



Welcome to PhotoSweeper

"Do you really need all 12 shots of that coffee table?"

PhotoSweeper helps you organize your photo collections by finding and grouping duplicate or similar photos using powerful comparison settings.

It works with **Apple Photos***, **Adobe Lightroom**** and **Capture One** libraries, as well as photos from your hard drives.

If you have questions about **PhotoSweeper** or seek solutions, it is best to contact us by e-mail: support@overmacs.com

We are always eager to get any requests and suggestions from you. We would like to thank all users who have contributed to the development of **PhotoSweeper** by sending questions, bug reports, and sharing ideas.

* Apple iPhoto and Aperture are supported too.

** Lightroom Classic CC is supported. Lightroom CC (the cloud-based version) is not supported.

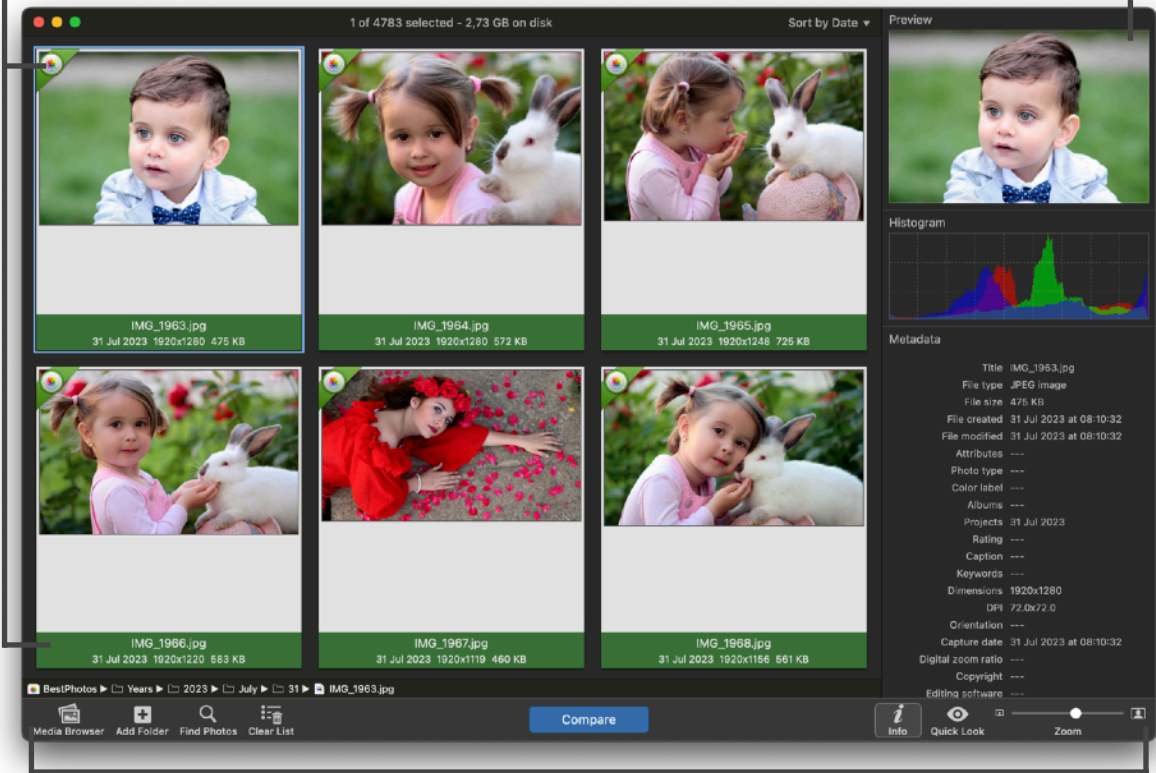
Getting Started

Browser

Shows all added photos.

Info panel

Preview, histogram and metadata.



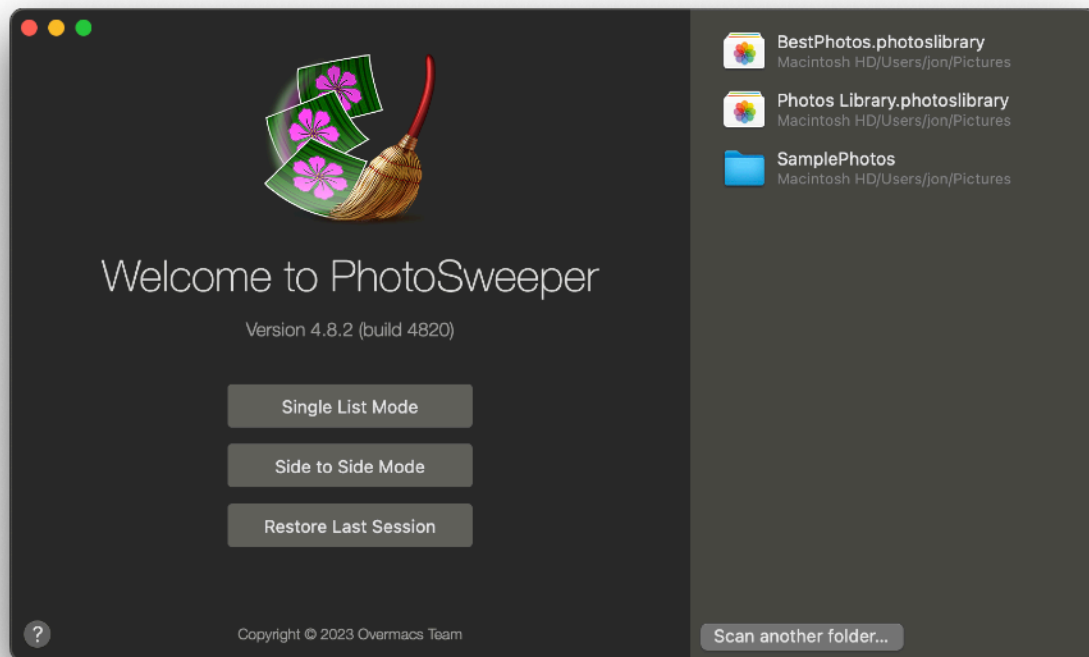
Toolbar

Provides quick access to the most commonly used functions.

Basic steps to remove duplicate or similar photos

1. Choose mode

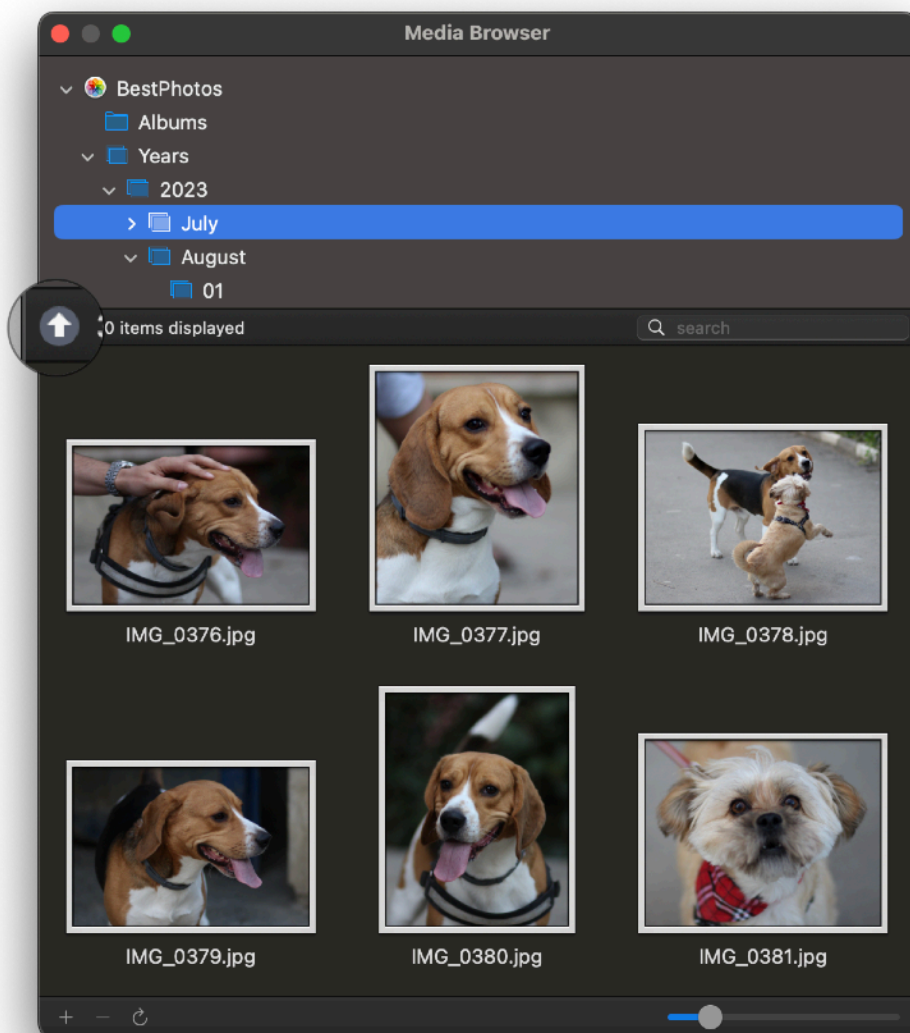
Click **Single List Mode** on the **Welcome** screen.



