STACKING

DOCUMENT VERSION 1.12

Introduction

Photo Supreme is a Digital Asset Management (DAM) software that enables effective management of your image files through categorization. It organizes files based on various details, including technical photo specifications and their location on your disk. In addition to these attributes, you can enhance your images by adding tags, descriptions, and custom information. While this process may seem time-consuming at first, investing time in it will yield significant benefits in the long run. With Photo Supreme, you'll be able to swiftly retrieve images based on a variety of criteria and combinations.

This manual provides an overview of the concepts of stacking, instructions on creating sets, guidance on using automated detection, as well as details on how to utilize stack markers, including how to create and remove them.

The Concept

One of the standout features of Photo Supreme is its ability to manage “sets” of images. These sets may include multiple derivatives or collections of images that logically belong together, such as bursts of shots or images that combine to form a composition or panorama. You can organize and handle these sets using either Stacks or Versions.

A stack is generally a group of images that should be kept together. This can include a series of images from a burst shoot, images that create a creative composition, a collection that forms a panorama, or different edited variations of the same image. Each image in a stack is considered an asset, allowing for individual management while still forming a cohesive group. Within a stack, you can assign stack markers to each image, enabling you to identify specific images for particular tasks in your workflow.

In contrast, a version set is a collection of images that you wish to keep grouped as a single set. This might include a combination of RAW and JPEG files that are identical in content but differ in format. Since the images in a version set are typically the same, the set is regarded as a single asset within the catalog. This means that a version set is treated as one image, even though it contains multiple files. Photo Supreme supports multi-versioning, which differs from “revision versioning,” where a stage is locked, and a new version supersedes the old one. Multi-versioning allows you to keep various files of the same image together. A version set comprises a main version and its sub-versions, collectively forming a version set. Sub-versions can be optionally stored in one or more Placeholders. Placeholders serve as storage for specific sub-versions designated for certain purposes. For example, a "print version" is an optimized version intended for printing. There are several pre-defined placeholders available, including print version, web version, slideshow version, and email version, and you can create additional ones as needed.

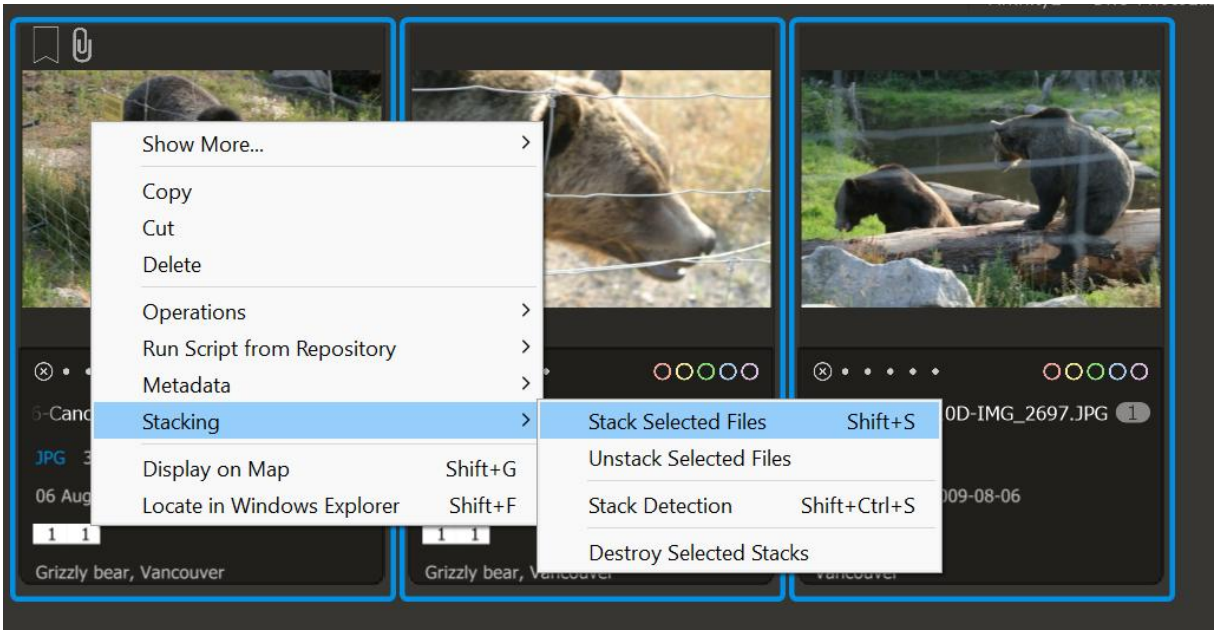
Photo Supreme features automatic Stack Detection and Version Detection to assist you in quickly and consistently building stacks or version sets.

Create your first Stack

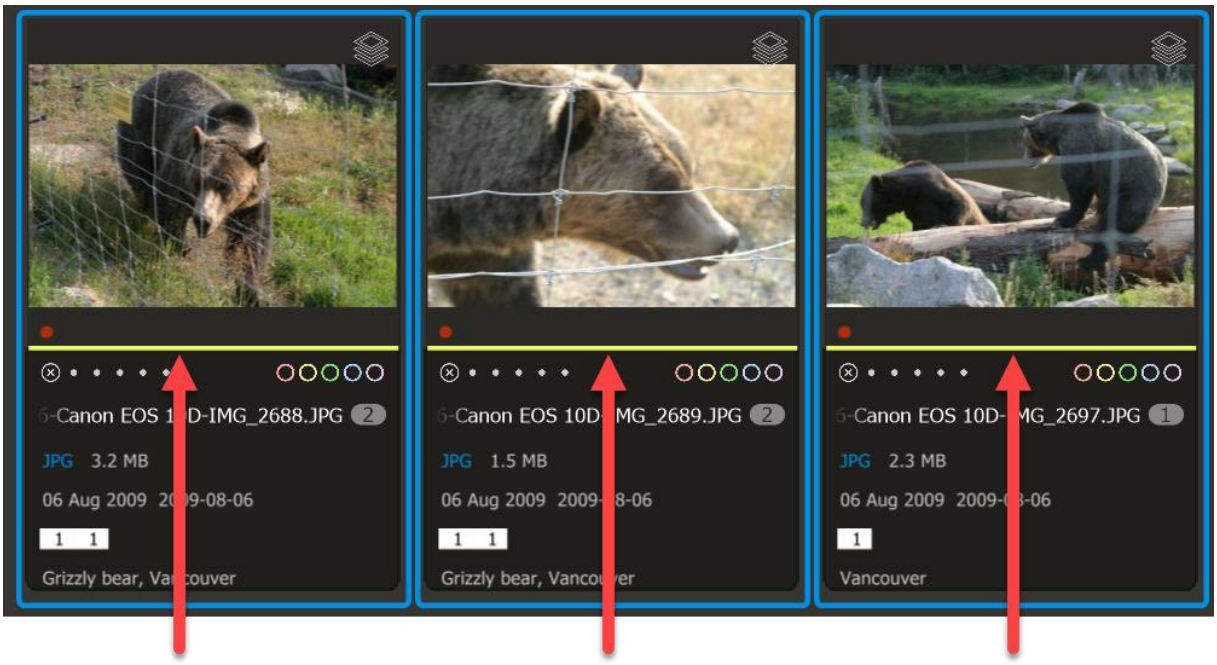
Stacks can be created either manually or automatically.

Manual stack creation

To create a stack manually, select two or more thumbnails that you want to combine, then right-click on one of the selected thumbnails and choose “Stacking > Stack selected files.” You can also use the keyboard shortcut Shift+S for this action.



You can identify a stack by its distinctive color marker.

