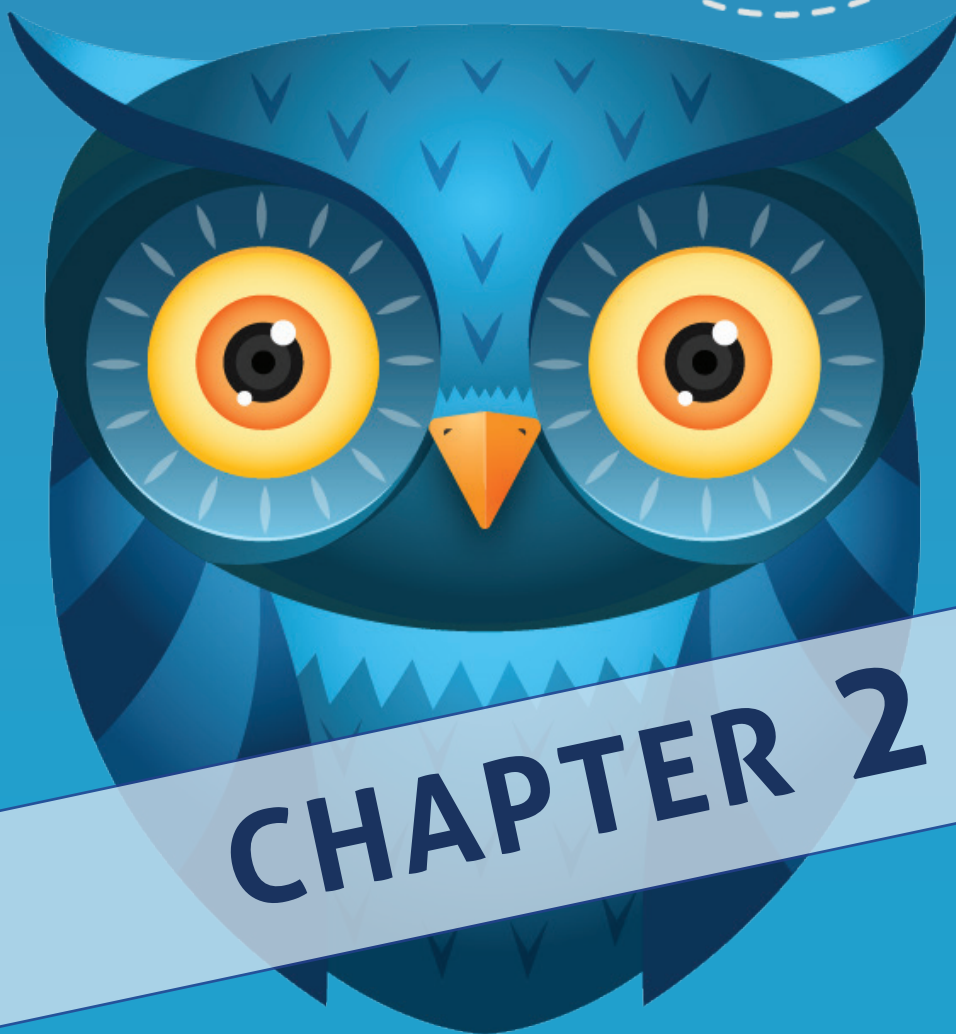


WOOT

Secrets of the MEMORY GUARDIAN

Leave A Legacy



CHAPTER 2

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Chapter 02

Photo & Slide Secrets



Compression Camera Settings

Unless you are just taking photos to upload them to a website, you will want to change the settings on your camera to the least compression available.

What's compression?

Using an empty pop can for an analogy, when you compress it, the can gets smaller but the quality of your can is reduced. Likewise, when your camera compresses its photos, they get smaller and the quality of the photo is reduced.

How do I change the compression?

I would give you step by step directions but the menus and terms on different cameras are, well, different. If you are brave, start poking around on the menu on your camera. The levels of compression are often called: super fine, fine, normal and basic or none, high, medium and low. From these options choose none or super fine.

When you scroll through the different settings you may notice a number off to the side that gets smaller as you reduce compression. That is the number of photos that you will be able to save on the memory card in your camera. My camera is a Canon and it uses the pixel dimensions for determining the setting. I chose 1100 x 800 and then it determined that I could save 259 more photos on my memory card when using this setting.

If you aren't brave about poking around on your camera to look for these settings then I suggest that you pull out the dreaded manual or even better stop by [Leave A Legacy](#) in Fort Collins or Denver and we'll check your settings for you.