2a. Add photos from your Photos library (if you use Apple Photos)

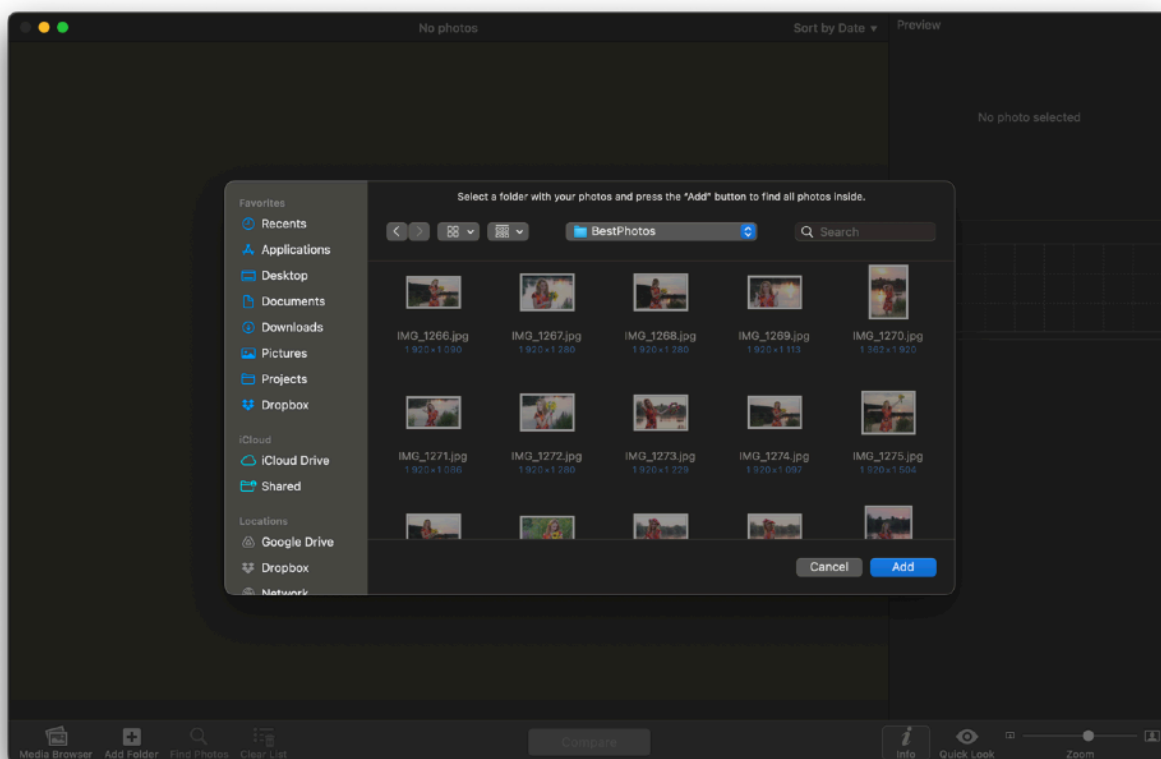
Click **Media Browser** on the toolbar to show the **Media Browser** window. Add your library to this window by pressing "+" and choosing your **Photos** library in the open panel. The **Media Browser** displays a library content, including photos, albums and moments.

Select photos in the **Media Browser** window and drag & drop them to the main window, or just press the "up arrow" button. You can drag a whole library, a moment/album, or photos. Photos should be shown in the main window with a green "ribbon" and a Photos icon on each.



2b. Add folders from your Mac (if you keep photos in folders)

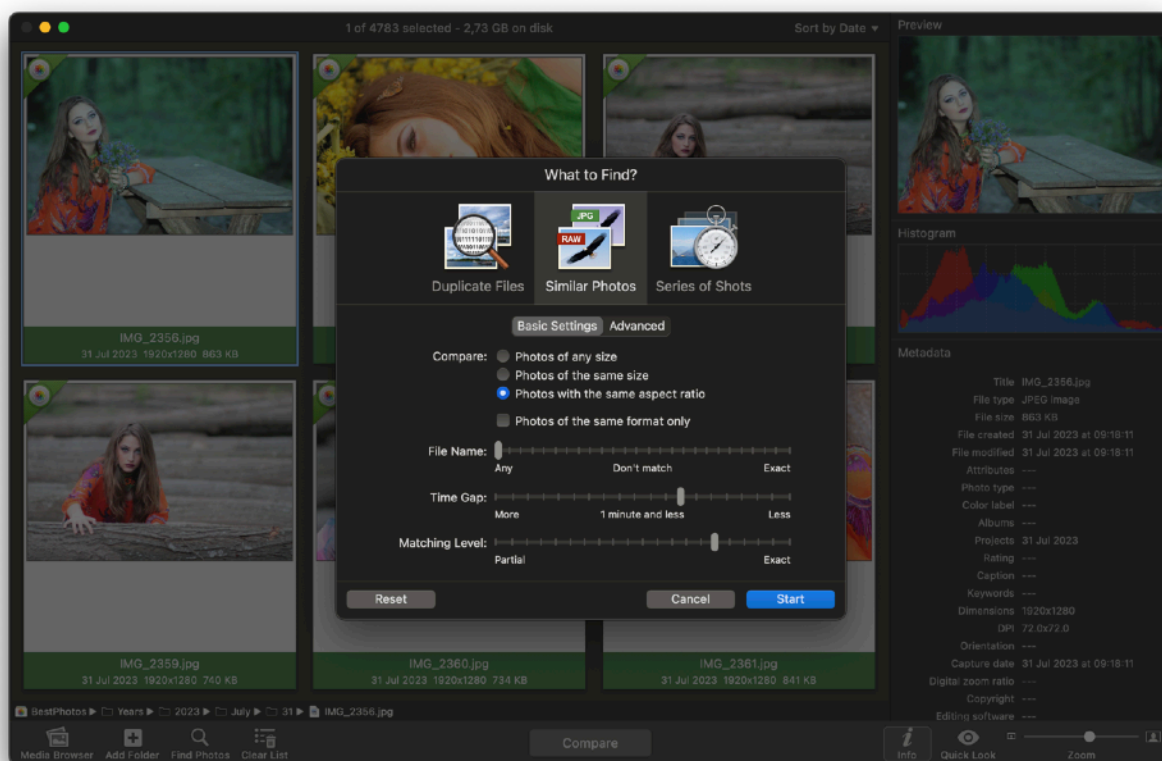
Drag & drop a folder to the main window to find all photos inside it (including photos in subfolders). Drag another folder, if needed.



3. Compare your photos

Press Compare and select what to find:

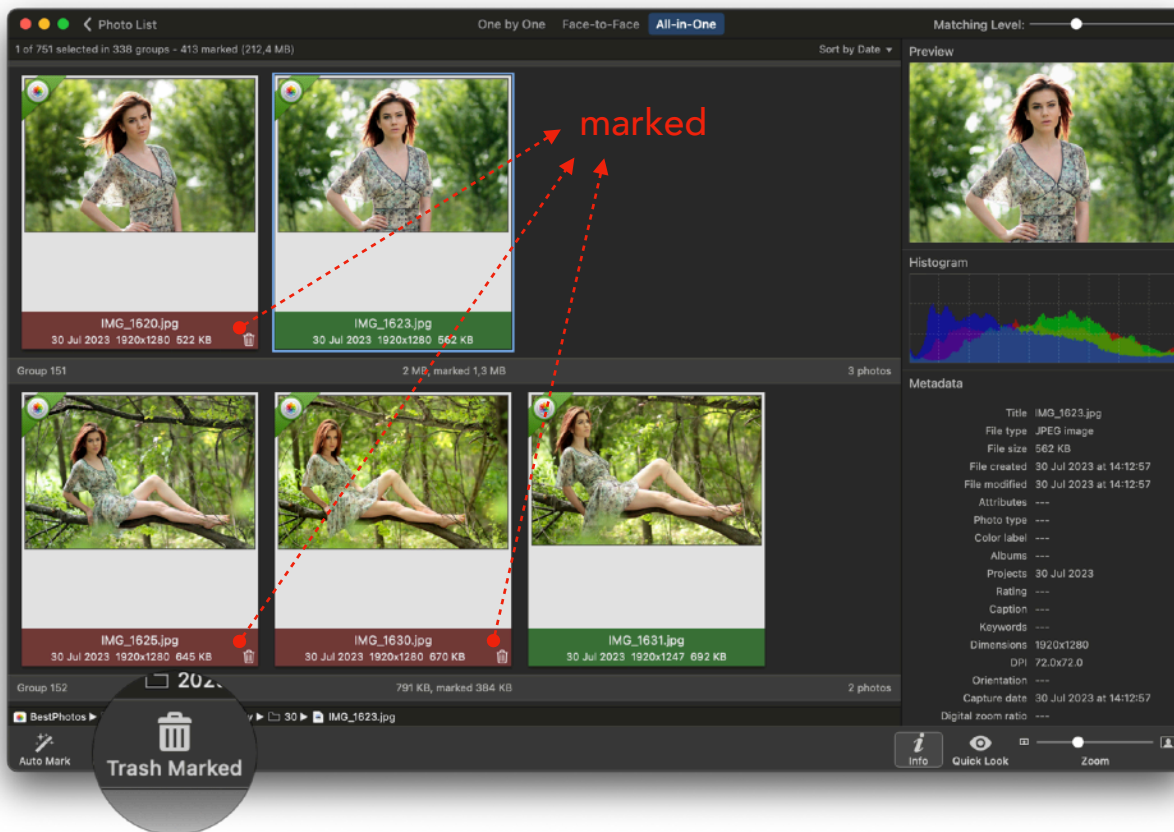
- **Duplicate Files** - search for absolutely identical files.
- **Similar Photos** - find photos which look similar. **Time Gap** determines an interval between photos and you can set its value from zero seconds to infinity. **Matching Level** defines the level of photos similarity and can be changed in the Results on the fly.
- **Series of Shots** - combine photos into groups, based on a time gap between photos.



