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## 1 Program information



**For Windows® XP and Windows Vista™**

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Design: Sebastian Strzelecki, Daniel M. Heinze, Ralph Tonn  
Help file and Documentation: Sven Krummy

Use of this program and all its component modules is  
subject to the terms and conditions of the **License  
Agreement** you agreed to when you installed the software.

### 1.1 Welcome

#### Optimizing photos is a child's play!

Focus on your motif, press the release and record the picture: Taking photos with modern digital cameras is so easy. After having recorded the pictures, they will be transferred to and analyzed on the PC. A lot of photographers are surprised when displaying their photos on the PC for the first time: The photos are not bright enough, the colors do not shine, the degree of sharpness is not sufficient and the contrast also leaves a lot to be desired. Very often, such a result can be attributed to suboptimal settings of the camera.

But: From now on, this does not mean that you have to delete your pictures. The perfect photo is hidden under the gray surface – you only have to find it! The Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 2.0 can help you to save each photo – all you have to do is click with your mouse. A very strong algorithm determines the optimal settings for a picture and implements these settings automatically and without any further prompts. Even on the screen, you can see that this feature already seems to remove a shroud of fog from the pictures so that the colors are shining again, the contrasts are exact and the pictures become sharper. The photographers often experience a downright light bulb moment when watching their photos.

A direct before/after comparison of the pictures shows the extreme improvements that have been performed by the program. Thus, more and more hobby and professional photographers use this program during each new readout process of recently recorded pictures to optimize them with the help of the batch processing method.



### Better overview when optimizing photos

How can software be improved that has been designed for performing all tasks with only one single mouse click? More buttons to be clicked would only be annoying and complicate the program. Thus, the operation has to be simplified even further. This is exactly what Ashampoo has done.

**Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3** provides a navigation bar which allows selecting each folder in the system with only one mouse click. The program immediately displays a thumbnail preview of all stored pictures. Now, the program also directly approaches digital cameras and memorizes important folders like, for example, "My pictures" which can then be selected very quickly.

At the request of many users, it is now possible to use the automatic optimization function several times in a row. Professionals can even adjust the values for brightness, contrast and gamma manually. The maximizing function of the picture preview also displays the "enlarged" optimized photo on the screen. The new version is complete with a print function for a quick output on the photo printer.

About the program

How to optimize photos

## 1.2 About the program

### About the program

#### All the photo editing you really need. Instantly.

Many people buy big expensive camcorders but still shoot all their videos with their phone or point-and-shoot camera. Photo editing software is similar – you may have a powerful graphics editor but most of the time you'll find yourself using just a couple of functions. Ashampoo Photo Optimizer enables you to touch up your digital photos fast. Everything is so simple you never need to read a manual – after you point and shoot just click and go.

Ashampoo Photo Optimizer doesn't try to replace major graphics programs. It just gives you everything you need when you want results fast.

#### Instant Optimize function

You'll love this if you've ever struggled with all the complicated settings in a graphics editor. Just select a photo and click Optimize. Suddenly a dull photo starts to shine. There's nothing to configure, you really just select and click. The results look attractive and natural, not artificially boosted. You can also optimize all your photos with a single click, it's just as easy as a single photo.

#### Red eye correction

Correcting the dreaded red eye effect in flash photos is just as easy: Just roughly select the part of the photo containing the red eyes and click, Photo Optimizer does all the rest. You don't have to make a precise selection, the red area is found and corrected automatically. Here too, the result looks attractively natural and you get it instantly, without having to spend hours studying a manual.

#### Rotate, brightness, contrast and effects

Click once to rotate photos that are on their sides. Adjust brightness and contrast with simple sliders. Convert your photos to graphic black-and-white or sepia or invert the colors, all with a single click. Instant preview, instant results - and just click on Undo if you change your mind.

#### Automatic backup – undo your changes at any time

You never need to worry about “damaging” your photos by editing them because you can always return to the original version. Ashampoo Photo Optimizer automatically makes backups of the original versions of your photos in a database. To restore the original just select the photo and click on Undo – even days or weeks later. In the new version you can also choose where you want to store the undo database.



## 2 Overview

### Overview

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Let's take quick look at the arrangement of **Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3** ! We've spared no efforts to make the browsing easier und more comfortably.

### Welcome to our new user interface!

---

**1**

The **Special Places** offer a view at **My Pictures** , **removable media** (e.g. USB drives), and connected digicams.

**2**

You might already know the **file directory tree** from the explorer. Just browse through your files and select your favored directories.

**3**

The **thumbnail browser** show the previews of the pictures. Click at a picture and it will be displayed below.