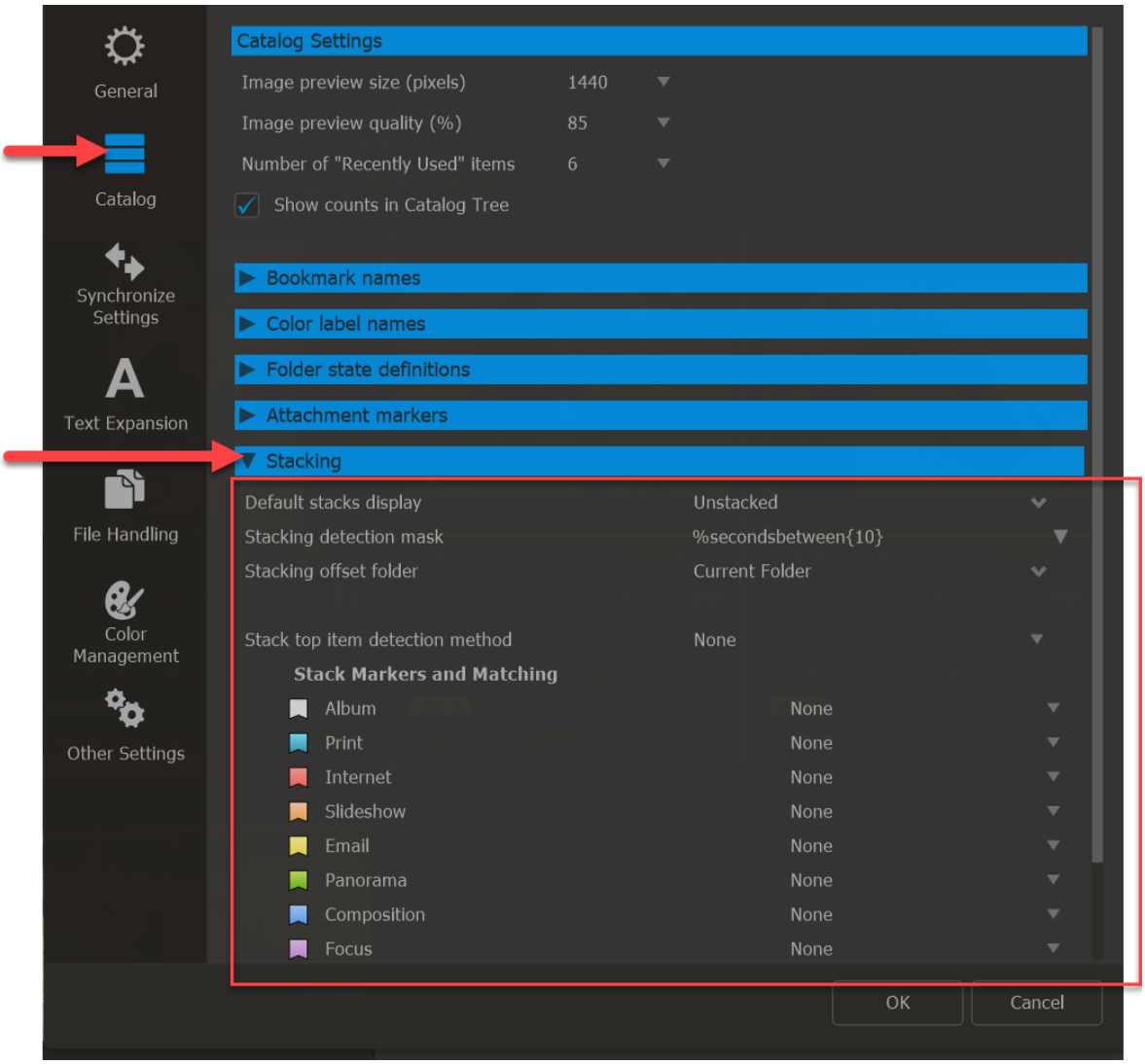


All images within the same stack display the same color marker, allowing you to easily identify which thumbnails are part of that particular stack.

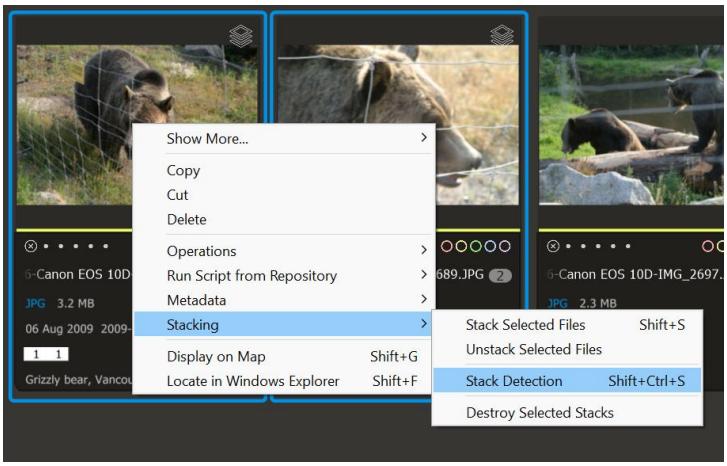
You can easily add images to a stack by copying and pasting them. First, select one or more image thumbnails. Then, right-click and choose 'Copy.' Next, find the stacked image (or the one you want to start a stack with), right-click on it, and choose 'Paste to this Stack.' This will add the copied images to the stack along with the selected image.

Automatic stack creation

Photo Supreme also has the capability to automatically detect stacks. In the Preferences, you can set the rules for how stacks should be created. By default, the automatic stack detection is set to group images taken within a 10-second interval, which is common for burst shots. However, you can customize the detection settings to suit your needs.



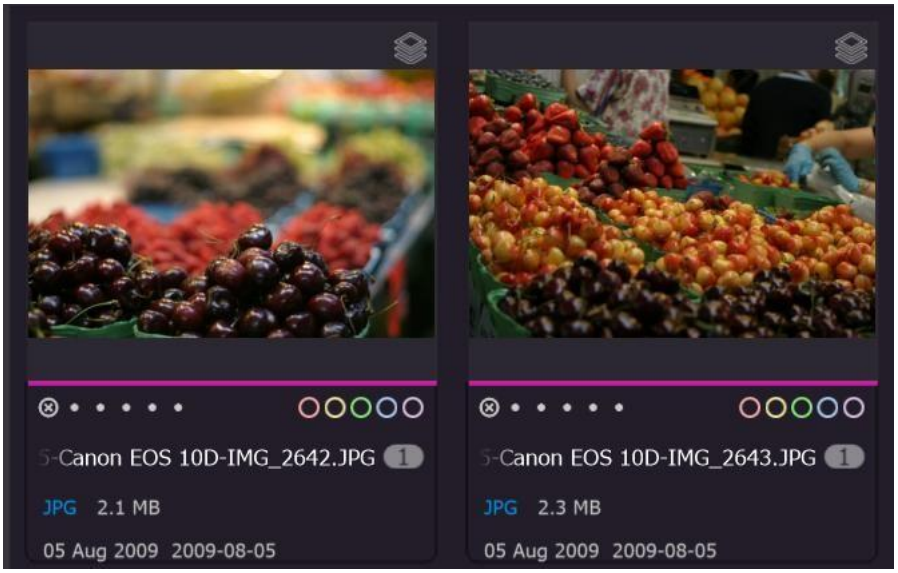
After you've set your stack detection rules, you can initiate the stack detection process for one or more thumbnails by right-clicking on a selected thumbnail and choosing “Stacking → Stack Detection”.



