

iconCompo 2.2

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General

Thank you very much for downloading "iconCompo".

"iconCompo" is a graphic utility for creating custom icons out of two images (basically, icon + folder). Drag & drop two images, adjust them, and use the composite image as the custom icon for a new folder, attach it to existing folders / files or save it in several graphic formats. The program can be used to make thumbnail images as well.

Requirements

iconCompo 2.2 has been developed under OS10.2.4 and **requires OS 10.2 or later**.

It also requires a 32-bit display monitor (custom icons created with iconCompo are visible in the OS 9 environment if color depth is set to 'thousands of colors' or more).

What's new in iconCompo 2.2

- o Improvement of Background and Frame Function of the composite image.
 - Different from filled background patterns, frames are now drawn at the top of the other images.
 - By checking the clip option, the composite image is shaped into the selected pattern. Because of narrow space, the "Save as..." button is taken out of the main window. You can use the key combination "apple command + s" to save the composite image into a file. It is also possible to add this function to the toolbar, if you like (select the menu item "Customize Toolbar...").
- o Improvement of Text Tool
 - Text can be now written longer and the text view is scrollable. Write whatever text you want, and select the part which you want to add to the foreground / background image. Click the small "check" button below the scroller of the text view in order to update text displayed in the main window.
 - Images can be included. Text changed into image by Gradation Tool (see below), therefore, is added to the text view if pasted back to text displayed in either the foreground or the background frame.
 - In the registered version text is saved automatically, so that you do not have to write strings repeatedly if you are using them often.
- o "Gradation Tool"
 - Select the tab named "Gradation" after opening the Preferences panel.
 - There you find at the left side:
 - a popup button to select one of the following six gradation types: line, radiation, square, circle, oval spread, and individual
 - a slider to rotate the gradation image
 - a check box to fill up the background of the gradation image
 - a slider to change opacity of the gradation image when it is placed over the basic image
 - a check box to clip the basic image pattern out of the gradation image
 - a preview frame
 - buttons to select the base image: foreground or background

If text is active (rather than image), text is taken as the base image. In order to change the active layer, double click inside the foreground / background frame.

- buttons to paste the image (in the preview) to the foreground or to the background frame of the main window.

If text is active in the frame, the image is pasted back to the text area.

And at the right side:

- a gradation image view where you can move the square frame to select the part of the gradation you want
- 5 gradation lines to be selected by clicking the button at the left side of each line.

By clicking the button at the right side of each line, each default setting is retrieved.

Each line may be as wide as the gradation image (256x256) in total and contain min. 2 and max.10 color cells.

- In order to delete a cell, select a cell and press the delete key.
 - In order to add a cell, select a cell to be duplicated and press the return key.
 - In order to change cell size, drag mouse inside a cell to rightward to extend the cell and leftward to shorten it.
 - In order to change cell color, double click the cell to display the color panel and then select the color you want on the panel.
 - Keeping the color panel, you can select another cell and continue changing its color.
 - In case you want to get the color of a specific cell, double click the cell even if the color panel is already displayed.
- The modified gradation lines are saved automatically in the registered version.

How to use

o Drag & Drop Start-up (Quick Attachment)

- 1 Drag & drop a file / folder, which is to be the foreground image, onto the iconCompo program directly or onto the program icon kept in the dock.
- 2 Depending on your setting, the file / folder selection panel is shown to ask where to attach the new custom icon (default: ask where to attach).
 - go to "Set" in "Preferences" to change the default
- 3 Depending on your setting, the program quits automatically (default: does not quit automatically).
 - when you cancel at step 2 (selecting the file / folder) and keep the default setting here, you can continue to adjust the images.
- 4 The folder / file in concern is shown in the finder.

o General Process

- 1 Open the program by double-clicking the program icon directly or clicking the icon once on the dock. Three squares in the main window show:
 - [left] foreground image (icon, logo, etc.)
 - [middle] background image (most probably a folder), and
 - [right] composite image, which is automatically created out of the two images above.
- 2 Select a file (or a folder) for the foreground (and / or background) image and drag it to the left-most image square for foreground (to the middle image square for background). You can also use a menu item to select files.

If an image is on the clipboard, it can be pasted onto the foreground image frame (or onto the background image frame depending on which is active at the moment); i.e. you can import an image from other applications.

- 3 If the file contains some image which can be recognized by iconCompo, the image will appear; otherwise, the icon of the selected file will be used.
- there is an option "icon images only" in Preferences to force iconCompo to take icon images, ignoring the contents of files.
 - If you use animation files, images are shown in the movie view in the side drawer as well (no differentiations between simple gifs and animations can be made). Please refer to the section "Side Drawer".