4. Review results and mark photos for removal

The **Results** mode displays all found duplicates in groups, and it's up to you which photos to mark for further removal (usually you only need to keep one photo for each group). You can do it either automatically by pressing **Auto Mark** on the toolbar, or manually by selecting each photo and pressing **Enter**.

When you press **Auto Mark** on the toolbar, all photos in each group, except one, are marked according to the rules defined in **Settings**. For instance, if you have 4 photos in one group, 3 will be marked for removal and 1 will be kept. The **Auto Mark** rules determine which photo in each group to keep. By default, the Auto Mark rules are configured to keep the largest image.



5. Move marked photos to Trash

Click **Trash Marked** and confirm removal. Upon removal, files go to the system trash, while items from **Photos** - to the **Trash (PhotoSweeper)** album.



Important: You need to delete all photos inside the **Trash (PhotoSweeper)** album manually. Follow how to steps [below](#) in this manual.

Adding photos in details

You can add photos from your **Mac** and **Photos**, **Lightroom** and **Capture One** libraries.

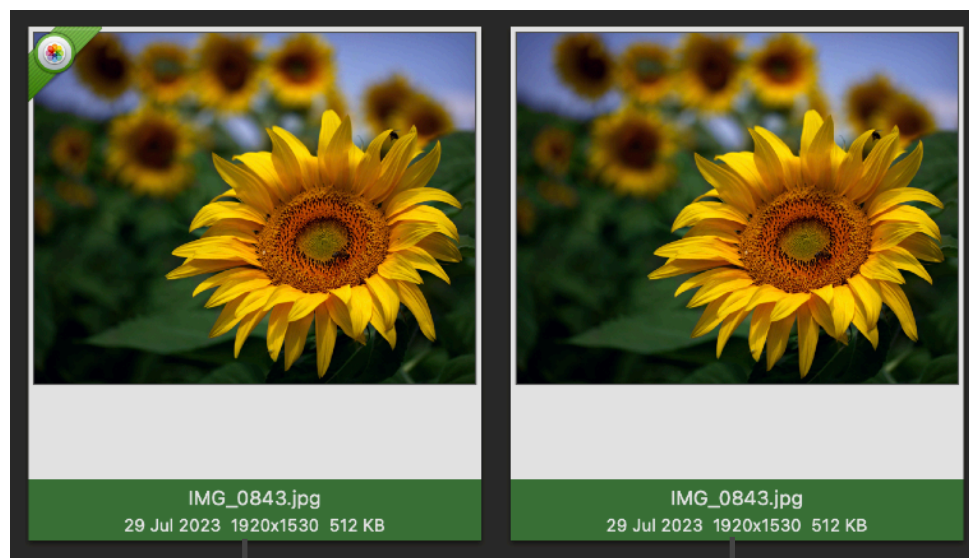


To add photos from your hard drive drag and drop a folder with your photos from **Finder** into the browser, or press **Command+O** to show the standard Open panel. All photos inside a folder will be found and added.



To add photos from **Photos**, **Lightroom**, or **Capture One** click **Media Browser** on the toolbar. The **Media Browser** window appears with previously added libraries, their albums and photos. At the first launch you may need to add your library files to the **Media Browser** window by using the “+” button. Drag and drop photos you want to compare from the **Media Browser** window to the browser.

In the browser, photos from libraries are marked with a green “ribbon” at the top-left corner.



from **Apple Photos**

from a hard drive (a file)



Warning: Close Photos, Lightroom and Capture One applications before using PhotoSweeper in order to synchronize library content. If a library is being changed while PhotoSweeper is launched, close a native application and press the refresh button in the **Media Browser** window.

To remove photos from the Photo List select them in the browser and use the menu **Photos > Remove Photos from List**, or press **Command+Delete**.

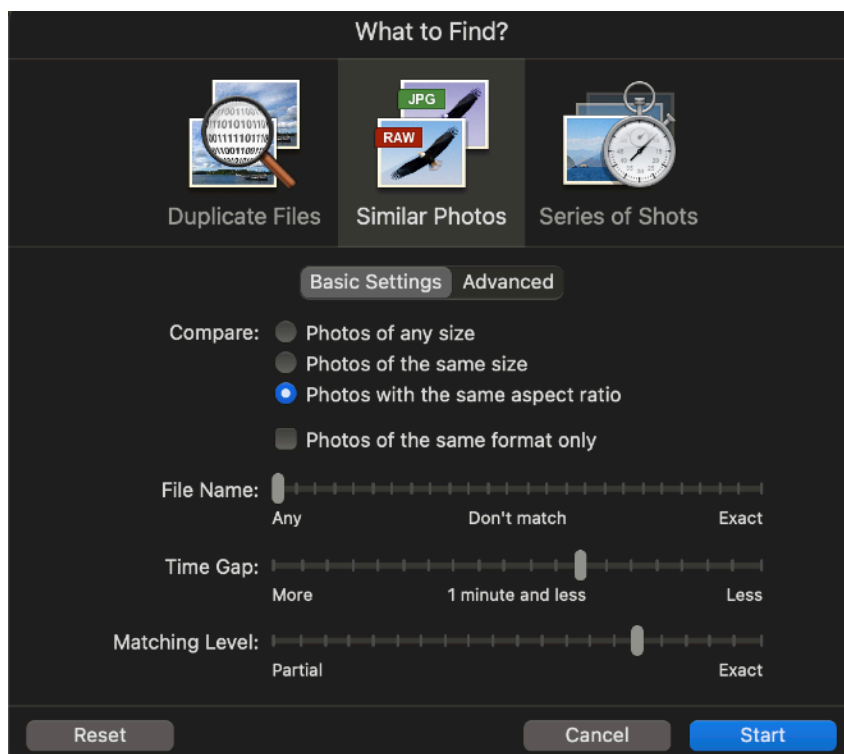
To fast empty the Photo List click **Clear List** on the toolbar.

Hint: You can quit PhotoSweeper at any time and resume the app at the same stage with the same photos. Upon launching the app, just press **Restore Last Session** to restore the photo list and comparison results.

Comparison Settings

PhotoSweeper provides powerful settings, allowing you to find:

- **Duplicates Files** - search for absolutely identical files.
- **Similar Photos** - find photos which look similar. **Time Gap** determines an interval between capture dates, and you can set its value: from zero seconds to infinity. **Matching Level** defines the level of photos similarity and can be changed in the Results on the fly.
- **Series of Shots** - combine photos into groups, based on a time gap between photos.



Hint: Comparison of photos can take quite a long time and depends on how many photos you add and what settings you use.

While receiving results, PhotoSweeper saves loaded bitmaps and stores them in a cache in order to make the next bitmap loading of the same photos extremely fast.

Similar Photos: Advance settings

You choose how to compare photos:

- **Bitmaps** - compares pixels of size-reduced images.
- **Histograms** - compares histograms of images.
- **Subjects** - compares subjects on photos ignoring other details.

Hint: **Subjects** is a slower method but gives you more “native” results, powered by Neural Engine. Highly recommended for a small or medium amount of photos.

Small bitmap size increases comparison speed and reduces memory usage, while large bitmap size delivers more precise results. **Blur Radius** allows you to smooth edges on photos.

Hint: **Bitmap Size** 48x48 is usually enough to get satisfactory comparison results. Using bigger bitmaps takes significantly more memory and is not recommended for a large photo list.

