equinux

CoverScout

Version 3.3

Contents

CoverScout at a Glance

Beautiful new user interface

CoverScout 3 features a completely new, amazing user interface. It is built around the Cover Flow view, which allows you to browse your music collection more easily and elegantly than ever before. A click on an album cover flips it around and reveals the list of tracks on the back. All of CoverScout's powerful features can be accessed through this beautiful user interface.

Work with - and without - iTunes

CoverScout is the perfect companion for iTunes. Any covers you find using CoverScout will show up in your iTunes library and on your iPhone or iPod.

But CoverScout is also ideal if you prefer to use another music application or device: Covers you add with CoverScout are stored directly in your music files, for ultimate flexibility.

Features:
- iTunes will sync CoverScout's covers to iPods, iPhones and Apple TV
- In addition to your iTunes library, other folders can also be scanned for music files

Complete your cover collection

With just a mouse click, CoverScout will search Amazon, Wal-Mart and Google Images websites for cover artwork missing from your collection. Of course, national sites such as amazon.co.uk or amazon.fr are checked as well. All you have to do is pick the best cover – and add it to your collection with a click.

Features:
- Artwork quality ratings
- Find artwork for multiple albums simultaneously
- Numerous search options
- Automatically assign covers using pre-defined rules
- Convenient web search using the integrated browser

Polish your cover artwork

The built-in image editor lets you fix small flaws, scale covers to the desired size and improve colors and contrast. With these powerful tools at hand you can get the best out of your artwork in a few seconds and the results will appears in your music collection immediately. Using the integrated iSight support, you can even capture covers using your Mac's internal iSight.

Features:
- Trim, straighten, or scale cover images
- Automatically detects image margins
- Color correction
- Add colored frames
- Capture images with iSight and other cameras

Print pro-quality CD inserts

You burned your own audio CDs and now need some artwork? Using the all-new printing feature, you can produce professional CD inserts in an instant. The inserts will fit perfectly into standard jewel cases (front, back, and booklet) or slim cases. Plus, a selection of professionally-designed templates is included for free.

Features:
- Booklets for jewel cases and slim cases (single or double-sided) and tray inserts for jewel cases
- 5 printing templates included
- Supports various brands of pre-cut papers
- Printer calibration ensures exact placement

Installation and Activation

This chapter explains all steps necessary to start using CoverScout.

Installing CoverScout

Before you can start your quest for covers, CoverScout must be installed on your computer.

If you bought CoverScout at a retailer:
1   Insert the CoverScout CD into your Mac's CD/DVD drive.
2   Double-click the CoverScout CD icon on your Desktop.
3   Double-click "Install CoverScout" and follow the onscreen instructions.

If you downloaded CoverScout from our website:
1   Double-click the CoverScout_3.dmg file.
2   Double-click "Install CoverScout" and follow the onscreen instructions.

Activating CoverScout

Before you can use all of CoverScout's features, you have to purchase a license and activate the program on your computer. That is done easily and quickly over the Internet. We're going to take a look at how to purchase CoverScout, how to activate CoverScout and how to move Cover-Scout to another computer.

Your equinux ID

Your equinux ID will be used to store and manage your equinux products. If you don't yet have an equinux ID yet, the following section will explain how to create one. Please keep your equinux ID and password in a safe place as you'll need this information again to use your equinux products.

Purchasing CoverScout

You can buy online directly within CoverScout. All you need is a connection to the Internet.

To purchase CoverScout:
1   Open CoverScout, and select CoverScout > Buy CoverScout… from the menu bar.
2   A window will appear and you can order your copy of CoverScout.

If you paid via credit card, your license will then be added to your equinux ID and CoverScout will be activated on your Mac, once your card details have been verified

If you paid via bank transfer or PayPal, we will send you an email as soon as we receive your payment. Afterwards, you'll be able to activate CoverScout using the equinux ID and password you created in our Online Store.

Activate CoverScout with your equinux ID (Online Store)

The activation of our products is very easy. You just need your personal equinux ID and your password. You created your account when you purchased the license in our store or initially activated a retail box license. In this case you don't need your activation code any more.

If you forgot your equinux ID and/or your password, please try this:

https://www.equinux.com/eqnetwork/store/forgotpw.html

To activate using your equinux ID:
1   Open CoverScout, and select CoverScout > Activate CoverScout… from the menu bar.

2   Log in with your equinux ID and password and you will then be guided through the activation process.

Activate Your Retail Store Box

If you bought CoverScout at a retailer, you should have received an "Activation Code". Using this code you can activate CoverScout on your computer.

To activate using an Activation Code:
1   Open CoverScout, and select CoverScout > Activate CoverScout… from the menu bar.

2a If you already have an equinux ID, please sign in using this ID.

2b If this is your first equinux product, click Create equinux ID and enter the required information.

3   Finally, enter your Activation Code.

CoverScout will then be added to your equinux ID and activated on your Mac. The next time you need to install CoverScout you don't need the Activation Code any longer. Please store your equinux ID and your password on a save place.

Moving a license to another computer

All licenses for equinux products are hardware-bound. That means each activation is valid for exactly one computer. In order to activate Cover-Scout on another computer, you'll first need to reset your license.

To transfer a license to another computer:
1   Open CoverScout on your old computer, and select "CoverScout > De-activate CoverScout…" from the menu bar. The license is now available and you can activate the software on another Mac.

2   Install CoverScout on your new Mac.

3   Choose "CoverScout > Activate CoverScout…" on your new Mac. Cover-Scout.

Tip If you no longer have access to your old Mac, you can also visit http://my.equinux.com and reset your license there.

Note Once you've done this, you will no longer be able to use the software on your old Mac. To move the license again, repeat the process described above.

Your Music Collection

Before you get started, CoverScout will find and index all albums and tracks in your music collection. By default, CoverScout will scan the "Music" folder in your home directory for music files.

You can also specify additional folders in which CoverScout will look for music. For more information about this, see the chapter "Preferences."

Note CoverScout will need a while the first time it scans for music. During that time, you can work with the files that CoverScout has already found. But don't worry: CoverScout stores this information, so subsequent launches will be much faster.

Tip If the contents of your library change while CoverScout is open, you'll need to reload the library in order for the changes appear in CoverScout. Just quit and relaunch CoverScout to update your collection.

Where are my covers stored?

Unlike iTunes, CoverScout stores cover images within the corresponding music file, as a so-called ID3 tag. This has the advantage that the cover is stored directly with the song file, and will also show up in applications other than iTunes as well as other devices.

Note iTunes may need some time before it will display your new Covers.

Tip You can force iTunes to immediately update the iTunes library with your new covers by simply playing the song in iTunes, or by scrolling through your songs in Cover Flow.

