

CamRanger[→]

User's Manual



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CamRanger Hardware

The CamRanger device is turned on by sliding the power switch, located on the side of the unit, towards the front of the device. The green power light will illuminate when the unit is powered on.

The charging port is located next to the power switch. The male micro B end of the provided white charging cord is connected to this port. The other end of the charging cord can be connected to a female USB port that provides power, such as a computer or through the provided AC adapter.

When the device is charging an additional yellow light will illuminate next to the green power light indicating that it is charging. The yellow light will turn off leaving only the green power light when it is fully charged.

A black neoprene case is provided to assist in attaching and securing the CamRanger. The case has a carabineer to facilitate hanging from a tripod, belt loop, etc. Do not just hang the CamRanger by the cable as it will put strain on the USB connectors as well as possibly disconnect.

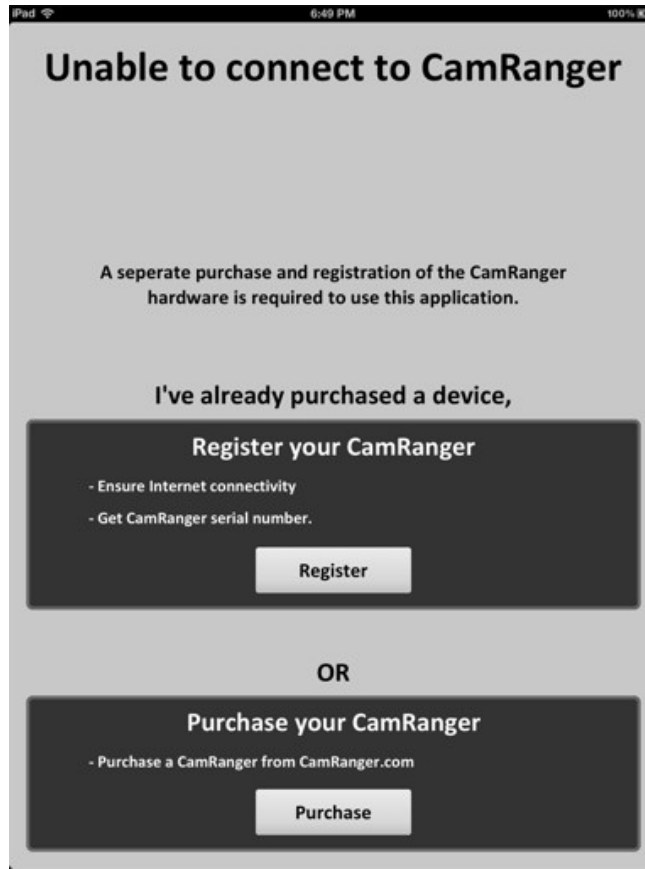
The CamRanger battery is accessible by removing the bottom cover. The bottom cover is the side with the CamRanger serial number. Simply grasp the side edge/corner of the cover near the USB connector and pull back to remove. To replace the cover, first place the two lower tabs into the slots and then snap in the top.

CamRanger is not water-resistant in any way and should not get wet.

CamRanger Registration

Before an iPad, iPhone, or iPod Touch can be used with a CamRanger, it needs to be registered. Registration requires Internet connectivity. Before proceeding, confirm connectivity. (Do not connect to the CamRanger network.)

Launch the iOS CamRanger app and the following screen appears.



Press the “Register” button to load the registration view seen below.



Enter the 8-character CamRanger serial number. The serial number is located both on the bottom of the back cover as well as above the battery underneath the back cover.

Press the “Register” button to register. A message box will appear indicating registration was successful and the iOS device can be used with the CamRanger. Exit the app, connect to the CamRanger network, and then launch the app.

If registration fails, confirm Internet connectivity and the CamRanger serial number before contacting contact@CamRanger.com for assistance.

CamRanger Setup

Power on the CamRanger and confirm all four lights briefly appear. The CamRanger will take approximately 30 seconds until it is fully initialized.