Explaining Shutter Speed, Aperture and ISO

Most of us appreciate the ease of our 'point and shoot' camera. We don't really want to mess with lenses and filters and adjusting focus.

Understanding a bit about speed, aperture and ISO may help you take your photography skills to the next level.

All three of these settings help to determine the exposure on your camera whether digital or film. The shutter is a 'gate' that allows light to enter into your camera. When you hit the button to take a photo, it causes the shutter to open for a brief period of time. The amount of time that it is set for, called shutter speed, determines how long the film or sensor is exposed to light. The setting for the shutter is measured in parts of a second.

Aperture is the size of the opening inside your lens through which all light must pass before it reaches the shutter. Aperture size is expressed as an "f-stop". The smaller the f-stop, the larger the aperture or opening is.

Shutter speed and aperture control how much light gets to the sensor or film. Shutter speed also controls time. A very fast shutter speed will capture the briefest of moments on your photo such as people who are in motion. A slow shutter speed will give you a better photo if your subject isn't moving - but you'll need to keep the camera still.

The aperture also controls how much of a photograph is in focus. A very small aperture opening will keep everything in the frame in focus. Photos taken with a very large aperture opening (a small f-stop) will tend to have subjects at one distance in focus.

Since both shutter speed and aperture affect the amount of light let in, when you adjust one you need to adjust the other. If you widen the aperture, letting in more light, you also need to shorten the shutter speed to compensate. There is also a camera setting where you can change one setting and the camera will adjust the other setting. The good news, for those of us who are point and shoot photographers, is that our cameras make the adjustments for us.

The final setting to review is ISO sensitivity. ISO sensitivity also affects noise or graininess. The higher the ISO, the grainier/noisier the image will be. But higher ISO also allows you to shoot with faster shutter speeds in low light. For most amateur photographers keeping ISO lower is preferred.

Better Cell Phone Photo Tips

First of all let's get the resolution as high as possible. Go to the camera feature on your phone and choose settings. From there choose the highest resolution. The newer cell phones actually have pretty high resolution settings.

Second, make sure there is plenty of light. If it's dark, then choose a low light or night setting.

Third, keep it steady. Brace your arm against something or set the phone down on a solid object to remove the shakes you get from just holding it in your hand.

Fourth, get closer. Most phones don't have a zoom feature so move closer to your subject if they are a distance away.

Back it up. After you have emailed it to a friend and posted it on your Facebook page, make sure that you save a backup of your photo where all of your other photos are saved.

You will be able to keep the best resolution if you connect your phone to your computer with a USB cord or by taking out the memory card and inserting that into your computer. If you get stuck on this step, just bring it in to one of our [Leave A Legacy](#) studios and we'd be glad to help you out.

Finally, use it! Digital photos are easy to work with. With [Leave A Legacy](#)'s help, you can create a collage, photo book, photo gift, card or photomontage. You name it!

Pixel Pointers

A pixel is a term for a single point in a graphic image. The term was created from shortening "picture element" and using the common abbreviation "pix" for "picture."

The quality of a photo can be expressed in pixels per inch (ppi) or dots per inch (dpi). They are equivalent, meaning, a photo with 72 ppi would have 72 dpi. Images shown on computer screens and web sites are acceptable at 72 ppi.

An acceptable print quality is achieved when a photo has 300 ppi or more. When printing an image that has fewer than 300 ppi, the image becomes "pixilated." This means that individual pixels are

visible resulting in blocky edges and general blurring. An image that is pixilated can be reduced (made smaller) which will make the pixels closer together and improve the image quality.



Cameras are distinguished by their resolution or how many pixels the image sensor contains. One mega pixel equals 1 million pixels. For example a 5-megapixel camera can make excellent 8x10s and

acceptable 11x14s. If you want to be able to print larger photos you will need a camera that saves more pixels for an image.

Pixels and scanning: When we scan your photos, we typically set them to scan at 300 ppi. This resolution allows you to print a copy of the photo that is the same size as the original and have it look just as good as the original. However, we can scan images as high as 12000 ppi. This allows us to print enlargements and maintain excellent print quality.

Red Eye

When the light reflects off of a person's eye, it reflects the red of their retina. It gives us all a bit of a demon look and we'd like to fix it.



It's much simpler and more effective to fix red eye on a digital image rather than a print. For prints you can purchase a red eye pen at a craft store. Conversely, you can scan your photo and then fix it on the computer.