4 Adjust images

Foreground image

- o Move the image with mouse-drag or by using the arrow keys (left / right / up / down). If the foreground image frame is not active, click on the foreground image once. If text is there, double click in the frame to activate either text or image alternatively. When text is activated, you can move the text instead of the image.
- o Change the size point by point with the arrow keys while the shift key is pressed down. You can also drag one of the small squares (knobs). The corner knobs keep the image aspect ratio. If the shift-key is pressed down, the image ratio becomes 1:1. A click with the option (alt) key retrieves the original image ratio (max. in the frame). You can also change the size by filling up the text fields in the "Set" of "Preferences".
- o Use the set of sliders to change transparency (slider with a fading blue line), brightness (slider with a fading black line), saturation (slider with a fading red line) and hue (colorful slider).
 - When the saturation is 0 (set the slider knob at the leftmost side), image becomes gray-scaled.
 - Keep the shift key down to exclude black & white from color modification.
 - Keep the option (alt) key down to obtain a flat single color image. This would be useful for coloring black shadow images or, on the opposite, for making shadow images.Also the color panel can be used instead of the sliders. Make sure the proper image (here foreground image) is activated.
- o Click the reset color button to retrieve the original color.
- o Rotate / flip the image by selecting a type out of the popup menu. The eight patterns show from top to down respectively:
 1. original
 2. rotate the original 90 degrees clockwise
 3. rotate the original 180 degrees clockwise
 4. rotate the original 90 degrees counter-clockwise
 5. flip the original horizontally
 6. rotate the horizontally flipped image 90 degrees clockwise
 7. rotate the horizontally flipped image 180 degrees clockwise (= vertical flip)
 8. rotate the horizontally flipped image 90 degrees counter-clockwise
- o Transform the image to match the default folder face direction by selecting a pattern from the transformation popup menu. If you want to match directions, first select the same rotate/flip pattern for the foreground and the background images and then select the transformation pattern which looks similar to the slant of the folder.
- o Check the option "shadow" to add shadow effect.
- o Check the option "text" to display the current text if any. You can write a text in the side drawer. Please refer to the section "Text" in "Side Drawer".

Background image

- o Adjust the image position with arrow keys.
- o If text is active, you can move it with the mouse.
- o Adjust the color with a set of sliders or through the color panel.
- o Click the reset color button to retrieve the original color.
- o Rotate/flip and/or transform the image by selecting a pattern from the popup menus (ref. explanation for the foreground image).
- o Add shadow and / or text.
- o Select the menu item "Use Default Background" under the menu "File" to get back the default aqua folder.

Composite image

- o Change the background color by using sliders or through the color panel.
- o Select a pattern out of the popup menu.
- o Add a frame by moving the short slider beside the pattern popup menu.
- o Check "frame only", if you want the frame only.
- o Retrieve the default background (transparent) by clicking the color reset button.
This default is transparent when saving the image in the TIFF / GIF / PNG / icns format and is white in JPEG and PICT images.
To retrieve the default blue color, click the same button while pressing the shift key.
- o Save the current composite image by pressing 'Apple Command + s'.
There are several options on the saving panel:
 - image format
 - JPEG compression ratio (if applicable)
 - whether file type extensions are to be automatically added to the file name or not
 - whether custom icons should be automatically added to the newly created files
 - whether the newly created files should be shown in the finder afterwards or not
- o There are two functions on the toolbar: attaching a custom icon to the existing folder / file and creating a new folder with a custom icon.

o Tools

1 Toolbar

- The default setting shows three buttons to display the major tool containers (Preference Panel, Favorite Drawer, and Side Drawer), one button to display the color panel, and at the right side three buttons (one for removing existing custom folders, and the other two to use the composite image: one for attaching it to existing folders / files and the other for creating a new folder with a custom icon).
- Selecting the menu item "Customize Toolbar...", the toolbar customization sheet appears. You can also use a key combination: Command + Option+ Control and a mouse click on the right upper button of the main window.
- The color pane can be used instead of a set of sliders at five different places (foreground image, background image, composite image background, text, and destination color setting in the color editor).
- The remove function would be useful because it tends to fail attaching a new custom icon when the target file already has an old one. If you don't see any change after attachment, remove the old one first, and try to attach a new one again.

2 Favorite Drawer

Click the wide drawer button to open / close the favorite drawer. The drawer appears at the bottom of the main window (if not enough space available, it opens on the top).

