, Cyan, Blue and Magenta controls to change how original colours translate into brightness.

Auto Recolor

83. Open a grayscale/black-and-white photo in Adjust.
84. In Colour, click Auto Recolor.
85. Wait while PhotoCorral estimates plausible colours locally.
86. Adjust Colour Strength if required.
87. Use Clear Recolor to remove the recolour result.

Recolor is an estimate

Automatic colourisation cannot know the historical colour of every object. Treat it as a creative reconstruction, then judge the result visually.

15. Crop and Transform

Use Crop to improve framing, straighten a horizon or change orientation.

Rotate and straighten

- Rotate Left and Rotate Right turn the image in 90-degree steps.
- Straighten is useful for small horizon or architectural corrections.

Crop ratios

Available options include Free, Original, 1:1, 3:2, 2:3, 4:3, 3:4, 16:9, 9:16 and a Custom size in source-image pixels.

88. Choose the ratio.

89. Click Edit Crop.

90. Drag the crop area or its handles over the photo.

91. For Custom size, enter exact Width and Height in source-image pixels, then position the crop.

92. Use Reset Crop & Transform if you want to start again.

Crop is non-destructive

The crop is part of the adjustment recipe. The original file is not physically cut down.

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16. Masks and Selective Adjustments

Masks let you change one part of the photo without changing the rest.

Masks: adjust one part of a photo

A mask is simply a selection. Red overlay = the area PhotoCorral will target.

1

Create a mask

New Mask, or start with Auto Sky, Foreground, Subject or Background mask.



2

Refine it

Brush adds to the selection. Eraser removes unwanted areas.



3

Choose the side

Normal sliders affect the mask. Invert Mask targets the opposite area.



4

Fine-tune

Use Light, Colour or Detail sliders, or apply Retouch / Bokeh.



Best beginner habit

Use an automatic mask first, then zoom in and correct the edges with Brush / Eraser before making strong local adjustments.

Automatic masks

Control	What it does
Auto Sky	Select the detected sky.
Auto Foreground	Select a near/foreground region; Foreground range can be Tight, Balanced or Broad.
Auto Subject	Select the main person/object subject.
Auto Background	Select the background.

Cleanup

Automatic-mask Cleanup can be Light, Standard or Strong. Stronger cleanup is intended to reduce small isolated fragments and gaps. Automatic masks are still estimates and can be corrected manually.

Refine the mask

- Brush adds to the selection.
- Eraser removes part of the selection.

- Brush Size changes the cursor size.
- Hardness changes edge firmness.
- Opacity changes how strongly a brush stroke affects the mask.
- Show Overlay displays the selected region.
- Undo Last Stroke reverses the most recent brush/eraser stroke.
- Clear Mask removes the current coverage without deleting the mask record.
- Delete removes the mask itself.

Invert Mask and two-sided editing

Invert Mask targets the opposite side of the same mask. PhotoCorral keeps separate settings for the normal side and the inverted side, so you can darken a sky and brighten the rest of the picture without losing either correction.

Useful editor shortcuts

- [and] change brush size.
- Shift+[and Shift+] change hardness.
- Hold Spacebar and drag to pan while zoomed without losing the current mask tool.

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17. Retouching

Retouch contains several local correction tools. Work gently and zoom in when accuracy matters.

Blemish Heal

93. Choose Blemish Heal.
94. Set Brush Size and Hardness.
95. Click the blemish. PhotoCorral samples nearby texture and blends it over the spot.
96. Use Undo Last if needed.

Red Eye Correction

97. Choose Red Eye Correction.
98. Set Eye Size so the circle covers the pupil.
99. Click the center of the red eye.
100. PhotoCorral targets strongly red pixels inside the circle.

Skin Smooth

101. Choose Skin Smooth.
102. Set Brush Size, Hardness and Strength.
103. Paint over skin areas.
104. Use Undo Last Stroke or Clear Smoothing if needed.