A Tour of CoverScout

This chapter gives you an overview of the user interface and all the windows you'll find in CoverScout.

Once you launch the application, you'll see the main window. Here you'll be able to browse through your music collection, search for covers and edit the artwork in your music library. CoverScout also has a few additional windows offering other features.

The Main Window

CoverScout's main window will show you all albums in your music collection in a 3D "Cover Flow" view, similar to the one you're probably familiar with from iTunes. Flip through the covers by dragging the scroll bar or by clicking immediately to the left or right of the current album.

The symbols underneath the currently selected cover represent the main actions you can perform with CoverScout. Roll over each button to find out what it does.

Starts a cover search for the selected album. See chapter "Searching for Covers."

Opens a window for searching covers on the web for the current album. See chapter "Searching for Covers."

Opens the window for printing CD inserts. See chapter "Printing Covers."

Opens the image editing view for the album in front. See chapter "Editing covers."

Each feature will be explained in more detail in the following chapters.

Tip Read the appendix "Keyboard Shortcuts", to find out how you can access and control most of CoverScout's features from your keyboard.

Use the scroll bar to flip through your music collection.

Shows or hides the album list.

Shows or hides the Cover Clipboard.

Shows or hides the Info window.

The Album List

You'll notice a list of all your albums at the right hand side of the main window. Select "View > Show / Hide Album List" to see a list of all your albums in addition to the Cover Flow view. Alternatively you can also click the button in the lower left corner of the window to show or hide the Album List. You can also select multiple albums and start multiple searches simultaneously. To select multiple albums, hold down the shift or command key on your keyboard and then click on titles in the Album List to select them.

While CoverScout is performing a search for an album, a rotating "spinning wheel" will appear next that album in the Album List. Once a search has been completed, the number of covers found will be displayed.

Tip After a search, you can click on a number in the Album List to jump directly to the search results for that album.

The Track List

When you move your mouse over the currently selected album in the main window, an arrow will appear in the top right corner of that cover. You can flip the cover over and display a track list for that album by clicking the arrow.

Click here to toggle the track list view

Use the playback controls to play a song in iTunes.

Radiohead
In Rainbows

1 15 Step

2 Bodysnatchers   4:02

3 Nude   4:15

4 Weird Fishes/Arpeggi   5:18

5 All I Need   3:49

6 Faust Arp   2:10

7 Reckoner   4:50

8 Jigsaw Falling Into Place   4:09

9 Videotape   4:40

Radiohead — In Rainbows (500 × 450)
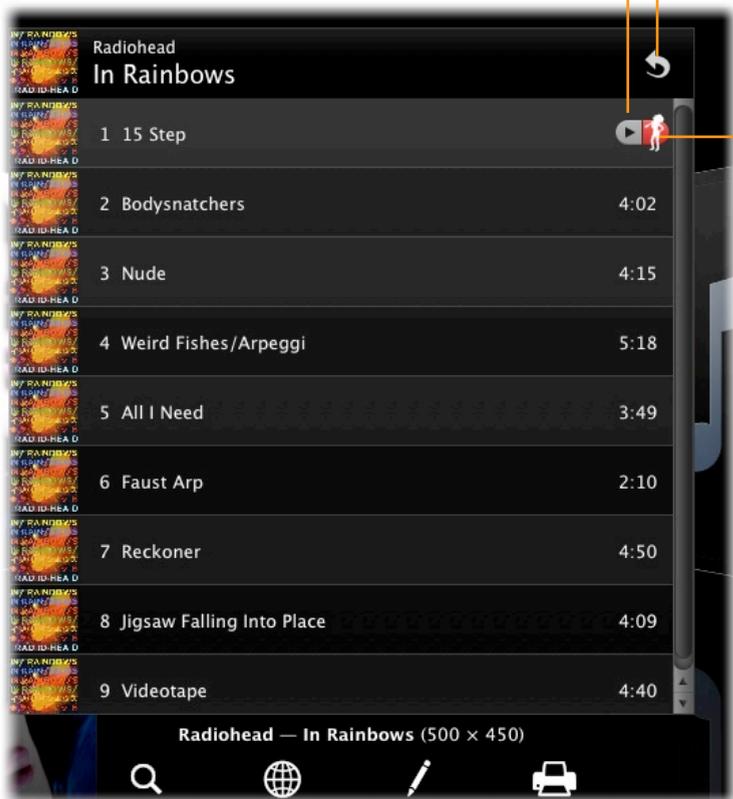
Click here to identify this track in Song-Genie

If you have selected a track in that list, any actions or edits you perform (e.g. copy, delete) will only be applied to that particular track. If no track is selected, actions and edits are always applied to the entire album.

As covers are stored directly in the individual music files, each track in an album can be assigned a different cover. In the main window, CoverScout usually displays the cover of the first track in the album, but you can view and edit the covers of each track individually by selecting it in the track list.

To edit an individual track's cover:
Move your mouse over the currently selected album in the main window and click the arrow in the upper right corner. Then select one of the tracks from the list and choose an action from the icons below.

Filter Your Albums

You can filter your music collection so CoverScout will only display those albums matching your criteria. Select "View > Show Album Filter" or click the toolbar button in the top right corner of the main window to reveal the Album Filter.

Click this button to show or hide the Album

Filter by Cover status   Filter by album type   Search field

To filter your albums by cover status:
Choose an option from the Album Filter's left drop-down menu.

The option "Albums without covers" is particularly useful if you're trying to complete your library's artwork: Select this option to see all the albums you need to work on to complete your collection.

Note Selecting "Album without covers" will display any albums or tracks that don't have album artwork embedded directly within their files. This can include tracks that you have previously covered using iTunes' "Get Album Artwork" feature.

To filter by album type:
Choose an option from the middle drop-down menu.

This will allow you to show or hide any compilation albums (i.e. a single album with multiple artists) in your music library.

To filter by Artist, Album or Track name:
Click into the search box at the far right of the Album Filter and start typing. CoverScout will starting searching as you type and will filter your library for your search term.

If you enter multiple search terms, CoverScout will only show those albums that match all of the criteria you've entered.

To remove all filters:
Select "View > Hide Album Filter" or click the toolbar icon in the top left corner of the window to remove all filters and hide the Album Filter.

Working with Covers

In the main window you can use common commands such as copy & paste or drag & drop to assign a new cover to the currently selected album or track.

To apply a new cover:
Select "Edit > Paste" to apply an image you had previously copied to your clipboard to your current selection. Or just drag & drop an image file onto the album or track name.

To copy a cover:
Select "Edit > Copy" or "Edit > Cut" to copy the currently selected artwork to your clipboard. You can also drag & drop covers to the finder or into another application.

