



FotoArca Camera Companion Base Edition Quick Start

Introduction:

The Companion Base Edition is a free and powerful tool for photographers to back-up and organize their digital images from either a connected digital camera, Apple Photos or from a hard drive, thumb-drive or other storage medium.

The Base Edition allows for quick easy back-up and storage of images and movies captured in the JPG, HEIC, MOV and MP4 file formats. If you require other formats such as RAW and TIF, or need the ability to rename your files to meaningful names, please consider subscribing to Camera Companion Pro.

Requirements:

To use the Camera Companion Base Edition, you will require the following:

- FotoArca Camera Companion Base Edition app from the AppStore, <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/fotoarca-cc-base-edition/id6523413737>
- An Apple Device, iPhone, iPad or Apple Silicon computer.
- Depending on your device, you may need a Lightning to USB 3 Camera adapter or USB-C to USB-A adapter to connect to your camera or external storage device.
- A USB cable that has the appropriate end on it to connect to your camera or external device.
- You may also require a power adapter to supply power to your iPhone or iPad while connected to high power draw cameras and external devices. The power would connect to the adapter and supply power to your iPhone or iPad.

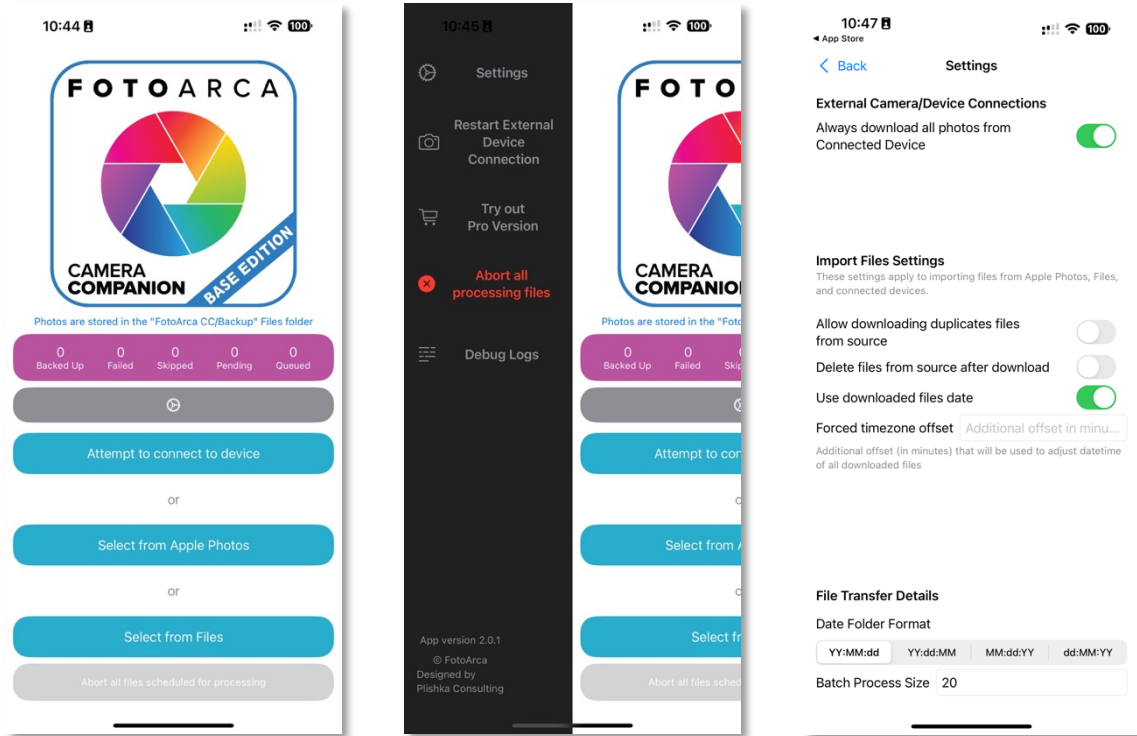
Setup:

By default, the app installs with the most popular settings used as defaults.

The leftmost image below is the main screen for the app where you will choose where the files are located. The three options are:

1. From a Connected Camera Device
2. From Apple Photos
3. From Files located either locally on the device or some other connected storage medium such as a USB thumb drive, external card reader, or network connected folder, or hard drive.

