

User's Guide

Packagizer™

**Package Printing Software
for Digital Images**

Packagizer Users Guide

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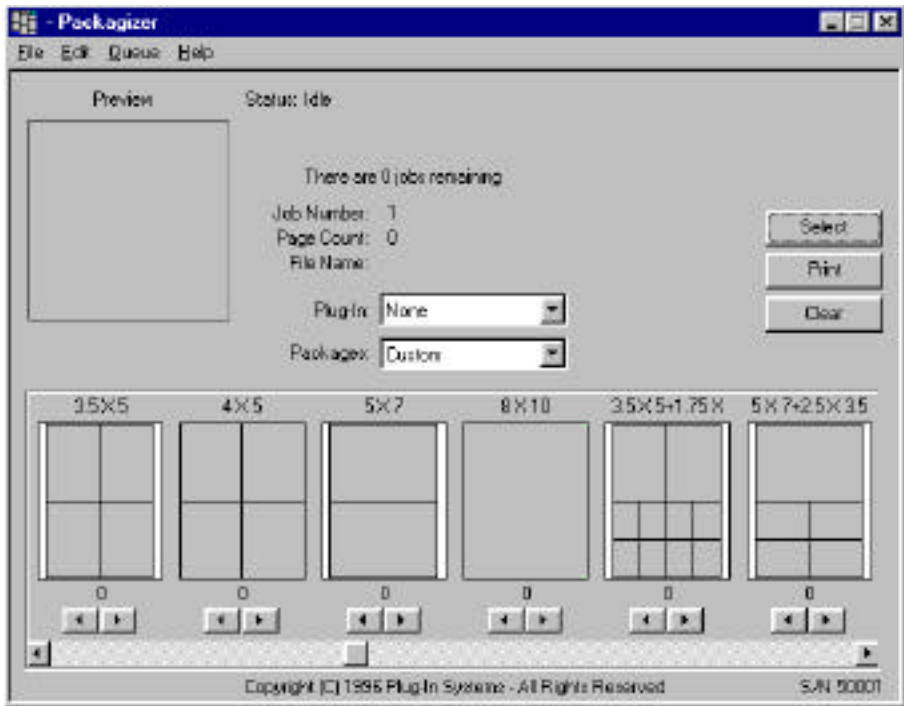
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INTRODUCTION

Packagizer is an application program that produces standard sized photographic prints from raster image files on digital color printers. Packagizer allows you to select image files, select the specific number of prints in each of the available sizes, and then send the prints as a package to your printer. Once the print package is sent to the print queue, you may continue with other tasks, including printing additional packages from the same or other images.



You can print images in the following print sizes. The number in parentheses shows the number of prints on a 8.5 x 11 size print sheet:

- (1) 8 x 10
- (2) 5 x 7
- (4) 4 x 5
- (4) 3.5 x 5

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- (8) 2.5 x 3.5 [wallets]
- (16) 1.75 x 2.5 [miniwallets]
- (2) 3.5 x 5 +(8) 1.75 x 2.5
- (10) 2 x 3.5 [business cards]
- (1) 5 x 7 +(4) 2.5 x 3.5

For printers that can support half-page printing, the following print sizes can also be made:

- (1) 5 x 7
- (2) 3.5 x 5
- (8) 1.75 x 2.5
- (2) 4 x 5
- (4) 2.5 x 3.5

Image files may be oriented as either portrait or landscape and still be handled correctly. Packagizer manages all image resizing, rotating, cropping and layout automatically.

You can define your own print packages and save them. This allows you to set up frequently-used sets of prints and reuse them as needed.

Packagizer print queues may be saved and loaded from disk files, allowing you to create job lists to be processed at a later time. Print queues may be created with the printer offline or busy on other tasks. When the printer is available, the print queue may be submitted for actual processing.

Packagizer manages its print queue in the background so that a dedicated computer is not required to operate in the spooled printing environment. If full utilization of the computer's resources are required by another process, Packagizer's print queue processing may be paused to accommodate this. When sufficient resources are once again available, you may resume the processing of the print queue.

Logfiles of the actions of Packagizer may be generated. These

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logfiles may be used for analysis of jobflow or billing information.