To delete a cover:
Select "Edit > Delete" or press Command-Backspace on your keyboard to delete covers. The covers of all currently selected albums will be deleted.

The Inspector Window

The Inspector window will show you additional information about the currently selected album or title. Select "Window > Show Inspector" or press the icon at the bottom left of the main window to open the Info Window.
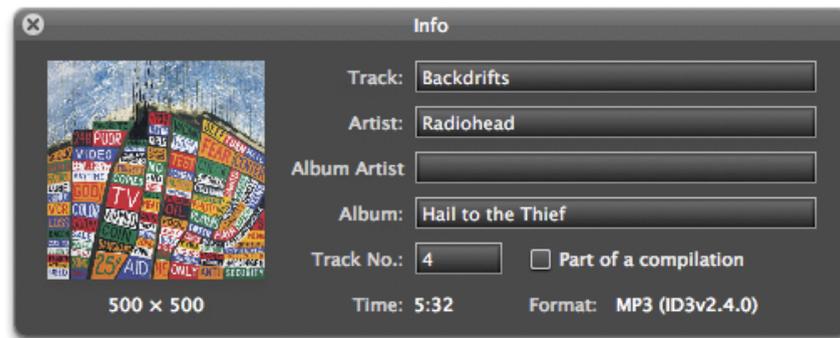
You can also edit album and track information in the Inspector window. This will change the information tags that are stored inside your music files.

To edit track or album information:
Bring up the Inspector window by pressing the icon in the bottom left corner of the main window. Then simply click inside one of the info fields and start typing.

The Cover Clipboard

The Cover Clipboard window is a handy place for you to store covers for re-use later. You can store an large number of images there and they will still be available even if you quit and later re-launch CoverScout. To show the Clipboard window, select "Window > Show Cover Clipboard" or click the button at the bottom left of the main window.

To add a cover to the Cover Clipboard, simply drag and drop a cover into the Cover Clipboard window. You can also drag in images from the Finder or other applications. To re-arrange the order of the covers, simply drag a cover to another position on the clipboard.

The Cover Clipboard window will automatically expand as you add more covers to it. If the window is getting too large, you can resize it by dragging the dot at the right edge of the window to the left. A scroll bar will appear, in order to allow you to access all the covers on the clipboard.

To remove items from the Cover Clipboard, simply select a cover (or hold down the Command or Select keys on your keyboard to select multiple covers) and then press Backspace key. Alternatively you can also drag a cover to the trash can in your Dock.

To assign a cover in the Cover Clipboard to an album or a title, simply drag the cover onto the album or title.

To save a cover you have in the Cover Clipboard as an image file, drag it to your Desktop. To use a cover in another application, select it and select "Edit > Copy" (or "Edit > Cut"). Then switch to an application that accepts image files and select "Edit > Paste".

Show a Cover's Full Size

With CoverScout you can use a "Quick Look" like Preview to view a selected cover's actual size. Select "Window > Show Full Size Cover" to use this feature.

An even faster way to use "Show Full Size" is to simply select a cover and then tap the space bar. To close the "Show Full Size" window, simply tap the space bar a second time.

You can use the "Show Full Size" feature with selected tracks and albums, search results and images you've stored in the Cover Clipboard.

Searching for Covers

CoverScout automatically searches Amazon, Wal-Mart and Google Images for high-resolution cover images. You can also grab images from any website using the built-in Web Search tool. With these powerful tools at your side, you'll be able to find covers for all your tracks in a heartbeat.

Starting a New Search

Now that we've taken a look at CoverScout's user interface, it's time to get started with our first cover searches.

To search for album covers:
1   Pick an album that has no cover or for which you would like to find a better cover.

2   Click the Search icon below the album cover, or select Search > Start Search or hit the Return key on your keyboard.

CoverScout will start searching several websites for suitable album covers. The search results area will appear just above the album, displaying the search results as they arrive. While CoverScout is searching for one album, you can also select another album and start additional searches. It's also possible to start searches for multiple albums at once:

To search for covers for multiple albums:
1   Make sure the album list is visible (see chapter "A Tour of CoverScout").

2   Select the desired albums in the album list. You can select multiple items by holding down the shift or command key while clicking.

3   Select Search > Start Searches.

See the "Preferences" chapter in this manual for more information on how to choose which websites CoverScout searches for covers.

Note If the search results area is visible and you switch to an album for which no search has been started, CoverScout will begin searching automatically after a few seconds.

Viewing and Assigning Search Results

Shortly after you've started a search, any covers found will appear in the search results area just above the selected album. Below each result, a quality rating (one to five stars) or the image size in pixels will be shown.

Click here to close the search results.

Navigate between pages of search results using these arrows.
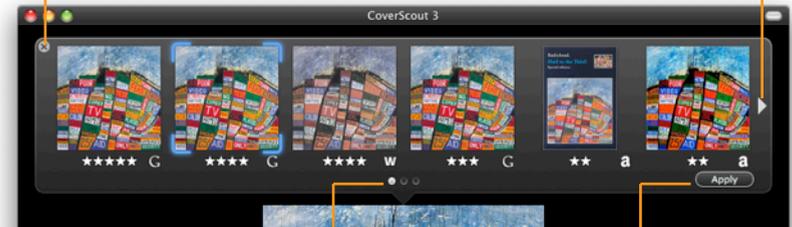
These dots indicate the number of search results

Click here to apply the currently selected cover.

Tip In order to get a better idea of a cover's image quality, it is often handy to use the "Show Full Size Cover" feature, as described in the chapter "A Tour of CoverScout". Simply select a cover and then tap the space bar to preview the image.

To assign a search result:
1   Click a search result to select it. You can also change the selection using the arrow keys (left/right).

2   Click Apply or press Return. The image will be assigned to the selected album or track, replacing any existing covers.

Tip You can also assign a search result by double-clicking it.

Where are my covers stored?

Unlike iTunes, CoverScout stores cover images within the corresponding music file, as a so-called ID3 tag. This has the advantage that the cover is stored directly with the song file, and will show up in applications other than iTunes as well as other devices.

The search results display can be configured as follows:

To switch between rating and image size:
Choose "Search > Sort Result Size as > Rating" or " Sort Result Size as > Pixels". Alternatively, you can double-click the stars or number of pixels in the search results area.

To set the order in which search results are displayed:
Choose "Search > Sort Results by > Image Size" or "Sort Results by > Order of Arrival".