The first time the user connects to CamRanger from an iOS device (iPad, iPhone, or iPod Touch), the iOS device needs to be registered. See the CamRanger Registration section above.

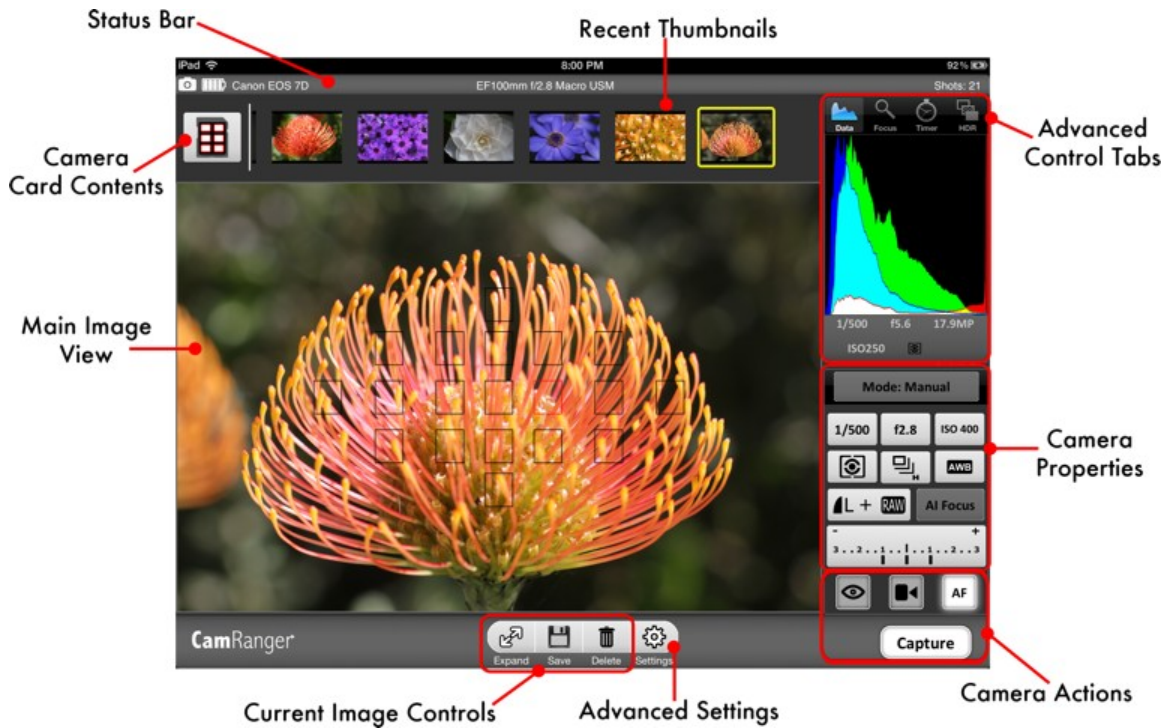
On the iOS device connect to your CamRanger network. The SSID will be CamRanger-###, with the last three characters matching the last 3 characters of the CamRanger's serial number. The password is the full 8 characters of the CamRanger's serial number. The password **MUST BE ENTERED IN ALL CAPS**. The keyboard on newer iOS versions can be put into caps lock by double tapping the shift key.

Connect the CamRanger to the camera with the provided black USB cable. The male A end is inserted into the USB port at the end of the CamRanger, and the other end is connected to the USB port of the camera. Then ensure the camera is turned on. When the camera is connected and turned on the green light closest to the edge of the CamRanger device will light.

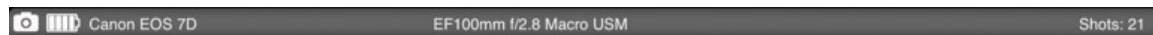
Launch the CamRanger iOS app. The application will connect to the CamRanger and the user will be able to control the camera. For common problems with setup and connection refer to the Troubleshooting section at the end of the manual.