**4**

This is a **preview** of the selected picture. In this place you can supervise the success of the optimization and access [the optimize controls](#).



## The Backup files

Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3 creates a backup file of every picture which was edited or optimized. If you're not satisfied with the result, just click at **Undo** and the picture will be restored. The *default* paths for these backup files are:

### Windows® XP:

C:\Documents and Settings\USERNAME\Local Settings\Application Data\photoOptimizeHistoryDataBase

### Windows Vista™:

C:\Users\USERNAME\AppData\Local\photoOptimizeHistoryDataBase

Note: **Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3** always chooses the partition **where your operating system is installed**. C:\ is just the most common but it can be different, of course. Please replace USERNAME with your own user name.

**Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3** now also offers the possibility to change the path of the backup database. See [here](#) for more details!

Change the path of the backup files

How to optimize photos

## 3 How to optimize photos

### How to optimize photos (survey)

Optimize and beautify all your photos in the same folder with just a click of the mouse is possible! This survey introduces the most important function at the start screen.



**1 Optimize all**  
Optimizes all pictures of the selected folder.

**Undo optimize all**  
Restores all pictures.

**Previous picture**

With this button you change to the previous picture.

**Next picture**

With this button you change to the next picture.

**Rotate right**

Use this button to turn your picture lossless to the **right**.

**Rotate left**

Use this button to turn your picture lossless to the **left**.

**Maximize**

Use this button, in order to optimize your pictures.

### The Main Feature Bar

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**Previous / Next picture**

With this button you change to the previous next picture.

**Optimize**

Use this button, in order to optimize your pictures.

**Color Correction**

This function offers brightness, contrast and gamma adjustment of your photos. See [here](#) for more details.

**Effects**

There are some beautiful filters to beef your pictures up. See [here](#) for more details.

**Correct Red Eyes**

The notorious red eye affect can destroy your precious memories. See [here](#) how to remove it!

**Show Original**

To best way to compare the amazing effect of the automatic optimization is to switch from the original to the result. Click on this button to do this!

**Print**

Kick here to print your pictures, it will open the printing dialogue of your printer.

**Undo**

If you've optimized your picture, you can restore the image file using button after the optimization.

**Save**

Saves the picture.

A rectangular button with rounded corners and a light gray gradient background. The text "About the program" is centered in a dark gray font.

## 3.1 Red Eye Correction

### Functionality

To achieve the best results it may be useful to understand how this sophisticated tool works. To put it in a nutshell: **Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3** is looking for colors and their spatial layout which are typical for those red eyes pics. How does a photo like this actually look like? There is the glistening red of the eyes (which is a reflection of the retina), the white of the eye ball and the color of the skin. Thus, **Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3** is looking just for constellations like that to seek and replace those red arrays with a more natural shade.

### How to remove red eyes

#### Set the limits of the array

Once you've opened a picture with red eyes click at **Correct Red Eyes** to open the menu.



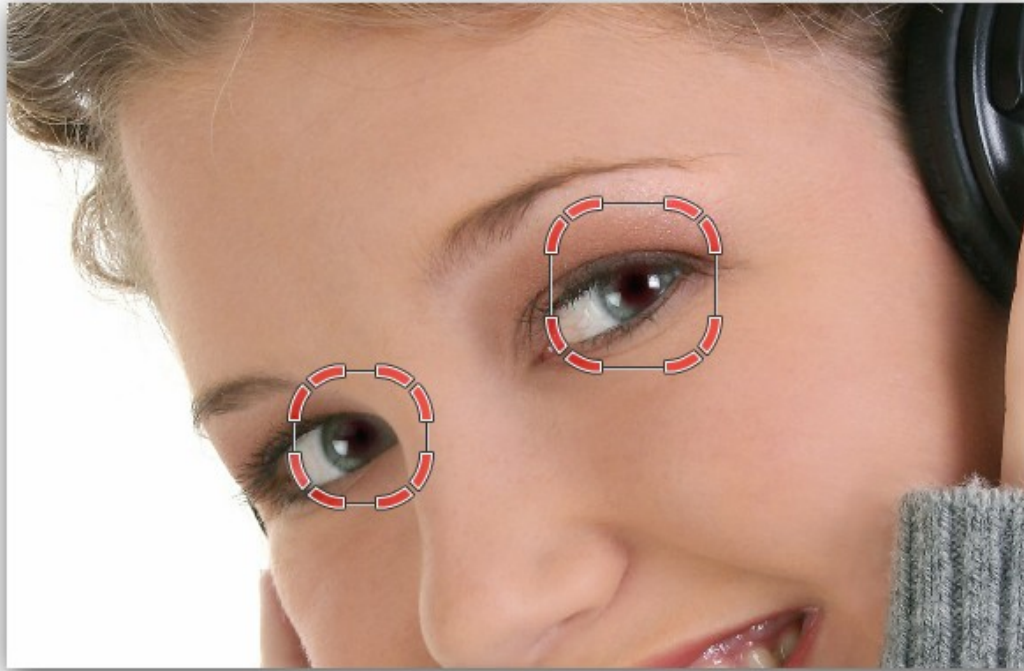
Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3 asks you to mark the area where the read eyes are located. Click at the picture and *hold the left mouse button* to define the starting point of the frame and pull it to the proper size. *Release the mouse button* to complete this operation. Your frame will now be zoomed in and **Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3** starts to search for red eyes.