How search results are rated

CoverScout rates images it finds by their size:

Smaller than 300 Pixels ★
Smaller than 400 Pixels ★★
Smaller than 500 Pixels ★★★
Smaller than 600 Pixels ★★★★
Above ★★★★★

Change the Search Options to get Better Results

When performing a standard search, CoverScout uses the names of the artist and album as search terms. However, there are situations where using a different search term might increase the number of hits. In addition to modifying the search terms, CoverScout also allows you to choose the websites being searched for each search individually.

To start a search with options:
1 Pick an album.

2 Select "Search > Search With Options…"

3 Change the search terms (artist and album name) as desired.

4 Select the websites to be searched.

5 Click Search.

Reapplying Covers

If just one song of an album has a cover, you can easily copy that cover to all the other songs of that album as well.

This may be the case if you've identified a song with SongGenie as belonging to an existing album.

CoverScout makes it simple to apply that album's cover to all the songs. Just drag a song's cover to the album thumbnail to reapply the artwork to all the songs within the album.

Drag the song's cover thumbnail here to apply it to all songs on the selected album.

Automatically Assign Covers to Your Music

If you have a lot of albums that are missing covers in your collection, it might get tedious searching and selecting the best cover for every single album by hand. In this case the "Search & Assign" feature will come in handy: It automatically picks the best search result based on criteria you can define and then automatically assigns it to an album.

To start a search with automatic assignment:

1 Select one or more albums (select multiple albums via the album list).

2 Choose Search > Start Search & Assign automatically…

3 Define the minimum criteria a cover has to meet in order to be assigned automatically.

4 Choose the method by which CoverScout selects the best cover out of all covers that meet those criteria:

‣ "First matching cover" assigns the first cover which meets the criteria. This is the fastest way to have a cover applied.

‣ "Largest matching cover" waits until the search finishes and then picks the largest cover which meets the criteria.

‣ "Only if there's exactly one matching cover" only assigns a result if exactly one cover matches the criteria.

5 Click Search.

In the search results viewer, results which have been automatically applied are indicated by a red frame.
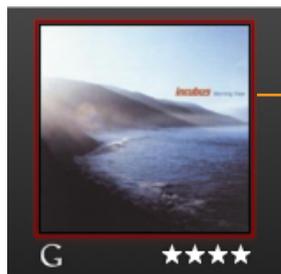
The red frame indicates an automatically assigned cover.

Searching the Web to Get Covers

From time to time there may be situations where CoverScout's standard search does not deliver any results. To find the more rare cover images, CoverScout features a built-in web search, which allows you to extend your search to the entire World Wide Web.

The web search browser is similar to Safari. Unlike Safari, however, you don't have to cumbersomely copy each image to the Clipboard: CoverScout automatically recognizes possible cover images and applies them to an album or track with a single click.

To start a web search:

1 Go to an album for which you would like to find a cover.

2 Click Web Search below the album cover, or choose Search > Search the Web…

The web search window will open. By default, CoverScout opens several tabs and loads websites which offer cover images. It uses the artist and title of the current album as search terms. Using the address and search fields at the top, you can also navigate to any other website. See the chapter "Preferences" on how to customize the pages which are loaded by default.

Click to go to the previous or next page.

Enter an address and press Return to go to that website.

Enter a search term and press Return to start a Google search.

Click to reload the page.

Use the tab bar to switch between several websites. Click the + to open a new tab.
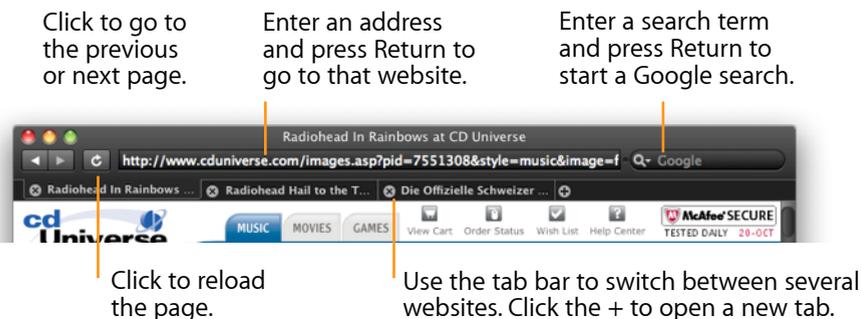
Once you found the right Cover, move the mouse over it. The image will be highlighted visually, and a button will appear. Click it to apply the image to the current album or track.

Move the mouse over an image and click "Apply to Selection" to apply the cover to the selected album or track.

You can also add the highlighted image to the Cover Clipboard: Just hold down the option key while the mouse is over an image, and click "Add to Cover Clipboard."

Tip CoverScout only highlights certain images which it recognizes as cover images. The image needs to have a certain minimum size and be approximately square.

SongGenie: Name your Tunes

If your music files are missing information, CoverScout may not be able to find album artwork.
But don't worry: SongGenie is here to help!

SongGenie creates an acoustic fingerprint of your music track. Using this data, it compares your song's information to that in the MusicIP database and suggests missing information.

A free demo of SongGenie is available on the equinux website:
http://equinux.com/goto/getsonggenie

Looking up whole albums with SongGenie
If CoverScout detects that an album is missing artist, album or song name information, a red hint will be shown. Click the hint to view the selected songs in SongGenie.

Looking up individual songs with SongGenie
You may also want to look up information for a specific song. To do so, move your mouse over the album cover and click the arrow to flip the cover over and reveal the track list.

Then click the arrow icon next to song track to identify it with SongGenie.

Click here to identify a song in songGenie

Working with iTunes Covers

CoverScout 3 can import and display iTunes covers. You can also move iTunes cover directly into your song files – for maximum portability.

CoverScout 3 will automatically fetch and display any covers iTunes may have found for your songs. If you'd like to disable this feature, please refer to the Chapter **Preferences**.

Moving iTunes covers to your song files

Unlike CoverScout 3, iTunes stores any covers it finds in a separate album artwork database – not in your music files. CoverScout 3 can move your iTunes covers into your music files, so your collection will always look great, no matter which music player you're using.

To move your iTunes covers:

▸ Select File > Move iTunes Covers to Files

▸ Pick whether you would like to move the covers of all your albums, or just the currently selected album.

Your iTunes covers will be copied from the iTunes artwork database and stored directly within your music files.

Editing Covers

In this chapter you'll learn how to use CoverScout's built-in image editing tools to have your covers appear in the best light. In addition, you can use an iSight camera to take snapshots of your CD covers.

Cover images found on the Internet can vary greatly in quality. Poorly scanned images, for example, often show ugly margins at the edges or have washed-out colors. You can fix these covers using the powerful image editing tools built right into CoverScout, allowing you to spruce up your covers right within the application.