- Drag favorite background images into the drawer to keep them there.
Surely you can also use the drawer to save an image temporarily.
- Drag an image back into the background image square.
You can drag an image onto the foreground image square as well.
- Double-click one of the images in the drawer to use it as a default background image
- Drag images into the trash if you don't want to keep them anymore (they will not be kept in the trash).

You can extend the drawer by dragging its frame downward.

Warning: the more pictures in the drawer, the more memory in your preferences folder.

3 Side Drawer

Click the tall drawer button to open / close the side drawer. The side drawer appears at the left side of the main window (if not enough space available, it opens at the right side).

The side drawer contains three sections.

Text

- Write some text in the text viewer.
- To add some text to the foreground / background image, check option "text", which you find in the main window.
- When you reselect the text part you want to add, select the part in the text viewer and then click the small check button below the scroller to update text displayed in the main window.
- Open the font panel to change text font and/or size. Select a part of the text beforehand.
- Color of the partial text can be modified by using the color panel.
Color of the text as a whole can be modified by using a set of the sliders. This change can be seen only in the foreground / background frame.
- Text background color can be changed if the option "BG color" is checked. Background color is observable only in the foreground / background frame.
- Retrieve the original color by clicking the color reset button.
In case of text (option "BG color" = off) the color set to text individually (i.e. through the color panel) is retrieved.
In case of text background ("BG color" = on) the default transparent color is retrieved.
- Rotate/flip or transform the text by selecting a pattern from the respective popup menus.
- Activate or inactivate the shadow effect.
- Text can be moved within the foreground and the background frames respectively, if it is activated (double click inside each frame to change active layers).

Movie

- Load a QuickTime movie or a GIF animation by clicking the "Load movie" button.
- Select your favorite scene by using control buttons under the movie.
- Click one of the buttons "foreground", "background" or "clipboard" to paste the selected scene to a proper place.

32.16 (Small Icon Handling)

You can let the small images synchronize with the major image automatically, but you have also a possibility to cut the automatic synchronization.

Basically, first adjust small images (position, color, etc.) and then cut synchronization and adjust the major image more in detail.

There are two advantages to handle 32x32 and 16x16 icon images separately from the major 128x128 image:

- When the original image contains proper image representations (e.g. in .icns files), they are taken directly (instead of resizing 128x128 image).
- Adjustments (text, shadow, etc.) which may be too much for small images can be handled separately.

4 Preferences Panel

Click the leftmost button on the toolbar or select "Preferences..." under the menu.

Set

There are four sections:

- Foreground image current setting
 - Position, size and opacity of the foreground image can be adjusted in the text fields respectively.
 - The foreground position and size can be reset by selecting a popup menu:
 - retrieve the aspect ratio of the original image
 - retrieve the default size and location according to your saved setting
 - retrieve the default size and location according to the iconCompo default setting
- Foreground image start-up setting
 - Your currently saved custom setting is shown here.
 - You can manually change each value or take the current (actual) values and save them.
- Background image at start-up is displayed.
- Other options which can be saved as your custom setting are
 - ask where to attach by quick attachment (or not)
 - quit the program after quick attachment (or not)
 - take always icons even if selected files contain images (or not)

List Tool

This tool lets you keep a track of folders / files you often use with iconCompo.

- Drag & drop the folders to add them as the top nodes of the list.
- Remove a top node by selecting the item and pressing the delete key.
 - Note: Only the top nodes are meaningful for adding/removing since all other sub-nodes are automatically displayed reflecting the actual finder situation.
- Change the order of the top nodes, use the up- / down-arrow keys.
- Adjust the row width with a slider (icon preview size is changed accordingly).
- Update the list by clicking the "update" button in case you move folders / files in the finder or in case you want to collapse all the expanded nodes.
- Select a row and click the "Get info" button to make Finder display the information panel.
- Double clicking a row to make Finder show where the file / folder is.
- Drag an icon image out of the list to the main window (foreground or background).
- Drag the composite image to a list item (folder or file) to change its custom icon.

Color Retouch

Use this tool to remove the background color or to retouch colors appearing on the image differently from the original image due to some differences in file formats.

- 1 Choose a base image (foreground or background).