The Grey button with the gear when tapped will open the side panel where you can access the settings screen, as shown in the middle image below. The rightmost image is the settings section where the magic begins.



The settings options are displayed in three sections:

External Camera/Device Connections:

When the *Always download all photos from Connected Device* is enabled (default), this will download and process all the files that are stored on the connected device. This is helpful if you perform a daily backup and then clear out the images from the device.

If untoggled, you will be presented with a date selection window when you start the backup process.

Import File Settings:

In this section you can change the parameters for how the backup is being performed.

The *Allow downloading duplicate files from source* will as the name implies all you to download duplicates and overwrite the current files. This is generally left off as you don't want to download and overwrite files that are already on the device. This applies to the current session only.

The next option is the *Delete files from source after download*, which is off by default, and will result in the files remaining on your camera card after the download to the device. If you want the app to delete them from the camera after it has successfully downloaded them to your device, then you can enable this option.

The next option is the *Use downloaded files date* option which is on by default. This will use the date from your camera files Exif data to determine which date the files are organized in. So, if you took the photograph on June 8th, 2024, it would place the images in a folder called

24-06-08. If you toggle this off, then it will put the photos in a folder called the date that you did the backup, so if you did the backup on July 4th, it would put the images in a folder called 24-07-04. The date format that is used is set in the final section as explained below.

The final option in the Import Files section is the Forced time zone offset. Here you would adjust the file capture time to account for any time zone changes. This is used if you forgot to adjust the camera date/time to reflect where you are in the world. If you made the adjustment before taking photos, then you don't need to use this for anything.

These adjustments are in minutes either positive or negative. So if you need to adjust by 2 hours, then 120 would be input as it is in minutes.

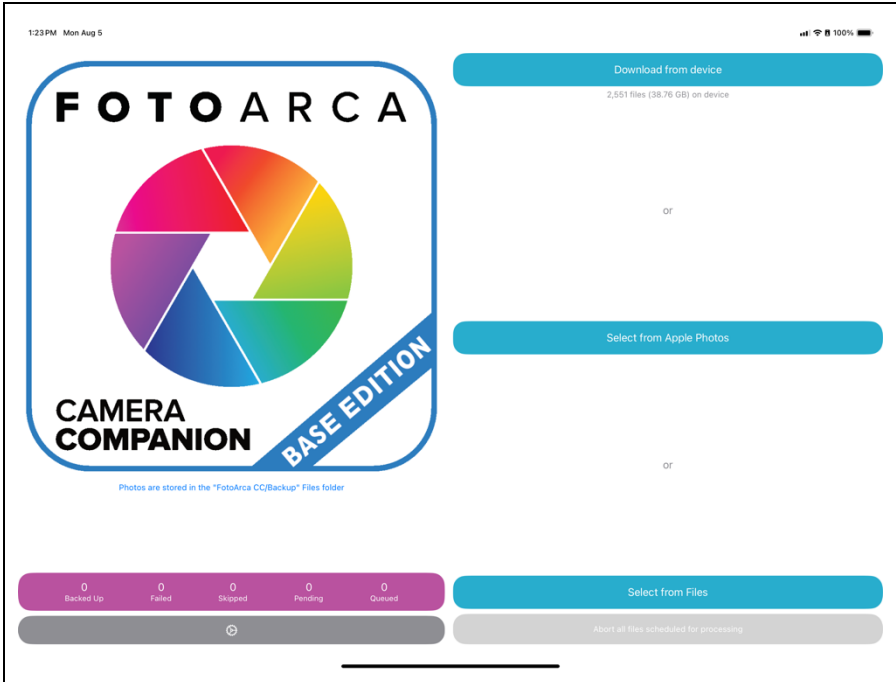
File Transfer Details

Date Folder Format: This is the final setting which defaults to YY:MM:DD format, you can switch to any other the other formats that suit your needs. Depending on how you like your directories setup, you may find that the default makes organization easier. An example is shown below.

