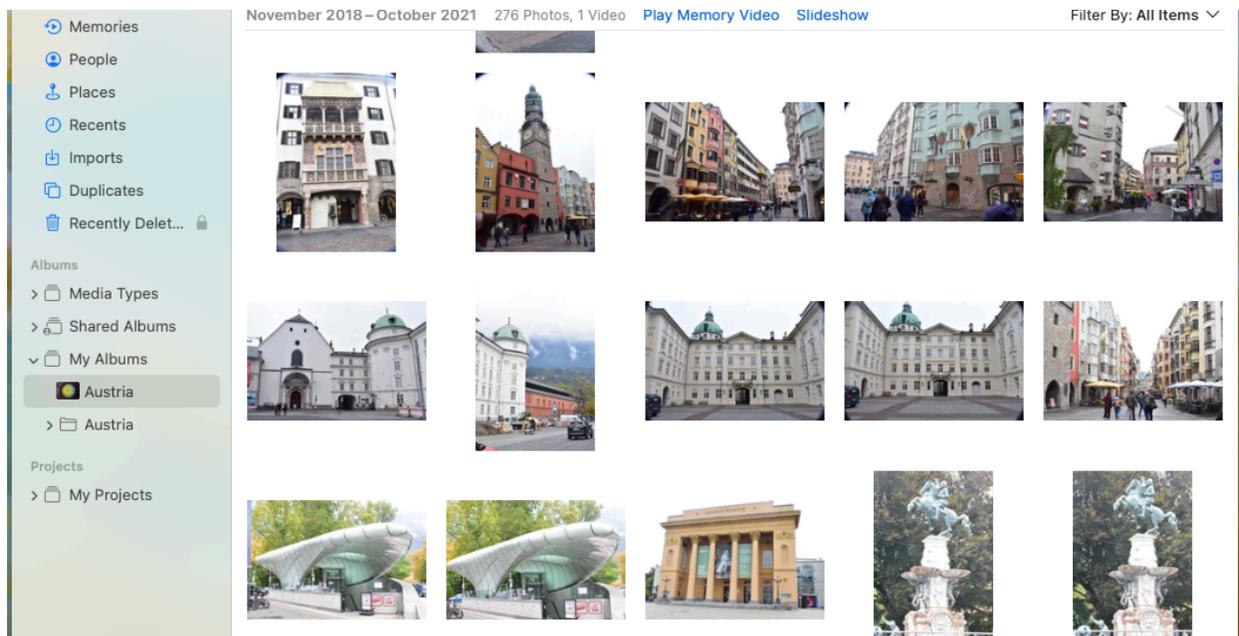


Using An External HD With Apple Photos

There are many reasons for using Apple Photos on an External Hard Drive. Perhaps the user has a lot of images to organize and the Startup Drive is not large enough to provide the space required for this operation. Renting space on Apple Cloud or Google Drive may not be the answer either.

Apple Photos offers a lot of great stuff for the photographer. It has what can be described as a “Light Table” where all the image thumbnails reside in either “All” or Album format. The user can easily see and edit the metadata of an image. So, organization is key to Apple Photos. Unfortunately, it lacks real imaging editing.



The opening “Home” window of Apple Photos shows all you need to see and organize your images. On the left column are a list of all the ways you can organize your images, Albums and Projects.

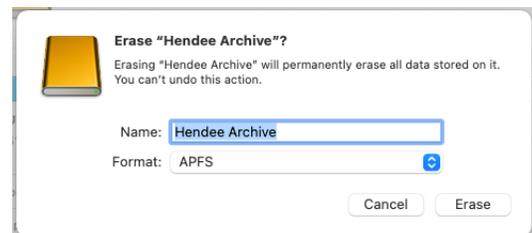
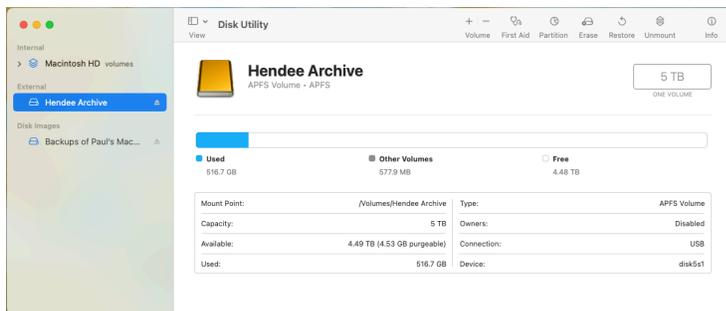
If your image Library for Apple Photos resides on your computers Startup HD there is an interesting addition capability to the application. You can actually Edit an image from Apple Photos in another, more robust editor, and save the image and your saved image will automatically appear in the Apple Photos thumbnail window. Nice! However, I have found doing this workflow on an external drive does **not** work as well.

