FLASHVIEW

FlashView Quick Start

The essentials in five minutes

Version 1.8.15

1 Getting started

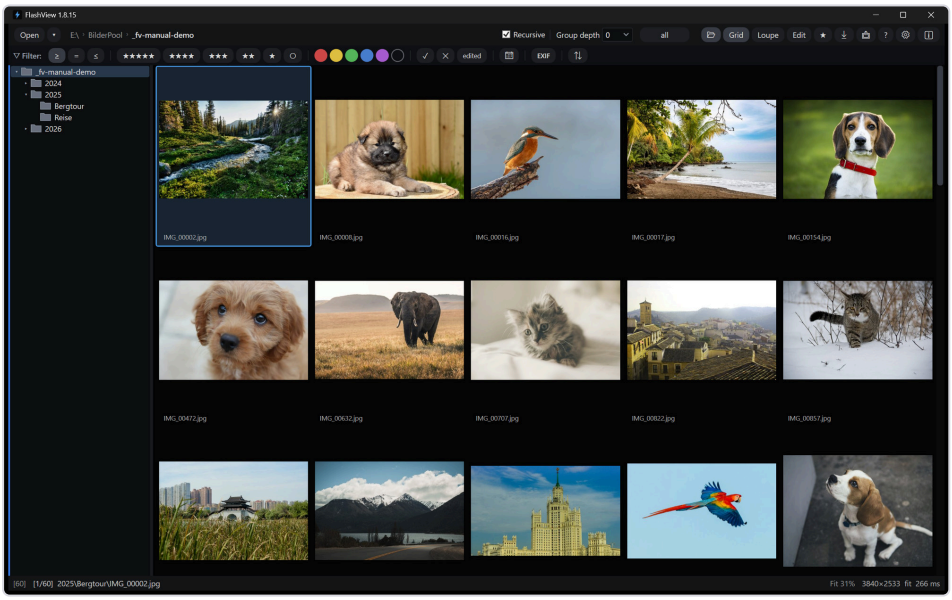
FlashView is a fast image viewer for Windows. Point it at a folder and the pictures are there - no library, no catalog, no import step, and no waiting when you page through them.

Start big. Don't open a single shoot: open the top folder of your whole archive and switch on **Recursive** in the toolbar. Twenty years of pictures then sit in front of you as one surface, grouped by year and scrollable in one go. Hardly any other program gives you that view, because they all want to build a catalog first. And since browsing costs you nothing, looking for one picture quickly turns into wandering through the lot.

Opening a folder

Four ways in:

- **Open** in the toolbar, or `Ctrl` + `O`.
- The small arrow next to it lists the folders you opened recently.
- From Explorer: right-click an image, *Open with*, FlashView.
- From Explorer: right-click a folder, *Open in FlashView*.



The grid straight after opening: folder tree on the left, thumbnails on the right. The bottom left corner tells you how many images the folder holds.

The folder is there immediately, no matter how many pictures are in it.

The folder tree

Your archive sits on the left as a tree. Click a folder and you see its pictures - no need to open anything again. That's how you move from a year down to a single shoot and back.

`Shift`+`T` shows and hides the tree; `T` puts the keyboard focus into it so you can walk through your folders with the arrow keys. By default the tree is visible in the grid but not in the loupe, where the space belongs to the picture. Either setting can be changed at any time and is remembered.

`Tab` moves back and forth between the tree and your images. Together with `G` and `L` for the view, that gets you through an entire culling session without leaving the keyboard.

Viewing and paging

Two views, one key between them:

KEY	VIEW
`G`	Grid - the overview
`L`	Loupe - one picture, filling the window

`←` and `→` page through, `Home` and `End` jump to the first and last image. The scroll wheel scrolls the grid and changes the picture in the loupe. `Esc` takes you back one step.

`Ctrl`+scroll changes the thumbnail size - skim a series with small tiles, then go bigger when you want a closer look.

Checking focus

In the loupe a **single click** zooms to 100 %, right where you clicked. Click an eye and you're looking at that eye. Click again for the whole picture; double-click takes you back to the grid.