Packagizer currently accepts the following image file formats on Macintosh:

- **JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group)**
 - All JPEG File Interchange Format (JFIF)
 - EXIF Compressed
- **TIFF (Tag Image File Format)**
 - Uncompressed
 - RGB, Pixel Interleave
 - YCC (EXIF)
 - Palette
 - Monochrome

Packagizer currently accepts the following image file formats on Windows 95:

- **JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group): Extension .jpg**
 - All JPEG File Interchange Format (JFIF)
 - EXIF Compressed
- **TIFF (Tag Image File Format): Extension .tif**
 - Uncompressed
 - RGB, YCC (EXIF), Palette & Monochrome
- **Windows Bitmap: Extension .bmp**
 - 24 Bit Uncompressed

GLOSSARY

The following terms are used throughout this manual for features of Packagizer.

dongle	A hardware "key" that connects to the back of the computer. Without the dongle, the software operates in demo mode only and will produce prints the red lines crossing through the image.
file format	The format in which the image is stored in the file. There are many file formats which are available including JPEG, TIFF and Windows Bitmap.
format	The layout of images on a single print sheet. A format may consist of several prints of one size, or may contain different print sizes.
icon	The diagram of a format in the Packagizer window. Each icon represents the layout of images on one print sheet.
image	A digital raster file with a picture or other graphic that is to be printed.
job	A combination of formats that all contain one image. A job represents one entry in the print queue.
mixed format	A print sheet layout that contains more than one print size.
package	A combination of formats to be printed.



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- plugin** An optional accessory to Packagizer for special visual effects, such as overlays or tone processing.
- print sheet** A single 8.5 x 11 sheet containing one or more prints of an image.
- user-defined package** A combination of formats that the user can save as a single package. Frequently used combinations can be stored and reused without requiring definition each time.
- print queue** The sequence of jobs waiting to be printed on the color photographic printer. Jobs are printed in the order they are sent to the printer.

INSTALLATION

Packagizer runs in either a Macintosh environment or Windows 95. Follow these instructions to install Packagizer on your computer.

Installing on Macintosh

- 1) Insert the "Packagizer" disk into the floppy disk drive on your computer. Double click on the disk icon to open the window. 
- 2) Copy the "Packagizer" folder to a convenient place on your hard disk where you store your applications. This can be done by dragging the Packagizer Folder from the Packagizer disk to an appropriate location on your hard drive. 
- 3) If you are running on a Power Mac, you must be sure that the file ObjectSupportLib is properly installed on your system. Check in the Extensions folder inside the System folder on your startup disk. If ObjectSupportLib is not there, check to see if there is a folder named Extensions (disabled) inside the System folder. If ObjectSupportLib is here, move it to the Extensions folder.

If ObjectSupportLib is not present on your hard drive, a copy is supplied on the Packagizer disk. It is located in the Extensions Folder, inside the System Folder Additions folder, inside the For Power Mac folder. Copy this file to the Extensions folder in the System folder on your hard drive.

- 4) Packagizer requires that QuickTime be installed on your Macintosh. If it is not installed, an error message will be reported when attempting to start Packagizer. Follow the installation procedure included with your system software.

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- 5) Remove the Packagizer disk from the floppy disk drive and store it in a safe place.
- 6) Shut down your computer and turn off the power.
- 7) Install the "dongle" (the software protection device included with Packagizer) on the Apple Desktop Bus (ADB) on your Macintosh. The ADB is the connection for your mouse and keyboard, so that you may connect this device anywhere along this chain. For example, you may plug one end of the software protection device into the ADB port on the back of the computer, and then plug the keyboard cable into the other end of the software protection device.
- 8) Connect the photographic printer to your computer according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- 9) Restart your computer.

Installing on Windows 95

- 1) Insert the "Packagizer" disk into the floppy disk drive on your computer.
- 2) From the Start menu, select Run and enter "a:setup" in the box and click the OK button. (This assumes that drive A: is your floppy disk drive. Adjust the above command as needed for the configuration of your computer.)
- 3) The Packagizer installer will guide you through the process of installing the software including the system software for the software protection device.
- 4) Remove the Packagizer Disk from the floppy disk drive and

store it in a safe place.

- 5) Shut down your computer and turn off the power.

NOTE: PackagizerLite users skip step 6

- 6) Install the "dongle" (the software protection device included with Packagizer) on the printer (LPT) port of your computer. If there is a printer cable connected to the printer port, disconnect the printer cable, plug the security device into the printer port, then reconnect the printer cable to the back end of the security device.
- 7) Connect the photographic printer to the computer according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- 8) Restart your computer.