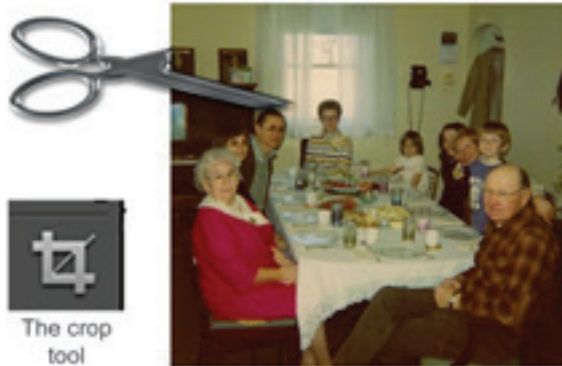
Using your photo editing software find the tool that looks like a single redeye. Choose that tool and then click on each red eye in

your photograph. Usually, that is all it takes. More sophisticated software has adjustments that you can make to the red eye tool. You can adjust how large of a circle of correction it makes and how much it is darkened. If you don't like the correction you have made then you can simply "undo" it and go back to the original. At [Leave A Legacy](http://www.leavealegacytoday.com) we can scan your photos for you and also fix all of those red eyes!

Cropping Photos

It may not sound possible but you can become a better photographer, and depict a cleaner house all by carefully cropping your photos.

These days cropping is usually done on the computer. The advantage of using software to cut or crop your photos is that if you change your mind or make a mistake you can hit undo and go back to the original image.



Professional photographers are great at composing photographs



and getting good close-ups. By cropping your photos, either by cutting the old fashioned way or by cropping on the computer you can cut out unwanted foreground, background or “side ground” and focus attention on your subject of interest. Decided is isn’t politically correct, love yourself the way you are :)

Now for a **cleaner house**. If your photos show a pile of unfolded laundry, unwashed dishes or scattered toys in the background, simply crop them out and focus on the people in the photo.

The hazard of cropping is that you may be cutting out memories that you would have enjoyed seeing years from now. I rarely crop my old photos because I don’t want to lose anything. The ugly lamp in the background may bring back good memories and a

good laugh. I caution you against cutting printed photos as you can't undo the cutting years from now. We suggest scanning photos first so that you can preserve the complete image.

Scanning Slides 101

Resolute resolution

At [Leave A Legacy](#) the slide scanner never stops. You would be amazed at the number of people with a huge number of slides that come to our door.

When scanning anything, the most important variable is the resolution. The units of measuring resolution are dots per inch or dpi. The more dots per inch you have the larger you can print the photo without it looking blocky. For good quality printing in the size that you want, photos should have at least 300 dpi. For good quality web site or TV images you need at least 72 dpi. For more info on dpi check out our article entitled "Pixel Pointers" earlier in this chapter.



Most slide images are about 1 inch square. We know that you don't want to print the image at that size so we scan them at a higher resolution. Typically we scan so that you can print at least a 4 inch by 6 inch photo.

Photo fade

The majority of slides that we receive are faded or discolored. The software that we use corrects the color for each slide. The image below shows a slide before and after color correction



What to do with the images once we scan them?

1. The first step is to have us create a disk of all of the individual images (jpg files). This can be put into your computer to look at each photo separately and use and print as you want.
2. To take it a step further we can create a DVD slide show that plays on your TV. You can keep it simple and cost effective for just \$50 for up to 900 images. We can personalize it with titles, music and even video clips for an hourly rate.
3. We can create custom designed DVD labels and covers as well.
4. Scanned photos can be used in our variety of photo gifts. At [Leave A Legacy](#) we have a clock made from a scanned image of our owner, Marsha (she claims that it was just taken a few short years ago, but we wonder.)
5. We can print the images individually or we can design and print an entire digital photobook from them. Don't hesitate to bring in your slides. We look forward to making them into digital creations for you.

Removing Photos Stuck in Albums

Magnetic Albums....seemed like a great idea at the time, but boy, were we wrong! Do you remember them? They were the ones with a sticky piece of cardboard that you laid your photos on and covered with a clear protective sheet. We now know that these

were not a safe place for our precious photos. The pages have now yellowed and the sticky is either gone all together and the photos now fall out of the book when you pick it up... or the glue on the page has turned to super glue and won't let go.

If they are stuck fast, when you try to peel them off, part of the picture is likely to get left behind or damaged. The secret tool for removal is dental floss. Yup, dental floss!

