



MPViewer

User Manual

Version 1.0.2 RC1 | macOS 14 or later | Apple Silicon and Intel

A fast, native image and RAW viewer for macOS.

Freeware. No advertising. No spyware. No tracking. No data collection.

mpviewer.com

1. About MPViewer

MPViewer is a native macOS photo browser created for photographers who want the speed and direct folder workflow of a classic desktop image viewer. It reads photographs from their existing folders without importing them into a library.

MPViewer supports common image formats and the RAW formats recognized by the macOS imaging system. It combines folder navigation, a thumbnail gallery, fullscreen review, EXIF metadata, histograms, comparison, ratings, tags, export, crop, rename, printing, and external-editor access in one focused application.

Privacy first

- Photos and metadata are processed locally on the Mac.
- MPViewer contains no advertising, analytics, spyware, or tracking.
- MPViewer does not create an online account and does not upload photographs.
- Apple Maps, OpenStreetMap, Finder, or an external editor open only after an explicit user action.

System requirements

Control	What it does
Operating system	macOS 14 Sonoma or later.
Mac	Apple Silicon or 64-bit Intel Mac. The Universal 2 application contains both architectures.
Storage	Enough free space for the application, thumbnail cache, and any exported copies.
File access	Permission to read the folders, external disks, or protected locations you choose.

Release candidate

RC1 means release candidate 1. It is intended for final testing before the public App Store release. Keep backups of important photographs and confirm the destination before Move, Trash, Batch Rename, Crop Save Copy, or Export operations.

2. Download, verify, and install

Download the DMG and its SHA-256 checksum from mpviewer.com. The disk image contains only MPViewer.app and a shortcut to the Applications folder. The User Manual is a separate download.

Verify the download

Open Terminal, type **shasum -a 256** followed by a space, drag the downloaded DMG into the Terminal window, and press Return. Compare the result with the value in the matching .sha256 file. The complete strings must match.

Install

- Double-click the downloaded DMG.
- Drag MPViewer.app onto the Applications shortcut.
- Eject the MPViewer disk image in Finder.
- Open Applications and launch MPViewer.

Important RC1 security notice

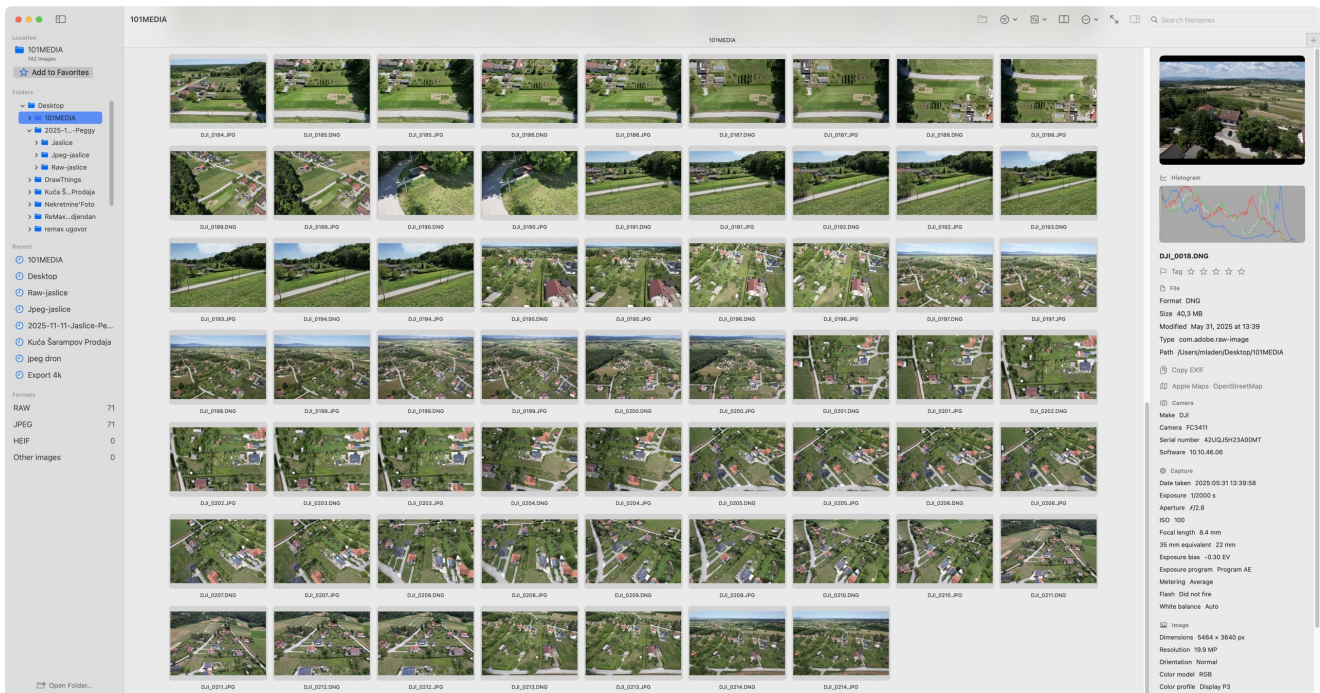
Until the Apple Developer enrollment is complete, this RC1 build uses an ad-hoc signature and is not notarized by Apple. macOS may block the first launch. If you trust the file downloaded directly from mpviewer.com and its checksum matches, open System Settings > Privacy & Security and choose Open Anyway. The final public build is planned to use Apple signing and App Store distribution.