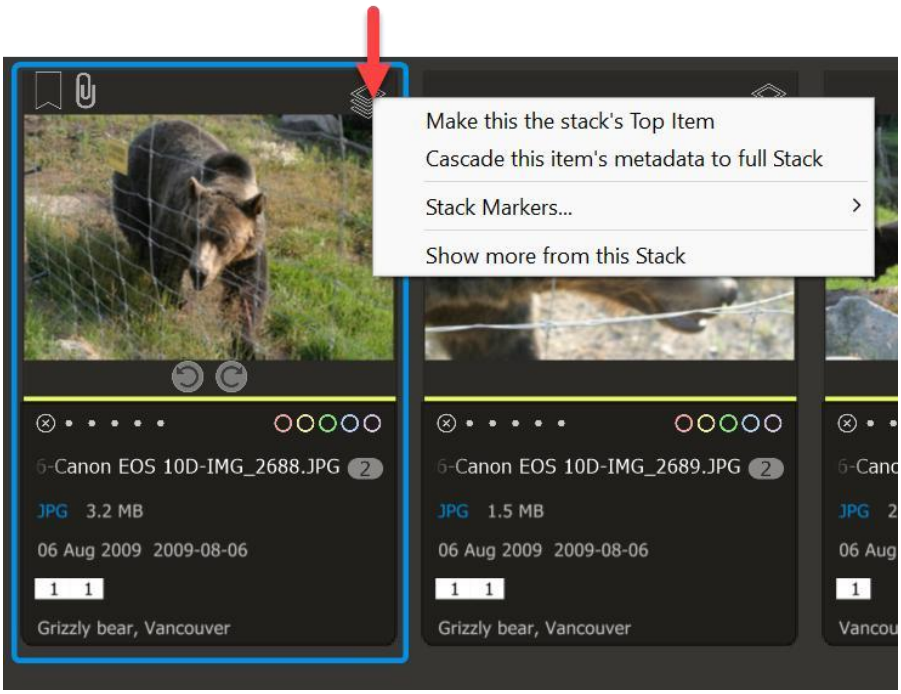
For each selected thumbnail, Photo Supreme will search for matching images that fit the criteria defined by the "Stacking detection mask" within the parameters of the configured "Stacking offset folder" in the Preferences.

The Stacked thumbnail

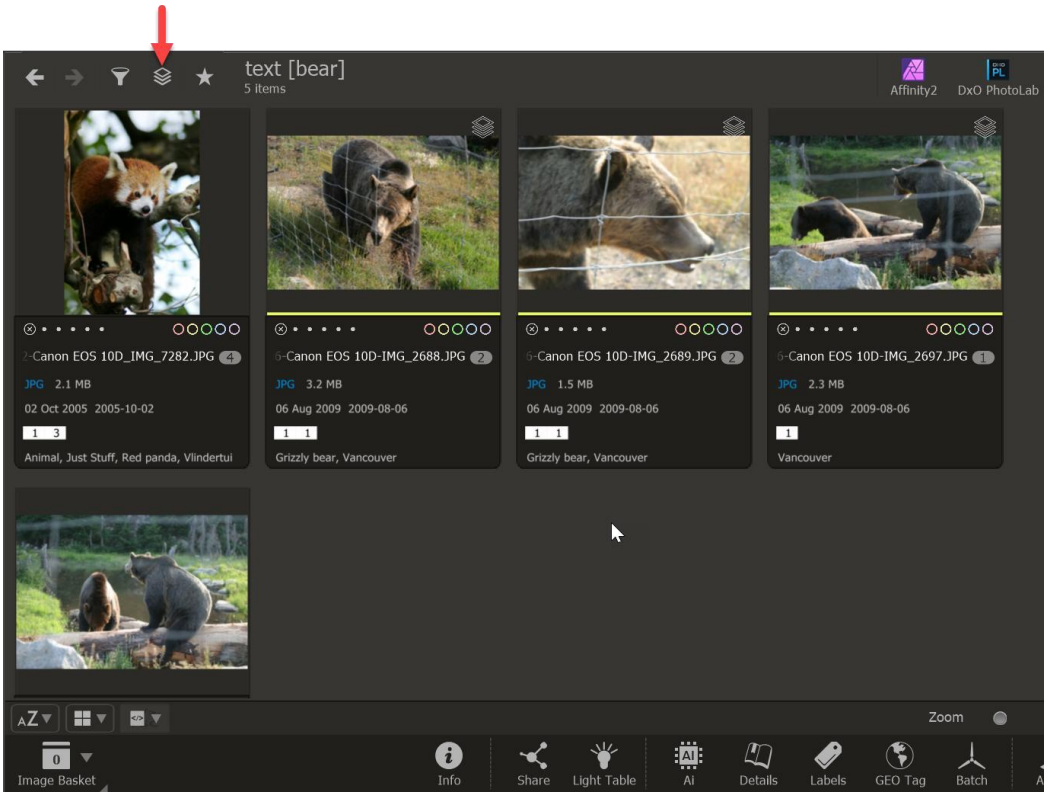
Once the stack is created, the thumbnails exhibit certain characteristics.

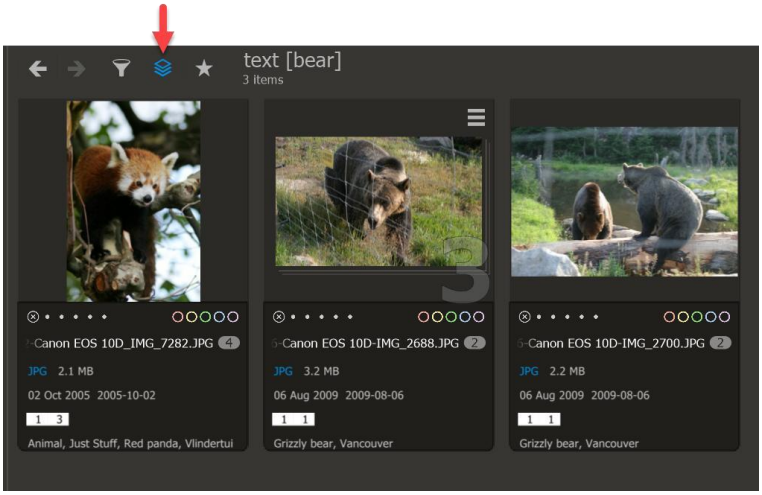


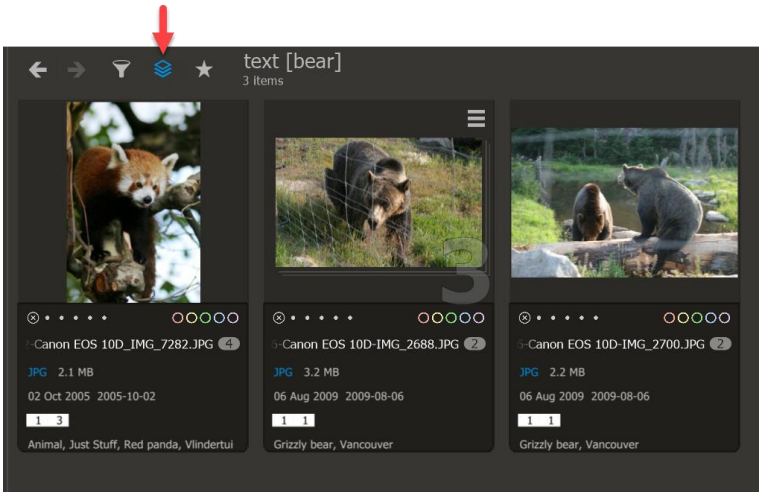
The base color is randomly generated to represent the stack, allowing you to easily identify which thumbnails belong together. In the upper right corner of the stack, you'll find the stack icon. Clicking on this icon opens a menu with options for managing the stack.



In the Collection Viewer, you can choose to display stacks either as individual images or as a single stack. To make this selection, simply toggle the Stack icon in the toolbar of the Viewer.