The Image Editing View

In the main window, select an album or a single track and click Edit or select "Cover > Edit Cover" from the menu bar. CoverScout will switch to the editing view. You can also open the editing view for albums or tracks with no cover: in this case the editing tools are disabled, but you can capture images using your Mac's built-in, or any Quicktime compatible camera.

If all tracks in an album have the same cover image, you will usually want to select all tracks. However, if tracks have different covers – for example in a compilation – you can also edit the covers of one or more tracks individually. To do so, drag the bar at the top edge of the editing area downwards. Then you can click the individual tracks you wish to edit. Hold down Command or Shift whilst clicking to select multiple tracks.

If you have started to edit a cover and then change the track selection, CoverScout will ask you whether to save or discard the changes you have already made.

Once you are done editing, click Save or Cancel to return to the main view.

Tracks on the album

Drag this bar to reveal or hide tracks.

Editing tools

View size
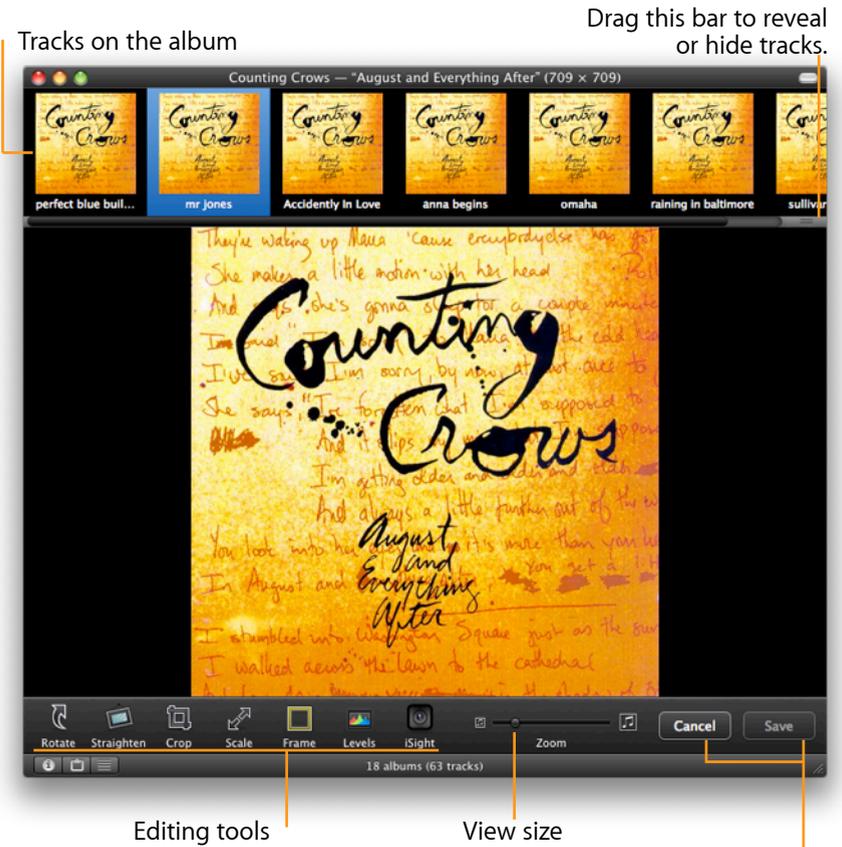
Click Save or Cancel to return to the main view.

Tip You can change the selected album without leaving the editing view by using the commands in the View menu, the corresponding keyboard shortcuts, or the album list. If you have made any changes, CoverScout will ask you whether to save or discard them before changing the album. At the bottom of the editing view, you'll find all the editing tools that you can use to fix or improve your covers:

Rotate

To turn the cover by 90 degrees clockwise, click Rotate. You can reverse the rotation direction by holding down the option key.

Rotating in 90-degree steps is always lossless. To rotate covers by smaller angles, use the Straighten tool.

Straighten

Cover that are scanned in are often not perfectly straight on the scanner and skewed margins are visible. You can correct such errors by rotating the image slightly using the Straighten tool.


Move the slider until the upper edge of the cover is parallel to the yellow quides.

Click Apply when the image is exactly straight.
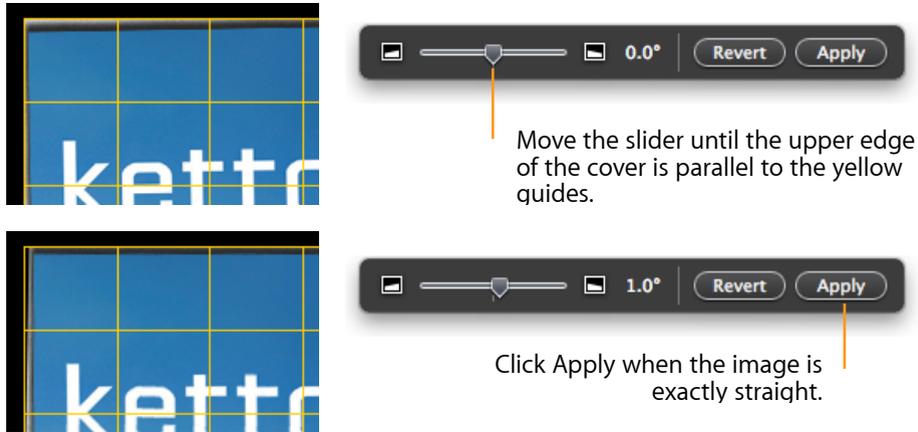
Tip You can also change the rotation angle using the left/right arrow keys.

After straightening the cover, any overlapping margins can be removed using the Crop tool.

Crop

With this tool you can trim the edges of an image. This is often useful after straightening an image, as can be seen on the cover from our previous example:

Adjust the frame so it encloses the areas of the cover which you'd like to keep.

Image size after cropping

Finally click Apply.

Select this option to make sure the cropping rectangle is exactly square. (You can also hold down the shift key while adjusting the rectangle to accomplish this.)

