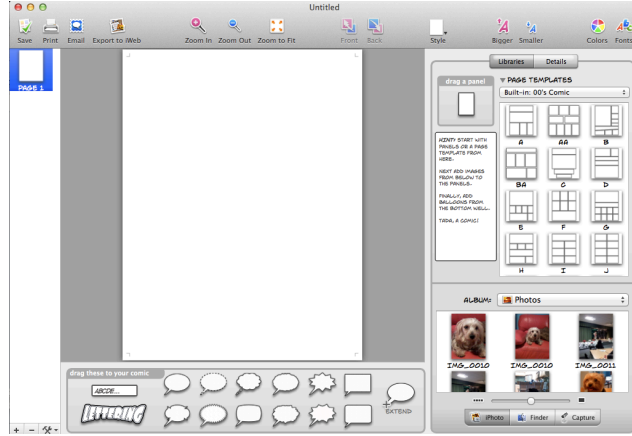


Comic Life 1 – Mac & Windows

The left pane shows your pages and allows you to manage them by adding, removing or re-arranging them. The right side of the window has libraries and settings for page layouts and templates, and also an interface to browse your iPhoto library, albums, and any folder on your hard drive or mounted disks. Use the built-in image capture system in conjunction with a connected/built-in camera.



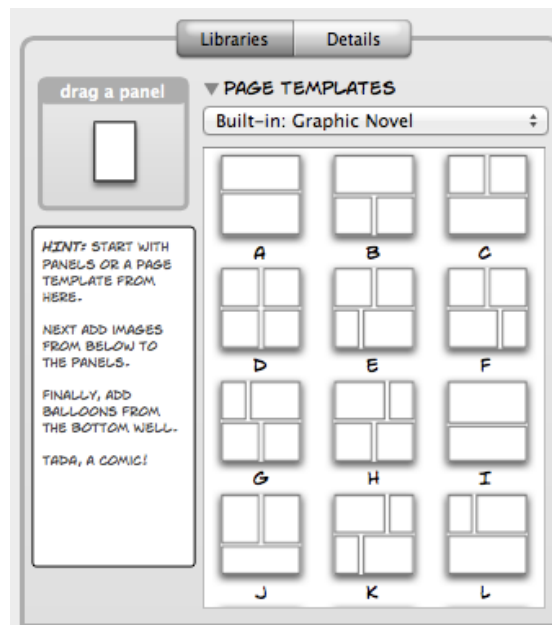
How to Create a Comic in Comic Life

Creating a comic with Comic Life is a simple 5-step process.

Select a template for your new page.

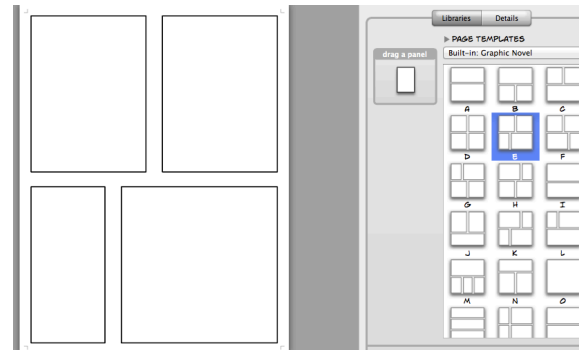
There are over 200 templates in categories such as comics from the 40's, 60's and 80's, manga, graphic novels, and euro comics. Or, you can create your own layout by dragging panels anywhere you want them.

Click on a layout design and drag it over to the left to the blank page, then release the mouse button.



Here panel E is shown to have been selected.

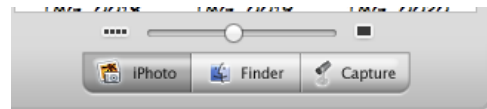
Now you're ready to start adding images!



Add digital images from iPhoto, other disks or a connected digital camera.

What kind of images do you have?

On the bottom right of panel you can either choose I photo, Finder, or Capture, the slide bar over these selections dictate the size of the image in your viewer.



I Photo

You can drag and drop images from the interface of Comic Life (from your iPhoto library or any connected disk), or you can drag items directly from the Finder into Comic Life.

You can adjust the panel size/shape separately from the image's size by selected and dragging the green anchors. You can also rotate the image by clicking on the purple arrow and dragging the image around to a new position.