CamRanger iOS App

Note: the CamRanger app supports the iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch. For brevity, only the iPad landscape screenshots will be shown as the equivalent portrait or iPhone versions are very similar. Any places where significant differences exist will be called out.



Status Bar

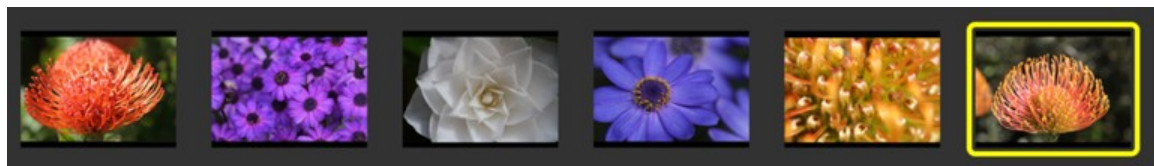


The status bar is located at the top of the screen and provides the user with a number of status elements.

From left to right:

- Camera Connection: Indicates if the CamRanger device is currently communicating with the camera
 - Connected:
 - Disconnected:
- Camera Battery Status: Indicates the approximate battery charge on the camera
- Camera Model Name
- Lens Model Name (Note: not all cameras or lenses are supported)
- Shots Remaining: Indicates the number of shots currently remaining on the camera's removable media using the current settings

Recent Thumbnails



- As images are captured, the thumbnails are automatically downloaded and displayed along the top of the screen. The thumbnails may be scrolled left and right when more are downloaded than can fit.
- A thumbnail may be selected to view the corresponding image for viewing. The image is downloaded and displayed in the main image view. The currently selected thumbnail is indicated with a yellow outline.
- When both a JPG and RAW file format is captured, only the JPG thumbnail is displayed.
- JPG and Canon RAW files can be viewed. Nikon RAW and TIFF files will display the thumbnail but the associated image cannot be viewed; however, Nikon JPG's can be viewed.
- A small red "R" icon on the lower right of the thumbnail indicates that it is a RAW image. A small green "T" indicates TIFF, while no icon is used to indicate JPG formatted images.
- Note: only thumbnails for images captured within the current CamRanger session will be displayed.

iPhone Thumbnails

The thumbnails on the iPhones or iPod Touches with the original size display (not the iPhone5 size display) are displayed in a different manner. After a picture is taken, the main image view will slide to the right to reveal a list of thumbnails. Selecting a thumbnail will slide the main image view back in place with the downloaded image.

The thumbnail and main image views can be swapped at any time by swiping the screen left or right.

Main Image View

Live view and captured images are displayed within the main image view.

Captured Images

Images will be displayed in the main image view in one of two ways, by selecting a thumbnail in the thumbnails section or through the Auto-View feature. The Auto-View feature is described in more depth in the Advanced Settings section.

It is important to note that that images displayed in the main view are not saved by default and are simply being displayed. To save the image to the iOS device, refer to the Current Image Controls or Card Contents section.

The image may be zoomed in to 100% resolution by double tapping. The image can then be panned by dragging a finger. Double tapping again will return the view to its original state.

As indicated in the thumbnails section Nikon RAW and TIFF images cannot be viewed.

Depending on the amount of memory in your iPad, iPhone, or iPod touch, certain larger image files cannot be viewed. Devices with 1GB of memory, such as the 3rd or 4th generation iPad and the iPhone 5, will have no limitations. Devices with 512MB of memory, such as the 2nd generation iPad, iPad Mini, or iPhone 4, can view nearly all images except for the very largest, such as a large JPG on the D800. Devices with 128MB, such as the 1st generation iPad and older iPhones and iPod Touches, will not be able to view large JPGs on most cameras or medium JPGs on some cameras.

Live View Images

In live view, the image is automatically updated as live view images stream in. The exact rate is very much dependent on WiFi signal strength and the camera and iOS device specs. However, assuming a good connection, live view frame rate will be about 7 – 18 fps depending on the camera model.