It's the quickest focus check there is: no zooming first and then hunting for the spot you cared about.



One click on the eyes shows them at full resolution - this is where you find out whether the focus is where you wanted it.

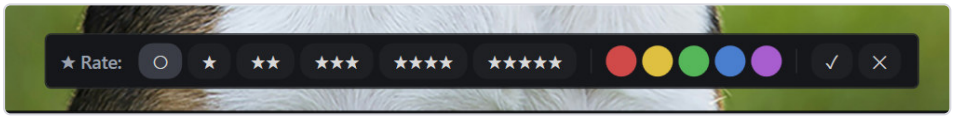
2 Culling

This is the part that eats your evening: finding the twenty keepers among two thousand frames. In FlashView it's one key per decision.

Three ways to rate

AXIS	KEYS	WHAT IT MEANS
Pick / reject	`P` · `X` · `U` to clear	in or out
Stars	`0` - `5`	how good, `0` clears
Color labels	`6` `7` `8` `9` `V`	red, yellow, green, blue, purple

They're independent of each other - a picture can carry four stars, a green label and a pick all at once.



The rating bar shows where the current image stands. `R` shows and hides it.

Prefer the mouse? `R` brings up the rating bar and you click straight into it. In the loupe you can also just move the pointer to the bottom edge of the image - the bar appears for two seconds.

Auto-advance

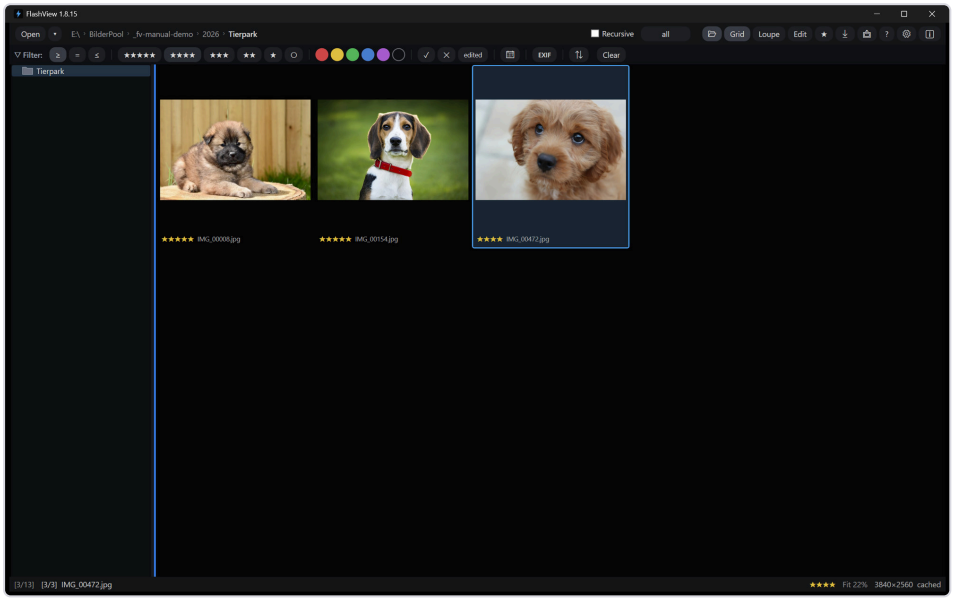
`Caps Lock` turns on **Auto-advance**. From then on every decision moves you to the next picture, and culling becomes a single motion: look, key, look, key.

`Ctrl` + `Z` undoes the last rating, batch operations included, and jumps back to the picture in question.

> **TWO PASSES BEAT ONE**
>
> First pass, nothing but `P` and `X` - in or out, no other thought. Second pass, stars on whatever survived. That's far more reliable than deciding everything about every frame at once.

Narrowing down

The filter bar above the grid shows only the pictures you want to see. It filters what's displayed and never touches your files.



Filtered to four stars and up: three of thirteen images remain. The status bar shows both numbers.

On the left you set the number of stars and whether you mean ≥, = or ≤. Next to that sit the color labels, followed by a ring for images without a color, and the switches for picks and rejects. Everything combines.