Let's Set It Up

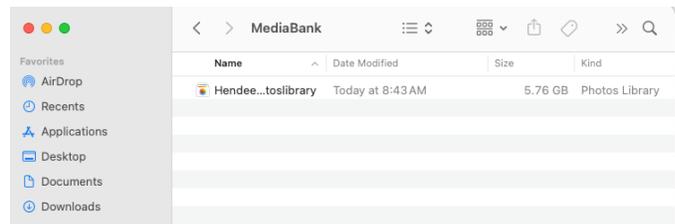
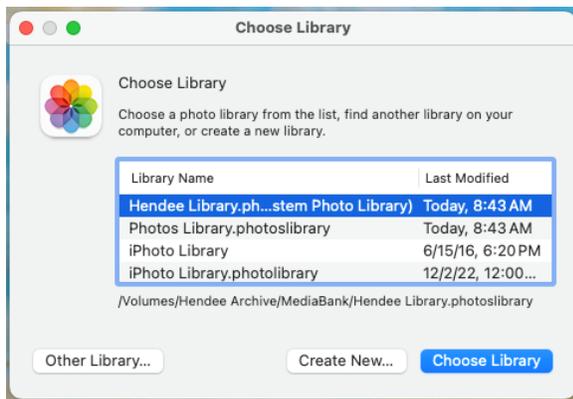
To begin this process you will need an ample external HD. There are many shapes and storage capacity HDs on the market. The good news is the price per gigabit of storage is very reasonable. In 1984, when I was working in a catalog company, I had a 2 Gigabit Maxtor Raid drive - Cost: \$10,000. Today, for the purpose of this writing, I am using a 5 Terabyte WD portable USB Drive.

If you have anything on this external HD You'll need to back it up and copy it back later.

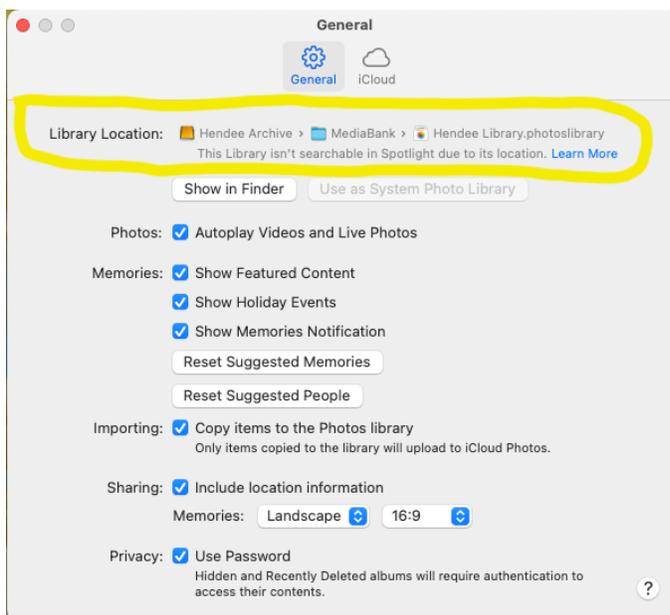
Once the drive is plugged in and mounted on the desktop you will need to format it for use on your Apple System. In your Applications is a Utility folder. In there is a Disk Utility app. Open that app. In the left column is a listing of all the mounted HDs. Select the External HD you will use for your new photo library. **DO NOT click on your Apple System Drive.** Once you have selected the correct external drive, go to the top of the window and select "Erase". When you select Erase another window pops up allowing you to Rename the drive and change the format of the drive. This is where you need to change the format of the External HD to "APFS" in the pull down window. See images below.