Updating or removing

To update, quit MPViewer and replace the existing application in Applications with the newer version. To remove the application, quit it and move MPViewer.app to Trash. Your original photographs are never stored inside the application.

3. The main browser

The main window is arranged as a folder sidebar, a central thumbnail gallery, and a right inspector. Resize the dividers to give more space to the section you use most.



Main browser: folder navigation, thumbnail gallery, preview, histogram, and detailed metadata.

Control	What it does
Folder sidebar	Browse the expandable folder tree, Favorites, and Recent folders.
Path bar	See the current path, jump to a parent, and use Back or Forward folder history.
Gallery	Select, review, sort, filter, rate, tag, or open photographs.
Inspector	View the selected image, file information, EXIF metadata, GPS data, and histogram.
Status bar	See visible and total photo counts, folder size, selection, ratings, tags, and full path.

4. Folders, search, sorting, and selection

Open a folder

Choose File > Open Folder or press Command-O. You can also select a folder in the tree, Favorites, Recent, or the clickable path bar. macOS may ask for permission when a protected folder or external volume is opened for the first time.

Folder tree and history

- Expand only the branches you need; subfolders load on demand.
- Control-click a folder to open it, reveal it in Finder, copy its path, favorite it, refresh it, or make it the tree root.
- Use Command-[and Command-] for Back and Forward folder history.
- If a branch does not reflect a recent Finder change, use Refresh Folder.