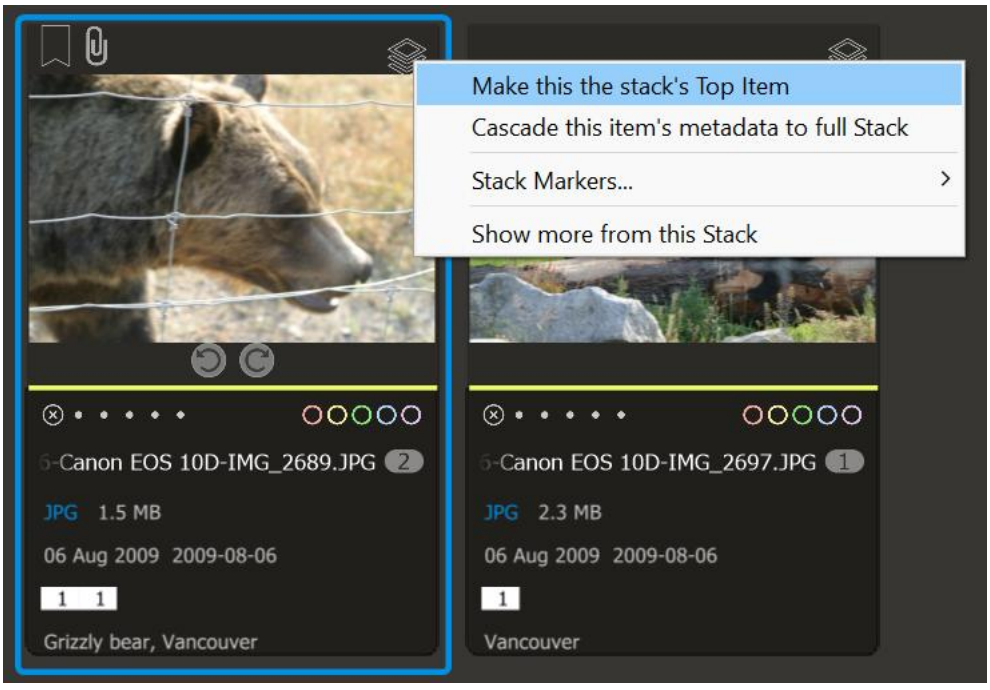




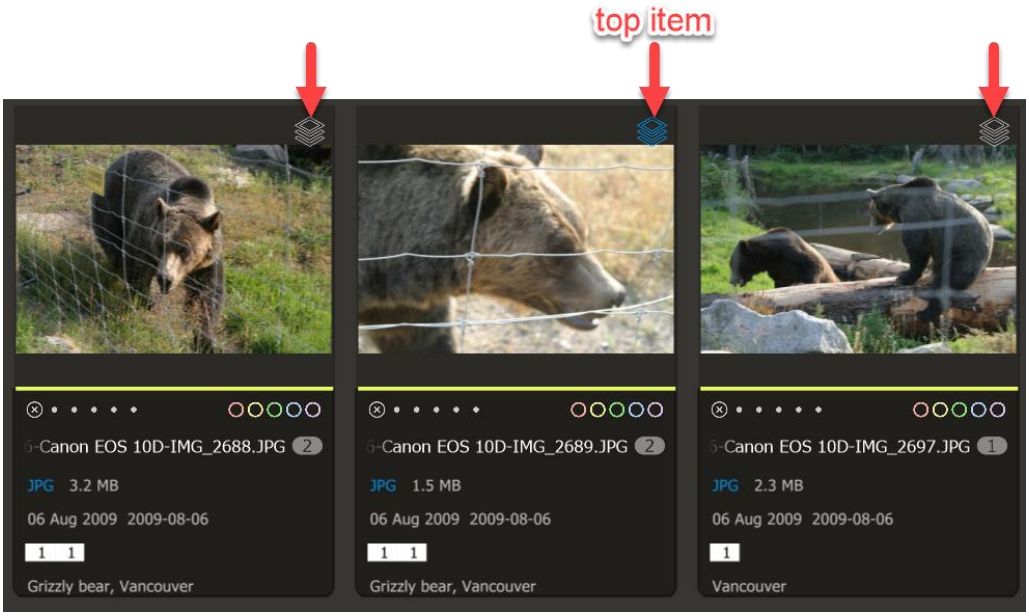
When a stack is displayed as “stacked,” the thumbnail will indicate the total number of images in the stack in the lower right corner (3 in this screenshot). Additionally, the upper right corner features the stack's hamburger menu, which provides access to various options for managing the stack.

Select the stack “top item”

As previously mentioned, you can choose to display stacks as either “stacked” or “unstacked.” When viewing stacks in the “stacked” mode, a single thumbnail represents the entire stack, which by default is the first thumbnail found within that stack. However, you can designate a specific thumbnail as the Top Item to represent the stack more effectively. To set a custom Top Item, click on the stack icon and select “Make this the stack’s Top Item”.



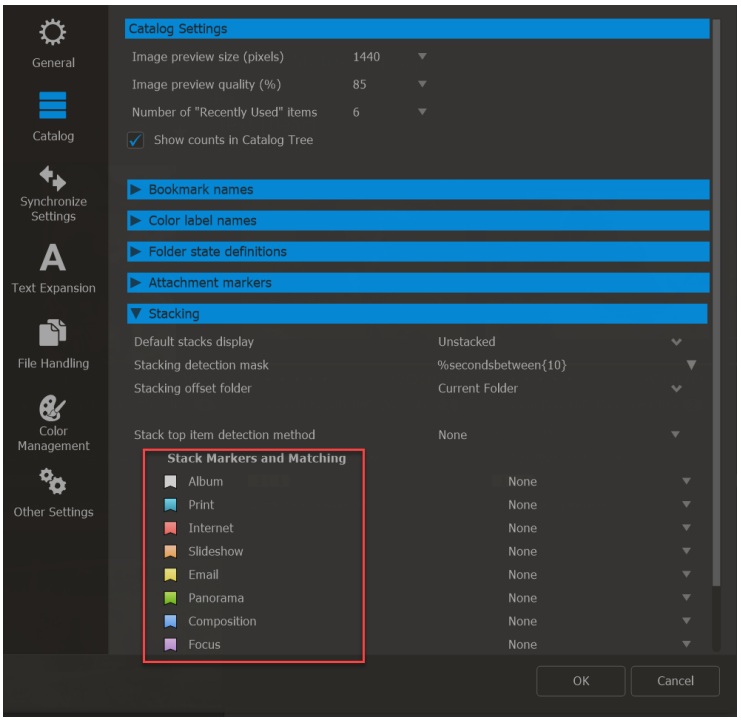
In “unstacked” view you can easily recognize the top item by the highlighted color of the stack icon.



In the Preferences, you can establish a rule to determine a stack's Top Item during the automatic stack detection process.