Selective Retouch

Selective Retouch combines the mask system with useful local presets.

Control	What it does
Lighten / Darken	Brighten or darken the masked area.
Soften Skin / Texture	Reduce local texture.
Add Detail	Increase local detail.
Warmth	Warm the masked area.
Colour Pop	Increase local colour impact.
Improve Sky / Blue Sky Boost / Sunset Glow / Cloud Drama	Improve or recolour the existing sky.
Relight Subject	Brighten or improve the main subject.

105. Create or choose a Retouch mask.
106. Use Brush Mask / Erase Mask or an automatic option.
107. Choose a Retouch Preset and Amount.
108. Click Apply Preset.
109. Fine-tune the same active mask with Light, Colour and Detail controls if desired.

Sky tools improve the existing sky

PhotoCorral 1.0.30 does not paste a replacement sky photograph. The sky presets improve/recolour the sky already in your picture.

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18. Bokeh

Bokeh keeps a selected subject/focus area sharp and blurs the area outside it. The intended order is Mask first, then Bokeh.

-
110. Create an Auto Subject mask or another useful focus mask.
 111. Open Bokeh.
 112. Enable Bokeh.
 113. Choose the Focus Mask.
 114. Choose Focus Scope: Subject + connected or Subject only.
 115. Set Blur Amount.
 116. Set Edge Softness.
 117. Use Edit Focus Mask if an edge needs correcting.

Subject + connected can preserve nearby same-depth objects that belong visually with the subject. Subject only restricts focus protection more tightly to the selected subject mask.

Good uses

Portraits, people holding objects, pets, flowers and other subjects where you want stronger separation from the background.

Check edges at 100%

Hair, bicycle spokes, chair edges, foliage and transparent objects may need mask refinement to avoid unnatural blur boundaries.

Recommended Mask -> Bokeh workflow

118. Open Mask first and create Auto Subject, or choose another mask that covers the area you want to keep sharp.
119. Use Brush and Eraser to refine difficult edges before applying blur.
120. Open Bokeh, enable it and choose that mask as the Focus Mask.
121. Start with Subject only for the tightest focus protection. Try Subject + connected when nearby same-depth objects should stay sharp with the subject.
122. Set Blur Amount, then adjust Edge Softness while viewing important edges at 100%.

Edge Softness

Edge Softness controls the transition between the protected focus area and the blurred background. A value of 0 gives the crispest narrow anti-aliased transition. Increasing the value blends the boundary more gradually. If hair, glasses, fingers, bicycle spokes or another fine edge looks wrong, choose Edit Focus Mask, correct the mask with Brush/Eraser, then return to Bokeh and check the result again.

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19. Save New Version and Batch Auto Adjust

Saving an improved version is different from Export.

Save New Version & Return

This creates a separate linked improved version inside the PhotoCorral Catalog. The source original remains protected. The new version inherits the source photo's Named People and Collection/Subcollection memberships so it remains visible in those same catalogue views after saving. Where manual Place membership is present, that membership is preserved too; GPS-based Places continue from the copied geographic metadata. Repeated saves create additional version filenames rather than overwriting an earlier derivative.

What to expect after Save New Version

123. Finish your edit and click Save New Version & Return.
124. Wait for Rendering full resolution to complete, especially for RAW files.
125. PhotoCorral returns to the Library and adds the new _Improved version to the Catalog.
126. If you started from a Person or Collection, the derivative also appears in that same Person or Collection because the logical membership is inherited.

Saving a derivative does not duplicate face-detection embeddings or create a new automatic identity. It preserves catalogue membership only.

JPEG quality

For JPEG originals, Match Original is the normal default. Use higher quality only when you understand the size/quality tradeoff. JPEG at 100% is still JPEG, not a lossless format.

Batch Auto Adjust

127. Select several photos in the Library.
128. Right-click the selection and choose Auto Adjust Selected.

129. Review the Before / After card for each photo.
130. Untick Include for any result you do not want to save.
131. Choose Save Selected Versions & Return.