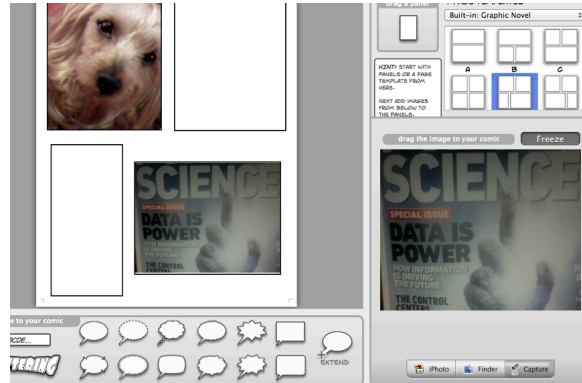
You can adjust the picture size/shape separately from the image's size by selected and dragging the green anchors. Look carefully at the anchors and you can see the difference from image to cell anchors.



You can also rotate the image by clicking on the purple arrow and dragging the image around to a new position.

If you'd like to capture images directly from a camcorder or camera, such as an iSight, you can use the capture feature of Comic Life and create your comic with images you grab on the fly.

- Hold an image in front of the camera
- Click Freeze
- Click and drag the image to a panel on the left
- Re-size the image and/or cell as desired

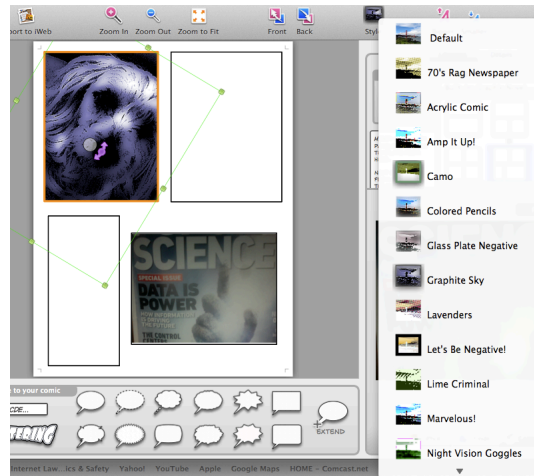


Dragging an image onto a panel will put the image into the panel and crop it so the shortest dimension of the image matches the shortest dimension of the panel.

Select a style/filter for digital images.

You can leave your images in their unfiltered state, but Comic Life's built-in filters and styles give you some very cool control over how 'comicy' your comic looks. If you don't like the pre-defined styles, you can enter your own filter settings to get that perfect look.

- Double click the image (be sure you have image and not the cell anchors)
- Click on "style" below the tool ribbon
- Click on your desired filter
- The picture will change to the desired filtered effect



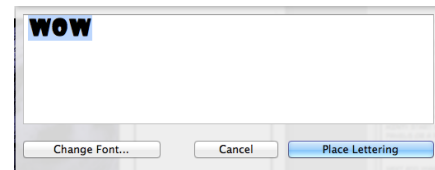
Add lettering, bubbles, and text containers.

Just like almost everything else in Comic Life, adding text is a simple drag and drop process. The text containers at the bottom of the window provide you with different text presentations.



Lettering

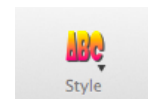
- Click the Lettering icon
- In the pop up window type your desired text
- Click “Place Lettering”
- Your text is placed in the workspace



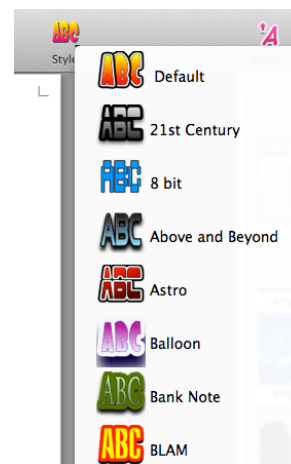
- Click on the anchors and adjust the size, direction, and rotation of the text
- Drag the text to your desired position
-



- To change the lettering style click the “Style” icon in the top Toolbar

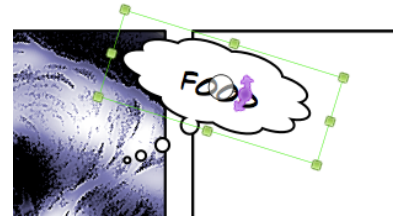


- Then Choose from one of the many options from the drop down list



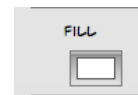
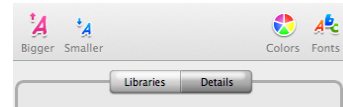
Bubbles

- Select the style of bubble you want (though or speech)
- Drag the bubble onto the cell you wish it to appear
- Use anchors to size your bubble, and drag tail (the blue dot) of the bubble to the desired position (thought to top of head, and speech near to mouth).