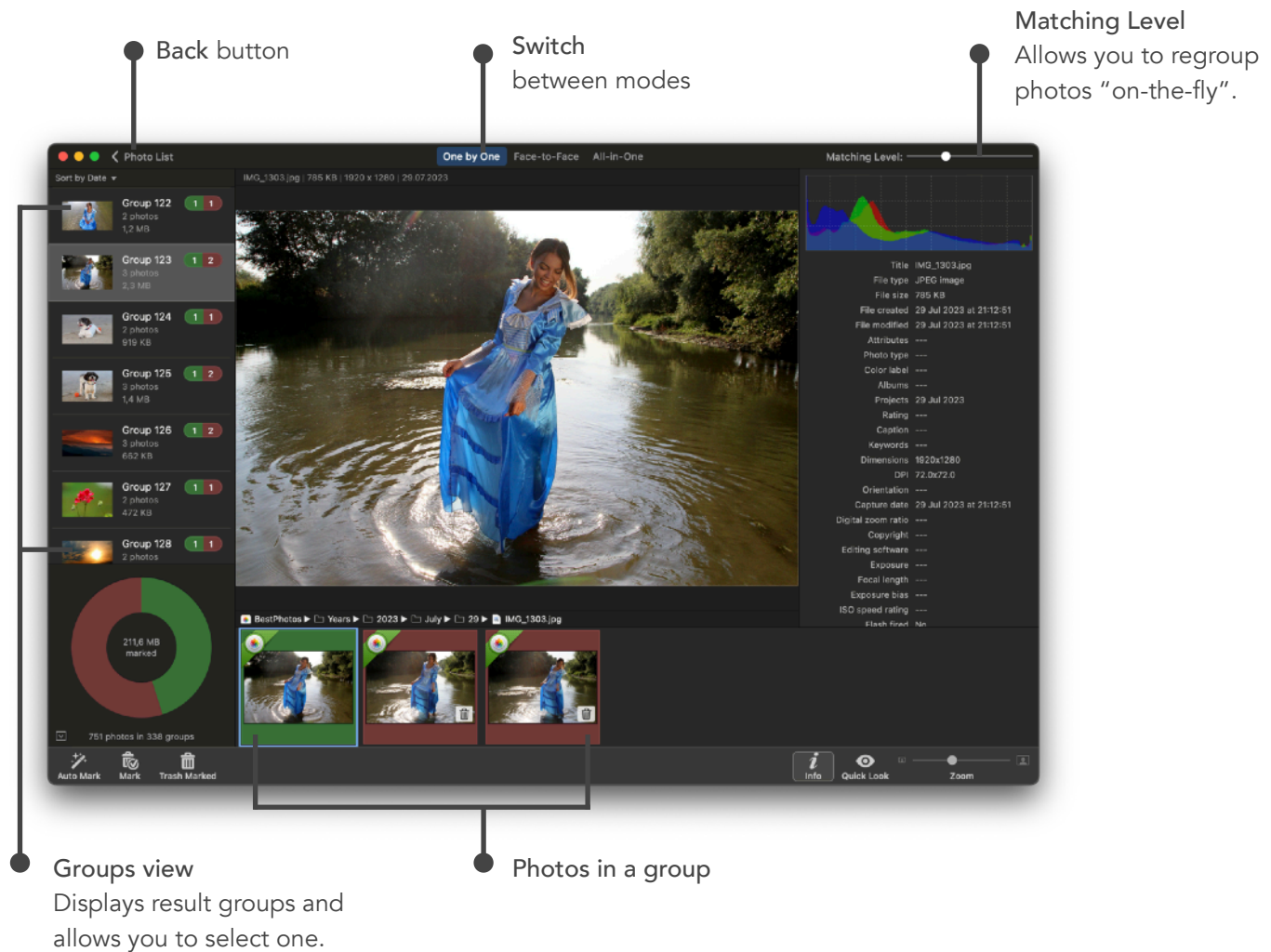
Hint: **Align Colors** preprocessing helps you find duplicate photos even after applying color adjustments, such as contrast, brightness, white balance, auto levels, etc.

Hint: Using **Grayscale** color mode dramatically decreases comparison time.

Reviewing results

You can review groups in 3 modes:

- **One by One:** one large image is shown. This mode allows you to fast switch between photos in a group to capture a difference and mark/unmark a photo with just a click.



To navigate quickly between photos press ←, → keys; ↑, ↓ - to navigate between groups.

- **Face-to-Face:** two large photos from one group are displayed with more details, such as image metadata, file paths, capture dates, etc. Mark/unmark a photo with just a click.

Matching Level
Allows you to regroup photos "on-the-fly".

Back button

Switch between modes



Groups view
Displays result groups and allows you to select one.

Photos in a group

Face-to-Face mode also allows you to compare metadata information by pressing Info on the toolbar. Different values are marked red.



To mark either left or right photo using a keyboard press **Shift+←** or **Shift+→**, for navigation between photo pairs press **Command+←**, **Command+→**.

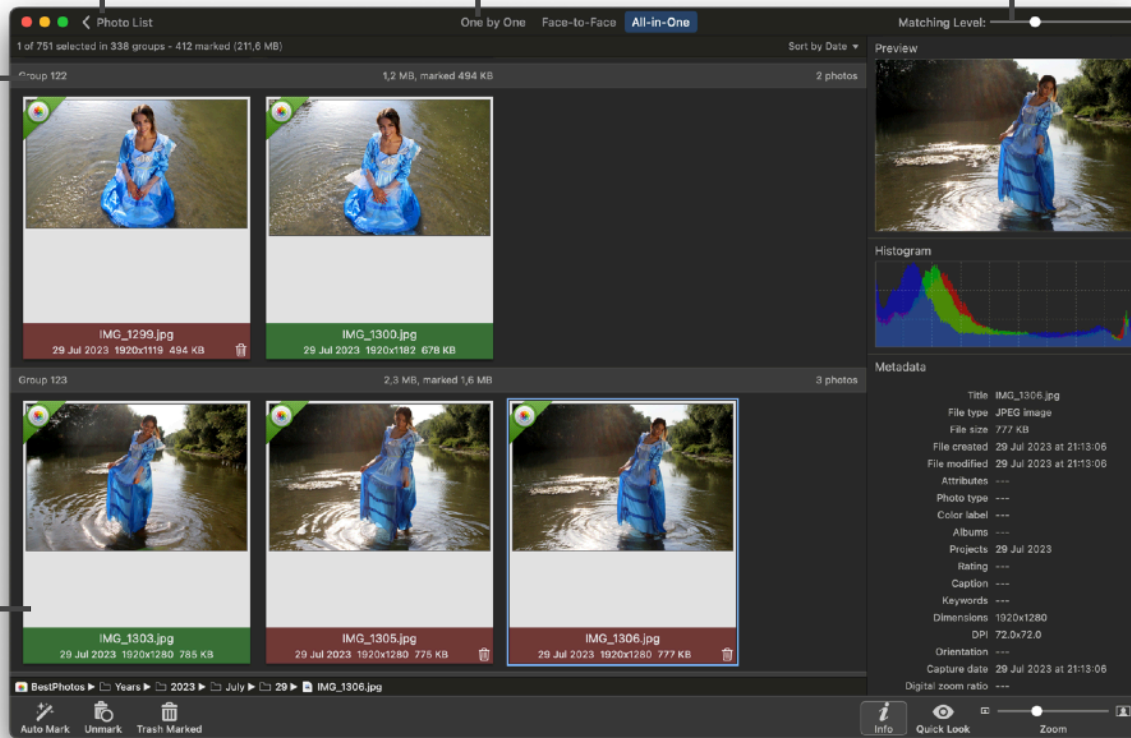
- All-in-One: allows you to see all groups together, but with fewer details.

Matching Level

Allows you to regroup photos "on-the-fly".

Back button

Switch between modes

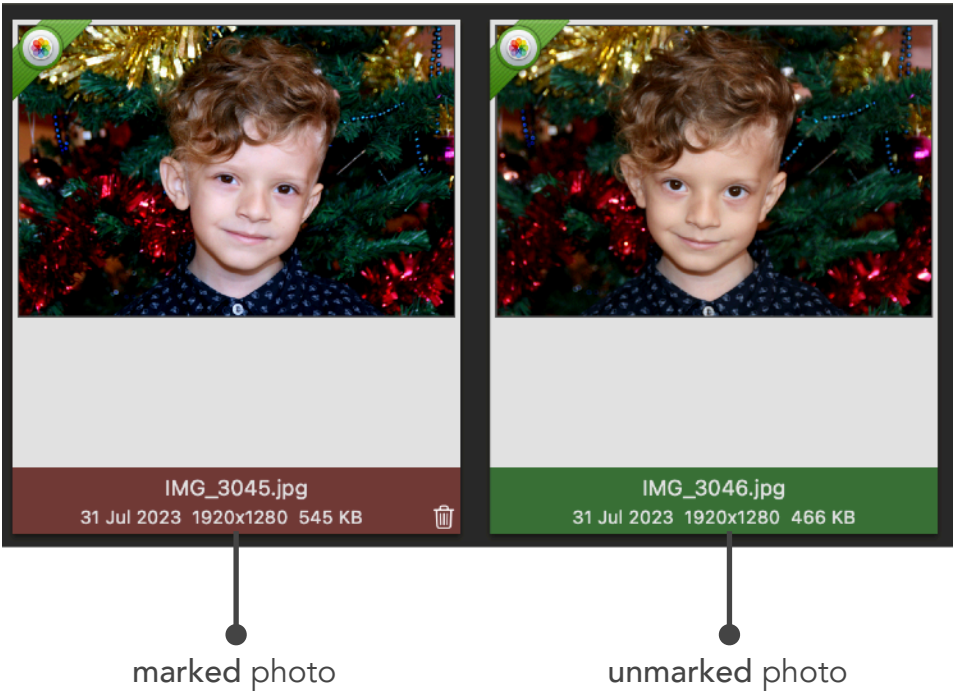


Browser

Displays all photos grouped, with headers for groups and thumbnails for photos.