Wrap the floss around your fingers and pull the floss down between the photo and the page. You may need to come at it from different angles or use a sawing motion. You'll likely need a friend to hold the page while you are doing the sawing.

Once we had a client who brought in a stuck photo. After I told her the trick, she proceeded to get some floss from her purse. The photo was free in moments.

Another option is to have [Leave A Legacy](#) scan the photo while it is still attached to the page. We can "cut it out" on the computer and leave your original unharmed.

Your solution, if your photos are loose is to:

- get them out of the book
- keep them in order
- make a stack of them
- take them to [Leave A Legacy](#) and have them scanned, then:
 - create a digital photo book
 - create a DVD slideshow
 - make reprints
 - save on a disk and make copies for family members

Creative DVD Slideshows

Did you know that [Leave A Legacy](#) can use your digital photo files (jpg files) to produce a DVD that will play on a DVD player and

most modern computers? Of course, if your photos are prints or slides we can digitize them for you.

Images usually appear on screen for five seconds and the transition between photos is usually one second. When using these time lengths it is easy to figure how long your slideshow will run. For example: 100 photos will make a 10 minute slideshow and 350 photos will make a 35 minute slideshow. The length a photo is on screen or the length of a transition can vary, according to the length you desire, even to a tenth of a second.

Transitions determine how the screen changes from one image to the next. Clients frequently choose:

- Fade (one picture fades out while another fades in)
- Random (uses a transition that is randomly selected ex: wipe, zoom in, slide out, barn doors, etc.)
- Page Turn (looks like each photo is a turned page)

Titles are like an introduction page to your DVD slideshow. They feature text of your choice and a background behind it. Choose your background from your own photos or art or from our selections.

Captions are text that describes the photo. The caption text can be added to an empty space in the photo, or the photo can be reduced or moved to the side to accommodate text.

Video clips can be added to the still shots.

Music or narration can accompany your video clips or slideshow. Several options are available for music. We can add royalty-free music which is upbeat instrumental, bring in mp3 files saved on a flash drive or disk, bring in a purchased music CD, or we can purchase specific songs for you from the Internet.

For narration you can watch your slideshow in our studio and record your narration there or you can have us burn an initial copy of the slideshow and use a digital audio recorder (we have them for rent) to make the recording elsewhere and bring it back and have us add it to your project and burn (create) a new disk.

What are your Photos Saying?

Is a picture worth a thousand words?

This common cliché has it all wrong. Otherwise we would look at stacks of old photos and tell our children and grandchildren just who is in the photo and what was special about that day.



The photos you take today can have the same problem when they are admired a few generations from now - if you don't take the time to tell the basics about what is in the photo.

My son, Clinton, took a photo that nearly was lost to the delete button but was saved when I asked him to tell me about the photo. As you can see it is not a remarkable photo, no one is even smiling or smarting off. But now for the rest of the story about this photo that is now included with this caption in his Boy Scout album.

"This photo was taken at our campsite on our outing in South Dakota. We made the "marmot defense system" which consisted of a white line facing the north end of camp. It was said that marmots like to attack from the north and that they don't like going under a white line. We also used the line for a clothes line. My tent is shown on the left." What a wonderful story that will be enjoyed for generations.

Holiday Photo Ideas

Traditionally most of our family photos are taken during Easter, Christmas and on Birthdays. So here are some tips as you as you get your cameras ready for the big days.

1. Synchronize your cameras

If you have multiple photo shooters in your family, make sure that the time is set the same on all cameras. This will definitely help you keep your photos organized when you get around to downloading them on your computer.

2. Document tradition

What special traditions do you have in your family?

Decorating candy trees, lighting an advent wreath, frosting and decorating cookies, singing carols, lighting the menorah, performing in school musicals, you name it. Frequently, these special moments are left out of our collection of photos.

Make a point of documenting all of your family's traditions.

3. Generation photos

Whether it's the taking of a 3 or 4 generation photo, taking individual profile photos of each generation or getting a group photo of the whole gang gathered together, document this moment in time.

Family Memories over the Holidays

Opportunities abound for you can capture, share, give, and make memories over the holidays as your family gathers together.

Capture: Ask the family elders...or everyone for that matter...to document some memory from their life. Whether it was grandpa's years of training a trick horse, grandma's stories of how she raised

4 young children while grandpa was away during the war, an Aunt recording all of her delicious recipes for the family to create a book and enjoy it for generations.