Please create a frame which is slightly bigger than the actual area around the eyes. It should come up to the eyebrows and should also contain some of the skin left and right of the eyes. Don't try to remove several pairs of red eyes at once.

### Red eyes were found

If red eyes were found, **Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3** indicates those areas with red frames. The program automatically removes the red sections and replaces them with darker colors which fit into the picture inconspicuously.



### **Red eyes not found / Manual removing**

Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3 uses an elaborate method to remove red eyes but it won't work in every case. If your picture differs too much from the common scenario (e.g. there is no white from the eye balls or somebody is winking), the automatic process will not identify the red eye areas properly. In this case, **Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3** offers a way to **remove red eyes manually**.

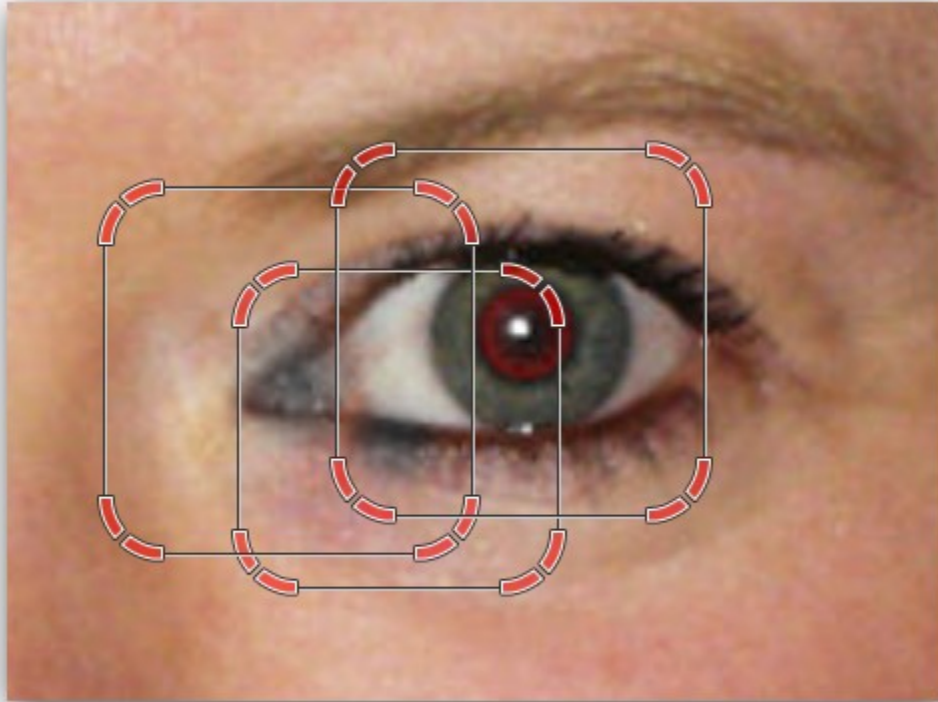
Click at the middle of the pupil, click and hold the left mouse button and move the mouse to adjust the size of the circle. This circle (called *selection circle*) defines the array in which the color are darkened.



Please create a circle which is a little bigger than the pupil itself and you will get the best results. Just get a feeling for this tool and its handling and try different solutions, it will be without risk. Please remember there is always a backup of the original and the different stages of your work. In this connection please keep in mind to keep the backups until you are really satisfied with the output.

#### **An error and how to deal with it**

**Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3** removes red eyes in a majority of cases automatically and without any problems. In certain circumstances, the function will misinterpret arrays of your picture as red eyes. In some cases, e.g. parts of the eye near the lacrimal hold the classical *Red - White - Colour of the skin* -combination. Thus, **Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3** removes the red in these arrays. In this case, please choose **Undo** and remove the red eyes manually.