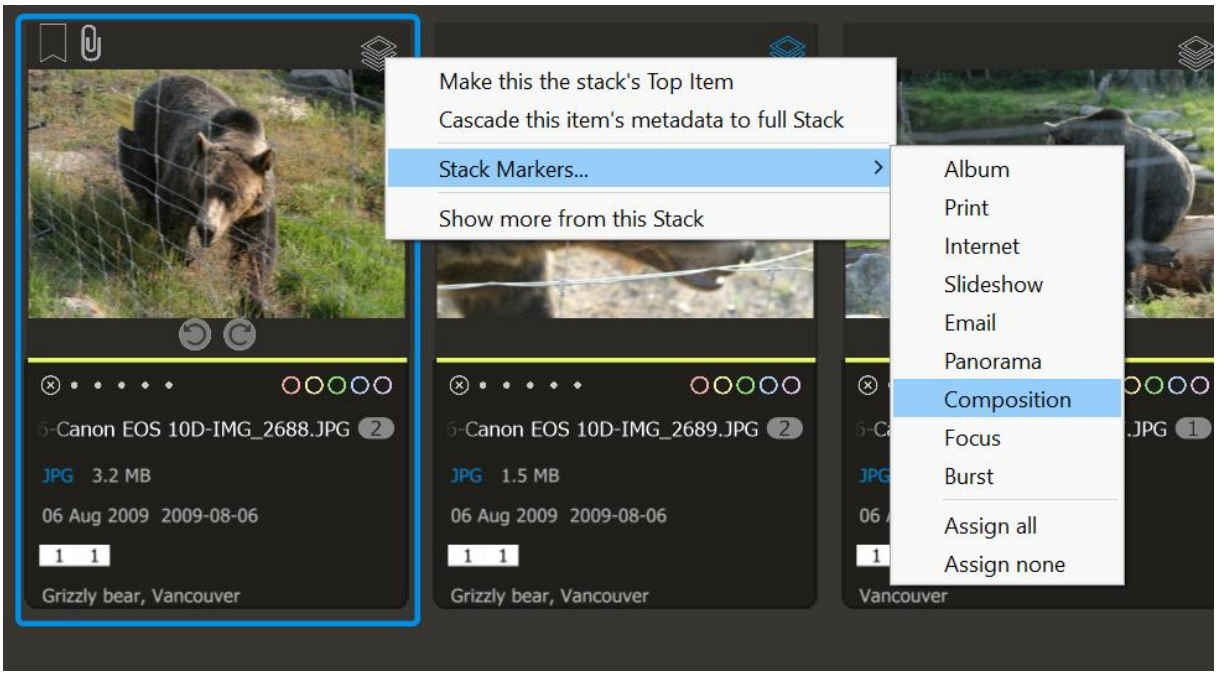
Working with Stack Markers

The Stack Marker feature provides a way to highlight specific images within a stack for easier identification during your workflow. You can customize stack markers and set detection rules in the Preferences to tailor them to your needs.

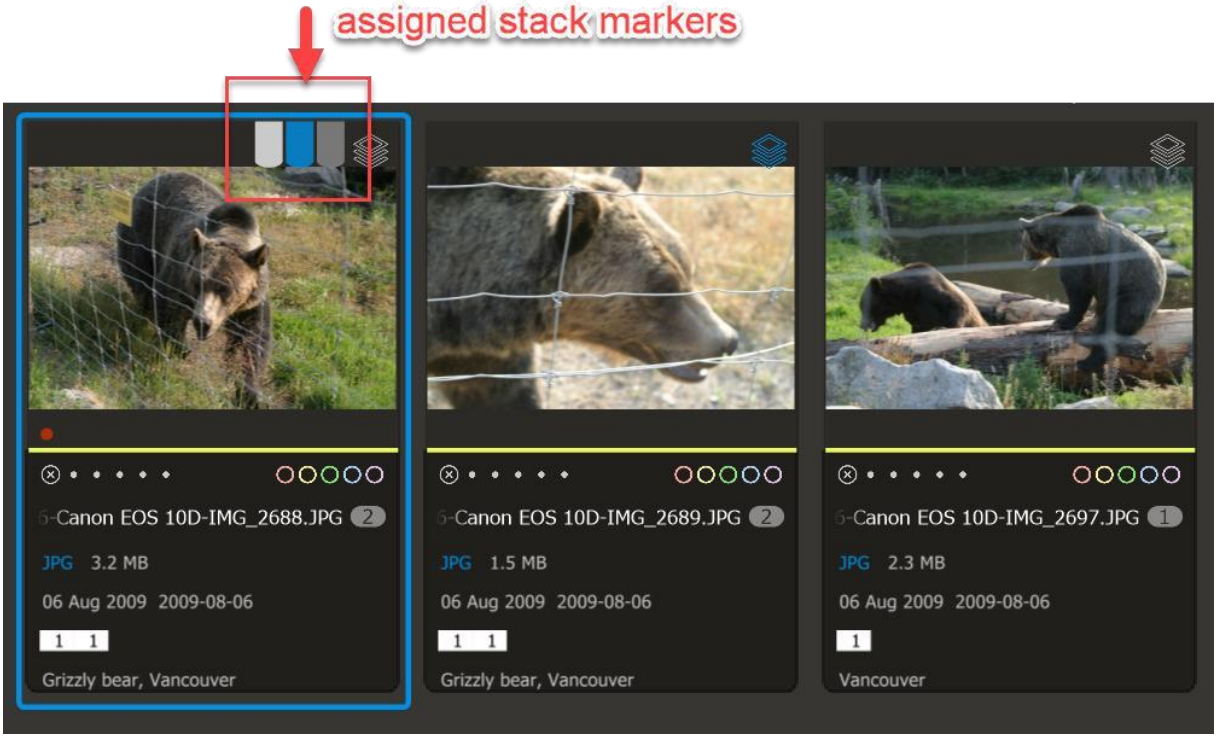


By assigning a specific stack marker to an image within the stack, you can easily identify that particular item and create catalog cross-sections based on this marker. When you set a rule for a stack marker in the Preferences, the markers can be automatically applied during stack detection. If multiple images in the stack meet the marker criteria, each of those images will receive the marker.

You can assign a stack marker to none, one, or multiple images within the stack, including the top item. To manually assign a stack marker, simply click the stack icon to open the menu and select the desired marker from the Stack Markers submenu. The same image can get multiple markers assigned.



Stack markers are shown on the thumbnail as a series of color indicators. When you hover over a marker, its name will appear.



Cascade metadata to the stack

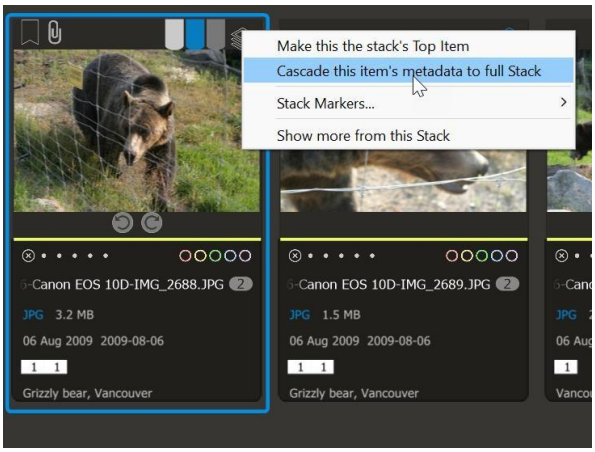
There may be times when you want the entire stack to share the same metadata as one specific image within it. To achieve this, you can use the “Cascade Metadata” feature. First,

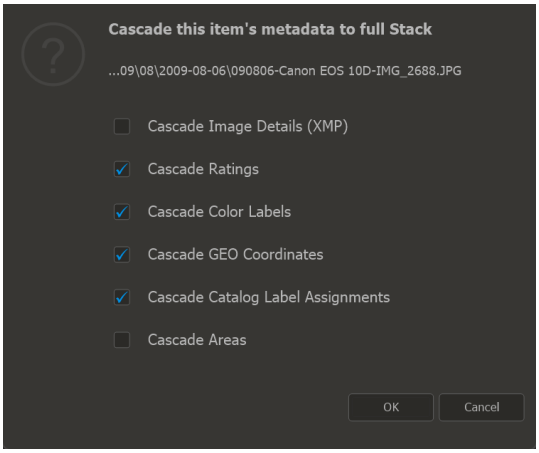
click on the stack icon of the image from which you want to copy the metadata. Then, select "Cascade this item's metadata to full Stack."

This option allows you to (re)distribute the metadata from the chosen item to the other images in the stack. You can specify which metadata should be shared and determine which items in the stack will receive the updates.

