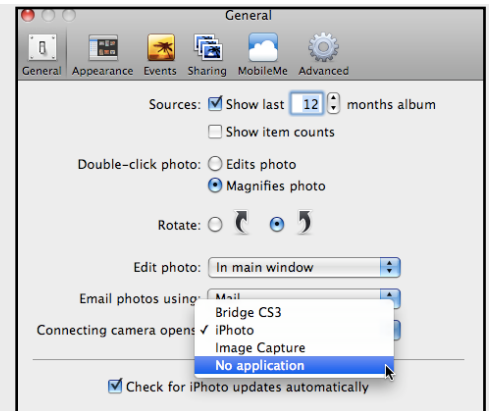


iPhoto brings to you a built-in feature that allows you to send an image directly to *Photoshop* (or *Photoshop Elements*) for editing, and then return the edited image back to your *iPhoto* library. The technical term for this is **round-tripping**. However, as with just about anything having to do with computers and software, there are some caveats! This article will show you how to work with round-tripping and will shed light on the issues and concerns.

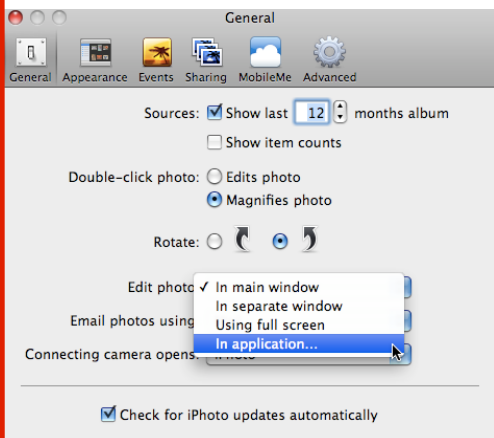
## But first: a tip ...

**Q. How do I prevent iPhoto from opening when I plug in my camera or card reader?**

**A.** This question comes up frequently in our Mac classes. If you run *iPhoto '08* or *'09*, you can do this right from *iPhoto's* Preferences panel (menu:IPHOTO>PREFERENCES), and click on the **General** icon at the top. Look for the pop-up menu called “Connecting camera opens:” and select **No application**. Note that *iPhoto* also suggests other applications on your Mac that can be set to open when you plug in a camera or card reader. If you are running *iPhoto '06* or earlier, you can still set this but you need to go to your *Image Capture* program located in your Applications folder. Go to the menu:IMAGE CAPTURE>PREFERENCES and change your setting there.



## Configuring iPhoto for Round-tripping ...



Open the **iPhoto Preferences** panel (menu:IPHOTO>PREFERENCES), and click on the **General** icon at the top. Look for the pop-up menu called “Edit photo:” and click on it to view your options. Notice that you can do your *iPhoto* editing in the main window (by default), or in a separate window, or using the full screen. The full screen is good because you want to see the pixels magnified to optimally view the effects of your editing. More about this later.

Finally, note also that you have a choice called “In application...” When you select this option, you are presented with a standard File dialog box where you tell *iPhoto* which application it should send your image to. Assuming that *Elements* is your application

of choice for image editing, here in this File dialog box, you would navigate to your Applications folder, then the *Adobe Photoshop Elements* folder, and then select *Adobe Photoshop Elements* application. From now on, your copy of *Elements* will launch when you ask *iPhoto* to edit an image. [*Photoshop CSx* users note that you have to navigate into the *Adobe Photoshop CSx* folder before selecting the application].

## Behind the Scenes ...

When you issue the command to *iPhoto* to edit your image, you will see *Photoshop* launch and open the image. Now you can make your changes, and SAVE the image. (JPEGs only! More about this later). DO NOT USE “SAVE AS...” It is sent back to the *iPhoto* library and *iPhoto* displays the changes. The **round-trip** is complete! Remember that, as with all images in your *iPhoto* library, the program keeps a copy your **original** image file as well as the modified one. You can always **revert** back to the original by first selecting the modified version you see in *iPhoto*'s main window, and then go to menu:PHOTOS>REVERT TO ORIGINAL You will then be asked to confirm this action, and you are reminded that *your changes WILL be lost!*

By the way, this **Revert to Original** feature is a great way that *iPhoto* protects you from yourself! That is, from a bit of over-zealous editing! The great thing is that this also allows you to freely experiment with editing – still the best way to learn all about an application! Remember, though; this will strip away *every change you've ever made* since the picture was imported into your *iPhoto* library, and leaves you with your original, unedited image. Why does this work? Whenever you use *any* editing tools on an image, *iPhoto* quietly and instantly makes a duplicate of your original file. With the original safely ensconced in *iPhoto*'s library, you are now free to go wild!