Find the photographs you need

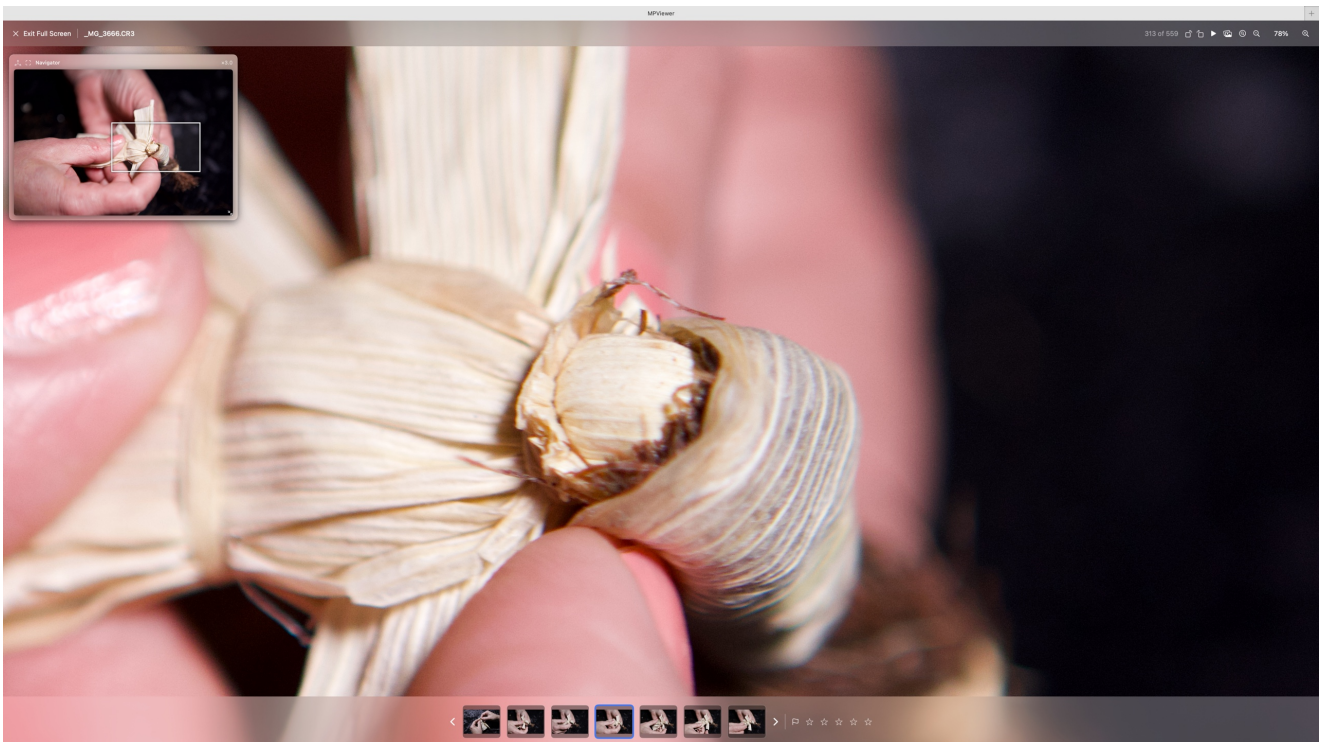
- Use the search field to filter the current folder by filename.
- Sort by name, capture date, modification date, file size, resolution, or rating.
- Filter the current folder to all, tagged, rated, or a selected star rating.
- Use Command-Plus and Command-Minus to change thumbnail size.

Select and open

- Click a thumbnail to select it. Use Command-click or Shift-click for multiple selection.
- Use Left and Right Arrow for neighboring images and Up and Down Arrow to move between gallery rows.
- Double-click, or press F, Space, Return, or Enter, to open the selected image fullscreen.

5. Fullscreen review

Fullscreen mode is designed for fast image review. Controls fade when they are not needed and return when the pointer moves.



Fullscreen viewer with controls, nearby-image filmstrip, and zoom navigator.

- Press Left or Right Arrow to move to the previous or next image.
- Use the bottom filmstrip to jump directly to a nearby image.
- Press L or R to rotate the current view 90 degrees left or right.
- Press Space to start or pause the slideshow. Choose a 2, 3, or 5 second interval in the play menu.
- Move the pointer to the far-right edge to reveal fullscreen EXIF and histogram information.
- Press Escape or use Exit Full Screen to return to the gallery.