How to optimize photos

## 3.2 Color Correction

### Color Correction

Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3 allows to optimize your pictures with just one click - but that's not all you can do with it. To put the finishing touch to it, there is also a color correction to optimize your pictures manually. Just click at **Colour Correction** to open the menu.



The color correction provides an adjustment of the three basic parameters of a picture: Brightness, Contrast and Gamma. Just slide the roll bars and watch the changes of the preview in realtime.

If you're not convinced it's again just one click to cancel the changes. Choose **Reset** and the roll bars will return to their default position. Your pictures will remain unchanged.

If you are satisfied with the results, click at **Finish** to resume. Keep in mind that there is always a backup of the original (until you decide to delete it).

If you need further information about **Gamma**, **Brightness**, etc., see [here](#) for details.

How to optimize photos

### 3.3 Effects

#### Effects

This feature provides nice filters to add some highlights to your pictures. To continue the tradition of **Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3** the results are only one click away. Just choose **Effects** to open this menu!



**Sepia** offers an attractive, moody coloring which reminds the viewers of old photographs. Pictures of landscapes or family reunions often get a special touch with this filter.

**Invert Colors** inverts the colors of your pictures as you might know it from slides.

**Greyscale** turns your picture into a classic black-and-white shot.

How to optimize photos

## 4 Menu

Using the menu bar you have access to all important functions of **Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3**.

File Edit Effects View Settings Internet Help

Please click on the topic to receive further information about it!

### 4.1 File

#### Menu > File

---

##### **Open folder**

Opens a search dialogue, where you can select the picture folder.

##### **Open file**

Opens a search dialogue, where you can select the picture file.

##### **Save file**

Use this function in order to store your picture.

##### **Save file as**

This function becomes active, as soon as you've optimized a picture. Use this function in order to store your picture with a different name.

##### **Next file**

Moves on to the next file of the folder.

##### **Previous file**

Moves on to the previous file of the folder.

##### **Page Setup**

You are now able to change the specific settings of the page you wish to print on. Just define the size, source and margins to achieve the best result.

##### **Print Preview**

Use this function to view a preview of your print.

##### **Print**

This function opens the printing dialogue of your printer.

##### **Delete all Backups**

**Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3** always creates backup files during the optimization. Please note: Only if you are *really sure* that these files (the originals) are obsolete, click here.

**Exit**

Select this menu option, in order to exit **Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3**.

## 4.2 Edit

### Menu > Edit

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**Undo**

Use this menu option in order to cancel the changes of your picture.

**Rotate left**

Use this menu option in order to turn your picture to the **left**.

**Rotate right**

Use this menu option, in order to turn your picture to the **right**.

**Optimize**

Use this button in order to [optimize your pictures](#).

**Correct Red Eyes**

Use this button in order to [remove red eyes](#).

**Color Correction**

Use this button to [adjust the colors](#) (brightness, contrast and gamma) of your picture.

**Optimize all files**

Optimizes all pictures of the selected folder.

**Undo optimization for all files**

Restores all picture files.

## 4.3 Effects

### Menu > Effects

---

This feature provides nice filters to add some highlights to your pictures. To continue the tradition of **Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3** the results are only one click away. Just choose your **Effect** to open this menu!

[Sepia](#)

[Greyscale](#)

[Invert Colors](#)

## 4.4 View

### Menu > View

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#### **Refresh**

Use this menu option in order to refresh the directories shown in the Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3 explorer.

## 4.5 Settings

### Menu > Settings

---

#### **Newschannels**

Opens a dialogue which permits the configuration of the service channels. Using service channels you can receive information to various topics such as news and updates.

#### **Language**

Here you can specify the language.

#### **JPEG Quality**

You are now able to choose the quality of your stored files. Please keep in mind that files with a reduced quality may need less hard disk space but may look worse!

#### **Appearance**

There are two skins to choose from; a modern black and green theme and the classic blue one.



#### Change Backup Database Folder

Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3 creates a backup file of every picture which was edited or optimized. These backups are saved into the backup database folder. If you want to change the path (maybe to put it on a hard disc with a larger capacity) click here to open an explorer and choose the new storage location. Your files will be moved to the new place, the needless old folder will be erased.

#### Restore Backup Database Folder To Default

Klick here to move your database folder to its **default path**. (Windows® XP: C:\Documents and Settings\USERNAME\Local Settings\Application Data\photoOptimizeHistoryDataBase; Windows Vista™: C:\Users\USERNAME\AppData\Local\photoOptimizeHistoryDataBase )

## 4.6 Internet

### Menu > Internet

#### Buy / register

Starts the free online registration procedure. You must register the program to be eligible for free updates when they become available! This option is only displayed after you have purchased the program and entered your full version key code. Only displayed in the shareware version. Connects you to the Ashampoo website and opens the page with which you can purchase the

program.