The trimmed cover image
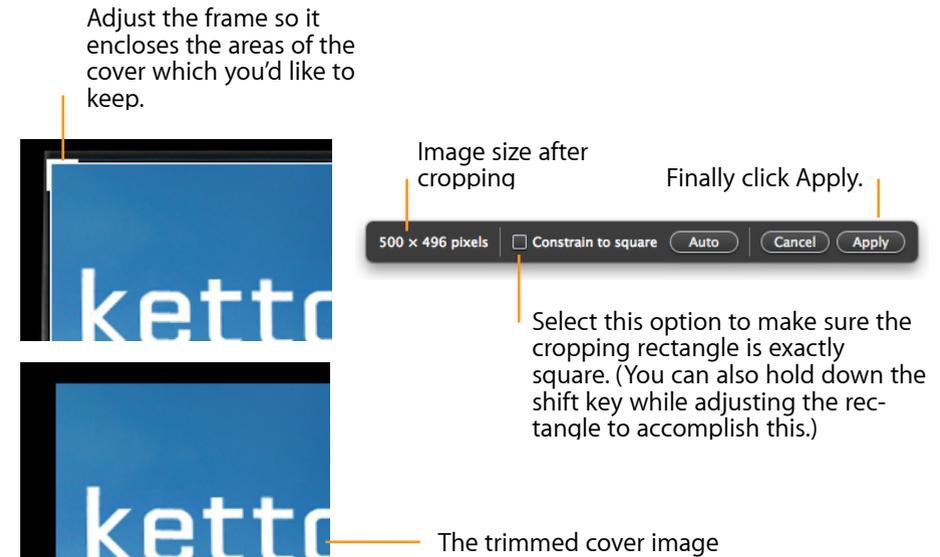
Some covers found on the Internet might have a colored margin. When you click the Auto button, CoverScout looks for such a single-colored margin and adjusts the cropping rectangle accordingly. You can readjust the rectangle manually afterwards.

Tip You can also change the position of the cropping rectangle using the arrow keys.

Scale

The Scale feature allows you to change the size of your covers. By limiting the size of your covers you can save disk space, e.g. on your iPod or iPhone.

Choose the desired size from the pop-up menu. Images will always be scaled proportionally, that is, the width-height ratio is preserved. If you select Custom…, you can scale the image to any arbitrary size.
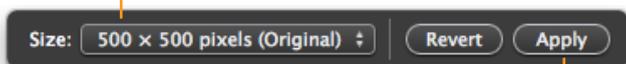
Afterwards click Apply.

Tip Press the up/down arrow keys to select the previous/next size from the pop-up menu.

Frame

The Frame tool allows you to add a colored frame around small covers, to change their size without losing image detail.

Choose the size the image should have after adding the frame. If you choose Custom…, you can set an arbitrary size.

Click here to open the color panel and choose a color.

When you're satisfied with the result, click Apply.

Tip Press the up/down arrow keys to select the previous/next size from the pop-up menu.

Levels

Scanned images often have color inaccuracies and are often too light or too dark. These types of issues can be corrected using the Levels feature.

The Levels feature displays a histogram, showing a graphical representation of the distribution of brightness values within an image. The left side represents black, the right side white, and all other possible brightness values lie on the horizontal axis in between. The vertical axis shows how often a certain brightness value appears in the image. CoverScout's levels graph distinguishes between red, green, and blue tones, the three base colors which images are composed of internally.

If an image is too bright, its histogram does not touch the left point, which means the image doesn't contain pure black. For images that are too dark, the histogram does not touch the right point.

To correct the colors in an image:

1   Click Levels.

2   If your cover is too bright, move the slider for black (left) below the histogram to the right until it just touches the histogram. Observe how the image changes, and adjust the slider to your liking. If your cover is too dark, move the slider for white (right) to the left accordingly. If the cover generally lacks contrast, move both sliders.

3   Click Apply.

Instead of you having to adjust the values manually, the Levels window includes an Auto button. When you click it, CoverScout automatically determines optimal black and white points for the image. It moves the black and white sliders to the right and left until the corresponding brightness value for either red, green or blue appears in at least 1 percent of the image area.

Using the automatic brightness optimization you can significantly improve many covers with only a few mouse clicks. However, please bear in mind that this feature is not suitable for all images. Single-colored covers or covers which intentionally contain only light or dark colors will require manual adjustments.
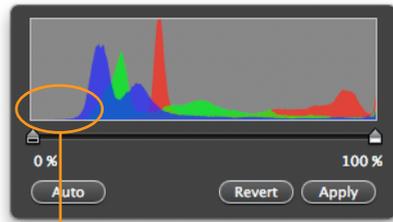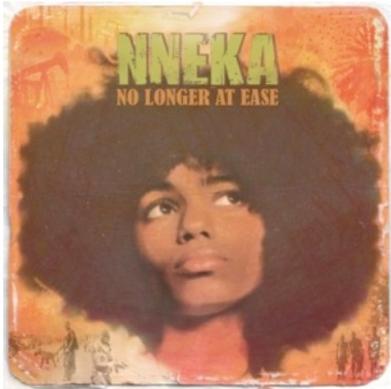
The histogram does not begin at the left edge: the cover image appears too pale.
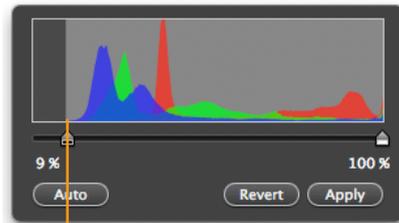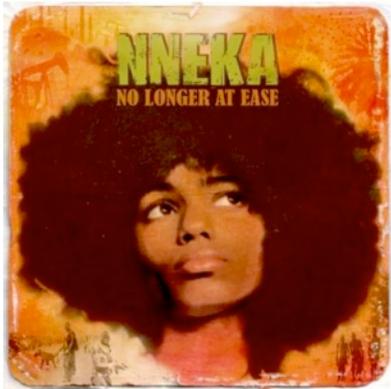
Move the black slider to the right until it just touches the histogram.

Tip If you have a cover with a white background whose white point you would like to adjust, it is often helpful to see the image on a white background. In such situations, simply double-click the black area around the cover to temporarily switch to a white background.

iSight

If your Mac has a built-in iSight camera or an external QuickTime-compatible camera attached to it, you can use it to capture the covers of CDs you own.

To capture an image with a camera:

1 Click iSight.

2 If multiple cameras are attached, a pop-up menu will appear, prompting you to select which camera to use.

3 Place the cover in front of the camera. To avoid reflections, try taking your CD covers out of the case.

4 Check the camera image preview and make sure that the cover is fully captured by the camera. The cover does not need to completely fill the camera image though, since you will be able to trim the image later.

5 Click the capture button.

After capturing a cover, you can improve it using all the other edit tools.

Undoing Changes in Edit Mode

All changes in the image editing view can be undone, until you leave the editing view or select a different album or track.

‣ Select Edit > Undo to undo your most recent change.

‣ Select Edit > Undo multiple times to undo several changes.

‣ To undo one or more Edit > Undo operations, choose Edit > Redo one or more times.

‣ To undo all changes and revert to the version of the cover you had before your entered the editing view, simply click Cancel.

## Copying Images and Saving Them as a File

To copy the current image to another application, select Edit > Copy (or Cut). Then switch to an application which can process images and select Edit > Paste.

To create a file from the current cover image, drag the cover to the desktop. (This is only possible when you are not in editing mode.)