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QUICK START

To get started right away using Packagizer, follow the instructions in this section. For a more in-depth description of Packagizer, please consult the Reference section of this manual.

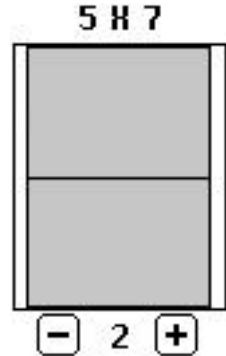
Quick Start on Macintosh

- 1) Start the Packagizer application by double-clicking on the Packagizer icon.



- 2) Click on the Select... button and choose an image file for which you want to print a package. A thumbnail preview image will be displayed in the preview window.

- 3) Select the prints to be produced by clicking on the '-' or '+' buttons under each of the print format icons. For example, if you want to produce four 5x7 prints, you will need two 5x7 print sheets (as each sheet contains two prints). Click the '+' button under the 5x7 format twice until a two (2) appears under the format icon.



- 4) Once all the desired prints are specified under the format icons, click the Print button. The print job will now be sent to the print queue and you may proceed to other tasks, or to produce other print packages. You do not have to wait for the job to complete before continuing to add more jobs.

Quick Start on Windows 95

- 1) Start the Packagizer application by selecting Packagizer from the Programs section of the Start menu.
- 2) Click on the Select... button and choose an image file for which you want to print a package. A preview picture will be displayed in the preview window.

- 3) Select the prints to be produced by clicking on the left or right arrow buttons under each of the print format icons. For example, if you want to produce four 5 x 7 prints, you will need two 5x7 print sheets (as each sheet contains two prints). Click the right arrow button under the 5 x 7 format icon twice until a two (2) appears under the format icon.
- 4) Once all the desired prints are specified under the format icons, click the Print button. The print job will now be sent to the job queue and you may proceed with other tasks, or to produce other packages.

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REFERENCE

General Concepts

Techniques for Using Packagizer

Packagizer supports three different mechanisms for printing images on a photographic printer.

The first is the direct technique, as described in the Quick Start section. Start Packagizer, select an image to be printed, select the set of formats to be printed, and click the Print button.

The second is a Drag and Drop technique. A single image file, or multiple image files, can be dropped onto Packagizer; the current settings for formats and number of images are used, and all images dropped onto Packagizer are sent to the print queue

The third is using AppleScript on the Macintosh or a command line in Windows 95. In this technique, you specify the image file or folder of images and the formats to be used, and Packagizer sets up the print jobs and sends them to the print queue.

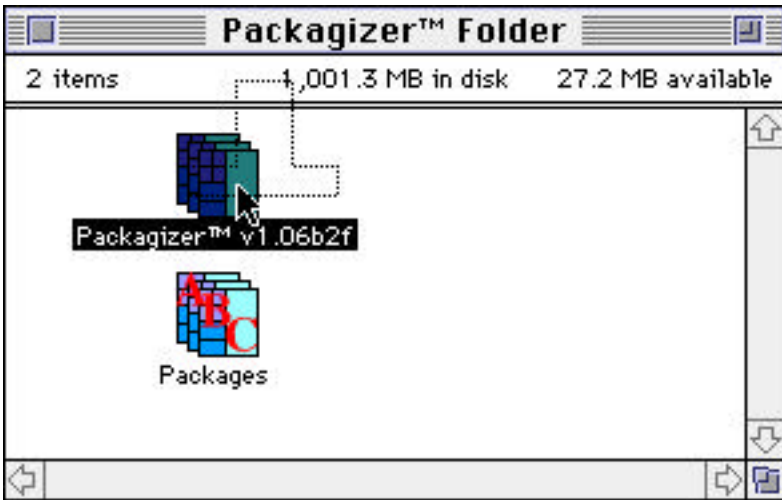
The last two techniques are described in more detail below.

Drag and Drop

Packagizer supports Drag and Drop operations so that image files and queue files may be dropped on Packagizer for processing. To print image files which are dropped Packagizer must be currently open with some quantity of images to print selected. Any valid image files are then sent to the job queue with the print count settings that were in effect at the time the files were dropped.

To use the drag and drop feature, open Packagizer and select

the print counts desired for the subsequent images. Next, click and hold down the mouse button on the file(s) containing the image(s) you wish to print. While holding down the mouse button, “drag” the desired image’s icon over the Packagizer icon (on Macintosh) or the Packagizer window (in Windows 95), and release the mouse button.