>  24-06-02	Jun 2, 2024 at 8:10 PM
>  24-06-03	Jun 4, 2024 at 3:51 PM
>  24-06-05	Jun 6, 2024 at 8:26 PM
>  24-06-06	Jun 6, 2024 at 9:04 PM
>  24-06-07	Jun 8, 2024 at 10:34 PM
>  24-06-08	Jun 8, 2024 at 11:41 PM
>  24-06-09	Jun 9, 2024 at 11:51 PM
>  24-06-10	Jun 11, 2024 at 11:59 PM
>  24-06-11	Jun 12, 2024 at 12:01 AM
>  24-06-12	Jul 10, 2024 at 3:37 PM
>  24-06-13	Jul 10, 2024 at 3:37 PM

The final setting is the Batch Process Size. This value determines how many files are handled in one process at one time. If you change this number and start to get files failing backup, it means that your device is running out of process memory, not storage memory, and must ignore some files to avoid crashing.

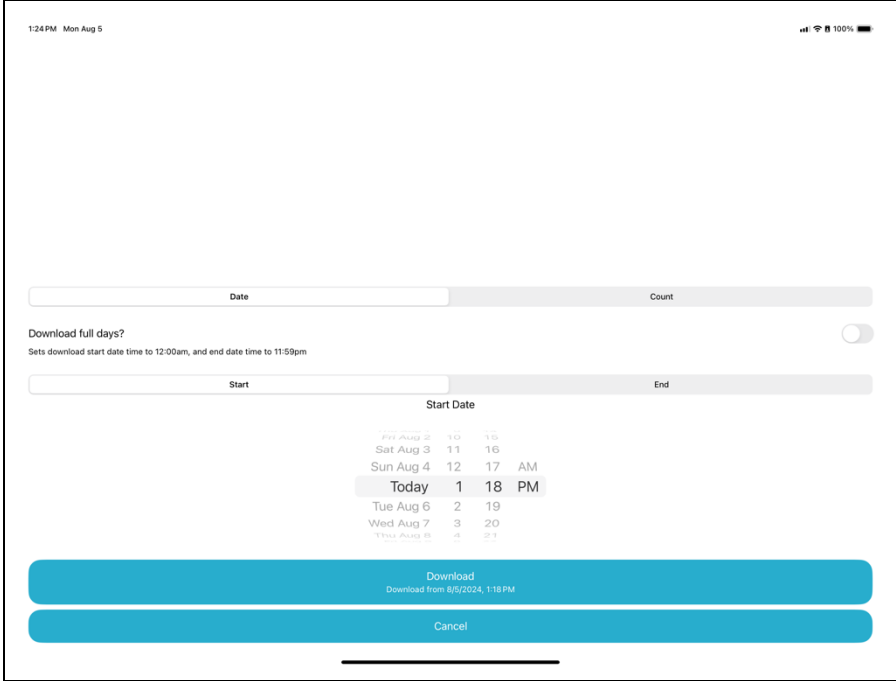
Depending on your device you can increase this number, but leaving it at the default is safest, it just may take a few seconds longer to complete the backup process as it's processing fewer files at a time.



After the camera has finished indexing, you'll see a count of the total number of images and the total size that is used on the camera's memory card.

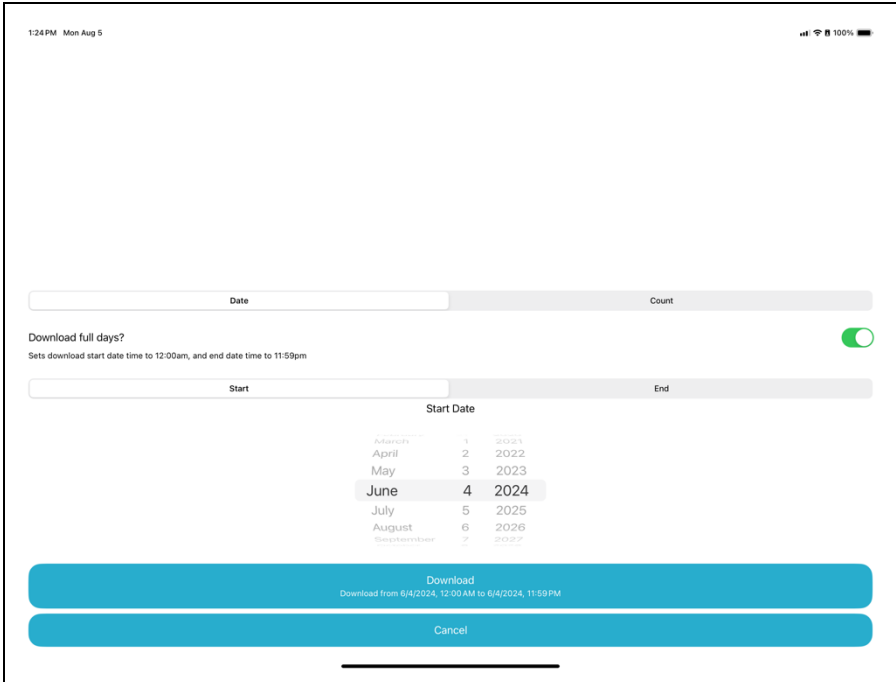
This is shown below the top blue button.

