



PhotoSort – User Guide

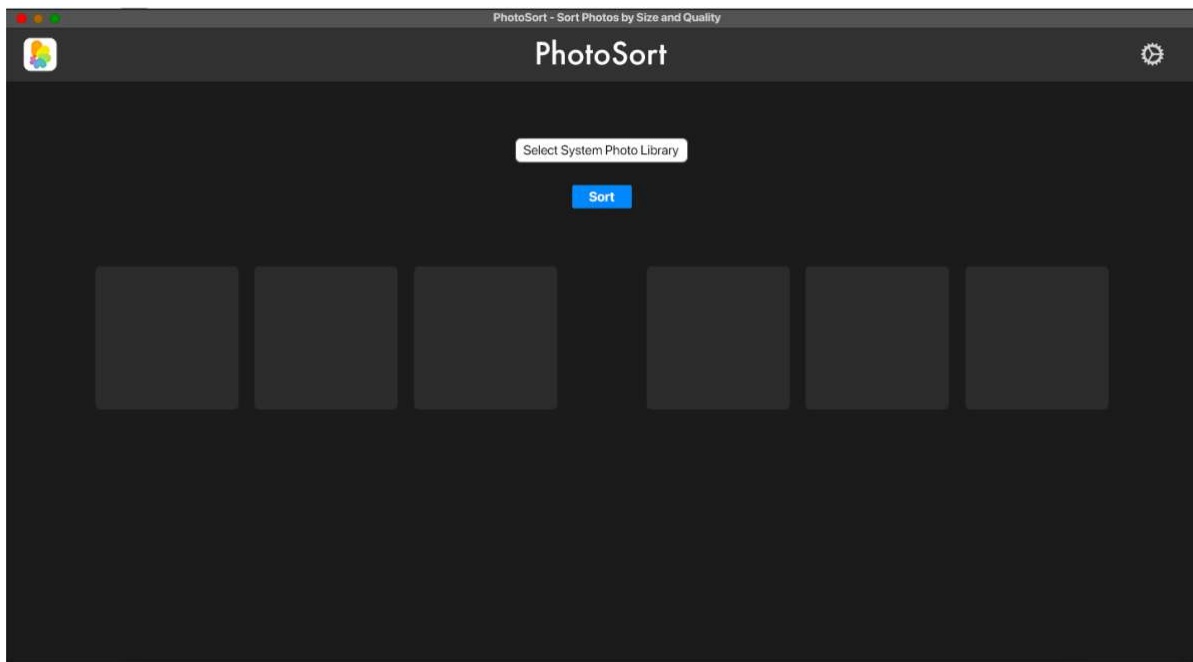
Version 1.0 (21 December 2024)

[Customer Support: Click here](#)

PhotoSort sorts your Mac and iCloud Photos libraries by file size and aesthetic quality, and creates two albums in the Photos app – SizeSort and QualitySort – in which your photos and videos are arranged in descending order of file size and aesthetic quality.

This brief guide explains how to use PhotoSort.

1. **Free version:** On launching the free version for the first time, you are asked to allow PhotoSort access to your Photos library. This access is required so that PhotoSort can analyze and sort your library. When you grant access, this screen appears:

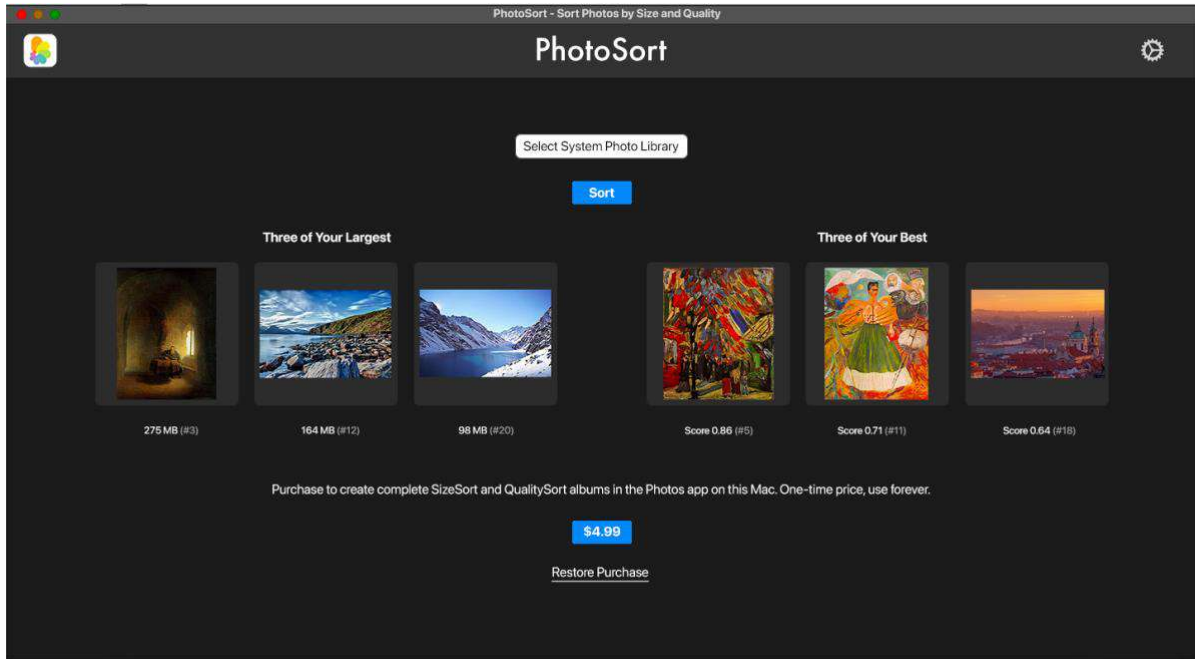


- Click the **Select System Photo Library** button, navigate to the library's location, and select it. Its default location is in the Pictures folder.

If you have only one Photos library, then it is the System Photos library. If you have more than one, Photos > Settings > General shows which one is your System library. PhotoSort only sorts the System Photo library.

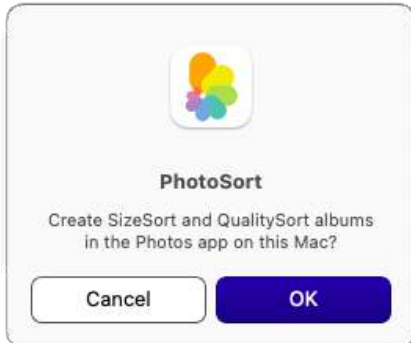
- After selecting the System library, click Sort. PhotoSort sorts the library and shows thumbnails of three of your twenty largest and three of your twenty best photos and videos. Note that it's three **of** the top 20 – not **the** three largest or best.

At this point, you have the option to purchase PhotoSort with its full functionality:

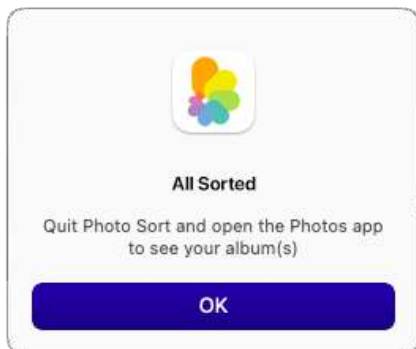


2. **Purchased version:** A one-time in-app purchase unlocks PhotoSort's key functionality, which is to create SizeSort and QualitySort albums in the Mac Photos app.

Clicking **Sort** in the purchased version displays this popup message:

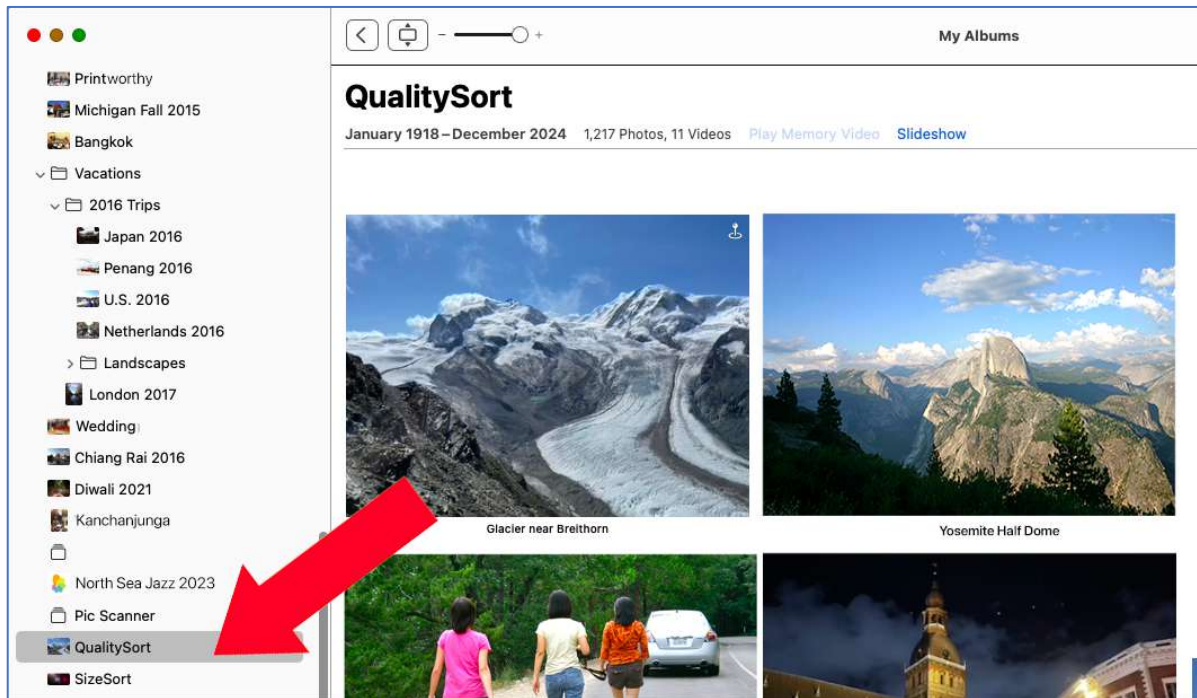


Clicking OK creates the sorted albums in the Photos app, and displays this message:

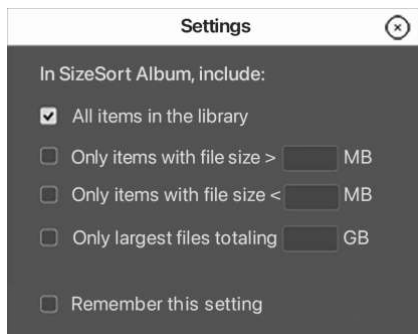


You can now quit PhotoSort and open the Photos app.