During live view the image may be single tapped to focus at that point. Note that for Canon cameras, the outer edges of the image cannot be focused on. Double tapping will zoom in and double tapping again returns to regular size.

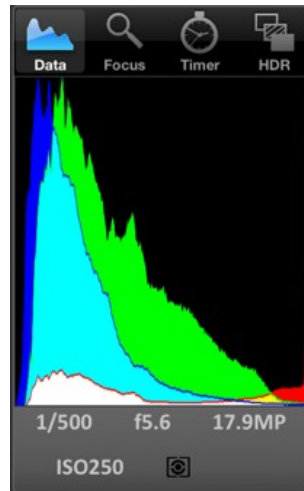
A live view histogram may be toggled on or off from the Data tab as described in the Advanced Data section. Toggling the histogram on will generate a histogram for each live view frame; however, at the cost of a decreased frame rate. Toggle the histogram off to maximize the frame rate.

Canon cameras can display the live view image on the camera as well as allow physically triggering images by pressing the camera's live view button *after* starting it on the CamRanger app. Nikon cameras do not allow any control of the physical camera while live view is active.

Advanced Tabs

There are four tabs providing advanced information or controls: Data, Focus, Timer, and HDR. (The iPhone display has a fifth tab incorporating the Advanced Settings button.)

Data

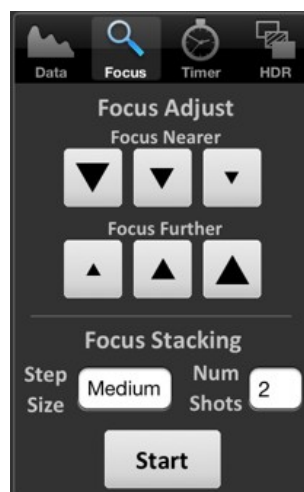


The data tab shows an RGB histogram and meta-data associated with the image in the main image view. The following meta-data is provided:

- Shutter Speed
- Aperture
- MegaPixels (Note this is not file size, but image resolution)
- ISO
- Metering Mode
- Exposure Compensation Value

Within live view the data tab will simply inform the user that live view is on and provide a toggle switch to toggle the display of the histogram. The histogram is updated in real-time, but at the cost of slowing down the frame rate.

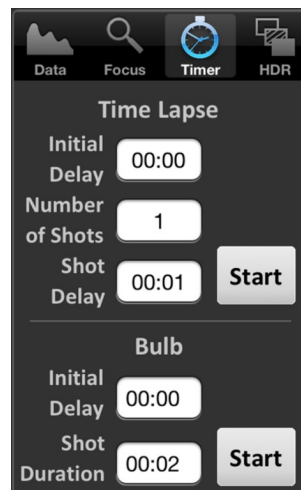
Focus



The focus tab is only enabled during live view and provides advanced focusing controls.

- **Focus Adjust**
There are two sets of buttons to move the lens' focal plane nearer or further from the camera.
Each set has three buttons with different sized arrows to specify a large, medium, or small step in focus.
Tap the button to move the focus by a single increment, holding down the button will have no affect.
- **Focus Stacking**
Focus stacking is a process of taking multiple captures with slight changes in focus and then post processing them to enhance the depth of field. This control allows the user to set the focus step size to take between in each shot and the number of shots to take. Each focus step will move the focal plane further from the camera. So the user will want to set the focus to the nearest plane desired to be in focus and start the stacking process from there. If too few captures were taken, the process can be restarted from where the initial stacking ended. Note: the post processing is not done within the CamRanger app.

Timer



The timer tab allows the use of the CamRanger as an intervalometer as well as specifying exposure times when the camera is in bulb mode.

- **Time Lapse**
 - The entry fields are used to specify the initial delay before the first shot, the number of shots to take, and the delay in between each shot.
 - After configuring the settings, press the “Start” button to begin the intervalometer process.
 - The intervalometer commands are stored on the CamRanger device and the iOS device does not need to remain on or connected.
 - The “Shot Delay” should not be used for precision timing, particularly when the delay is only a few seconds or less.
 - Once an intervalometer sequence is begun, it can only be cancelled by turning off power to the CamRanger device.