Batch Auto Adjust can include RAW and normal photos. RAW cards use the native high-bit RAW path and create full-resolution RAW-derived improved versions when saved.

Originals stay untouched

Batch processing creates separate improved versions only for the items you leave included.

20. Export and Share Photos

Export creates a file for use outside PhotoCorral. It does not add that exported copy back into the Catalog.

Basic export

132. Select a photo and click Export...
133. Choose a Preset: Full Quality, Email / Sharing, Web, Print Quality or Custom.
134. Choose the destination folder and filename.
135. Choose JPEG, PNG, TIFF or WebP.
136. Choose Original/full size or resize the long edge.
137. Set Quality where applicable.
138. Choose whether to Keep photo metadata or Remove metadata.
139. Set DPI if required, then click Export.

DPI in simple terms

DPI is mainly print-resolution metadata. For JPEG, PNG and TIFF, changing DPI does not automatically change the pixel dimensions. WebP uses pixel dimensions rather than DPI metadata.

Export never overwrites an existing filename

PhotoCorral creates an outside-the-Catalog copy and protects existing filenames.

When to use Export instead of Save New Version

Control	What it does
Save New Version	You want the improved version to remain linked and managed inside PhotoCorral.
Export	You want a copy for email, a website, another program, a lab, a USB drive or another person.

Share several photos to Facebook / Messenger

PhotoCorral uses a small native Share Queue so you can paste several selected photos into Messenger one at a time. It does not need an Explorer share folder.

140. In the Library, select the photos you want to send. Use Ctrl+click for individual photos if needed.
141. Right-click one of the selected photos and choose Facebook / Messenger Selected....
142. Facebook Messages opens in your normal browser and the PhotoCorral Share Queue stays visible on top.
143. The queue says Photo 1 of N copied to the clipboard. Click the Messenger conversation and press Ctrl+V to paste that photo.
144. Return to the Share Queue and click Next Photo. PhotoCorral replaces the clipboard with the next selected photo.
145. Paste again with Ctrl+V and repeat until the final photo.
146. After pasting the last photo, click Finish to close the Share Queue.

Share Queue controls

- Previous goes back one item and copies that previous photo to the clipboard.
- Copy Again copies the current photo again without changing position.
- Next Photo advances to the next selected photo and replaces the clipboard contents.
- Finish closes the queue. On the last photo, Next Photo is disabled.

Windows keeps the last clipboard image until it is replaced, so pressing Ctrl+V repeatedly can paste the same photo more than once. Use Next Photo before pasting the next selected image. If a supported RAW photo is selected, PhotoCorral prepares a rendered JPEG representation for clipboard sharing; it does not send the camera RAW file itself to Messenger.

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21. Print Photos

PhotoCorral prepares the page. Windows still controls the physical printer and driver options.

-
147. Select a photo and click Print...
 148. Choose Paper size.
 149. Choose Orientation: Auto, Portrait or Landscape.
 150. Set margins.
 151. Choose Fit - whole photo or Fill - crop edges.
 152. Choose the number of copies.
 153. Leave Center on page enabled unless you intentionally need a different layout.
 154. Choose a target print DPI such as 300 DPI.
 155. Check the Source resolution at print size readout.
 156. Click Print... and choose the physical printer in the Windows printer dialog.

Supported page sizes in PhotoCorral

A4, A3, A5, Letter, Legal, 4 x 6 in, 5 x 7 in, 8 x 10 in, 10 x 15 cm and 13 x 18 cm.

Fit vs Fill

Fit shows the whole photo and may leave space. Fill uses the entire printable area but may crop image edges.

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22. Slideshow / Carousel

Use Slideshow for a full-screen presentation, including RAW and mixed photo queues.

Slideshow / Carousel workflow

Select photos, arrange them, choose how they play, then start full-screen or export a video.

