Touching Your Digital Photos

With the iPad’s Photos application (launched from its icon, shown in Figure 13–1), you can free your photos from your home computer and pass them around the room like you used to do with photos of old. Hand your iPad to your friends, and they can swipe through your photos in their hands without the need to huddle around a desktop computer. In this chapter, you’ll discover how to navigate your photo collections, share them with friends and family, use the iPad as a digital picture frame, and even edit your photos right on your iPad.

Getting Photos onto Your iPad

Before you can view your photos on the iPad, you first need to put them on it. There are six ways you can do this: syncing photos from your computer, importing photos from a digital camera directly into the iPad, saving photos from e-mailed messages, saving images found on web pages, adding photos via iCloud’s Photo Stream, and taking photos with the iPad’s built-in camera. We talk about the various ways you can capture photo’s with the iPad’s camera in Chapter 15.
Syncing Photos from Your Computer

We discussed syncing photos to your iPad in Chapter 2, but let’s touch upon it briefly again. iTunes can synchronize your iPad with pictures stored on your computer. This allows you to bring your photo collection with you and share it using the iPad’s unique touch-based interface. Who needs to carry around thick and heavy physical photo albums when you have an iPad with its thin body and vibrant display?

To get started, connect your iPad to your computer, and launch iTunes. Select your iPad from the source list (the blue column on the left side of the iTunes window), and open the Photos tab. Select the “Sync photos” box, and then choose the location of the photos you want to sync. Your choices depend on your operating system.

On the computer, your options will be Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0 or newer or any folder on your computer, such as My Pictures. On the Mac, your options will be iPhoto 4.0.3 or newer, Aperture 3.0.2 or newer, or any folder on your computer.

After you choose where to sync your photos from, select whether to sync your entire photo collection (a good choice for relatively small libraries) or individual albums (better for large libraries that might not fit on the iPad’s limited storage space). In the latter case, pick only those albums you want to copy to your iPad.

If you are using a Mac and iPhoto or Aperture, you’ll have the option to sync faces (iPhoto ’09 or newer), events (iPhoto ’08 or newer), and albums (see Figure 2-38). Faces are smart photo albums that contain all the photos that have a selected individual’s face in them. It does this by using iPhoto’s built-in facial recognition software. Events are another type of smart album that group photos together that were taken on the same day. This helps eliminate clutter and keeps your photo library organized.

To finish, click Apply to save your changes, and then sync.

Importing Photos from a Digital Camera or iPhone

You can also import photos to your iPad directly from any camera that can connect via USB or that uses a SD card. To do this, you will need to purchase the iPad Camera Connection Kit ($29 at the Apple Store). The kit includes two adapters—one for connecting a camera through a USB 2.0 cable and the other for reading SD memory cards (see Figure 13–2).

The iPad supports standard photo formats, including JPEG, GIF, TIFF, PNG, and RAW. You can connect most cameras to your iPad through the USB adapter in the iPad Camera Connection Kit, including an iPhone so that you can do direct iPhone to iPad photo transfers. You can even connect the popular line of Flip cameras to the iPad, but because of USB power issues, you will need to connect the Flip camera to an external power source before you connect it via USB to your iPad.

You can also import video clips taken by your camera through the iPad Camera Connection Kit if those video clips are in one of the video formats the iPad supports.