3. **Albums in Photos app:** SizeSort and QualitySort are added under **My Albums**. If your Mac syncs with an iPhone or iPad, these albums will also appear on those devices:



4. **Setting file size filters:** You can limit the inclusions in the SizeSort album via **Settings**:



5. **Subsequent runs:** If SizeSort and QualitySort already exist and you run PhotoSort, the existing albums will be deleted and updated ones created. When Photos shows the following alert, don't let it confuse you – just click **Delete**:



Infrequently Asked Questions

1. **Why would I want to sort my Photos library by file size?**

If your iCloud or Mac storage are full, knowing which are the largest photos and videos in terms of file size can help you decide which ones to export to an external drive and then delete from the Photos library to free up space (There are many other use cases).

2. **What if I have selected Optimize Mac Storage in Photos Settings, so Photos on Mac has compact photos and iCloud has full resolution ones?**

PhotoSort will sort on the basis of the original file sizes in iCloud Photos.

3. **What is QualitySort? How do you define photo quality?**

Photo quality means different things to different people. For QualitySort, aesthetic quality is based on parameters such as composition, focus, lighting, noise, camera angle; pleasant and balanced colors etc., all scored on a scale of 0.00 to 1.00.

4. **Can I know the weightings of the parameters used for QualitySort, and can I adjust these weights?**

No, but in future we may add the ability to sort by attributes such as focus or lighting.

5. **I have thousands of screenshots, expense receipts etc. clogging up my Photos library. How can I find and delete these?**

These will typically be small sized files and will also score very low on aesthetic quality – so they'll be mostly clustered together at the bottom of SizeSort and QualitySort albums. Try using Settings > Items smaller than 0.8 MB to isolate these.

6. **I have two Photos libraries. How to sort the one that's not the System library?**

In Photos > Settings > General, click on the current System library's name. Change it to the library you want to sort, then click 'Use as System Photo library'. You'll get an alert that this would turn off iCloud Photos and remove all optimized photos. Accept it. Quit Photos, open PhotoSort and sort this library. After the SizeSort and QualitySort albums are created, quit PhotoSort, open Photos, and in Photos > Settings > General, change the System library back to the earlier library. Click 'Use as System Photo library', then click on the iCloud tab and turn on iCloud Photos again.

7. **If I create SizeSort and QualitySort albums, then add new items to my Photos library, will these two albums be updated automatically to include the new items?**

No, you need to rerun the sorting in order to see the updated rankings. Rerunning the sorting will replace the older contents of the albums with the latest ones.

8. **My Photos library has more than 100,000 photos and videos. Won't creating SizeSort and QualitySort albums hugely increase the size of my Photos library?**

No, SizeSort and QualitySort (or other albums that you create in the Photos app) don't take up extra space. The Photos app doesn't create copies of the photos that you put in an album; it only creates pointers from the album to the original photos.

9. **I want to export several large items from SizeSort album to an external drive. How to keep track of which files have been exported so that I can delete them?**

Use this workflow:

- In Photos, create a temporary album named **Temp**.
- In SizeSort, identify items you'd like to offload, and add them to the Temp album.
- When done, select all items in Temp and export them (File > Export).
- Check the destination folder to ensure that everything has been saved.
- Select all items in Temp. Hold down Command (⌘) and press Delete. This will delete the items from Temp, SizeSort as well as the Photos library.
- To permanently delete these and free up storage, empty **Recently Deleted** folder.

10. **The photos I have identified for offloading belong to certain albums or events. I don't want export these and leave the other items from those albums/events in Photos – I need to keep them all together. How to do this?**

Ideally, you should do regular backups of your Photos library on an external drive or SSD. This is because iCloud is only a syncing service, **not** a backup. Relying on iCloud to keep your photos safe is very risky. To export your Photos library into folders by Years, Years (Months) or Albums, check out our app [Photos Takeout](#). It exports photos and videos from the Mac and iCloud Photos libraries, preserving image resolution, format, metadata and organization. It can even export incrementally, so you can always keep your exported backup archive up to date with your growing Photos library.

Once you have a full backup, you can either delete the largest items or move them into a Shared Album (Shared Albums do not count towards your iCloud storage).

11. **Anything special I have to do if I delete and reinstall PhotoSort?**

Go to the Photos app and delete the previous SizeSort and QualitySort albums, so that they are not duplicated when you run PhotoSort. This is necessary only after deleting / reinstalling the app. For normal reruns the app can overwrite the previous versions.