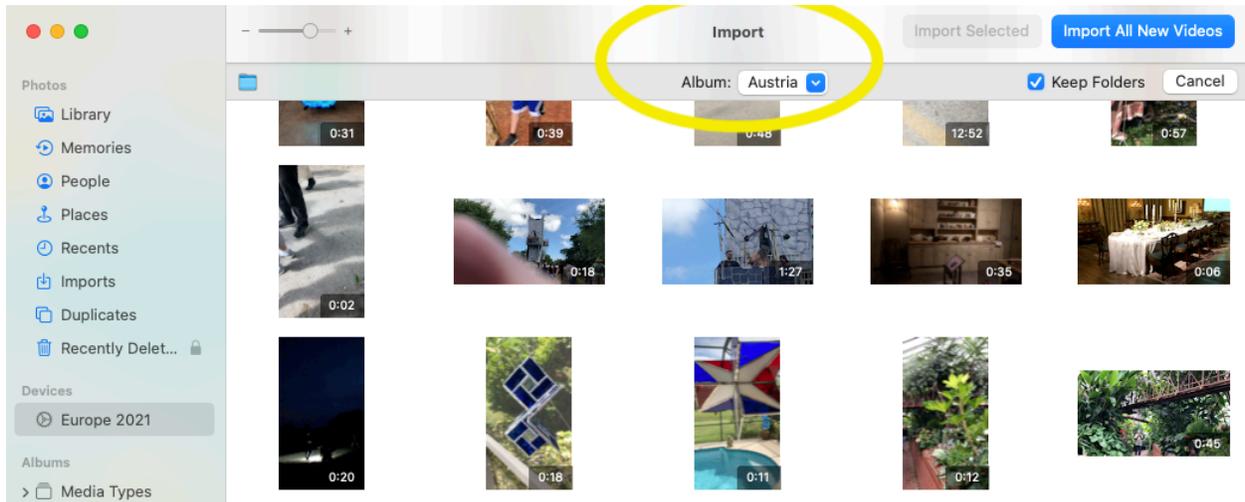
Now it's time to create a New Apple Photos Library on this new external HD. Apple has made this a simple task. With the application Apple Photos closed (Not Running), hold the "Option" button down while double clicking on the Apple Photo's application icon in either the Applications folder or in the "Dock". This will bring up a new window (See image below) that will allow you to create a New Library. Click the "Create New" button and follow the navigation instructions in the next window. I created a New Folder on my external HD and created my New Library in this folder on my external HD.



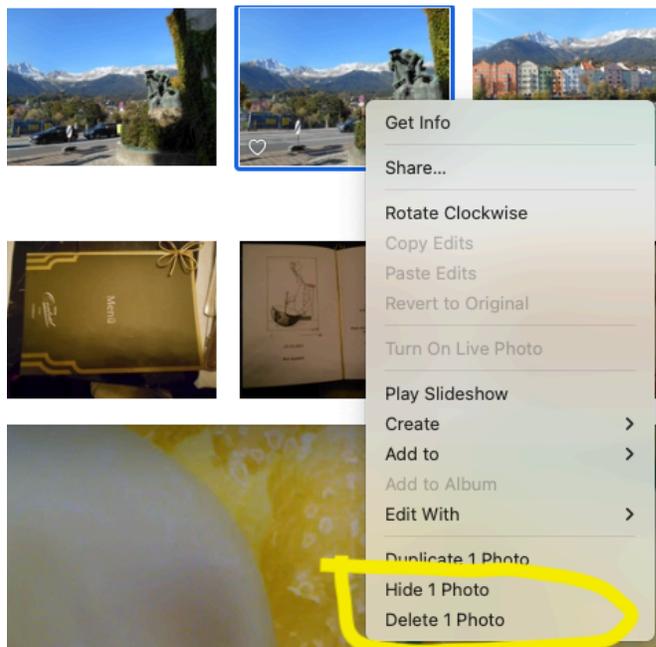
Now we have our new external HD and on it we have our new Apple Photos Library. In the folder on the external HD where you created your new Photos Library. Double click on that icon and your new library will open. If you ever have a question if you are in the correct library, Open the "Settings" in Photos. Here at the top it will tell you where your Library is Open.