Slideshow Queue

1. Photo 1

↑ ↓ ×

2. Photo 2

↑ ↓ ×

3. Photo 3

↑ ↓ ×

4. Photo 4

↑ ↓ ×

5. Photo 5

↑ ↓ ×

Drag rows or use arrows to set the exact order.

Options

Slide advance

Manual / 2-30 s

Image display

Fit / Fill

Transitions

None / Fade / Mixed

Music

None / built-in / your file

Repeat

On / Off

Shuffle

On / Off

End credit

On / Off

Start Slideshow

Export Video...

During playback: Space = Play/Pause · ←/→ = Previous/Next · M = Mute · Esc = Exit

Build the queue

157. Select several photos and click Slideshow..., or open Slideshow and choose Use Current View.
158. Use Selected Photos to replace the queue with your current selection.
159. Drag rows or use Up / Down arrows to arrange the exact order.
160. Use the x button to remove a slide from the queue. This does not remove the photo from the Catalog.

Choose how the slideshow plays

- Slide advance: Manual or 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 15 or 30 seconds.
- Image display: Fit - whole photo or Fill - crop to screen.
- Transitions: None, Fade or Mixed - 6 gentle transitions.
- Music: No music, Soft Piano, Gentle Strings or Choose My Music...
- Music volume: 0-100%.
- Repeat when finished: on/off.
- Show PhotoCorral credit on end screen: on/off.
- Shuffle playback: on/off. Shuffle does not change the saved manual queue order.

During playback

- Left / Right Arrow: previous / next.
- Spacebar: pause/resume automatic playback or advance in Manual mode.

- M: mute/unmute music.
- Esc: close the slideshow.
- Move the mouse to bring the controls back after they fade.

TV / second-screen Windows tip

If you use a TV or second monitor, set up the Windows display first and move PhotoCorral to the display you want before starting the full-screen presentation.

23. Export Slideshow Video

Turn the current slideshow into a Full HD video file without screen recording.

-
161. Build and arrange the slideshow queue.
 162. Choose the slideshow Fit/Fill, transitions, music and end-credit options.
 163. Click Export Video...
 164. Choose a Photo duration from 3 to 30 seconds.
 165. Confirm the summary and click Export Video.
 166. Wait for the progress to reach 100%.
 167. Use Play Recording to open the saved video in the Windows default player, or Open Folder to locate it.

Video format

- Resolution: 1920 x 1080 Full HD.
- Frame rate: 30 fps.
- The output format is selected/detected by the PhotoCorral export system.
- Repeat is ignored for video export because one complete presentation is rendered.
- The END screen is included and the PhotoCorral credit follows your slideshow setting.

Play Last Recording in the Slideshow setup reopens the newest successfully completed slideshow recording, if the file is still available.

24. Storage Map, Photo Bin and Offline Drives

These tools help you understand where your files live and recover from common storage situations.

Storage Map

Storage Map summarizes photo count, total size, locations, folders, duplicate groups and RAW/JPEG pairs. It also shows the largest folders and scan-protection/ignored folders.

Photo Bin

- Move to Photo Bin is the recoverable file-removal workflow for eligible managed photographs.
- Restore returns an item from Photo Bin.
- Restore All returns everything currently in Photo Bin.
- Files remain recoverable until you deliberately empty the bin.

Empty Photo Bin is permanent

Do not empty Photo Bin until you have checked its contents and are certain you no longer need those files.

External drive disconnected

If PhotoCorral cannot access catalogued photos because an external drive is disconnected, it warns you. Cached thumbnails remain available where possible. Full originals, editing, printing and full-quality export require the drive to be reconnected.

168. Reconnect the drive.
169. Use Retry in the PhotoCorral warning.
170. If you need to work without the drive temporarily, choose Continue with photos offline.

25. Language, Theme and Help

PhotoCorral includes built-in help and multiple interface languages.

Language

Use the language selector in the top bar to choose English, Italian, French, German or Spanish. The interface changes language; filenames, metadata values and your own text are not translated or renamed.