- 2 Set the conditions:
Pick up a source color by clicking on the image.
Set tolerance factors depending on how much degree you want to consider a color the same as the source color.
- 3 Set the destination color, to which the source color should be changed.
- 4 Change colors actually (all functions below can be undone ('Command + z')):
 - Use the button "Change all" to change all the source color (with tolerance) into the destination color automatically.
 - Use the pen. First click the "Use pen" button. Make sure the cursor becomes a pen when it is on the image. You can change the point you click into the destination color, indifferent from the source color setting and tolerance.
 - In addition, you can set the option "around" ON. Then, the cursor takes a form of something like a stick with a blur tip. When you click on the image, the color of the click point is taken as the source color and the point and the area around it are drawn in the destination color with the consideration of tolerance.
 - One additional function is to sharpen the image as a whole, indifferent of all the setting.
- 5 Use the edited image:
Click one of the buttons "Paste to foreground" or "Paste to background".
It is recommended to save the foreground / background image temporarily in the favorite drawer beforehand.

Variant

A variant ('OpenDrop') icon can be added.

Adding a proper variant icon, your custom icon reacts (shows the variant icon image) like the default aqua folder when you drag something over it.



Please note that variant icons are meaningful only for folders (and a little bit for cocoa application program files that accept file dropping).

Because the additional icon duplicates the memory size used for the custom icon, it is certainly not recommended to add one everywhere.


How to add a variant icon:

- 1 Open the "Preferences" panel and select the "Variant" tab.
- 2 Check the option "add the image below as a variant icon".
Then you will see a default variant image that is composed out of the default 'open' folder image and the foreground image slightly deformed to match the default folder.
The default 'open' folder image is colorized if the background image is colorized. To exclude black & white from color modification, press the shift key when clicking the "default open folder". Press the alt (option) key to obtain the flat color.
- 3 Adjust the default variant image if necessary.
Because the variant images are not automatically synchronized with the images on the main window, you can first modify the images on the main window and use them as variant images by clicking the buttons: "default background image", "current background image", "default foreground setting" and / or "current foreground image".
For instance,
 - If you just modify color or position (either the image or the text) in the main window, click

"default background image" or "default foreground setting".

- If you want to transform the default 'open' folder, first drag the default 'open' folder image onto the background image frame of the main window, adjust there, and click "current background image".
- If you want a variant icon for the application file, modify the color of the foreground image in the main window and click "current foreground image".
- Maybe you want to clear the background image then. Generally when you only need either a background or a foreground variant image, make a respective image in the main window transparent and click "current background image" or "current foreground image" depending on which image you want to clear.

You can also prepare your own variant image by using some other graphic programs and drag the image onto the background (or foreground) variant image frame or select the file by clicking the button "select file...".

- 4 Attach the custom icon to the folder (or the file) with the "Attach" function  .

Registration

Please enter your registration code, which is sent to you after you finish registration at Kagi.com. You can use cut & paste in the text field.

If you are on line, click a respective button to visit Trollin Home Page or to go to Kagi.com order page directly.

o Miscellaneous

- o Choosing the "Remove custom icon" menu item (or clicking the minus folder button on the toolbar), a navigation panel appears. Select a file or a folder from which you want to remove the custom icon.
- o Choosing the "Get info...", you can select a file or a folder to get its information panel.
Note: Files cannot be found properly if their names contain / or : .
- o You can switch off the metallic appearance by checking the menu item "Don't be metallic" (irrelevant under OS10.1.5).
- o Once you close the main window, you can get it back by clicking the application icon on the dock or selecting "Open Main Window" under the menu.
- o Quit the program by selecting "Quit iconCompo" menu or using 'Command + q'.
- o Before quitting, place the windows where you want to see them next time.

Registration

iconCompo is a shareware program. If you decide to continue using it, please register at Kagi (<http://order.kagi.com/?92Q>). Please note that the program can be purchased exclusively at Kagi. From the 'Registration' of the Preferences panel you can directly go to Kagi's registration page as well if you are online.

The registration fee is \$17.- for a single user.

When your payment is processed, you will get a receipt ("Thanks for your payment") from Kagi by e-mail, which includes your personal registration code.

Please open the Preferences panel, enter the code in the registration field provided, and click the "OK" button.

After this registration process the extra features on the composite image will disappear.

Thank you very much for your support !

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Apple Sample Codes, especially:

"CompositeLab" by Bruce Blumberg & Ali Ozer

"DragNDropOutlineView" by Chuck Pisula

"Makelcon" by Brigham Stevens

"OutlineView" by Ali Ozer

"ovalteen" by DH and DC

(<http://developer.apple.com/samplecode/index.html>)

Stephens, Troy et al.

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Tsurusone, Kenzo.

Cocoa wa yappari (Cocoa tutorial). (<http://www.big.or.jp/~crane/cocoa/>)

Contact

If you find bugs or have any questions, suggestions, etc., please do not hesitate to send an e-mail to trollin@loos.li. Update information is available at <http://www.loos.li/trollin/>.

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