Only valid image files, folders, or saved queue files will be processed and allow the drop operation to occur. The images are checked when dropped for any situations that Packagizer might not be able to print, such as unsupported compression modes, or excessive number of planes. Packagizer will ignore images that can't be printed and alert you if this occurs.

If you drop a queue file on Packagizer, the jobs stored in the file will start processing at the time they are dropped. Packagizer doesn't need to be running for a queue file to be dropped since the print count information is stored in each job.

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Apple Event And Command Line Techniques

If you want to operate Packagizer using the command line technique, contact Plug-In Systems for more information.

User-Defined Packages

You can define sets of formats into packages that are saved and can be re-used. This mechanism allows you to set up frequently-used combinations of print sizes and use the packages later, instead of redefining the combinations each time you make prints.

Packagizer allows you to store up to ten different print packages, labeled Package A through J. You can then save them on the pop-up package menu in the Packagizer window.

Cropping

Packagizer provides automatic cropping of images in order to fill the specified image area and maintain the original image's aspect ratio. You must be careful to ensure that an important image area does not get cropped. The following illustration shows how cropping varies between formats:

Original



**5 X7, 3.5 X5
2.5 X3.5, 1.75 X2.5**



**8 X10
4 X5**



Packagizer Window Area

Preview Area

This area of the Packagizer user interface shows a thumbnail representation of the currently selected image file. When you select an image file, Packagizer creates this thumbnail image from the original image data. Packagizer displays the hourglass cursor while the thumbnail image is being processed. This should normally not take more than a few seconds before the thumbnail image appears.

Status Information

The top of the Packagizer window contains status information so that you are always aware of what the Packagizer print queue is doing. Additional information is provided regarding the name of the currently selected file, the number of pages to print as the current job is specified, and the current job number.

Print Format Icons

For each available print format (e.g., 8x10, 5x7), a graphic icon represents the layout of the images on the printed page. Above the icon is text describing the actual size of the images which will be printed for the specific format. Below the icon are two buttons labeled with left and right arrows. Between or above these two buttons is a number which represents how many pages of the specific format will be printed when the “Print” function is selected. By using the arrow buttons for each of the different print formats, you may increment and decrement the quantity for each format, as well as design a custom-tailored print package. Below the row of icons is a scrollbar which allows you to select additional print formats which are displayed offscreen.

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Saving User-defined Packages

You can save the current package definition as a user-defined package in Packagizer. This allows you to build standard packages and save them for future use.

To save a package, hold down the “option” (on Macintosh) or CTRL (on Windows 95) key on the keyboard while selecting any of the user-defined packages from the “Packages” popup menu (Package A through Package J). That package will then be redefined with the print counts currently displayed under the print format icons.

These package definitions may then be permanently saved in a disk file by selecting the “Save Packages” item from the “Packages” popup menu.

User-defined Package Selection

You may select any user-defined package by making the appropriate selection from the “Packages” popup menu. The corresponding print counts appear under each of the print format icons. You can make changes by adding or subtracting as you normally would using the buttons for each print format. Once the user-defined package is modified in any way, the Packages popup menu reverts to the “Custom” selection.

Pass Through Mode

Using Pass Through mode allows Packagizer to print pre-formatted images without resizing them to one of the standard photographic print sizes defined by the icons on the bottom of the user interface window. This is useful for printing a large number of images which don't require reformatting, and allows the use of Packagizer's job queue for unattended printing.

Pass Through mode is accessed by selecting the Pass Through item from the Packages popup menu. A dialog then appears for you to select the number of copies to make of each image printed using Pass Through mode.

Pass Through mode sends the image to the printer pixel for pixel as it is stored in the image file. If the printer supports more than one possible resolution, Packagizer attempts to set the printer to the resolution stored in the image file. If no printer resolution matches the resolution of the image file, Packagizer sets the printer resolution to the Pass Through Default Resolution.

The Pass Through Default Resolution is set in the preferences dialog when the Packages popup menu is set to Pass Through mode. Note that when setting the Pass Through Default Resolution, the automatic setting in the resolution popup menu is grayed out and not available for selection. The default Pass Through Default Resolution is the lowest print resolution available on the printer.

To set Packagizer back to normal formatted package printing, either select a user-defined package from the Packages popup menu, or select an individual print using the print format icons.