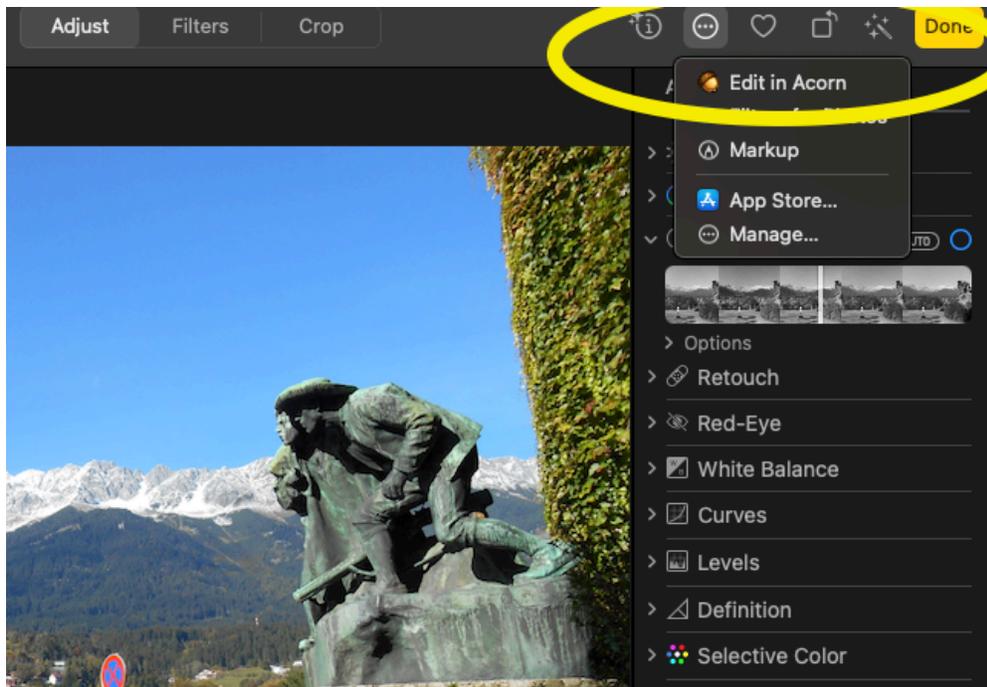
O.K. it's time to seed our new library by "Importing" some images. Most of my images are in folders that are named appropriately for what is in the folders. So, if my photos are about a trip to Austria, my folder is named "Austria". In Apple Photos I simply go to "File"/"Import" and I import the entire folder of images. During the "Review & Import" I like to make sure I am importing into an Album named after my photo trip, I.e.; Austria.



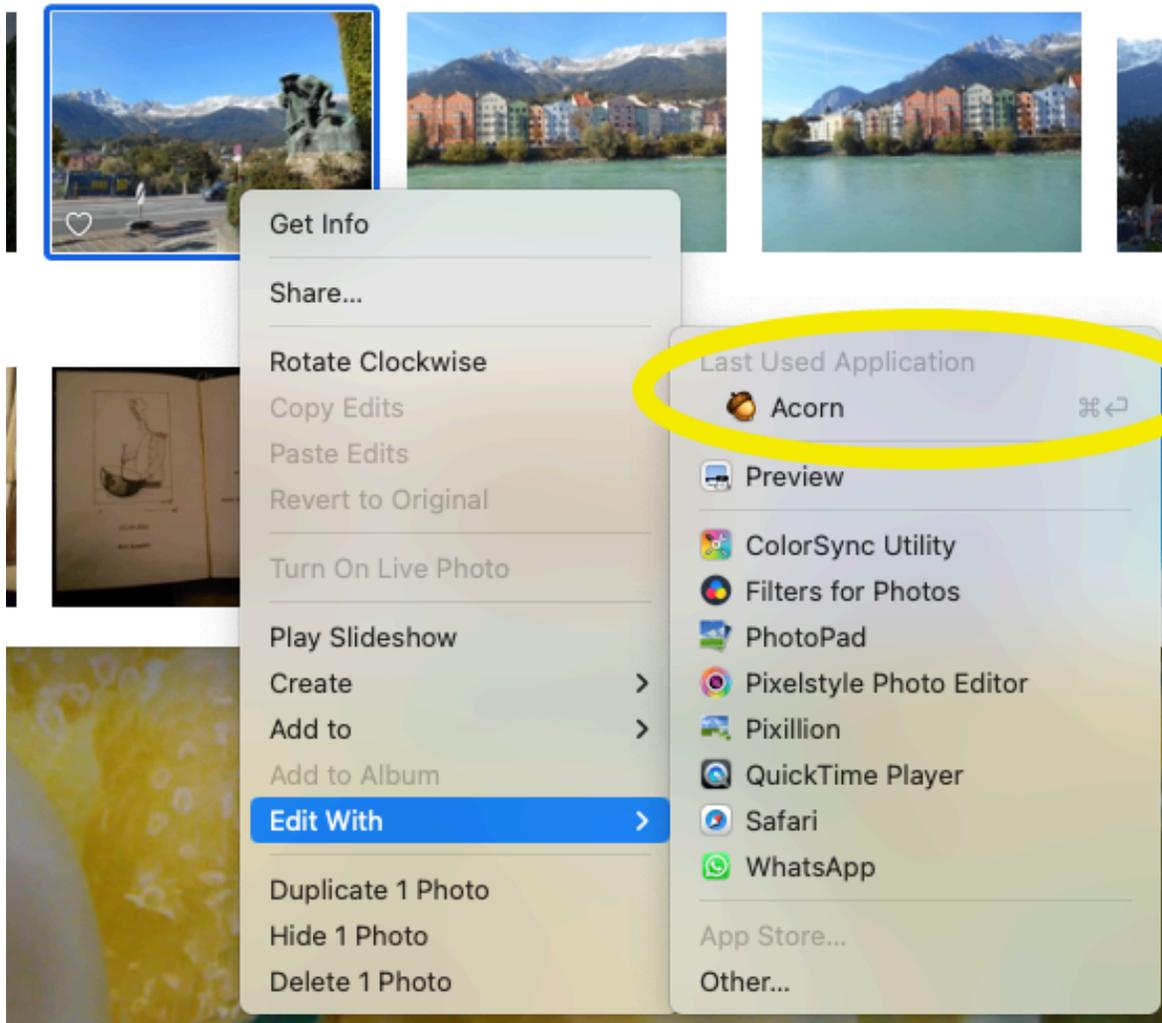
Now that you have your active library with images, it's probably a good idea to thin out the stock. Any images you find that either are duplicates or just don't make the grade, Delete or Hide them from the library. "Delete" will make the image go away for good. "Hide" will save it for a rainy day, but you won't see it until you reveal it later. Right click on a thumbnail image you'd like to "Delete or Hide". Make your selection at the bottom. See image.