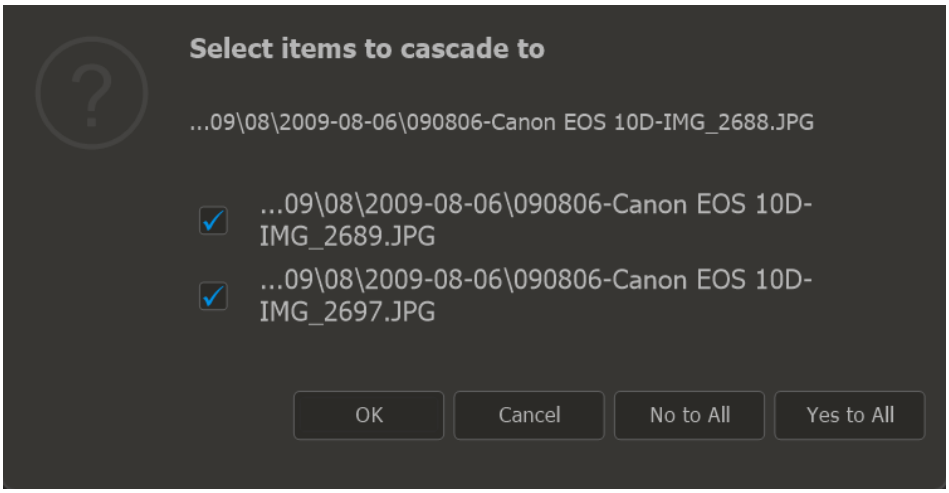
You can distribute the following:

1. **Cascade Image Details:** This copies all non-technical and descriptive metadata from the XMP to all images in the stack.
2. **Cascade Ratings:** This transfers the rating of the selected image to all images in the stack.
3. **Cascade Color Labels:** This applies the color label of the selected image to all images in the stack.
4. **Cascade GEO Coordinates:** This shares the GEO details with the other images in the stack.





Once you've selected the types of metadata you want to distribute, you can then choose which items in the stack will receive the cascaded metadata.



Create your first Version Set

Note up front: Versioning is a feature available for legacy purposes. It is recommended to use Stacking instead of versioning.

Similar to stacking, version sets can be created both manually and automatically. For manual versioning, you can build your own version set by adding images to it individually. In contrast, with automatic version detection, you can establish a set of rules that Photo Supreme will use to identify the versions.

Version Placeholders

In Photo Supreme, a **Version Placeholder** is a designated storage area within a version set that helps organize and identify specific sub-versions of an image for particular purposes. Each version set can have multiple placeholders, each serving a unique function based on how you intend to use the images.

Key Features of Version Placeholders:

Purpose-Specific Storage: Placeholders allow you to categorize sub-versions according to their intended use, such as print versions, web versions, or email versions. This organization helps streamline your workflow by making it easier to find the right version for specific tasks.

Automated Version Assignment: When you set up automatic version detection rules, you can define criteria for which images should be assigned to each placeholder. This automation simplifies the process of managing multiple versions of an image.

Examples of Placeholders: Common placeholders include:

Print Version: For images optimized for printing.

Web Version: For images resized and optimized for online use.

Email Version: For images formatted for sharing via email.

Flexible Configuration: You can create and customize placeholders according to your specific needs, allowing for a tailored workflow that fits your image management style.

Overall, version placeholders enhance the organization and accessibility of image versions in Photo Supreme, making it easier for users to manage and utilize their digital assets effectively.

Automatic version Detection

As you develop a workflow for organizing your images, it's common to adopt a consistent file naming convention. For example, you might name a file from your camera in a specific way and store it in a designated folder on your hard drive. Any edited or derivative versions of that file (like RAW exports or JPG edits) would follow their own naming structure and be

saved in a separate folder. It's important to have this naming convention established before defining version detection rules in Photo Supreme.

Example Workflow:

- A file from your camera is named \DCIM\IMG1234.CR3.
- When copied to your hard drive, it's renamed as \2019\10\2019-10-28\Canon_IMG1234.CR3.
- After editing, the RAW export is saved as \2019\10\2019-10-28\Exports\Canon_IMG1234.JPG.
- A black-and-white version, used for printing, is saved as \2019\10\2019-10-28\Edits\Canon_IMG1234_BW.JPG.

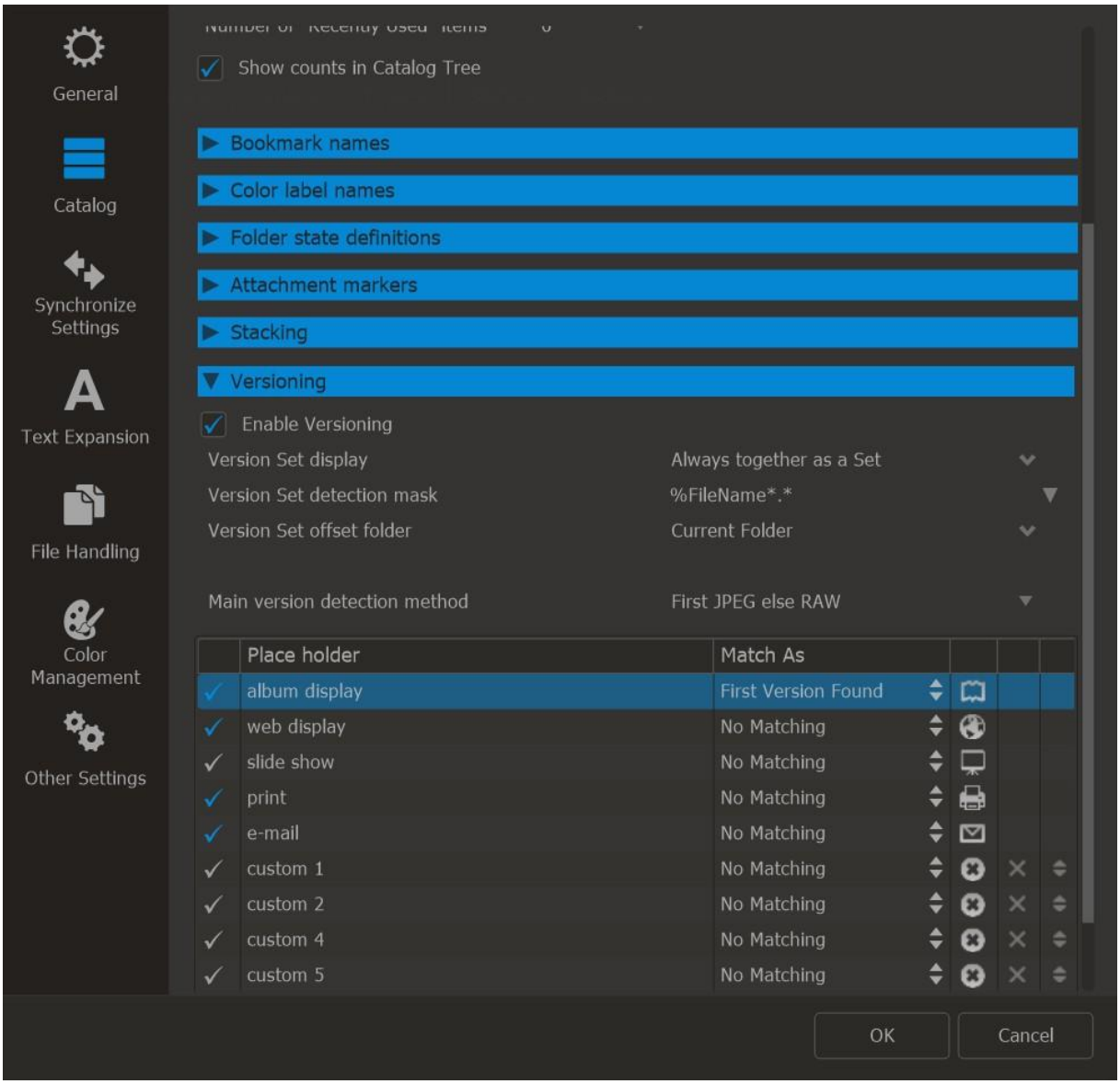
In this scenario, three files make up the version cycle for IMG1234.CR3:

1. Canon_IMG1234.CR3
2. \Exports\Canon_IMG1234.JPG
3. \Edits\Canon_IMG1234_BW.JPG

When your naming convention follows a pattern like this, you can create an automatic version detection rule. The common element in this case is Canon_IMG1234, allowing you to use a file mask such as %FileName*.* to identify all versions of the original file. Both Canon_IMG1234.JPG and Canon_IMG1234_BW.JPG would match this rule.