If you continue to take photos while your camera is connected, the number will increment to reflect the new number.



If you have the Always download all photos enabled, then tapping the Download from Device button will start the downloading process.

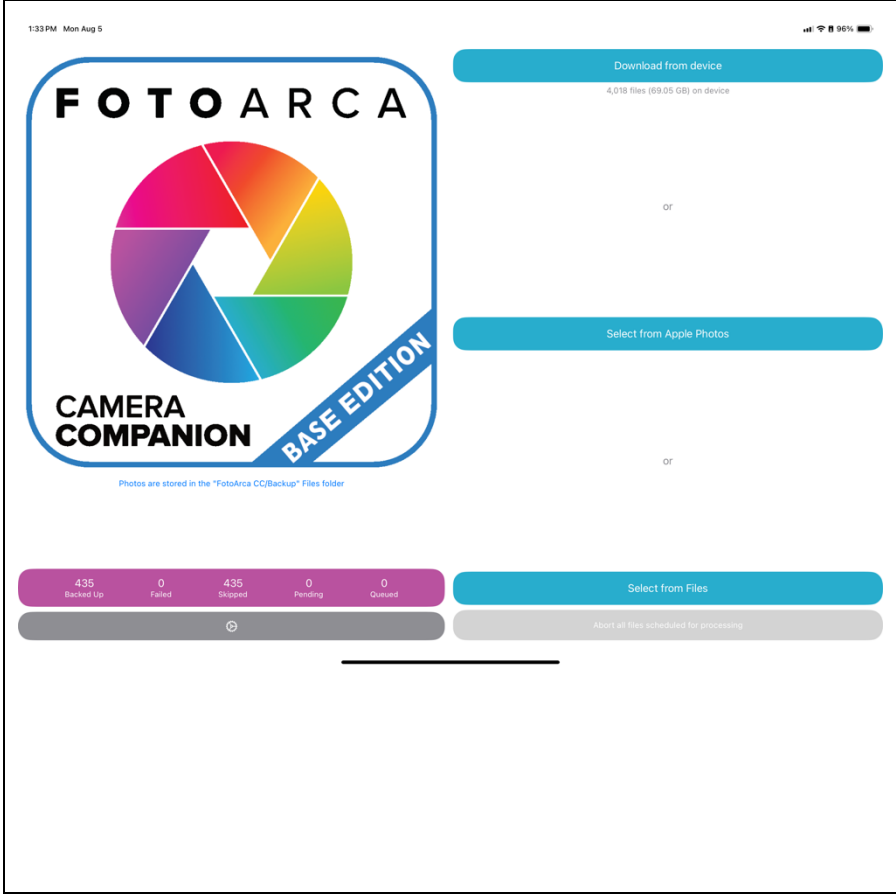
If you have toggled that to off, then you will be presented with a date/time selector where you can set the start date and time and end date and time of photos that you want backed up.



If you toggle the Download Full Days option, then the time disappears, and the current date is selected from midnight to 11:59:59 pm.

You can select a date range and download all images from those days as well by tapping on the End tab and selecting an end date.

Tap on the download button to begin the process.



Once the process is complete, you will see the results in the purple panel. In this case a total of 435 images were backed up and 435 were skipped. The ones that were skipped are files that are unsupported. In the Base Edition, only JPG, HEIC, MOV and MP4 files are supported. All others will be skipped.

You can subscribe or purchase the Pro version which provides a lot more power and file support functionality along with custom naming options.

Conclusion:

We hope that this quick start guide has shed some light on the different settings and what they do.

The settings that come as defaults from install is sufficient for most photographers to get started but now you know what to change to alter the apps behaviour and make it more custom to you.

For more powerful options such as custom file naming and greater file support, please consider the Pro edition. A comparison is available on our website by visiting www.FotoArca.com