The print queue is able to handle a mix of jobs, using both the formatted package printing method as well as the Pass Through mode jobs, at the same time.

Packagizer Pulldown Menus

File:

Select...

Presents a file selection dialog to choose an image file for

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printing. Only image files that Packagizer determines are valid are displayed in the dialog.

Print

Sends the current image to Packagizer's print queue with the specified number of prints of each format listed under the format icons, or the Pass Through mode print count as described in the section "Pass Through Mode". The current job number will be incremented for the next print job.

Clear

Clears the user interface of all counts of prints under the format icons and the image file preview. No print jobs can be created until another image file is selected and prints are specified under the format icons', or by selecting a user-defined package.

Exit

Quits the Packagizer application. Packagizer alerts the user if the print queue is not empty and provides the option of saving the current print queue, discarding the current print queue, or canceling the quit operation.

Preferences...

Provides access to general settings which affect the overall functionality of Packagizer.

Preferences - Borders

Determines the kind of borders that will be applied to the selected image before printing multiple-image pages.

Borders may be used as cutting guides and can be printed in either black or white. To disable the printing of borders on the image, select the None item from the popup menu.

Preferences - Width

Determines the width of the borders in pixels on the printed image, if any have been selected.

Preferences - Resolution

Sets the print resolution to a specific number of dots per inch. If no value is specified, Packagizer selects the proper based on the size of the original image and the available resolutions of the printer. This is the Automatic selection in the Resolution popup menu. The resolution values available in this menu are specific to your printer model.

Preferences - Printer Settings...

Controls various aspects of the connected printer. These controls are specific to your printer model.

Queue:

Load Queue...

Presents a file selection dialog to choose a previously saved Queue file. New jobs read in from a file will be appended to the existing job queue.

Save Queue...

Allows you to specify a disk file in which all of the current jobs in the queue will be stored. All jobs in the queue at the time of saving the queue are undisturbed.

Clear Queue

Removes the current contents of the print queue.

Pause/Resume Queue...

Temporarily suspends processing of the current job queue. The items in the queue are undisturbed, and the menu item

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then changes to Resume Queue. Use the Resume Queue menu selection to continue processing the jobs in the queue.

Open/Close Logfile...

Allows you to generate a logfile showing the files that were printed for each job while the queue is being processed. The logfile also notes any modifications to the queue such as loading, saving, and pausing and resuming. The logfile, which is saved is a TEXT or .txt file, may be viewed with any application capable of reading a TEXT file such as TeachText on Macintosh or Notepad on Windows 95.

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TROUBLESHOOTING

When starting Packagizer on the Macintosh, the following message appears:

The application "Packagizer" could not be opened because "ObjectSupportLib" could not be found.

Make sure the file ObjectSupportLib is installed in the Extensions Folder inside the System Folder. You might look in the folder Extensions (disabled), or use your Packagizer distribution disk, which contains a copy if you need it.

When starting Packagizer on the Macintosh, the following message appears:

The application "Packagizer" could not be opened because "QuickTimeLib" could not be found.

Make sure that QuickTime is installed on your Macintosh. Follow the procedure in your system software installation to insure QuickTime is properly installed.

When starting Packagizer on either system, the following message appears:

The software protection device was not found. Make sure the device is properly installed and retry.

The “dongle” which came with your Packagizer software has not been properly installed. Make sure the device is on the appropriate plug, power down your computer and then reboot.

When opening an image, either with the select command or by drag and drop, one of the following messages appears:

The file [filename] used a compression mode not supported by Packagizer. Save the file without compression and try again.

You are attempting to open a TIFF file which was previously saved compressed using a method such LZW compression, or some other method which is not supported by Packagizer. You may re-save this file using an image editing utility without compression and then print using Packagizer.

The file [filename] contains more image planes than are supported by Packagizer. Remove any alpha channels from the file and try again.

Packagizer supports printing RGB image files that contain only three channels. The specified image contains additional channels for masks, selections, mattes, etc. These extra channels must be removed from the file before Packagizer can process them.

Planar TIFF Files

Some image acquisition software saves images as planar TIFF files. These images need to be re-saved as interleaved TIFF files before they can be printed with Packagizer.

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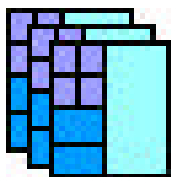
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