**Recommend to a friend**

Enables you to automatically recommend the program to a friend by e-mail. Recommend your favorite software and get presented a full version key! How to make it: In your personal customer area (under "recommendation") you choose one of your registered programs and simply recommend it to friends, relatives, neighbors, etc. With 9 confirmed recommendations you automatically receive your personal full version key for the recommended program.

**My Ashampoo**

Connects you with the "My Ashampoo" -website. You have to login with your user name and password. When logged on, you receive insight on previously received registration keys and recommendations. Furthermore you have the possibility to configure newsletter and user profile attitudes.

**Today's special offers**

Connects you to the Ashampoo website and displays special offers and featured advertising links to products and services that users of Ashampoo programs may find useful or interesting.

**View service letter offers**

Connects you to the Ashampoo website page at which you can subscribe to our free e-mail service letter with information about Ashampoo products, updates and special offers.

**Ashampoo homepage**

Connects you to the [Ashampoo-Website](#).

**Ashampoo products**

Connects you to the [product information page](#) of Ashampoo.

**Ashampoo support**

Connects you to the support website of this application.

**Online update**

Connects you to the Ashampoo website page where you can check for online updates of the program.

## 4.7 Help

### Menu > Help

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**Contents**

Opens this help file.

**Send a problem report to Ashampoo**

Here you can send a problem report directly to Ashampoo.

**Ashampoo Support**

Opens the Ashampoo Support website.

**Buy / register**

Starts the free online registration procedure. You must register the program to be eligible for free updates when they become available! This option is only displayed after you have purchased the program and entered your full version key code. Only displayed in the shareware version. Connects you to the Ashampoo website and opens the page with which you can purchase the program.

**About the program**

Shows information about the program, like the version number.

## 5 References

### Useful information about Ashampoo Photo Optimizer 3

[System requirements](#)

[Getting help](#)

[Ashampoo support](#)

### 5.1 System requirements

#### System requirements

**Operating System:**

Windows® XP, Windows Vista™

**Computer:**

Any computer that runs on one of the above operating systems at a reasonable speed.

**Disk space:**

Hard Disk Space 10 MB, backup files might need additional space

## 5.2 Getting help

### Accessing the help file

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Please select **Help** in the Help menu at any point to view the topic of this help file most relevant to what you are currently doing. If you get really stuck you can contact [Ashampoo Support](#), but please study the help carefully first -- we've put a lot of effort into making it as comprehensive as possible and chances are you'll find the answer here if you look!

### Find required information

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#### Getting started

This online help system is designed to make it easy to find what you need quickly and easily. The first time you use the program you should study the topics in the [Introduction section](#); this will give you the grounding you need and help you to understand how the program works.

#### Help contents

If selecting Help doesn't automatically open the online help at the topic you need the first place to look is in the Contents. If the Contents isn't currently displayed you can display it by clicking on the Contents tab in the left-hand pane of the help window (click on the Show icon in the help toolbar to display the tabs if they are not visible). The help system takes a "learning by doing" approach and you will find topics devoted to all the common procedures that you can perform with the program. Additional useful information is also available in the [Reference section](#).

#### The index

To display the index just click on the Index tab in the help window (click on the Show icon in the help toolbar to display the tabs if they are not visible). Then either scroll through the list of keywords or enter a keyword in the field at the top. When you have found a keyword that interests you double-click on it to display the topic referenced by the keyword.

#### Searching

If you don't find what you need in the contents or the index you can also perform a full-text search on the entire help system. Just click on the Search tab in the help window (click on the Show icon in the help toolbar to display the tabs if they are not visible). Then type in the word or phrase you want to search for in the field at the top of the search pane and click on the List Topics button to perform the search.

## 5.3 Ashampoo support

### Free E-MAIL support for all Ashampoo products - also for Trial-versions!

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If you have any problems or questions about this program please contact our support hotline staff at one of the addresses shown below. You can also contact support directly by selecting the options in

the [Internet](#) menu within the program.

### Ashampoo contact addresses

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**Website:**

<http://www.ashampoo.com>

**Support website:**

<http://www.ashampoo.com/support>

**E-Mail Support:**

[sis@ashampoo.com](mailto:sis@ashampoo.com)

**Bug reports:**

[support@ashampoo.com](mailto:support@ashampoo.com)

**Suggestions:**

[support@ashampoo.com](mailto:support@ashampoo.com)

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Germany