Printing Covers

Using CoverScout's printing features you can create attractive inlays for your CD's jewel and slim cases. Several professionally designed templates are included.

After you have found covers for your entire library, you can use the print feature to print your own CD inlays. CoverScout can create the following types of inlays:
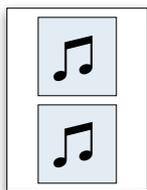
| Single-sided booklet | Jewel case back | Jewel case front & back | Double-sided booklet |
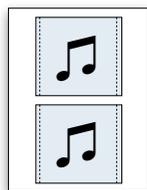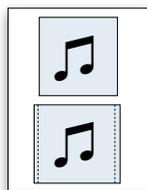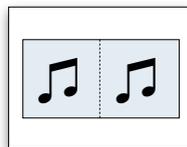
"Single-sided" and "double-sided" booklets are designed to fit in the lid of standard CD jewel and slim cases. "Jewel case back" prints will fit the backing tray of a standard jewel case.

To print a CD-inlay:

1   Select one or several albums from the Album List

2   Click the "Print" icon located directly under the currently selected cover in the main window, or choose "File > Print" from the menu bar. The "Print Covers" window will open (see screenshot).

3   Select the type of inlay you wish to print from the drop down menu at the top left of the "Print Covers" window.

4   Pick one of the printing templates

5   Click "Page Setup" and make sure the paper type and format matches the paper in your printer. CoverScout will remember these settings for future print jobs.

6   Check "Crop Marks" if you would like those to be included on your printed inlay.

7   Click "Print", choose your printer and then click "Print" again.

Preferences

This chapter explains the various options available in CoverScout's Preferences window.

Select CoverScout > Preferences… to open the Preferences window. The window is separated in General, Search and Web Search.

Determining Where to Look for Music Files

In the General pane of the Preferences window, you can specify the locations in which CoverScout will look for music files.

To add your iTunes music:
CoverScout will search in your "Music" folder by default, which usually also includes the default location of your iTunes library. If you have chosen to store your entire iTunes library or parts of your library elsewhere, you will need to add those locations.

To add additional music locations outside of your "Music" folder:
Click the "+" icon and navigate to the folder you would like CoverScout to search in. Click "Add" and CoverScout will begin searching through that folder and any sub-folders it finds for music files.

Tip You can temporarily deactivate search locations by unchecking the "Active" box for that location.

Synchronize with iTunes Library

When you enable this option, any covers that iTunes has downloaded will show up in CoverScout as well.

SongGenie hints

Untitled and incorrect music titles in your music collection are history. SongGenie analyzes, identifies and completes your iTunes library by acoustically looking up title, artist and album information for all of your songs.

You can jump directly to a track in SongGenie from CoverScout by enabling this
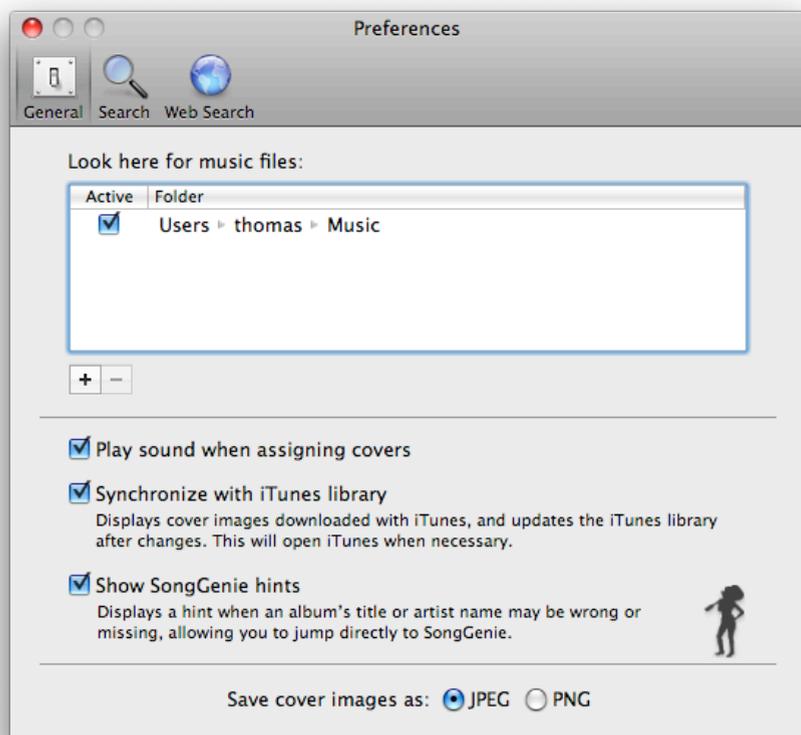
Choosing the Format for Saved Images

The "Save cover images as" setting in the General pane controls in which image format cover images will be stored within your music files. Cover-Scout will also use this format to store any cover images you drag to the Desktop.

Additional General Preferences

Play sound when assigning
Enable to hear audio feedback whenever a cover is assigned.

Show SongGenie Hints
This option enables hints that allow you to jump directly to a particular song or album in SongGenie

Get iTunes Covers
iTunes may have already retrieved album artwork for some of your albums. CoverScout 3 can retrieve those covers and display them alongside your other album artwork.

Setting Which Websites Are Searched For Covers

In the Search pane you can select which websites CoverScout will include in cover searches:

Choose the maximum number of search results for each website here. CoverScout stops searching if this number has been reached.
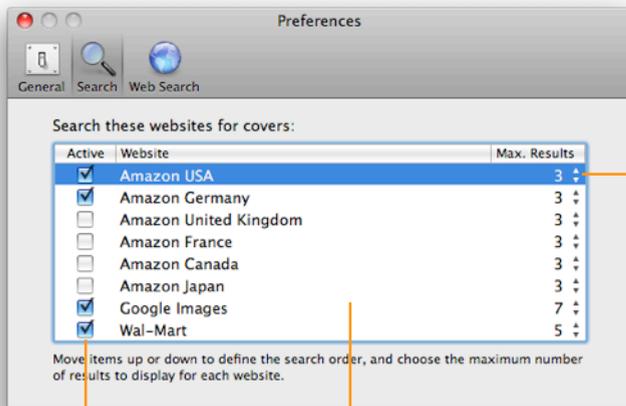
Select the websites which should be searched for covers.

Move the items up or down to set the order in which the websites are searched.

Web Search Preferences

In the Web Search pane you can determine on which websites CoverScout should open when you start a web search. Each page is opened in a separate tab.