Light / Dark appearance

Use the theme button in the top bar to switch between the light interface and the soft charcoal dark interface.

Help & Tutorials

- Click Help in the top bar.
- Topics include Getting Started, Semantic Search, Collections and scoped By Date, Named People thumbnails, Places, Mask -> Bokeh workflow, Save New Version, Facebook / Messenger Share Queue, unsupported RAW guidance, and phone/camera import safety.

26. A Recommended Everyday Workflow

If you are new to photo software, this sequence keeps things simple.

-
171. Import with Add to Catalog.
 172. Use Semantic Search, By Date and Quick Filters to find the group you want.
 173. Create Collections for meaningful albums or projects.
 174. Create People and manually confirm a few good examples before running automatic face recognition.
 175. Use Places to browse the automatic GPS hierarchy by Country, Region and Locality.
 176. Open important photos in the Viewer and inspect Photo Info if needed.
 177. Use Adjust > Auto Adjust as a starting point, then fine-tune Light, Colour and Detail.
 178. For supported RAW files, wait for RAW preparation and edit normally. If a file is marked RAW UNSUPPORTED, keep the original and use the embedded preview only for browsing when available.
 179. For Bokeh, build/refine the Mask first, then open Bokeh and tune Blur Amount and Edge Softness.
 180. Use Save New Version to keep an improved result inside PhotoCorral.
 181. Use Export when you need a separate file outside PhotoCorral, or use the Facebook / Messenger Share Queue to paste selected photos into Messenger one at a time.
 182. Use Slideshow / Carousel for viewing and presentation, or Export Video for a shareable presentation file.
 183. Use Photo Bin for recoverable file removal. Empty it only when you are certain.

A simple rule

Organize first, improve second, export/share last. You can always return to the original.

27. Troubleshooting and Glossary

Common beginner questions and plain-language definitions.

Common questions

I imported a photo. Did PhotoCorral delete the source?

No. Add to Catalog is designed to leave the source untouched while creating and verifying the managed copy.

Can I create many Collections?

Yes. Collections are virtual groups, not duplicate folders on your drive.

I removed a photo from a Collection. Is the file gone?

No. Remove Selected only removes the photo from that Collection.

People recognition put someone in the wrong Person. What do I do?

Open that Person, right-click the wrong photo and choose Correct / Move Person.... Choose an existing Person or Create New Person.... PhotoCorral preserves other People in a multi-face photo and remembers the rejected Person for that corrected face.

A mask is not perfect. Is that a failure?

No. Automatic masks are editable estimates. Use Brush and Eraser to refine them.

Can I undo an edit without damaging the original?

Yes. Editing is non-destructive. Use Revert or simply do not save a new version.

What is the difference between Save New Version and Export?

Save New Version keeps a linked improved version in PhotoCorral. Export creates an outside copy and does not add it to the Catalog.

My external drive is disconnected. Are the catalog entries lost?

No. PhotoCorral keeps the catalogue safe and can show cached thumbnails where possible. Reconnect the drive and Retry for full access.

Why does RAW saving take longer?

PhotoCorral renders the full-resolution high-bit RAW result, which is more demanding than saving a normal JPEG.

My iPhone or camera import appears stuck on one file. What should I do?

Use Skip Current File. PhotoCorral keeps the completed imports, remembers the skipped device item, and automatically bypasses it on later scans of that same device. The original on the device is not changed.

PhotoCorral says RAW UNSUPPORTED. Is my RAW file damaged?

Not necessarily. The camera or compression variant may simply be unsupported by the current RAW decoder. PhotoCorral keeps the original untouched and may show the camera's embedded preview when available.

Semantic Search found related photos that are not exact matches. Is that normal?

Yes. Semantic Search ranks visual meaning rather than exact labels. Try Strict for the strongest matches, Balanced for normal use, or Broad for wider related results.

My saved edited version is not where I expected. Where should it appear?