- Time Lapse – HDR
 - If the camera is in manual exposure mode, a small HDR toggle button will appear allowing the combination of a time lapse and HDR sequence.
 - If the HDR toggle button is set to on for each time lapse capture, CamRanger will actually take a sequence of bracketing images using the bracket parameters as specified within the HDR tab.
- Time Lapse – Bulb
 - If the camera is in bulb mode/shutter speed and the camera supports bulb shots, CamRanger will take Bulb shots during the time lapse. The bulb duration is specified by the Shot Duration, located within the Bulb section immediately below the Time Lapse section.
- Before starting the time lapse sequence, a dialog will appear informing the user of the time lapse parameters and provide an opportunity to cancel.
- Bulb
 - The Bulb controls are only enabled when the camera is in bulb mode and the camera supports remote bulb shots.
 - The entry fields are used to specify the initial delay before the first shot and the length of the exposure.
 - After configuration, press the “Start” button to begin the bulb process.
 - The bulb commands are stored on the CamRanger device and the iOS device does not need to remain on or connected.

HDR

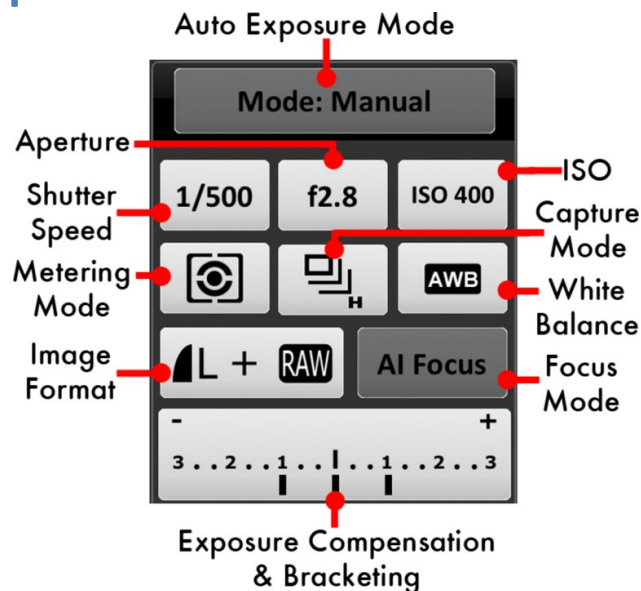


The “HDR”, or Advanced Bracketing, tab can be used to generate a series of photos with varying exposures.

- Advanced Bracketing is only enabled when the camera is in Manual mode.
- The Property field specifies the camera property to be varied. There are three options, Shutter Speed, Aperture, and ISO.

- The Initial Delay field specifies the amount of delay, if any, to take before beginning the bracketing sequence.
- The initial value for the selected property is set with the Start Value field.
- The total number of images to capture is specified by the Number of Shots field.
- The possible Step Size values are 1 to 9 and specify the how many steps to take between each capture.
 - Steps are not the same as stops, but are each possible incremental value for the selected property. So, for example, if the property is Shutter Speed, 1/30 to 1/25 is one step, 1/30 to 1/20 is two steps, and so on.
- The valid values for the Number of Shots are automatically determined based on the values specified for Start Value and Step Size. For example a step size of 1 will allow more shots than a step size of 9.
- The bracketing process begins at the lowest, or darkest, exposure and steps up to higher, or lighter, exposures.
- After configuration, press the “Start” button to begin the bracketing process.
- The bracketing commands are stored on the CamRanger device and the iOS device does not need to remain on or connected.
- Note: the post processing is not done within the CamRanger app.