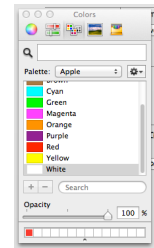


Change Bubble Fill Color

- To change the background of the bubble click the bubble to reveal the green outline box around it
- Then click “details” on the right below the toolbar
- Then click on “Fill” to reveal a color pop up chooser

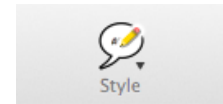


- Select the desired color and now your bubble is the selected color

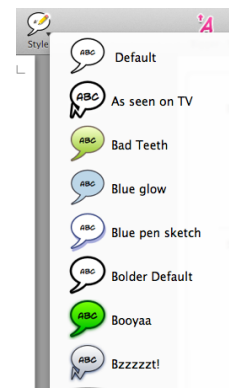


Method Two

- To change the background of the bubble click the bubble to reveal the green outline box around it
- Click The Style tool



- Then from the drop down choose the desired effect wanted



Font Tools

- Use the font tools to make the text bigger
- Highlight the text then click on bigger, every time you click it gets larger
- Click colors to adjust color of text



Text container

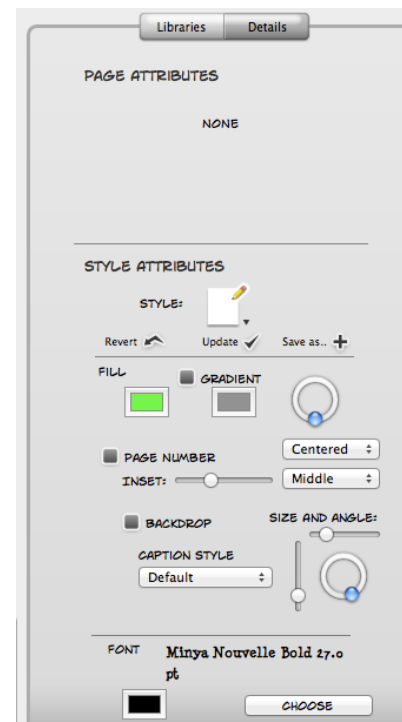
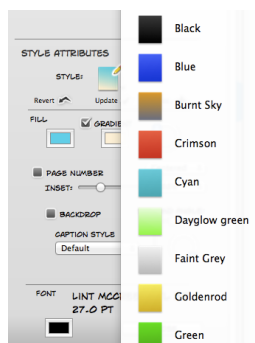
- Click on the text container icon from the bottom tool panel
- The text box automatically appears on the workspace of the comic
- Type your desired text
- Highlight the text then click on bigger, every time you click it gets larger
- Click colors to adjust color of text
- Adjust the size and placement of the text box by using the anchors



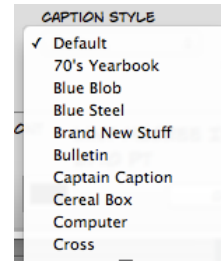
Details

To further customize your page click details

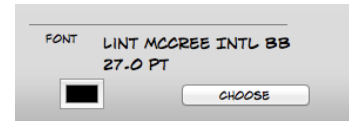
- Under Style Patterns click the drop down arrow and choose a pre designed pattern
- Under Gradient if you move the blue ball it will change the directional flow of the gradient



- Under caption style if you click the down arrow you can change the preset for text style

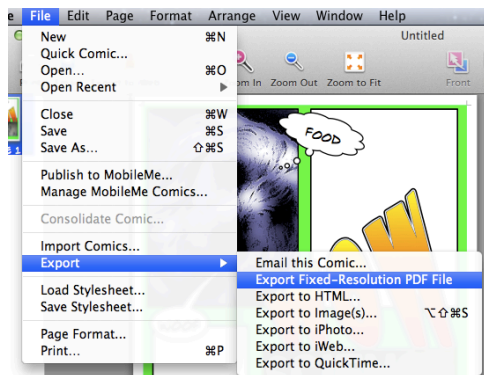


- On the bottom under font click the black box to change the mater color for all text
- Under choose clicking it will open the text selection box for changes to be made to the all font typed.