Marking photos

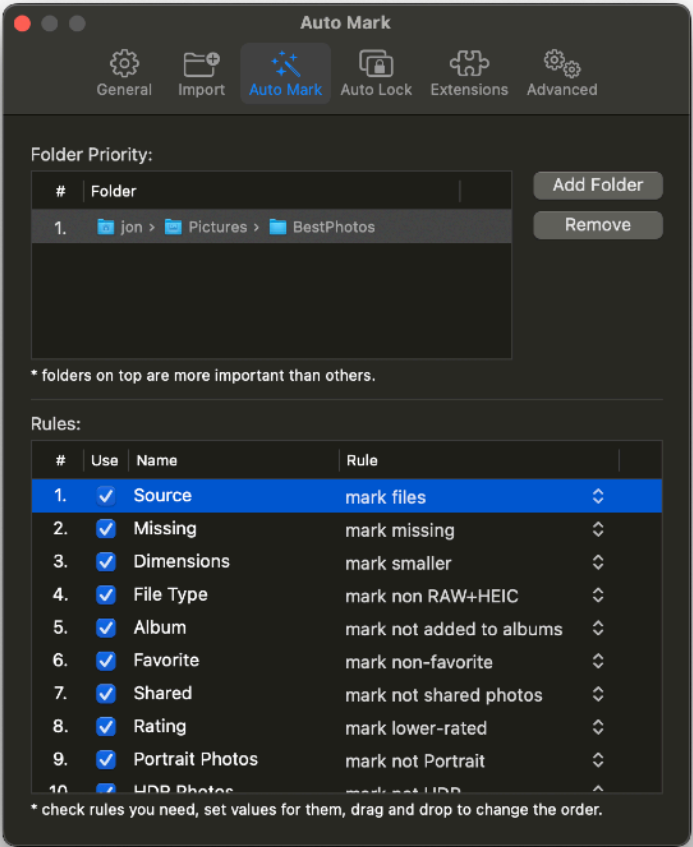
The browser displays marked photos with the red bottom and “Trash Bin” badge added in the corner. To mark or unmark photos select them and press **Enter** key, or simply double-click.



The **One by One** and **Face-to-Face** modes allow you to mark or unmark with just a click.

Auto Mark

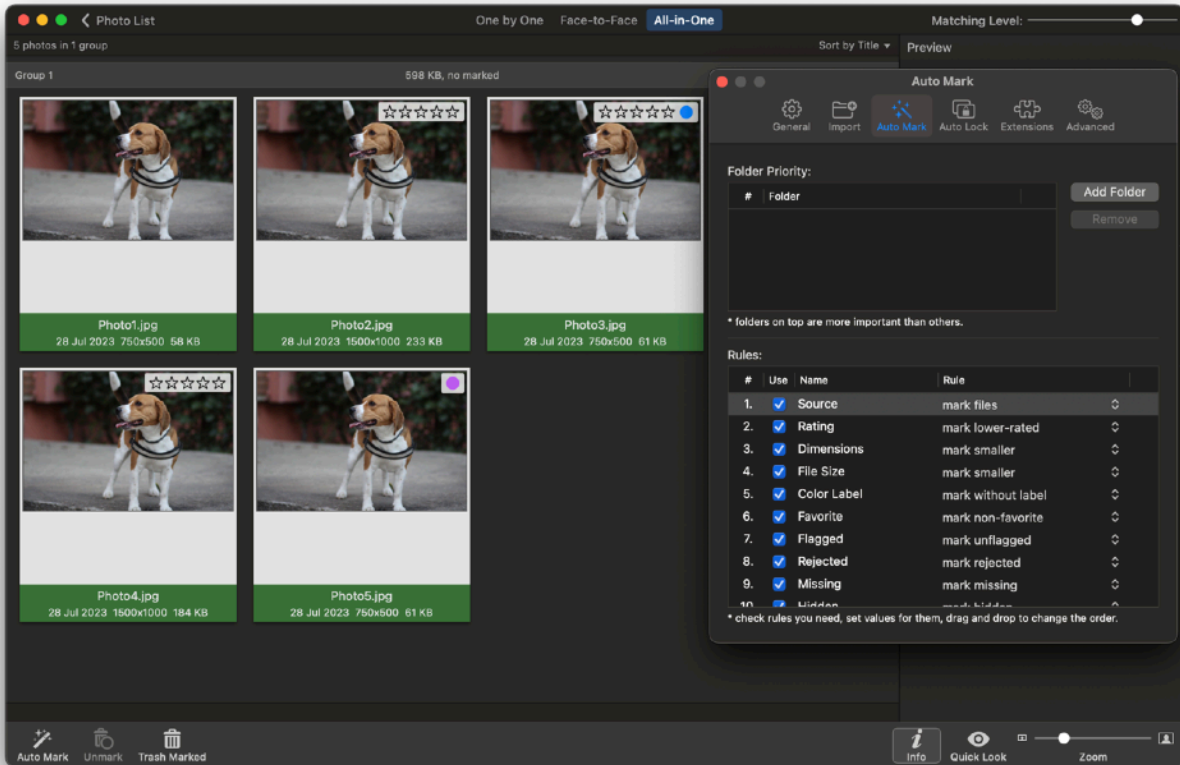
You have an opportunity to mark all photos automatically with just one click using **Auto Mark** on the toolbar. **PhotoSweeper** marks all photos in each group, except one, based on rules defined in the **Settings** window.



If you want to skip a rule, uncheck it; to set the rule order - drag and drop rows.

How Auto Mark rules work

For instance, there are 5 similar images in one group with rules applied, as shown on the screenshot below.



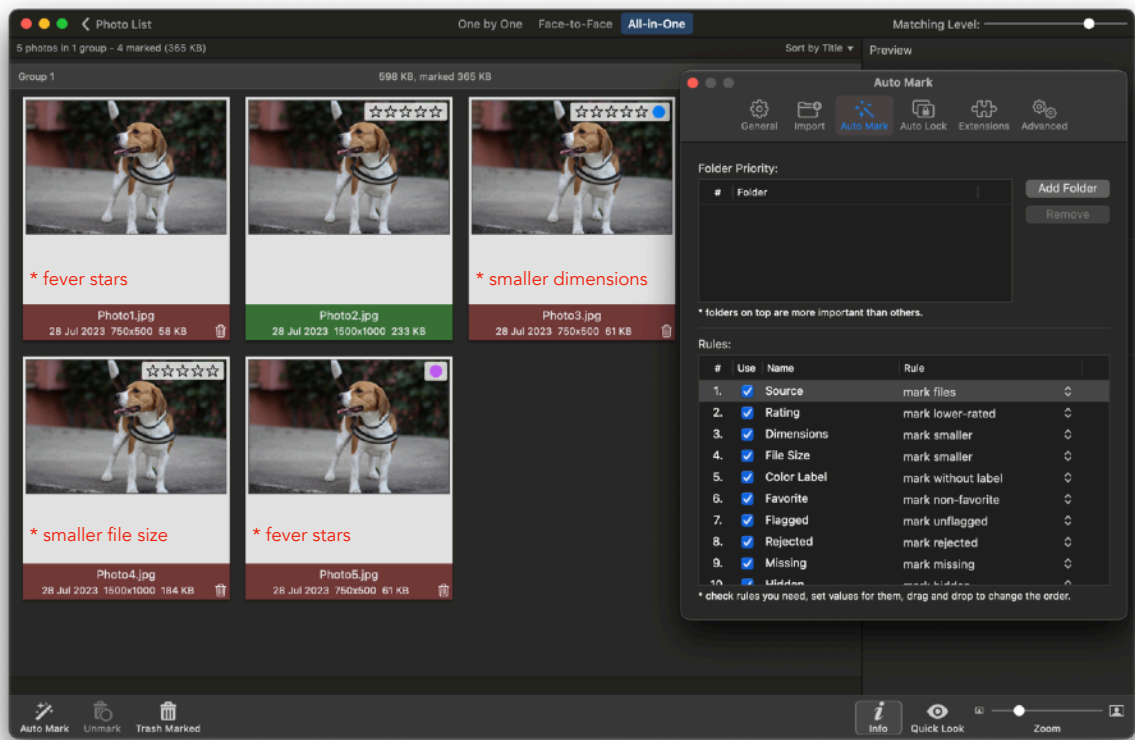
When you press the **Auto Mark** button, firstly, 5 photos are compared based on the rule **#1**. In this case it's **Source**. In this sample each photo is a file, therefore the next rule is applied.

Next rule **#2, Rating**. In the sample given, 3 photos have 5-star rating. As a result, 2 photos without rating are marked, and the rest 3 photos are compared using the next rule.

Next rule **#3, Dimensions**. There are 2 photos of 1500x1000 pixels and 1 photo of 750x500. As a result, 1 photo of smaller dimensions is marked, 2 photos are compared using the next rule.

Next rule **#4, File Size**. One of the two photos has a less file size, therefore it's marked. Thus, one photo is left, and the job is done.

In the end, you have 4 photos marked for removal, keeping the 5-star rating photo of the largest dimensions and size.



Other features

If you have a lot of result groups, checking results after auto marking can become a tedious task. In this case, instead of auto marking all groups, you can auto mark photos in certain groups only by using the menu **Groups > Auto Mark**. In the **One by One** and **Face to Face** modes only photos in the current group will be auto marked, in the **All in One** mode all selected groups will be processed.

If needed, you can mark all photos in a group by using the menu **Groups > Mark All Photos**.

Often you need to mark all photos from a group with an exception of one or two. For this purpose you can select photos you want to keep and use the menu **Groups > Mark All Except Selected Photos**.

To quickly unmark all photos use the menu **Photos > Unmark All**.