Camera Properties



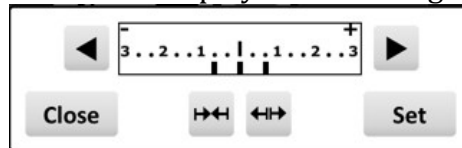
The above diagram indicates each of the camera properties that can be set. Not all properties can be set for all cameras or in all modes. For example, the diagram is from a session with a Canon camera and for most Canons the focus mode and auto exposure mode cannot be set. Disabled properties are indicated with a darker button background.

Nikon Connection Mode

Nikon cameras allow connections in two different modes: “PC” and “Camera”. (See the Advanced Settings dialog for how to change between the modes.) The key difference is that PC mode allows the CamRanger user to adjust properties that are controlled via a physical switch or dial on the camera, and would otherwise be disabled in Camera mode. However, in PC mode no property changes done physically to the camera will be recognized and any changes made through CamRanger will be lost after disconnecting. PC mode also prevents triggering images from the camera itself, and the CamRanger app must be set to Camera mode to allow physically triggering from the camera. It should also be noted that the connection mode cannot be changed while live view is active.

Exposure Compensation & Bracketing

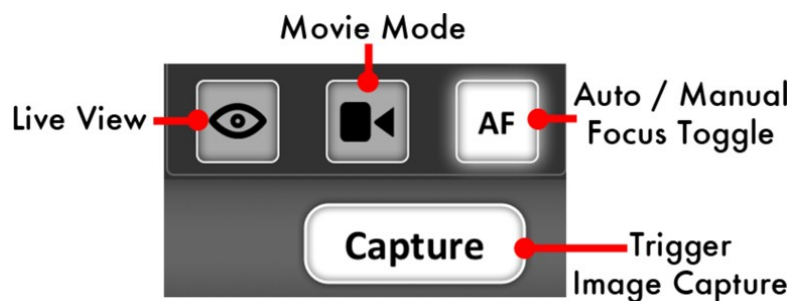
Pressing the bracketing button will display the following control:



Pressing the arrows at the top right and left moves the exposure compensation. Holding down the arrow will move the exposure compensation to its respective limit. The two buttons at the bottom middle control the bracket amount. Pressing the arrows pointing in will reduce the bracketing amount, while pressing the arrows point outward will increase the bracketing amount.

The bracketing is not set until the “Set” button is pressed. The “Close” button will dismiss the dialog. Pressing “Close” without pressing “Set” will effectively cancel any adjustments made.

Camera Actions



- Capture
 - The “Capture” button initiates the camera trigger. The exact camera behavior is dependent on the camera and camera properties, most importantly the capture mode.
 - For most capture modes, such as single, timer, or quiet the button performs the image capture as expected. It should be noted that for some cameras, advanced modes such as remote or timer will behave as single capture mode.

- Continuous capture mode differs between Nikon and Canon.
 - Nikon: After selecting a continuous drive mode a picker is displayed allowing the user to select the number of images to capture. When the Capture button is pressed, that number of images will be captured.
 - Canon: When in a continuous mode, pressing and holding the Capture button behaves in the same way as pushing the physical trigger on the camera.
- It is noted that there can be a very slight lag between the pressing of the “Capture” button and the image capture. The delay can be more pronounced while live view is active. For time critical applications, a remote trigger, such as an RF trigger, can be used in combination with the CamRanger.
- Auto / Manual Focus Toggle
 - The AF/MF Focus toggle button allows the user to change the focusing between auto and manual without having to physically adjust the camera.
 - This AF/MF adjustment is not possible for all cameras in all modes. For example, some Nikon cameras are required to be connected in “PC” mode.
- Live View
 - The “Live View” toggle button is used to turn live view on and off.
 - When live view is on, the main image view is updated with live view images as well as updating the RGB histogram in the Data tab if the live view histogram is turned on.
 - Note: running live view is relatively intensive and there may be slight performance lags in other areas.
- Movie Mode
 - The “Movie Mode” toggle button is used to turn live view on and off, but within movie mode.
 - When movie mode is on, the main image view is updated with the live images.
 - The “Capture” button changes to “Record” and pressing the “Record” button will start and then stop the recording of a movie.
 - Note: movies cannot be downloaded to the iOS device.