6. Zoom, pan, loupe, and navigator

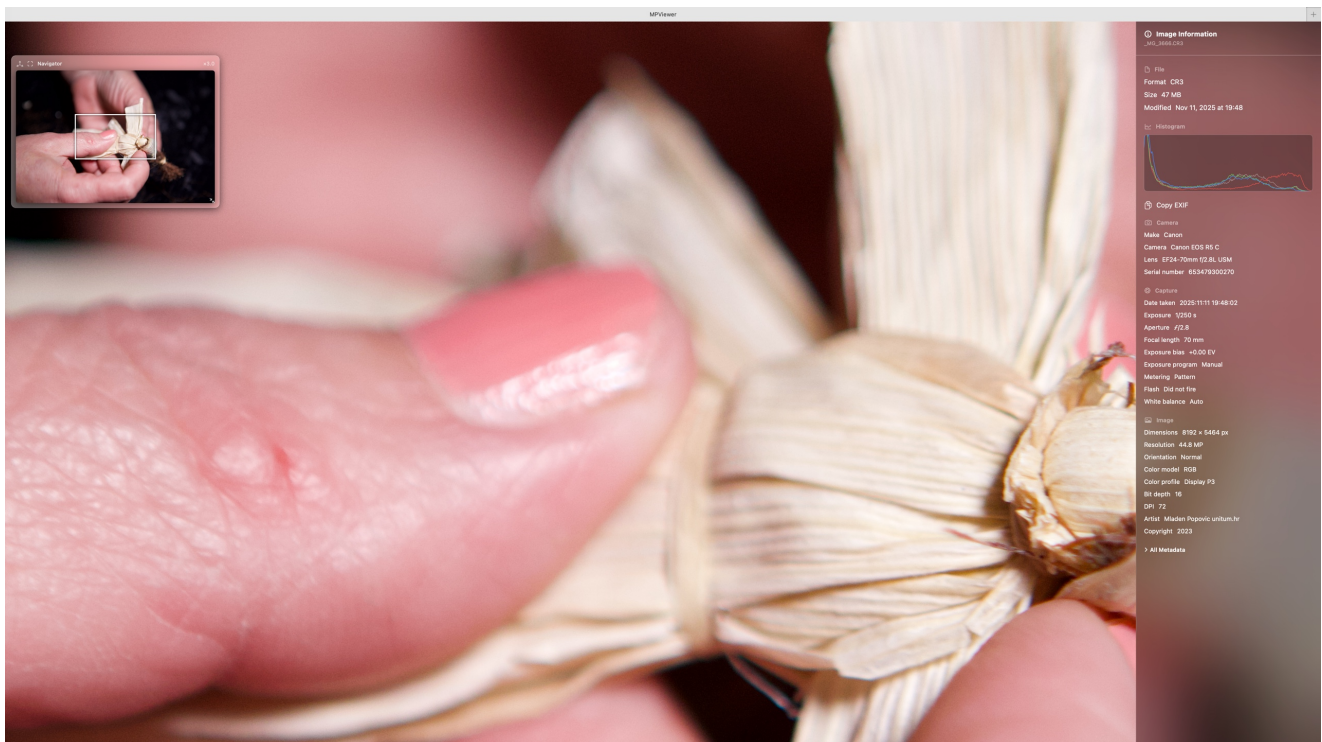
Zoom controls

- Press 0 for Fit to Screen.
- Press number keys 1 through 9 for 100% through 900%. Numeric keypad keys work too.
- Press Plus or Up Arrow to zoom in; press Minus or Down Arrow to zoom out.
- Use a trackpad pinch, or choose Zoom in the mouse-wheel menu and scroll at the point you want to inspect.
- Double-click the image to switch between Fit and 100%.

Pan and focus loupe

When the image is larger than the screen, hold the left mouse button and drag to pan. Press M to toggle the 250% focus loupe around the pointer; press M again to turn it off.

Zoom Navigator



The navigator shows the complete photograph and the rectangle currently visible on screen; fullscreen EXIF appears at the right edge.

- Drag inside the navigator image to reposition the visible area.
- Drag the navigator title bar to move the complete panel. Its default position is upper-left.
- Drag the lower-right handle to resize the navigator. Position and size are remembered.

7. Inspector, EXIF, histogram, ratings, and tags

The right inspector follows the selected photograph. It shows filename, type, size, pixel dimensions, camera and lens, exposure, capture date, color information, detailed EXIF, and GPS information when available.

Metadata

- Use Copy EXIF to copy a complete text summary.
- Control-click an individual metadata value to copy only that value.
- When GPS coordinates exist, open the location in Apple Maps or OpenStreetMap.

Histogram

The luminance and RGB histogram is computed locally from a reduced image for responsiveness. The left side represents shadows, the center represents midtones, and the right side represents highlights. A strong pile-up at an edge can indicate clipped blacks or highlights.

Ratings and tags

- Assign one to five stars from the inspector, thumbnail menu, or fullscreen bottom bar.
- Use the flag tag to mark keepers or frames that need attention.
- Ratings and tags are remembered locally and can be used as gallery filters.

RAW loading

MPViewer may first display the camera's embedded preview and then replace it with a higher-quality decode. Large RAW and TIFF files can take longer the first time. Recently viewed full-resolution images are retained in a bounded memory cache for faster backtracking.