You also have an opportunity to select photos located in the same place: a containing folder for files from your **Mac**, an album, or an event for photos from **Photos**. All you need to do is select one photo and use the menu **Photos > Select Photos within**.

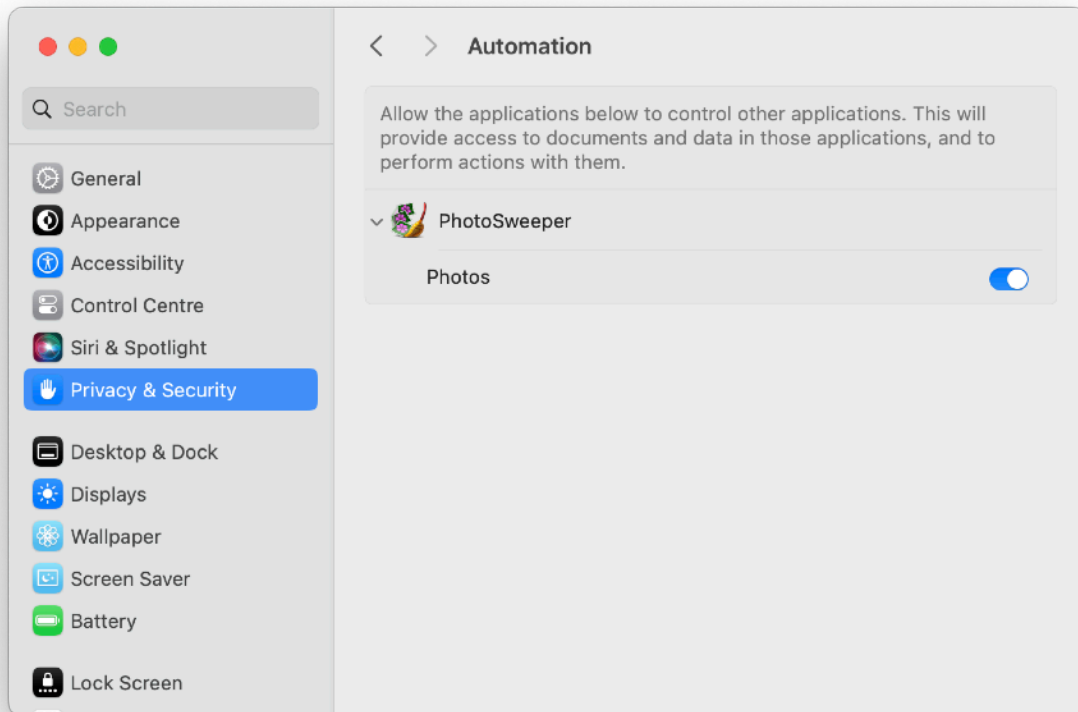
Hint: You can mark photos in **Photo List** mode as well. To switch between **Photo List** and **Results** modes press **Control+1** and **Control+2**, or use the **View** menu.

Moving marked photos to Trash

To remove all marked photos press **Trash Marked** on the toolbar and confirm removal. The progress bar shows the start and the end of the process, as photos go to trash.

Apple Photos

On moving to trash macOS asks you once to allow interaction between **PhotoSweeper** and **Photos** applications. You need to approve it. If you accidentally press **Decline**, you can go to **System Settings > Privacy & Security > Automation** and correct it.



As a result, photos are in the album named **Trash (PhotoSweeper)**. All photos are still stored where they used to be.

You need to delete all photos inside the **Trash (PhotoSweeper)** album manually, it's not the same as removing photos from the album, or removing the album. After manual deletion, all photos are deleted from all locations, including **iCloud**, **iPhone**, **iPad** etc. To trash photos, follow these steps:

1. Launch **Photos** application.
2. Select the **Trash (PhotoSweeper)** album (you can use the sidebar to select; to show the sidebar use the menu **View > Show Sidebar**).
3. Select all photos (you might need to wait for some time, up to 5 minutes, **Photos** app sometimes doesn't select all photos until all previews are generated).
4. Click the menu **Image** and press and hold the **Command** key. **Important:** you should see the menu **Delete Photos** (not **Remove Photos from Album**).
5. Click **Delete Photos**. Photos will go to **Recently Deleted**.
6. Delete photos in **Recently Deleted**. Now, when these steps are completed, photos will be removed from all locations, including **iCloud**.

Please note that real files are being deleted in the background (even when **Photos** application is not open) and this process may take some time.

Watch [YouTube video](#) showing the process.

Lightroom



Important: Lightroom application must be closed until removal is finished.

As a result, photos are moved to the collection named **Trash (PhotoSweeper)** and are also marked as **Rejected**.

Next time you launch Lightroom the collection **Trash (PhotoSweeper)** is pre-selected. To get rid of photos select all of them and, holding **Command** and **Shift** keys, use the menu **Photo > Remove and Trash Photos**.

Another possible option is to remove **Rejected** photos: select the **All Photographers** catalog and use the menu **Delete Rejected Photos**.

Capture One



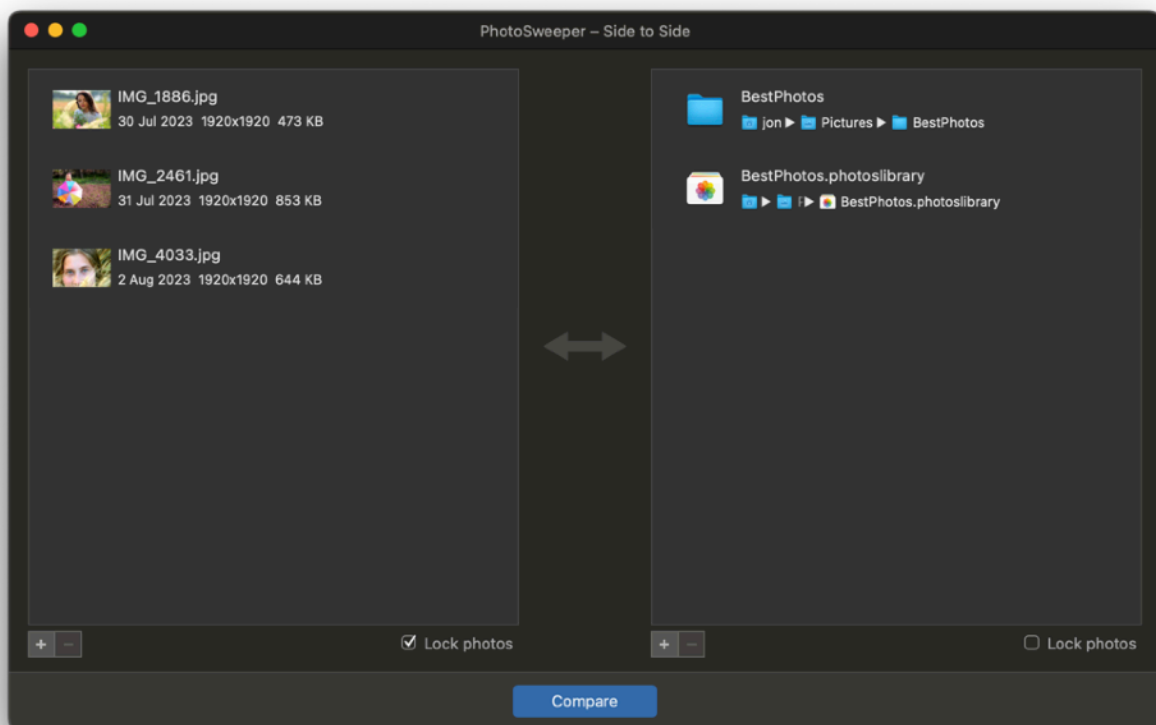
Important: Capture One application must be closed until removal is finished.

As a result, photos are moved to the **Capture One** trash.

Side to Side mode

Side to Side mode lets you find duplicates between two groups of photos while ignoring duplicates inside each group. It allows you to compare the contents of two folders with each other, or to find photos similar to a single image.

You can add files, folders or libraries to either group. All photos inside a folder and library will be found and compared.