Advanced Settings

Canon

Nikon



The advanced settings menu is accessed from the settings button and allows the user to manage the connection, set display and view options, and get help.

- **CamRanger Connection:** A state dependent “Connect” and “Disconnect” button is available to the user as a troubleshooting option to avoid closing the application in the case of connection problems.
- **Display Options**
 - **Highlights:** Blinks solid red over overexposed highlights
 - **Shadows:** Blinks solid blue over underexposed shadows
 - **Focus Points:** Overlay the focus points over captured images (Canon only)
 - **Grid Lines:** Overlay a 3x3 grid over the main image view
 - **Aspect Ratio:** Overlays red lines over the main image view to give the user visual feedback on common cropping ratios. Note: this information is not saved with the image.
 - **Client Mode:** Removes all camera controls from the main display such that camera settings cannot be changed or the camera controlled.
- **View & Save Options**
 - **Auto-View:** Automatically downloads and displays images as they are taken.
 - **Auto-Save:** Automatically downloads and saves images to the iOS photo library.
 - **Cache Size:** The CamRanger application maintains a small cache on disk to store recently viewed images. These images are then very

quick to re-display. The cache can be set to one of three sizes: Small (100 MB), Medium (500 MB), or Large (1 GB). The cache is cleared upon exit on the application.

- Help
 - User Manual: View this document. Note: it can be saved to iBooks for easier reading and navigation.
 - Email: Email with your questions, problems, comments, etc.
- Connection Mode (Nikon Only)
 - A toggle switch is provided to change the connection mode between “PC” and “Camera”
 - PC: PC mode allows more control over properties within CamRanger; however, any property changes are not maintained and changing settings on the physical camera is not recognized. Additionally, images cannot be physically triggered from the camera.
 - Camera: Allows the camera to be physically used as normal; however, not all properties will be enabled within CamRanger.

Current Image Controls



The controls displayed in the toolbar above are used to perform various actions on the current main image view's content.

- Delete: After prompting the user to confirm, this button is used to erase the displayed image from the removable media in the camera.
- Save: This button will save the currently displayed image to the user's photo library on the iOS device.
- Expand: The “Expand” button makes the image full screen. After expanding, the button changes to “Shrink” and can be pressed to return to the normal screen layout. The “Expand” button can also be used in live view.

iPhone Controls

The iPhone does not have a separate tool bar with these controls. The “Expand” button is located in the lower left of the main image view. The “Save” and “Delete” buttons are overlaid in the top left and right corners, respectively, of the main image view. The “Save” and “Delete” buttons only appear momentarily upon a single touch of the main image view and then disappear a few seconds later so as to not obscure the image.

Card Contents



The card contents button shown above will transfer to a view displaying thumbnails of the images on the camera's removable media. The app will initially load the most

recent 16 thumbnails on a scrollable window. To load more thumbnails, scroll to the bottom and press the “More” button to download an additional 16 thumbnails.

Any number of thumbnails can be selected by pressing a thumbnail. Selected thumbnails will have a yellow border around them. After selecting thumbnails they may either be deleted or saved. The “Delete” button at the lower left will first prompt the user to confirm, and then delete the associated images of the selected thumbnails from the camera’s removable media. The “Save” button at the lower right will save all associated images of the selected thumbnails to the user’s iOS photo library. Images are saved regardless of format.

Note: The thumbnails are presented in chronological order beginning with the most recent. However, for Nikon they are grouped first by format, such that all JPG’s will be listed, then TIFF’s, and finally RAW images.

Assuming the user has a GPS enabled iOS device and has granted location privileges to the CamRanger app, the app records GPS positions in order to tag images saved to the iOS device. When an image is downloaded, the app attempts to find a GPS position that corresponds with the time the image was taken. If a position is found, the GPS data is added to the file’s EXIF header. Note: GPS data can only be added to JPG images and the image file on the cameras removable media is not updated.