My own task for this Christmas is to encourage my Grandma Reta (92 years old) to do a voice or video recording of her reciting the poems that she has written and are preserved in her mind only. She is resistant to doing it because she looks so wrinkled and her voice is shaky. I will give her the equipment to do it (likely just using audio since it will be easier for her to do on her own). I will tell her how valuable it will be for generations to come and tell her examples of what other families have captured from their relatives.

Share: While you are visiting relatives this holiday season, take the time to gather up all of the old media that is hiding away in their attic, basement, closets and under the bed. Take on the project to preserve these memories for later generations...then gather it up and [Leave A Legacy](#) will do all the work. We have one client who mailed us his collection of films and videos just last week. He told me how to combine the materials so that each member of the family will receive a disk this year. Every year at Christmas they will each bring their disk and make a tradition of watching the old films of days gone by together.

Give: This year give the gift of memories. What other gift will last for generations, and have priceless value and have minimal cost? Examples of gift options:

Photo gifts (use a child's artwork or fun photos and make gifts for the young and not so young). Puzzles , pillows, tote bags, ceramic tiles, t-shirts, ornaments, pencil holder, cutting board, water bottle, and steel coffee mug are but a few of the options that we offer.

Video gifts (from your films, camcorder tapes, records, VHS tapes, photo slides, and even reel-to-reel). All of these can be transferred to DVD or CD.

Photo books: take a collection of photos from a recent trip and at [Leave A Legacy](#) either you can get creative on the computer or we can do it for you and create a special book for your family. A selection of photos through the years of Mom or Dad can make a very nice tribute book. A year ago we went on a family trip to Hawaii. I have made a lengthy photo book of our trip with all the photos taken by me, my kids and the 2 grandmas. I also typed up pages of the journal that I wrote while on the trip. For this Christmas, I'll be printing out 2 more copies of the book for the 2 grandmas. What a unique and priceless gift.

Make: Remember to make and record new memories from today's holiday celebration. Remember the still and video camera for all of the productions that your kids and grandkids perform in. Capture what the tree looks like every year. Write out what each child's favorite gift was and take their smiling photo with it. Record what they asked Santa to bring them and their opinion as to whether they were good enough this year to get gifts.

[Leave A Legacy](#) wishes you the merriest of Holidays and encourages you to capture, share, give, and make lots of memories. We will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year's.

Thinking Outside the Frame and the Hard Drive

Documenting memories of our dear ones is a priority for many of us. But what happens to those memories when they are tucked away on a hard drive somewhere? While maintaining digital

copies of our memories is a necessity in today's digitized world, the importance we place on 'the real thing' is greatly diminishing. The art of the physical 'tactile' object refers to the beauty that resides in holding something in your hands and taking a moment to experience something with your senses.

Let's resolve to make our memories known by something other than a .jpg. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

Step One: Print those babies out!

Step Two: Proudly display them!

The Coffee Table – this space is perfect for a plethora of memory display options.

- One of my personal favorites is quite simply to find a container that fits your personal style. I use a cigar box that I found intriguing. Here is an example from the blog, A Beautiful Mess.
- Photobooks are another option. These books provide the opportunity to include your photos along with other mementos that can be scanned and allow you to get creative with customizable options from binding to layout!
- Coasters. Yes that's right, get your own personalized coasters. Lucky for you, these happen to be one of the fabulous photo gifts we offer.
- That blank wall starring you in the face – get to thinking outside of the frame.
- Twine + clothes pins + your photos = more fun than hanging your laundry out to dry. And it doesn't have to be twine - you can use ribbons or fabric as well.



- Think of your wall as a giant scrapbook page!

Step Three: Give your photos new life!

Your creativity knows no bounds – after we digitize your old media, put it to good use like Rachel Reynolds does with some old slides!

Photo credits:

Photos 1, 2, 3 - A Beautiful Mess, <http://www.abeautifulmess.com/>

Photo 4 – Rachel Reynolds Design,



Using your iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch or Other Tablets to Capture Your Memories

On your tablet or phone, you can capture photos and videos using the built-in camera, and also get such materials from others through applications, such as email or Facebook.

Having technology at your fingertips has its advantages, but you don't have to leave those videos and photos, which may capture your grandchild's first steps or your grandmother's 90th birthday, on your device to take up space or possibly be lost forever when something unforeseen happens to it.

Getting the material off your device and onto a computer is easy. First, connect the device to the computer.