Clear drops all filters at once.

> **SEE THE EXIF SHOT DATA - AND FILTER BY IT**
>
> `I` brings up the current photo's EXIF shot data: camera, lens, exposure; `H` shows the histogram. You can also **filter** by those values (camera, lens, ISO): `Shift` + `E` opens the EXIF filter. See the manual for more.

Getting rid of the rejects

Chaining a filter and a selection is the fastest way to tidy up a shoot:

1. Set the reject switch ✕ to *rejects only* - the grid now holds exactly the discards.
2. Press `Ctrl` + `A`, then `Delete`.
3. Confirm, and everything lands in the Windows recycle bin. Nothing is deleted for good.

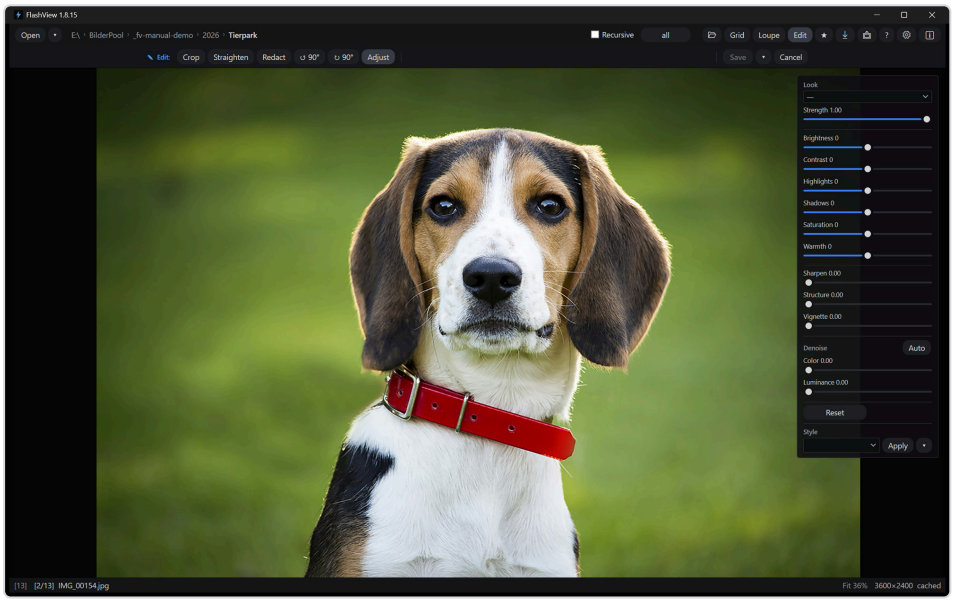
Note that `Ctrl` + `A` selects the **visible** images only, meaning whatever your filter left standing. That's exactly why this works.

3 Editing and sharing

A handful of pictures survive the cull. Some of them need a little work - and then they need to reach someone.

A quick edit PRO

E opens the editor for whatever is in the loupe. The tool bar takes the filter bar's place: crop, straighten, redact and the two rotate buttons on the left, *Save* and *Cancel* on the right. The sliders for brightness, color and sharpness sit at the top right.



Edit mode: the tool bar takes the filter bar's place, sliders on the right, your picture in between.

Open a raw file and you get a full raw development instead, using the same sliders, with all the latitude a raw file carries.