## How iPhoto Deals with RAW Images ...

Do you use RAW files in your image editing workflow? RAW is an advanced image file format that is supported by high-end digital cameras. *iPhoto* will work with RAW images in a limited manner. At it's core, *iPhoto* is designed to work with JPEG images. Every RAW file contains three JPEG versions of the image. When you import a RAW image file, *iPhoto* **uses the JPEG version** of it and shows *that* to you in the main window. You can proceed to edit with the *iPhoto* editing tools, but you **are not doing RAW image editing** at this point – *defeating the whole purpose of capturing RAW in the first place!*

However, *iPhoto* can still be configured to send the RAW version of the image to *Adobe Camera Raw* (built into Photoshop). Go into *iPhoto* preferences. Click on the **Advanced** icon at the top of the Preferences panel. At the bottom, you should enable the option to “Use RAW when using external editor.” This will ensure that your RAW image file is sent intact to *Adobe Camera Raw*, and NOT the JPEG version of it as *iPhoto* would do by default.



The big problem with letting *iPhoto* handle RAW image processing is that once in *Adobe Camera Raw*, **there is no direct and easy way to send the edited image back to the iPhoto library as an edited RAW file.**

## So, What About Photoshop .PSD Files?

Related to this discussion of round-tripping: If you plan to do any editing in *Photoshop* where you would save your edited image in the native *.PSD* format (for example, when using Layers), ***iPhoto will NOT round-trip and display the edited .PSD file!*** What good is that? The work-around is to save your edited *.PSD* file from *Photoshop* to the desktop or a place of your choosing on your disk, and *then* import the file into your *iPhoto* library. *Do you want to go to all that trouble?* You might if you still want full organization of your images, including RAW and *.PSD*.

### The Bottom Line ...

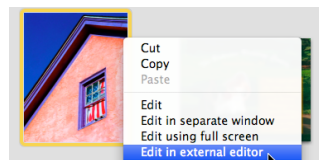
***iPhoto works best as a cataloger of JPEG images.*** While it CAN import and display your RAW image and *Photoshop* PSD files, it does not make it easy for round-tripping the image and can get you quickly confused. There is a risk of losing files if you are not careful!

Therefore, ***I do not recommend that you use iPhoto to round-trip and process your RAW and .PSD images.***

So, what *do I* recommend?

1. By all means, use *iPhoto* to catalog your images (that is, JPEG and RAW and *possibly* *.PSD* images). But use *iPhoto* to edit **ONLY** your JPEG images. The internal editing tools now available in *iPhoto '08* and especially *iPhoto '09* are quite good and a considerably enhanced compared to previous versions.

2. Set your *iPhoto* preferences to “**Edit Photo: Using full screen**” instead of automatically round-tripping it to *Photoshop*. The full screen editing with the '08/'09 tools should give you most of what you need for great photo editing. But, *you can still round-trip your image to Photoshop* by simply first selecting the image in your *iPhoto* library, then **Command-Clicking** (or right-clicking) and selecting “Edit in External Editor.”



One gotcha (isn't there *always* a gotcha?), if you had not done so already, you need to “register” *Photoshop* (or *Photoshop Elements*) with *iPhoto* by first configuring *iPhoto* preferences to “Edit photos: in *Photoshop* (or whatever)” as was explained on page 1. Once you have done this, you can change this setting back to “Edit photos: Using full screen.”

3. Finally, when you need to do some “real” editing in *Photoshop*, whether it be RAW image processing in *Adobe Camera Raw* built into *Photoshop* and *Elements*, or if you have to save your work in the native *.PSD* file format, you are better off doing this kind of work separate from *iPhoto*.

**DON'T FORGET TO BACKUP YOUR FILES!**