Save New Version creates a new linked catalogue item. In 1.0.30 it inherits the source photo's Named People and Collection/Subcollection memberships, so it remains visible in those same views after the full-resolution render finishes.

How do I change the face shown for a named Person?

Open that Person, right-click a photo with the face you prefer and choose Set as Person Thumbnail. Use Use Automatic Person Thumbnail if you want PhotoCorral to choose again.

Why does Bokeh still look too soft around an edge?

Check the focus mask first. Set Edge Softness to 0 for the crispest transition, then refine the mask with Brush/Eraser if hair or fine edges still need correction.

How do I send several photos to Messenger?

Select the photos, right-click and choose Facebook / Messenger Selected.... Paste the current photo with Ctrl+V, click Next Photo, paste again, and click Finish after the last photo.

Glossary

Control	What it does
Catalog	PhotoCorral's organized database/record of your photos.
Managed storage	The location where PhotoCorral keeps verified managed imports.
Collection	A virtual album that does not move the physical file.
Subcollection	A Collection nested inside another Collection.
People	Photos grouped by named people and local face recognition.
Places	A separate catalogue branch built automatically from embedded GPS coordinates as Country > Region > Locality. It does not move physical files.
RAW	Camera-original image data that needs development/rendering.
Adjustment recipe	The stored non-destructive editing instructions for a photo.
Mask	A selection that lets you edit only part of a photo.
Improved Version	A separate linked file created by Save New Version.
Export	A copy created outside PhotoCorral for external use.
Photo Bin	PhotoCorral's recoverable file-removal area before permanent deletion.
Semantic Search	Local visual-content search using a saved on-device index. Strict,

Control	What it does
	Balanced and Broad control how selective the results are.
Person Thumbnail	The representative face shown on a Named People card. It can be chosen manually or returned to automatic selection.
Share Queue	The small PhotoCorral window used to copy selected photos one at a time for Facebook / Messenger.
Edge Softness	The Bokeh transition control. 0 is the crispest edge; higher values blend the focus-to-blur boundary more gradually.

28. Catalogue Backup & Restore

Protect the organisation and intelligence in your PhotoCorral catalogue.

What a catalogue backup protects

A verified .pcbak file protects the catalogue information PhotoCorral has built around your photographs:

- Catalogue records and the managed-storage location.
- Collections and Subcollections.
- Named People, representative thumbnails and face-analysis data.
- Places and GPS organisation.
- Semantic Search index data.
- Photo Bin records, adjustment recipes and links between saved versions.
- Portable-device skip history and the do-not-reimport history for deliberately binned phone/camera photos.

Important - the photo files are separate

The .pcbak file protects catalogue data. It does not duplicate the image files inside PhotoCorral Managed Library or on external drives. Keep those image files backed up separately.

Create a verified backup

184. Finish or cancel any import, scan, People analysis or Semantic Search indexing that is currently running.
185. Click Backup / Restore in the top ribbon.
186. Choose Create Verified Backup and select a safe destination for the .pcbak file.
187. Wait for PhotoCorral to finish writing and verifying the backup with SHA-256 before closing the dialog.

Restore a catalogue backup

188. Make sure the managed photo files and any external drives used by the catalogue are still available where possible.
189. Click Backup / Restore, choose Restore Catalogue Backup, and select the verified .pcbak file.
190. Read the confirmation carefully. Restore replaces the current catalogue data, but it does not move, delete or overwrite your photo files.
191. After a successful restore PhotoCorral reloads the restored catalogue. Files that are not currently accessible may appear offline or missing until their storage is reconnected.

29. iPhone / Phone & Camera Import

Import directly from supported Windows portable devices while keeping the originals untouched.

Before you start

- Connect the iPhone, phone or camera with a reliable USB cable.
- For iPhone, unlock the phone and approve Trust / Allow if iOS asks.
- In PhotoCorral choose Add to Catalog > Add Phone / Camera.