The URLs can contain placeholders, which will be substituted by the artist name or title of the album for which you're searching. For example:

http://www.discogs.com/search?q= ⟨ Artist Name ⟩

Now you start a search for an album of the artist "The Cure." The following URL will be opened:

http://www.discogs.com/search?q=The+Cure

If the artist name contains characters which are not allowed in URLs (e. g. accents or spaces), they will be replaced as necessary.
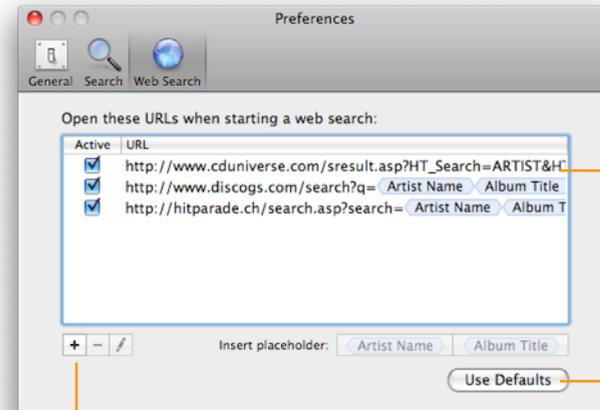
These pages open when you start a web search.

Resets all preferences in the Web Search pane to their original values.

Add a new website to load when you start a web search.

To add a site which will be loaded when starting a web search:

1 Click "+" below the list of URLs.

2 Enter the site's URL. To insert a placeholder, click one of the placeholders below the list of URLs.

3 Press Return.

To edit a site's URL:

1   Click the pencil below the list of URLs, or double-click the URL.

2   Edit the URL.

3   Press Return.

To change the order of the sites:

Drag the items in the list up or down using the mouse. The order in the list corresponds the order of the tabs in the browser window.

To temporarily disable a site:

Uncheck the "Active" box for the site you wish deactivate. If a page is not selected, it will not be loaded when starting a web search.

To permanently remove a site from the list:

1   Click a page to select it.

2   Click "–" below the list of URLs.

Appendix: Keyboard Shortcuts

Many of CoverScout's features can be controlled solely with the keyboard. The following table contains an overview of the keyboard shortcuts.

Action	Shortcut
Cover Flow View	
Previous album	Command-Left Arrow, Command-Up Arrow
Next album	Command-Right Arrow, Command-Down Arrow
First album	Command-Option-Left Arrow, Command-Option-Up Arrow, Home (↖)
Last album	Command-Option-Right Arrow, Command-Option-Down Arrow, End (↘)
Extend albums selection upwards (if album list is visible)	Command-Shift-Up Arrow
Extend albums selection downwards (if album list is visible)	Command-Shift-Down Arrow
Extend albums selection to first album (if album list is visible)	Command-Shift-Option-Up Arrow
Extend albums selection to last album (if album list is visible)	Command-Shift-Option-Down Arrow
Scroll album list upwards	Page Up (⇞)
Scroll album list downwards	Page Down (⇟)
Show/hide album list	Command-L
Show/hide filter bar	Command-F

Action	Shortcut
Track List	
Show/hide track list	Command-T
Select previous track	Up Arrow
Select next track	Down Arrow
Select first track	Option-Up Arrow
Select last track	Option-Down Arrow
Clear track selection	Escape (esc)
Working With Covers	
Cut cover	Command-X
Copy cover	Command-C
Paste cover from the Clipboard	Command-V
Delete cover	Command-Backspace
Show cover in full size	Space
Search	
Show search results and start search (if no search had been started)	Return
Show search results and start search (es) (also if a search had been started)	Command-Return
Start search without showing the search results	Control+click Search
Start search with options	Command-Option-Return
Start search(es) & assign	Command-Shift-Return
Start search(es) & assign using the most recent options (without dialog)	Command-Shift-Option-Return
Stop search	Command-. (Period)

Action	Shortcut
Search Results	
Select previous result	Left Arrow
Select next result	Right Arrow
Scroll to previous page	Option-Left Arrow
Scroll to next page	Option-Right Arrow
Apply selected result	Return
Apply selected result and hide search results	Control-Return
Clear search results selection	Escape (esc)
Hide search results (if no result is selected)	Escape (esc)
Web Search	
Start web search	Command-Control-Return
Assign selected cover to the current album	Return
Assign selected cover and close browser window	Control-Return
Add selected cover to the Cover Clipboard	Option-Return
Cover Clipboard	
Show/hide Cover Clipboard	Command-K
Select previous cover	Left Arrow
Select next cover	Right Arrow
Select first cover	Option-Left Arrow
Select last cover	Option-Right Arrow
Extend selection left	Shift-Left Arrow

Action	Shortcut
Extend selection right	Shift-Right Arrow
Extend selection to the first cover	Option-Shift-Left Arrow
Extend selection to the last cover	Option-Shift-Right Arrow
Select a range of covers	Shift+click a cover
Reverse the selection of a cover	Command+click a cover
Select all covers	Command-A
Clear selection	Escape (esc)
Apply cover to the selected album or track	Return
Cut cover	Command-X
Copy cover	Command-C
Paste cover from the Clipboard	Command-V
Delete cover(s)	Backspace
Editing View	
Open editing view	Command-E
Previous album	Command-Left Arrow, Command-Up Arrow
Next album	Command-Right Arrow, Command-Up Arrow
First album	Command-Option-Left Arrow, Command-Option-Up Arrow, Command-Home (↖)
Last album	Command-Option-Right Arrow, Command-Option-Down Arrow, Command-End (↘)
Select previous track of the album	Option-Left Arrow

Action	Shortcut
Select next track of the album	Option-Right Arrow
Extend track selection left	Shift-Option-Left Arrow
Extend track selection right	Shift-Option-Right Arrow
Select a range of tracks	Shift+click a track
Reverse the selection of a track	Command+click a track
Select all tracks on the album	Command-A
Undo last change	Command-Z
Redo last change	Command-Shift-Z
Cut image	Command-X
Copy image	Command-C
Paste image from the Clipboard	Command-V
Delete image	Backspace
Select previous size (in Scale and Frame modes)	Up Arrow
Select next size (in Scale and Frame modes)	Down Arrow
Leave current mode and apply changes	Return
Leave current mode and revert changes	Escape (esc)
Leave editing view and save changes (if no mode is selected)	Return
Leave editing view and discard changes (if no mode is selected)	Escape (esc)
General Shortcuts	
Show Preferences window	Command-, (Comma)
Hide CoverScout	Command-H

Action	Shortcut
Hide other applications	Command-Option-H
Close window	Command-W
Show in Finder	Command-R
Print covers	Command-P
Quit CoverScout	Command-Q
Minimize	Command-M
Show info	Command-I
Show this manual	Command-?