On Mac computers, IPhoto should automatically launch into its import window with your device's images and videos listed. But if you don't have IPhoto, and Image Capture doesn't open automatically, you can navigate to your Applications folder and open Image Capture from there; choose what you want to import and download.

"Thanks again for your terrific work on the "envelope project". I received many compliments and am very happy with the results (both the book itself and the great pleasure it brought to my family!)."

*- Barry
Fort Collins, CO*

For PC users, the AutoPlay window should appear and click, Import Pictures and Video using Windows; unless you've specified, the computer saves the downloaded material to My Pictures.

Here are a couple tips when using your Phone or tablets for photos and videos:

1. Camera Focus and Meter: In the camera app (at least on an iPad), tap on the subject to focus on and meter the light property. This feature is nice, for example, when you are taking a photo of a wedding and you want the bride and groom in focus and light metered properly, and don't want the focus to be on the big flowers or pew just a few feet in front of you.
2. Orientation Lock: When you hold the iPad to take a picture, the shutter button moves to the bottom, making it hard to keep steady while hitting it. Use the orientation lock – find it in Settings >General – to put the shutter where you can easily thumb it, then rotate your image or video afterwards in an image editor.
3. Resolution and dpi: Digital images are made up of very small picture elements – called pixels – that determine the size, color and brightness of an image. Pixels determine how much detail

will appear in the image: the more pixels (or dots) per square inch result in a higher resolution. For a quality print, we recommend photos be at 300 dpi – dots (pixels) per inch.

Photos you get off of Facebook or other sources on the Internet are usually at a 72 dpi and not suitable to print. If you try to print them, they will come out “blocky.” Most tablets take really clear photos, but double check your settings. Higher resolution photos will, however, take up more memory - another good reason for getting them off your device and digitally saved. Also be aware that if you “share” or “send” your photo from tablet or phone, most likely that photo will be compressed to a 72 dpi, so again, make sure that your settings are correct. (Photos saved at a lower dpi cannot be enlarged later, but high resolution photos can always be made smaller.) If you send the photo in an email, it should keep the resolution setting at which it was taken.

Smart Phone Lifestyle Photographs



Have you heard about the widespread trend of Smart Phone photography?

You may have noticed that just about everyone is taking photos of everything (seemingly) inconsequential thing and then posting it to their favorite Social Media site.

This trend is called Lifestyle Photography and amidst the jokes about needing to take a photo of your food before you eat it, the movement has taken hold.

Lifestyle photography is all about capturing the everyday moments that exude sweetness and express the beauty of the world so precisely that one is compelled to capture it, forever logging it as a memento of a much grander memory.

This movement is nothing new. The Smart Phone Lifestyle Photography movement is an evolution of Street Photography that reaches all the way back to Atget in France in the 19th century and artists in America from the mid-20th century.

As seen in the photograph by Gary Winogrand, you weren't first to photograph your food. The Street Photographers were criticized in similar ways that the Lifestyle Photographers are criticized today, in that they have unprofessional equipment and use no discretion as to what they are photographing. Now I do certainly not want to compare every Instagram account owner with Gary Winogrand, but it is an interesting parallel to consider.

All history of photography lessons aside, here is a roundup of some of the best Smart Phone apps out there for photo editing:

1. **Photoshop Express** (free for iPhone, Android and Windows) This app is good for basic editing and retouching with an easy user interface.
2. **Camera +** (\$1 for iPhone) This app works with your camera to provide options like exposure, flash, varied shooting filters and the editing basics.



3. **Camera Zoom Fx** (\$3 for Android) Basically the Android equivalent of Camera+ with many of the same features.
4. **PicFrame** (\$1 for iPhone, Android and Blackberry) This app is one of the easiest interfaces to use for collages. It offers many different options for layout and sizes. It is perfect for those of you know that you can't just post one photo of an event on Facebook.
5. **Over** (\$1 for iPhone) This app has amazing text and artwork overlays that add that extra layer of awesomeness to your photos.
6. **A Beautiful Mess** (\$1 for iPhone and Android) Another fun app for text and doodles made by the brilliant DIY designers, Elsie and Emma.
7. **Repix** (free for iPhone) Once your photo is perfected, this app gives you tons of options to add frames, embellishments and extraordinary filters.



Want Leave A Legacy to do all the organizing for you or questions about the next step of digitizing your media?

Contact us today

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team@leavealegacytoday.com

970-226-0102

Denver

team2@leavealegacytoday.com

303-623-0607

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