Additionally, you may want to assign specific files to placeholders based on their role. For example, the black-and-white version could be designated for printing, so you'd want it to go into the "Printing" placeholder. You can define a rule for this, such as %FileName_BW.*, ensuring that the correct version is identified automatically.

Once your naming conventions and versioning rules are in place, you can configure these in the preferences.



1. **Set the version set detection mask**: Define the file mask that will identify all related files as part of the same version set. Any files that match this mask will be grouped together as versions of the same image. For example, using `%FileName*.*` would capture all files sharing the same base name, like `Canon_IMG1234.CR3`, `Canon_IMG1234.JPG`, and `Canon_IMG1234_BW.JPG`.
2. **Select the main version**: Choose which file will act as the primary or main version in the version set. In this example, the RAW file (`Canon_IMG1234.CR3`) will be designated as the main version. This file typically represents the highest quality or the original image.
3. **Set a custom rule for the print placeholder**: Define a specific rule to identify the file version intended for printing. In this example, you could use a mask such as `%FileName_BW.*` to identify and assign the black-and-white version (`Canon_IMG1234_BW.JPG`) to the print placeholder within the version set.

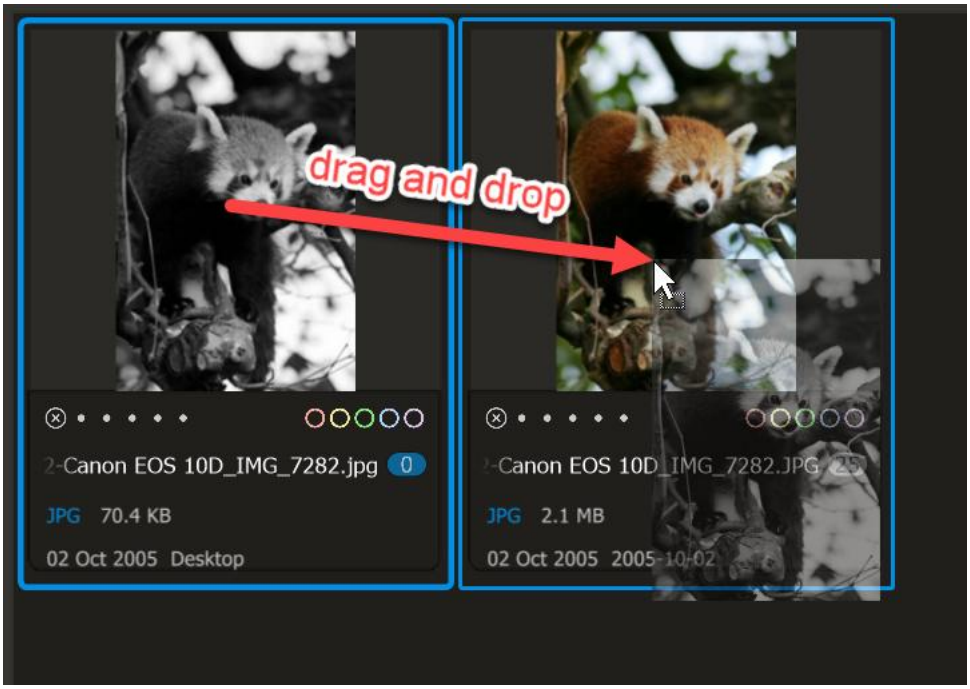
Let it roll

With your naming strategy set and version detection rules configured, you're ready to proceed.

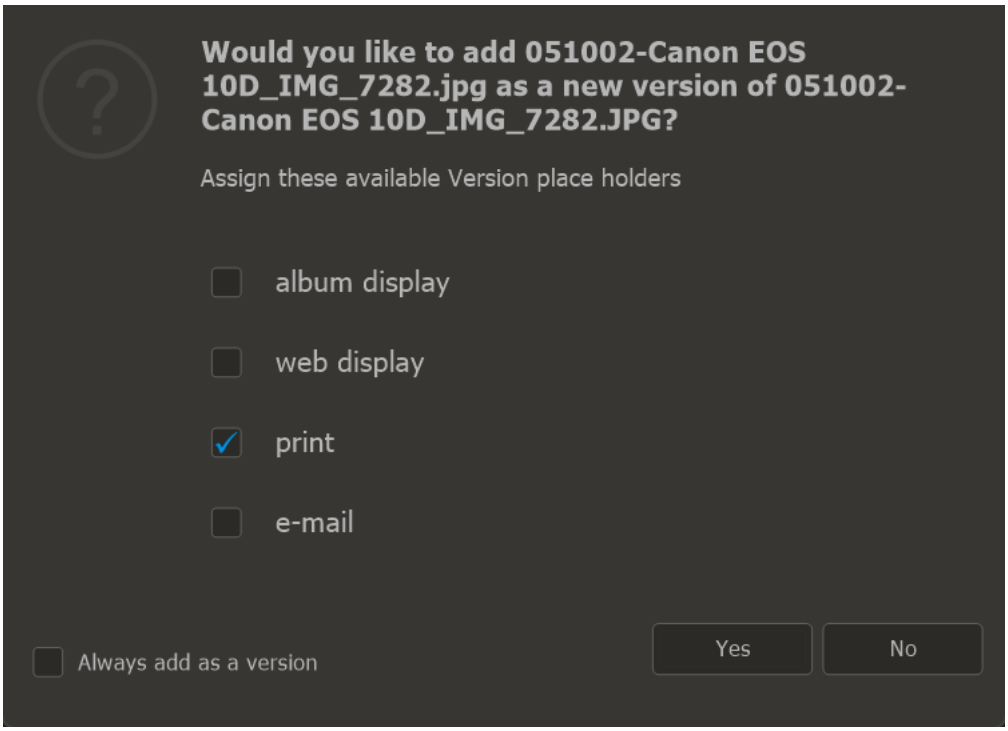
Select a thumbnail from the version set (e.g., the RAW file), right-click, and choose **Versions → Version Detection**, or use the shortcut. This will apply the detection rules and create a version set if matches are found.

Manual version set creation

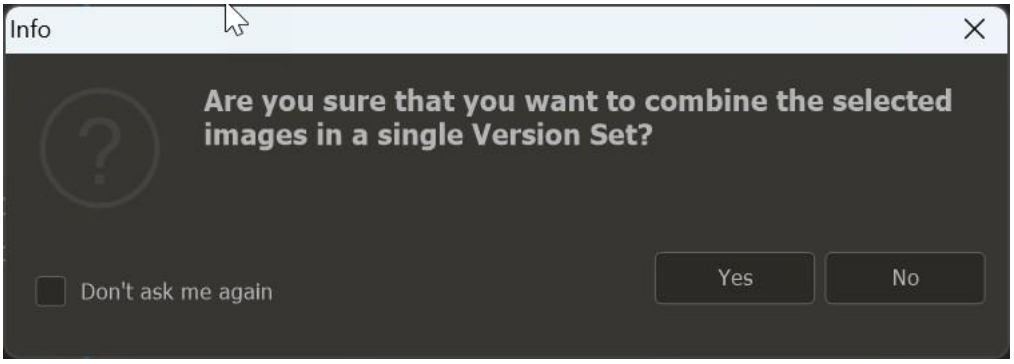
In addition to automatic version detection, you can manually create version sets by simply dragging one thumbnail onto another.