Images within the card contents view can also be viewed by double tapping on the image.

Tips & Troubleshooting

Below are some tips and troubleshooting for common questions or issues arranged by category:

Registration

- If the CamRanger iOS app is re-installed, the iOS device may need to be re-registered.
- Most registration issues are due to not having Internet connectivity or entering the serial number incorrectly.
- If you still have issues, please email contact@CamRanger.com for assistance.

Connection

- Make sure CamRanger is fully powered on and initialized (it should take approximately 30 seconds). The power light and WiFi light should both be on.

- The password to connect to the CamRanger WiFi is the CamRanger serial number in all CAPS. If there are still issues connecting, turning the iOS devices WiFi off and on may help.
- If the CamRanger application is connected to the CamRanger device, but no camera is connected, it will attempt to connect to a camera approximately every 5 seconds.
- If the iOS device is outside of or near the edge of the range of the CamRanger hardware there will be connection problems.
- Use the “Disconnect” and “Connect” buttons in the Advanced Settings to force a new session/connection.
- Power cycling the camera and CamRanger as well as restarting the app will completely refresh the connection.
- When the camera battery begins to get low, certain commands may start to fail or a connection may be refused.
- The CamRanger hardware can only be connected to a single iOS device at a time.

Speed

- The CamRanger has all the same distance and interference limitations as WiFi. Long distances and solid objects will slow the connection speed.
- The CamRanger app can handle very large image files. However, waiting for those files to transfer from the camera and then over WiFi can be time consuming. A common operating mode is to shoot RAW along with a small or medium sized JPG.
- Newer and faster iOS devices do perform better overall, particularly for intensive tasks such as showing the 100% resolution images.
- Image files can be very large and memory intensive. If the CamRanger app is having stability issues, closing other apps running in the background or even power cycling the iOS device will improve performance.

Commands

- Depending on the camera and the mode, capture can fail if the camera fails to acquire focus.
- Intervalometer, Bulb, and Advanced Bracketing sequence commands are stored on the CamRanger hardware such that the iOS device does not need to remain on and connected. However, this also means that any changes or actions with the iOS device during one of those advanced operations could result in failure or unexpected outcomes.
- When an operation, command, or setting is not available or not working the issue is often related to the camera setup. For example:
 - Toggling to AF is disabled if the camera lens switch is set to MF.
 - Live view will fail on Canon cameras if Live View Shooting is disabled in the camera’s menu.
 - Capture fails because the removable media on the camera is full.

- For Canon cameras, the Live View focus mode within the camera's menu must be set to "Live View".
- Adjusting or viewing the number of bracketing shots is not currently supported. The display assumes three shots. However, if the number of shots is actually 2, 5, 7, 9, etc. the bracket amount is still correct it will just incorrectly display 3 shots.
- Some features are simply not supported by some cameras. For example continuous capture mode is not supported on the 40D and most Nikons do not support bulb shots. See the camera capability matrix at www.CamRanger.com for more detailed information.
- There is no way to cancel an Intervalometer, Bulb, or Advanced Bracketing sequence command. The only way to stop it is to power off the CamRanger device.

Images

- The thumbnails are not downloaded until after the image has been recorded to the camera's card. On most cameras this is relatively quick. However, depending on the camera, speed of removable media and number of shots taken in succession, there can be a lag.
- The maximum sized image that can be viewed is dependent on the iOS hardware. For example, the 1st Generation iPad can only handle large RAW or JPG's from slightly older cameras, but can handle medium sized images from most current cameras. The 3rd Generation iPad supports all image sizes for all supported cameras. Regardless, all image formats and sizes can be downloaded to the user's iOS Photo library through the card contents view.
- CamRanger can be used to view and download pictures captured through other means. So a separate photographer could be capturing images, or a RF or light trigger could capture images and the CamRanger app would automatically download the thumbnails.