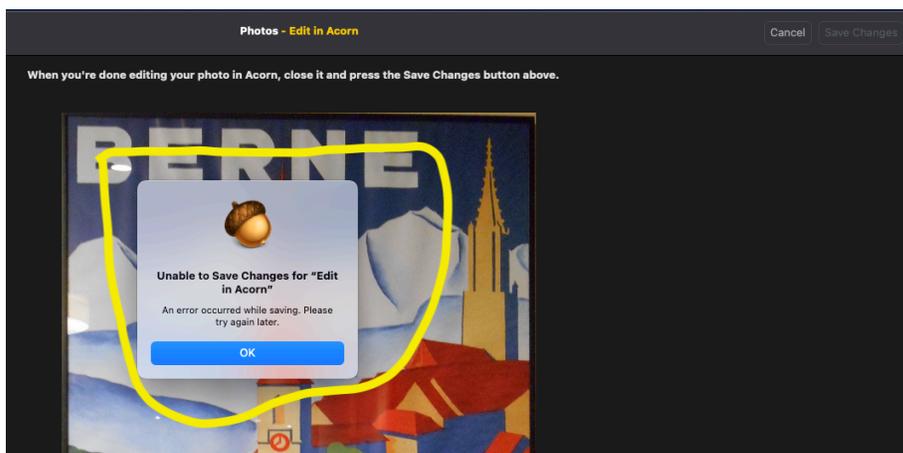
Now to “Edit” the image. If your Library was on the Startup HD of your computer you could Double Click on the thumbnail image which would Open the “Full View” window for the image. In this window there is an “Edit” button. Clicking on the Edit Button brings you into the “Edit” window. In the Edit window is a circle with three dots. Clicking on the three dots is an icon for your editing software. My software is Acorn 7. I click on the icon for Acorn and my image opens in Acorn ready for me to make my edit(s). I make my edits and save the file and close the window. Re opening my Apple Photo Edit window I click “Save Changes” then “Done”. My image in Apple Photos has now been properly Edited. But, remember, in my experience, this process **ONLY** works whit a Library that is on the Apple Startup HD - **NOT** an external HD.



I have found it better if your library is on an **External HD** to use a different workflow. When you are in the Thumbnail Window of Apple Photos, Right Click on the image you wish to edit. Select the “Edit With” option then (In my case) I select Acorn. The image opens in Acorn. I make my Edits, Save the file and close the window. I open the Photos window to see my changes in the thumbnail. Double clicking on the edited thumbnail the full-size window opens so I can inspect my changes. See Image on Next Page.



If your Library is on an External HD and you try to do the workflow as if your Library is on the Startup HD of the computer you will get the error message as shown in image below.



I hope this has helped anyone who is trying to create a library on an **External HD** and wishes to Edit photos in another Image Editing Application.

Best of Luck,

Paul Hendee