Why an iPhone may appear connected but still not be ready

Windows can detect an iPhone before Windows Portable Devices has actually made the photo library accessible. During that period PhotoCorral may correctly show Preparing iPhone... for up to about 90 seconds. While it is only waiting for the library, the available control is Cancel. As soon as Windows exposes the photos, PhotoCorral changes to Scanning iPhone... and the normal Pause and Stop & Keep Imported controls return.

If the iPhone is not recognised

Disconnect the cable, unlock the iPhone, reconnect it and approve any Trust / Allow prompt. Wait a few seconds and try again. Check that Windows itself can display or open the iPhone photos. If Windows cannot access the photo library, PhotoCorral cannot import it yet. If Windows continues to fail, try another reliable cable or USB port and, if necessary, restart the iPhone and Windows.

During the import

- Skip Current File bypasses a device item that appears stuck. Completed imports are kept and the skipped item is remembered for that device.
- Stop & Keep Imported safely stops the current session without discarding photos that have already completed.
- The original files on the phone or camera are never changed by the import.
- PhotoCorral copies the file into managed storage, verifies it, processes metadata and then adds it to the catalogue.

Why the phone is scanned again after reconnecting

After a disconnect/reconnect Windows presents the portable-device library again, so PhotoCorral re-enumerates the phone to work out what is currently available and what is new. On a large iPhone this can take time and may look like a full scan each time. This repeated inventory scan does not mean the same photos will be imported again. PhotoCorral uses persistent device IDs to recognise items it has already imported and skips them, preventing duplicate re-imports.

HEIC / HEIF photos from iPhone

- PhotoCorral can generate HEIC / HEIF thumbnails and open those photos in the Viewer using Windows installed image-codec support.
- If Windows cannot decode a HEIC / HEIF file, PhotoCorral shows a clear codec-support message instead of an unexplained blank thumbnail.
- The original HEIC / HEIF file remains untouched. Installing or repairing Windows HEIF / HEVC support may be required on some PCs.

Keeping unwanted phone photos from returning

PhotoCorral remembers when you deliberately discard an iPhone / Windows Portable Device photo, so cleaning the Library does not cause the same unwanted phone photos to return at the next import.

- When an imported device photo is moved to Photo Bin, PhotoCorral keeps its portable-device identity in a small do-not-reimport history.
- On later scans of that phone, the remembered identity is treated as already known and is skipped before staging/copying. It is not recreated as a catalogue photo and is not turned into a duplicate group.
- This protection is independent of normal SHA-256 duplicate detection and exists specifically for device photos you intentionally removed.

Restore, Empty Photo Bin, Fresh Start and Backup

- Restore from Photo Bin removes the do-not-reimport exclusion because you have chosen to keep that photo again.
- Empty Photo Bin permanently deletes the local binned copy but does not erase the remembered device identity, so the unwanted photo still does not return from the phone later.
- A deliberate Fresh Start clears the do-not-reimport history together with the rest of the PhotoCorral catalogue state.
- Catalogue Backup / Restore preserves the remembered device exclusion history so it follows a verified catalogue restore.

Recommended phone-cleanup workflow

- Import from the iPhone normally.
- Review the Library and move unwanted imported phone photos to Photo Bin.
- Later, reconnect the same phone and import again. PhotoCorral scans the phone inventory, skips the deliberately discarded identities, and imports only genuinely new items.
- Empty Photo Bin only after you are certain you no longer need the local recoverable copies.

A useful distinction

Preparing iPhone... means PhotoCorral is waiting for Windows to make the library accessible. Scanning iPhone... means the library is accessible and PhotoCorral is reading its inventory. A repeated inventory scan is normal after reconnecting; persistent device IDs and the do-not-reimport history decide what PhotoCorral skips.

You are ready to use PhotoCorral.

Start with a small folder, learn the workflow, and let your library grow from there.

Remember

Your best safety net is simple: keep your source originals, use Add to Catalog for managed imports, and use Save New Version instead of overwriting an original.