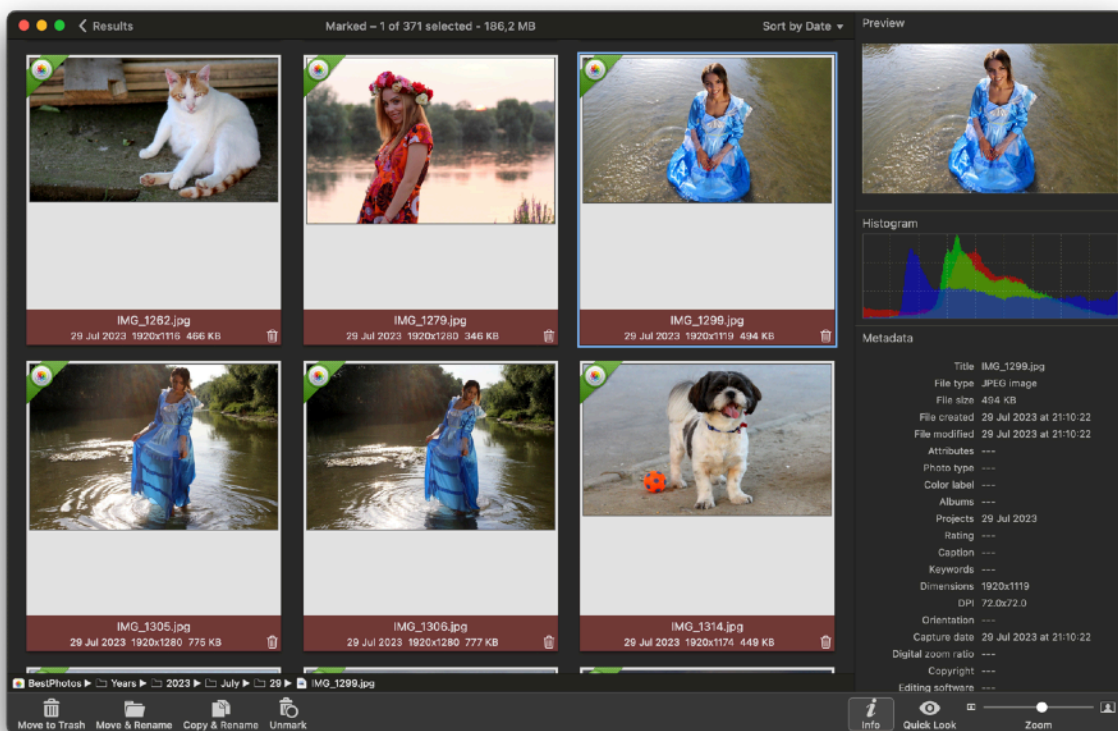


Hint: Use the Lock Photos option on the left side or right side to protect previously sorted folders or libraries.

Advanced features

Marked Photos mode

You have an opportunity to see only marked photos in a separate mode. Use the menu **Marked > Show Marked Photos** or press **Control+3** to get into the **Marked Photo** mode.



Renaming photos while moving or copying

You can set meaningful file names to your photos while moving or copying them using the menu **File > Move to Folder and Rename** or **File > Copy to Folder and Rename**.

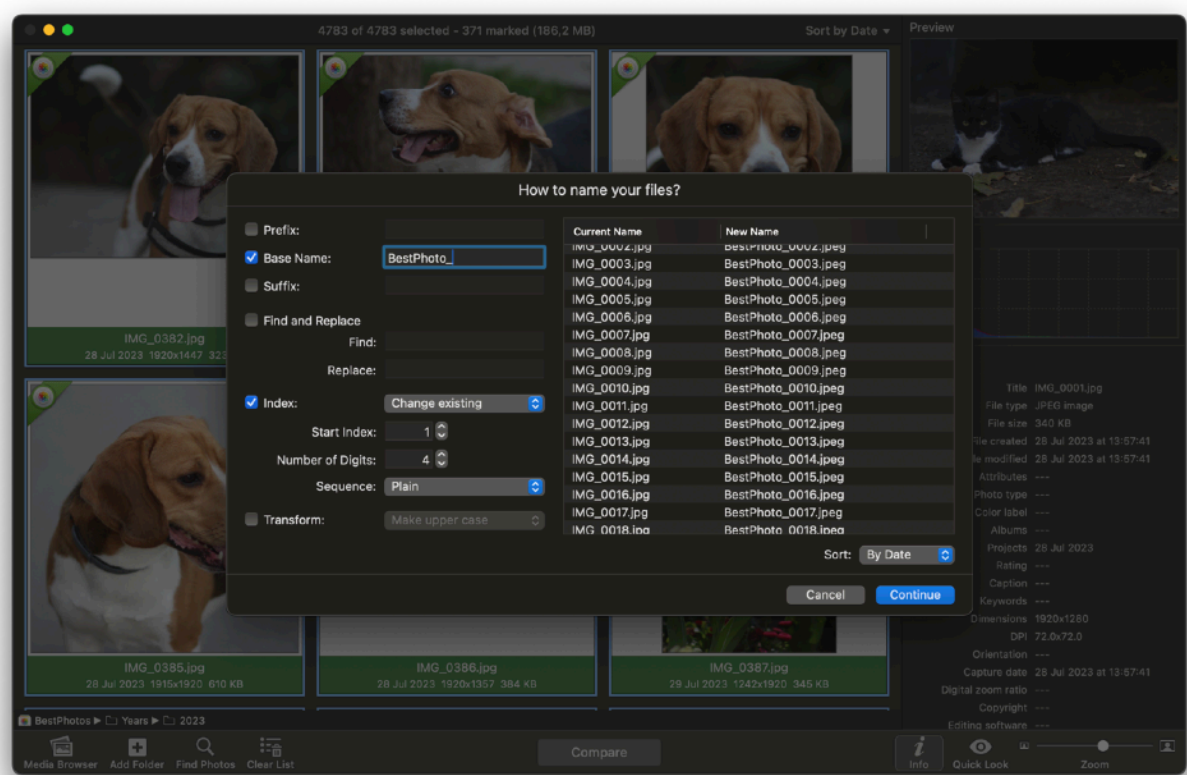


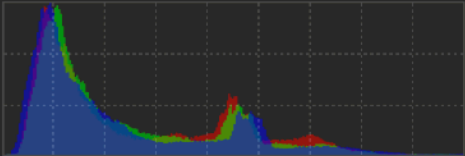
Image Info

Sometimes basic information about photos is not enough to decide which one to keep. To show advanced information about the photo selected, click **Info** button on the toolbar.

Preview



Histogram



Metadata

Title

IMG_0386.jpg

File type

JPEG image

File size

384 KB

File created

28 Jul 2023 at 14:57:58

File modified

28 Jul 2023 at 14:57:58

Attributes

Photo type

Color label

Albums

Projects

28 Jul 2023

Rating

Caption

Keywords

Dimensions

1920x1357

DPI

72.0x72.0

Orientation

Capture date

28 Jul 2023 at 14:57:58

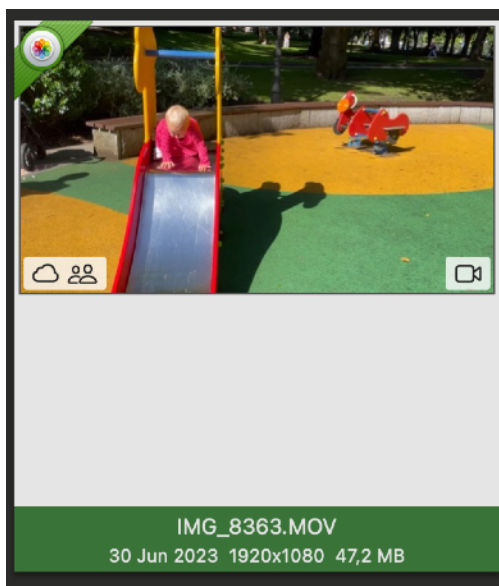
Digital zoom ratio

Copyright

Movies

In addition to photos, you can also compare video files. Follow the same steps to find duplicate movies as you do with photos, including possibility to add movies from **Photos**, **Adobe Lightroom** and **Capture One** libraries.

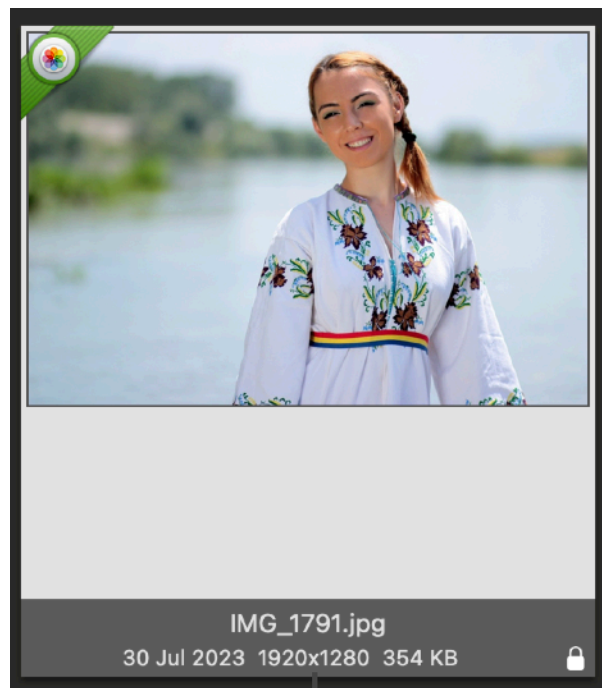
In the browser movies are marked with a "camcorder" badge at the bottom-right corner.



Warning: PhotoSweeper finds absolutely identical video files only, regardless of comparison settings you choose.