Save (frequently) and export to your format of choice.

Your export decisions will be based on what you intend to do with the comic when you're done. Comic Life has several export options that allow you to share your work in digital or paper/printed form. The HTML export creates an interface that allows users to 'flip' through your comic page-by-page. Exporting to an album in iPhoto lets you build a quality book and then have it printed by Kodak. (If you're not using iPhoto for that by now, you better look into it!)



Saving

- There are many options to save your work



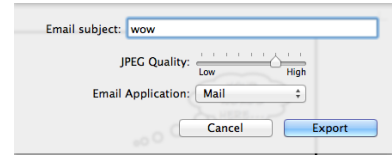
- Click on "Save" to save your work and have the ability to return to it and modify the comic book. It will have a .comicdoc extension name

Print

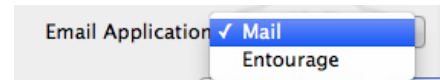
- Click on Print after saving your work to print the comic book.

Email

- Click on email to email the comic book
- Name the “Email Subject”
- Use the slider to select the comic book out put quality

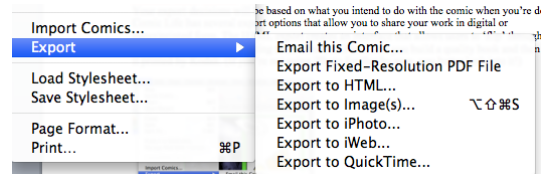


- Under “Email Application” choose your email server
- Then click on export, The comic book will automatically be embedded within the content of your email



Export as PDF

- Click “File” from the ribbon
- Click “Export”
- Choose PDF to be able to add media using Acrobat X Pro

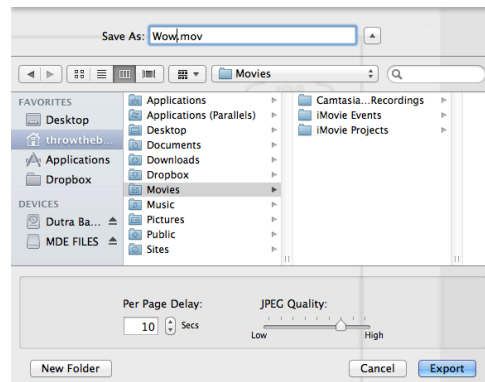


Export as Images

- Choose Images to be able to use in Powerpoint or photo Story
- Choose HTML to use the as web pages

Export as Movie

- Choose Quick time to make it a movie no Special effects.
- Under page per select how long each page will be displayed. Allow reader time to read the text (based on how much text is used).
- Click Export



Sample



Related Links

plasq (the creators of Comic Life)

<http://plasq.com/comiclife>

Comic Life Education Community

<http://plasq.com/forum/edu/>

American Library Association: Comic books and graphic novels

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/backissues2005/february05/c...>

National Council of Teachers of English

<http://www.ncte.org/pubs/chron/highlights/122031.htm>

Comics in the Classroom

<http://www.comicsintheclassroom.net/>

Comics in Education

<http://www.humblecomics.com/comicsedu/>

Comics in Education Web Resources

<http://www.humblecomics.com/comicsedu/web.html>

Education World: Comics in the Classroom

http://www.education-world.com/a_curr/profdev/profdev105.shtml

School Library Journal: Graphic Novels for (Really) Young Readers

<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6312463.html>

Reading Online: New Literacies

http://www.readingonline.org/newliteracies/jaal/11-02_column/

National Association of Comics Art Educators

<http://www.teachingcomics.org/>

Apple iPhoto Kodak Print Services

<http://www.apple.com/ilife/iphoto/features/prints.html>

Read Write Think Comic Ideas

http://www.readwritethink.org/student_mat/student_material.asp?id=21