8. Compare and file operations

Compare photographs

Choose Compare to inspect the current and next photograph, or add specific images through their thumbnail menus. Zoom and dragging are synchronized to make sharpness, expression, and small differences easier to evaluate.

Copy and move

- Select one or more photographs, open Actions, and choose Copy to Folder or Move to Folder.
- If a filename already exists, MPViewer creates a safe numbered suffix instead of silently overwriting it.
- Enable Handle RAW + JPEG Together when matching pairs should be copied, moved, trashed, or opened together.

Trash and Finder

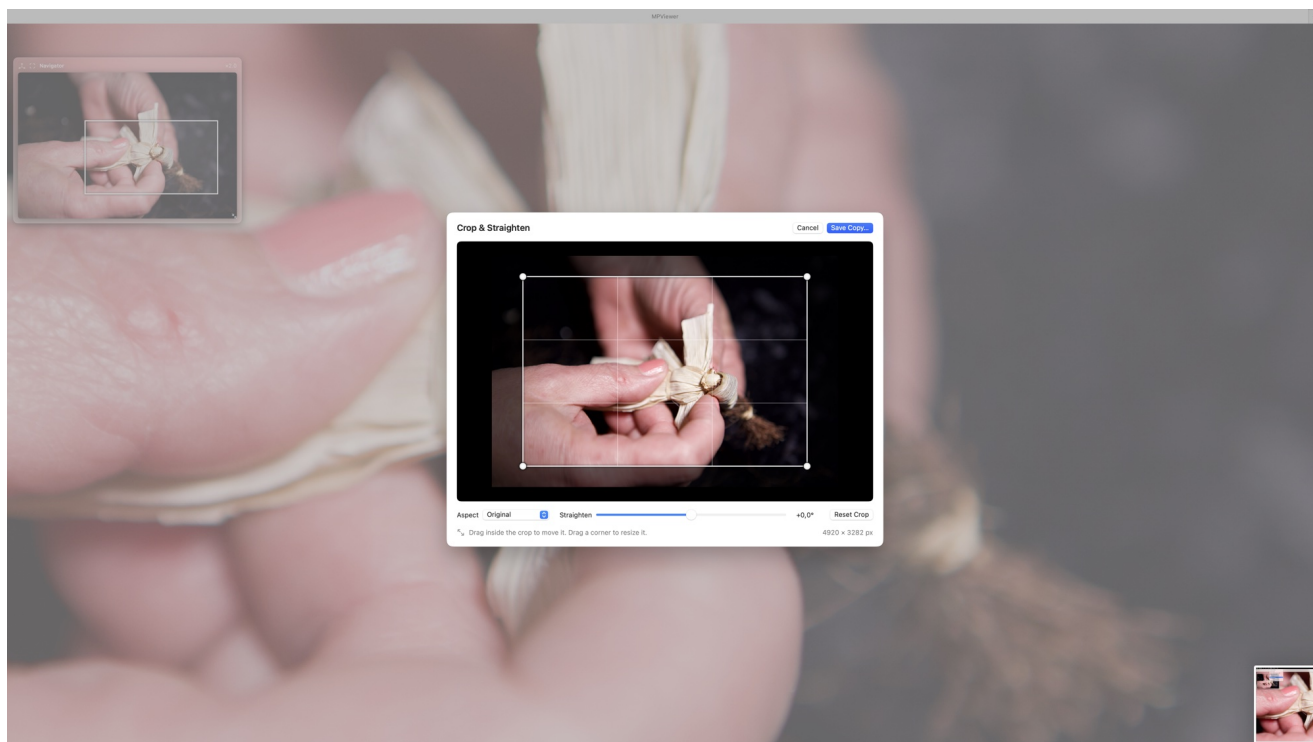
- Move to Trash asks for confirmation and uses the macOS Trash so items can normally be recovered.
- Press W or choose Show in Finder to reveal the selected photographs.

External editor

Choose a custom editor such as Adobe Photoshop in Actions or Open With. Press E to open selected files in the saved editor. The first use asks you to choose the application. This setting can be changed later.