Drop the thumbnail onto the other thumbnail, making the dragged file a version of the dropped file. You can then choose which Version Placeholder to assign to this version.

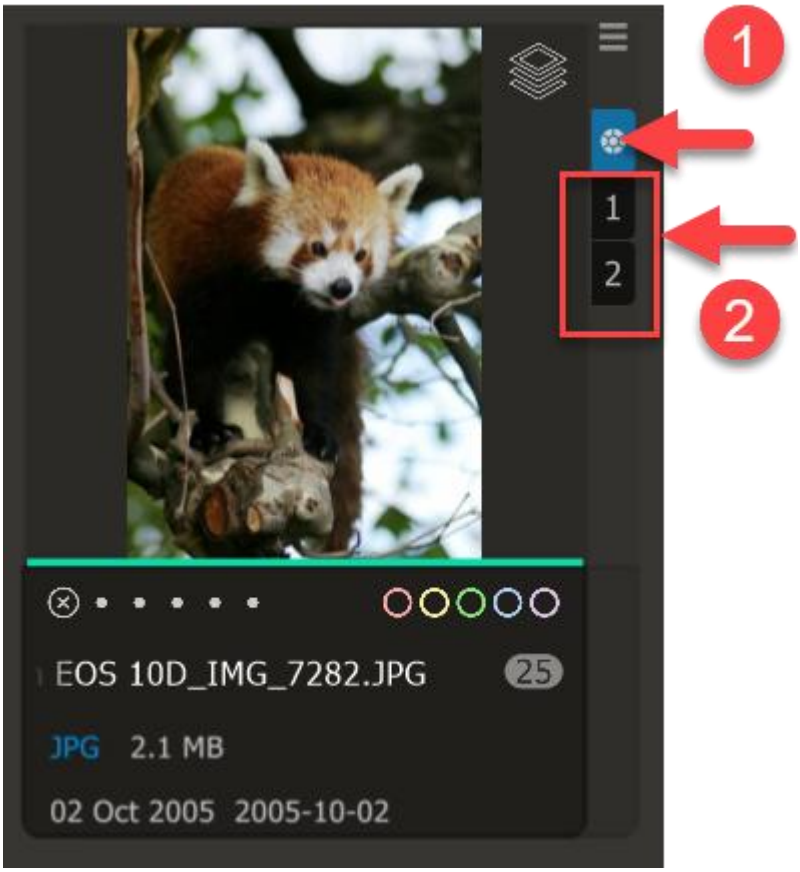


Another way to manually create a version set is by selecting multiple thumbnails and then right click on a selected thumbnail and choose Versions → Version selected files.



The version thumbnail

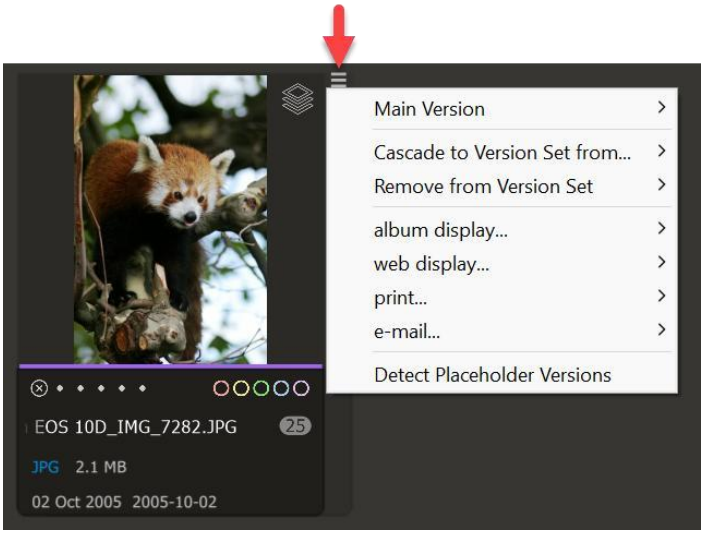
Version sets are displayed as thumbnails with a tab on the side.



1. The gear tab represents the main version for this set.
2. Each sub-version of the main version gets its own tab on the thumbnail.

There is no limit to the number of sub-versions you can define for a main version. If necessary, a scroll option on the thumbnail allows you to navigate through them.

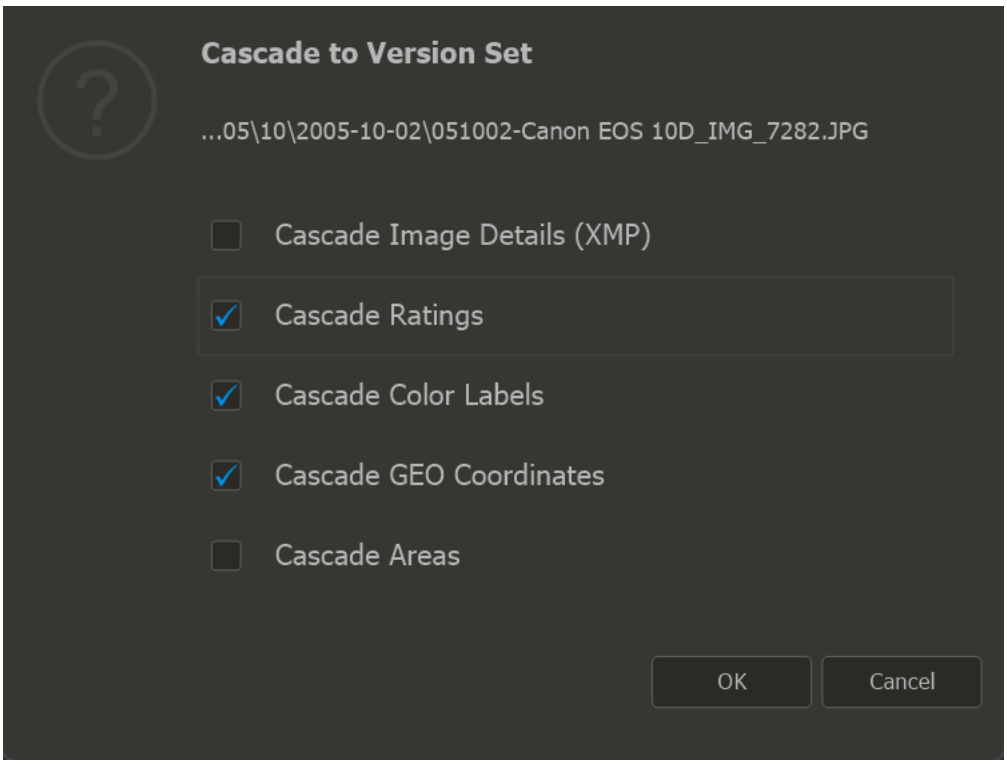
Each version thumbnail has a mini-hamburger menu in the upper right corner. Click it to access the version menu drop-down.



1. **Main Version**
   Use this option to choose a file from the version set to be the Main Version.
   Tip: You can also drag a version's tab over the main version tab to designate it as the main version.

2. **Cascade to Version Set**
   Use this option to (re)distribute metadata from a selected version to the other versions in the set. You can specify which metadata to distribute, including:

   a. **Cascade Image Details:** This copies all non-technical and descriptive metadata from XMP to all images in the set.
   b. **Cascade Ratings:** This transfers the rating of the selected version to all images in the version set.
   c. **Cascade Color Labels:** This assigns the color label of the selected version to all images in the version set.
   d. **Cascade GEO Coordinates:** This copies the GEO details to the other images in the version set.



3. **Remove from Version Set**

   Use this option to remove a file from this version set.

4. **The Placeholders**

   These menu items correspond to the Placeholders. For each placeholder defined in the preferences (Catalog → Versions), you can choose which version from the Version Set should be associated with that placeholder.

Tip: If a placeholder is selected for the version set, it will be indicated by its icon in front of the placeholder. In the example above, an email version has been assigned.