Locked photos

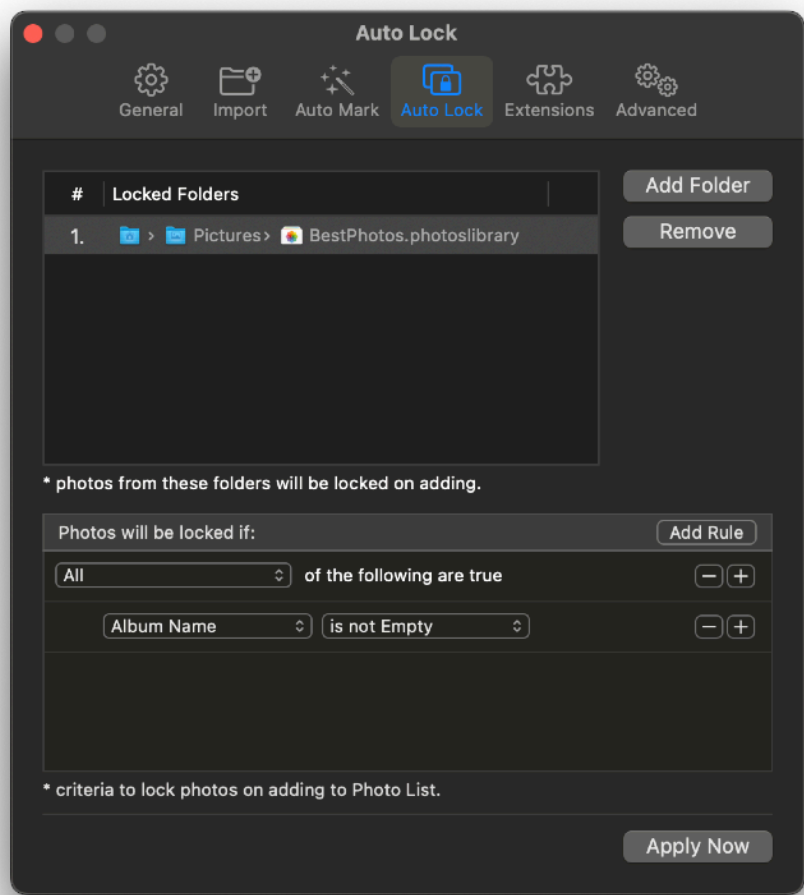
There's also an option to lock photos. Locked photos are used for comparison, but they can't be marked for deletion. To lock or unlock photos select them and press **Command+L**, or use the menu **Photos > Lock**.



Locked photo

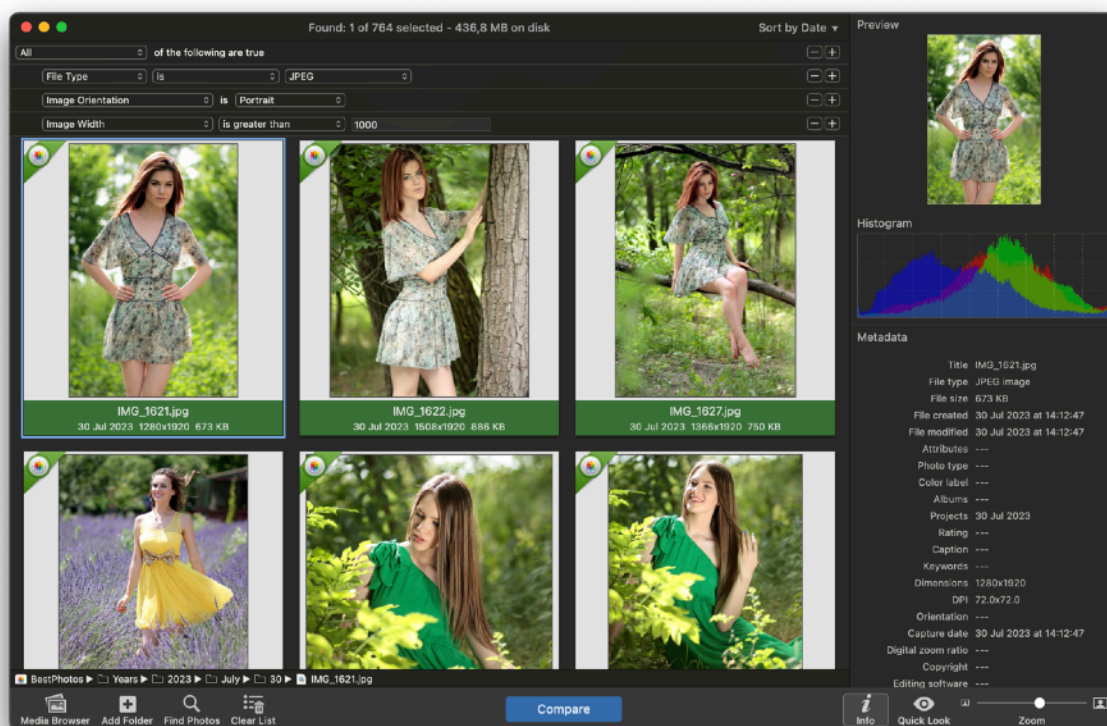
Hint: To ignore result groups containing locked photos only, turn on **Settings > Advanced > Groups: Skip with locked photos only**.

When you add photos you can lock all images from a specific folder automatically using settings in the **Settings** window.



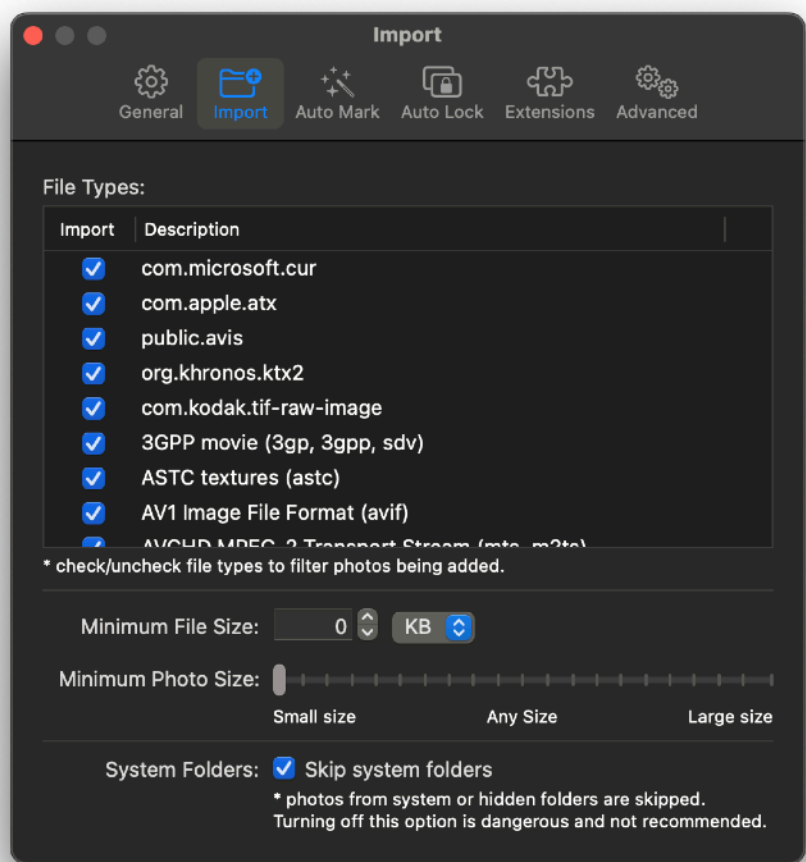
Searching photos in the browser

In addition, you can search photos in the Photo List mode using different criteria. To show or hide the filter panel press **Find Photos** on the toolbar or **Command+F**.



Filtering photos while adding

You can skip small images or files in specific image/video formats using settings in the **Settings** window. These options are for photos being added to the browser.



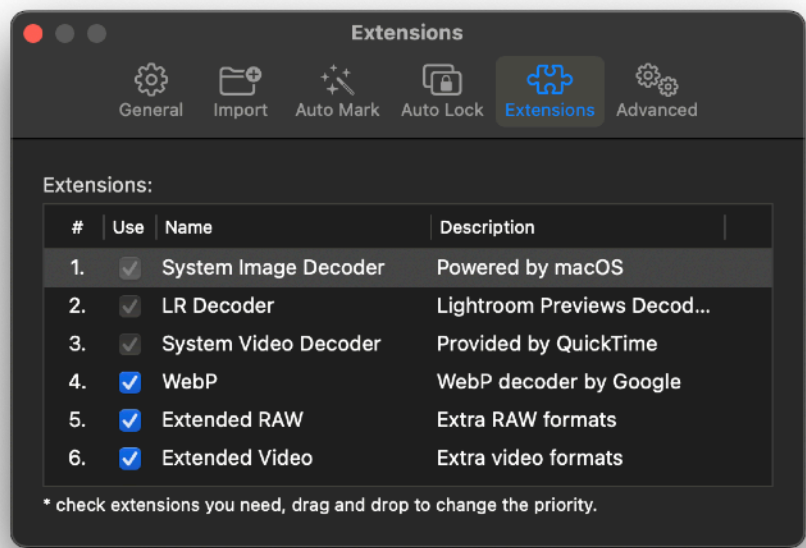
RAW image formats

PhotoSweeper has extensions for loading image and video files. You can change their order or turn off extended ones in the **Settings** window.

System Image Decoder reads [RAW formats supported by Apple](#).

Extended RAW provides custom pre-processing of RAW images and extends the list of supported RAW image formats.

Extended Video allows you to read video formats which are not supported by QuickTime.



Sidecar files

Sidecar files are files that store data which is not supported by the format of a source file. The relationship between the source file and the sidecar file is based on the file name; sidecar files have the same base name as the source file, but with a different extension.

Examples: RAW + .xmp (extensible metadata), RAW + .jpg, exported Live photos (.heic + .mov).

By default sidecar files are not processed, you need to enable it in the **Settings** window. On any file operation (i.e., moving to trash), **PhotoSweeper** checks if sidecar files are present and repeats the same file operation on them.