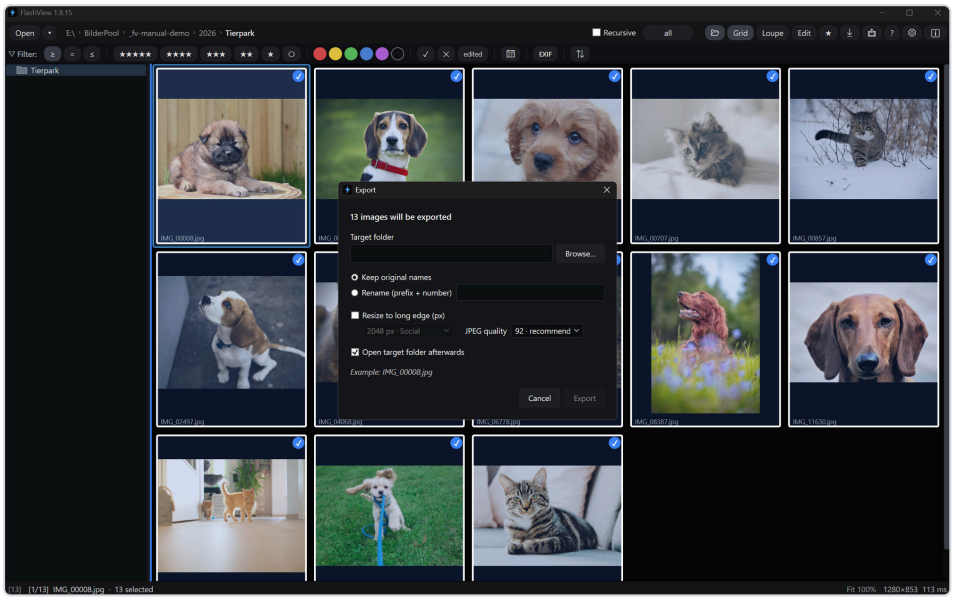
The important part: **your original is never changed.** Your settings are stored as a recipe alongside it, and a finished JPEG is written next to that. You can reopen any edit later and keep adjusting.

E saves and closes, Esc discards.

Editing is part of FlashView Pro; during the trial it's unlocked. Exporting works in either edition.

Sending files out

`Ctrl` + `E` or the export button in the toolbar opens the export. In the grid it exports your selection, or, if you haven't selected anything, the image you're on. To export everything the filter leaves visible, select it all first with `Ctrl` + `A`. In the loupe it's always the image on screen.



The export dialog: destination, naming, size and quality on one screen.

You pick the destination folder, whether to keep the original names or number the files, whether to scale them down, and at what JPEG quality. New files are written; your originals stay untouched.

Or move the files themselves

Sometimes you don't want fresh JPEGs, you want the actual files somewhere else. Use **Copy to folder...** from the grid's context menu: each picture travels with everything that belongs to it, ratings and edit recipe included.

> **JUST SENDING ONE PICTURE**
>
> `Ctrl` + `C` puts the image on the clipboard. Paste it straight into WhatsApp, an email or a document - no export needed.

4 What else FlashView does

That's everything you need day to day. When you want more, it's there:

FEATURE	IN SHORT
Import from card	`Ctrl` + `I` copies the whole card into a dated folder and verifies every file
Compare	`C` puts two frames side by side at matching zoom - for deciding between the final two
Search	`Ctrl` + `F` finds folders and files across your archive, with no database behind it
EXIF shot data	`I` shows camera, lens and exposure, `H` the histogram
Slideshow	`S` runs through a selection or a whole folder
Second monitor	`F11` puts the picture full-screen on the second display while you keep your working view
Sorting	`Shift` + `O` by name, date, rating, color label or size
External editing PRO	Hand a picture to Photoshop; your result comes back on its own when you save

The full manual covers each of these in detail, along with the settings and license handling. You'll find it at **flashview.net**.

The shortcuts worth knowing

KEY	ACTION
`G` / `L`	grid / loupe
`←` `→`	previous / next image
`F`	fullscreen
`Esc`	back one step
`P` / `X` / `U`	pick / reject / clear
`0` - `5`	stars
`6` `7` `8` `9` `V`	color labels
`R`	rating bar
`Caps Lock`	auto-advance
`Ctrl` + `Z`	undo
`Ctrl` + `A` / `Ctrl` + `D`	select all / clear selection
`Delete`	move to recycle bin
`Ctrl` + `C`	copy image to clipboard
`Ctrl` + `O` / `Ctrl` + `E` / `Ctrl` + `I`	open / export / import
`E`	edit
`C`	compare
`Ctrl` + `F`	search
`I` / `H`	EXIF shot data / histogram
`F1`	show shortcuts in the app

`F1` brings this list up in FlashView whenever you need it, so there's nothing to memorize. It's a window of its own and can stay open - on a second monitor if you like - while you keep paging through your pictures.