Safety: Browsing, rating, tagging, rotation, zoom, comparison, and metadata inspection do not overwrite original image pixels. Move, Trash, and Batch Rename change file locations or names. Crop and export create a separate copy.

9. Crop and straighten



Crop and Straighten uses movable and resizable crop bounds, aspect presets, Freehand mode, and source-resolution output.

- Select one photograph and press X or choose Photo > Crop & Straighten.
- Choose Original, 1:1, 4:3, 3:2, 16:9, or Freehand.
- Drag inside the crop rectangle to reposition it.
- Drag a white corner handle to resize. Fixed ratios keep their shape; Freehand changes width and height independently.
- Use the Straighten slider from -15 to +15 degrees and the rule-of-thirds grid to align the image.
- Check the estimated output dimensions and use Reset Crop whenever needed.
- Choose Save Copy, then JPEG, PNG, or HEIC. The original photograph is not overwritten.

10. Export, rename, print, and appearance

Quick Export

Press Command-E or choose Quick Export. Select JPEG, PNG, or HEIC, maximum dimensions, quality, destination, and whether EXIF metadata should be preserved.

Batch Rename

Select multiple images and open Batch Rename. Build names with the {name}, {date}, and {n} tokens. Review the complete preview before confirming because this operation changes the original filenames.

Print

Press Command-P, choose File > Print Selected Photo, or use Print Photo in the thumbnail menu. MPViewer opens the standard macOS Print dialog and fits the current rotation to one page.

Appearance

Open MPViewer > Settings or press Command-Comma. Choose System, Light, or Dark. System follows the current macOS appearance. Fullscreen always uses a dark background so the photograph remains the focus.



Light appearance



Dark appearance

11. Keyboard shortcuts

Control	What it does
Command-O	Open folder
Command-[/ Command-]	Back / Forward folder history
F, Space, Return, Enter	Open selected gallery image fullscreen
Escape	Exit fullscreen or close the current tool
Left / Right Arrow	Previous / next image
Up / Down Arrow	Previous / next gallery row; zoom in / out in fullscreen
Plus / Minus	Zoom in / out in fullscreen
0	Fit image to screen
1 through 9	100% through 900% zoom
L / R	Rotate 90 degrees left / right
M	Toggle the 250% focus loupe
Space in fullscreen	Start / pause slideshow
W	Show selected files in Finder
E	Open in the configured external editor
X	Open Crop & Straighten
Delete	Move selected files to Trash after confirmation
Command-E	Quick Export
Command-P	Print selected photo
Command-Plus / Command-Minus	Larger / smaller gallery thumbnails
Command-Comma	Settings
Command-?	MPViewer Help

When the same key has two meanings, the active view determines the action. For example, Space opens a gallery image but starts or pauses the slideshow in fullscreen.

12. Troubleshooting and support

A folder does not open

- Confirm that the folder contains a supported image format.
- Grant access when macOS asks, or check System Settings > Privacy & Security > Files and Folders.
- Refresh the folder tree branch or reopen the folder with Command-O.

The first RAW or TIFF image is slower

Large or compressed source files need a full decode on first use. MPViewer shows an embedded preview quickly, then upgrades it. If scrolling becomes unresponsive, pause briefly and allow the current decode to finish; record the camera model, file type, and file size when reporting the issue.

A RAW file never becomes sharp

Check whether the RAW model is supported by the installed macOS version. Compare the file in Finder Quick Look or Preview. A damaged file or an unsupported camera codec can leave only the embedded thumbnail available.

The application is blocked on first launch

For this pre-notarization RC1 only, verify the checksum and then use System Settings > Privacy & Security > Open Anyway. Do not bypass the warning for a copy obtained from an unknown source.

Report a problem

Include the MPViewer version, macOS version, Mac model, Intel or Apple Silicon, image type, approximate file size, exact steps, and what happened. Do not send private photographs unless you intentionally choose to share them.

Support: mpviewer.com | X: [@mladen_popovic](https://twitter.com/mladen_popovic) | LinkedIn: [mladenpopovic77](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mladenpopovic77)

MPViewer is freeware for macOS. It is an independent project inspired by the direct folder workflow of FSViewer on Windows. MPViewer contains no advertisements, spyware, tracking, or data collection.