

e·quinux



COVERSCOUT

Version 2.3

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Introduction

Welcome to CoverScout, the simple, yet powerful way to enhance your iTunes music library with authentic album artwork.

iTunes' Best Buddy

iTunes' new Cover Flow feature is great, but have you been able to find those hard-to-get covers like the White Album or maybe Weird Al Yankovic's Alapalooza? The latest version of CoverScout has you covered as the perfect complement to iTunes 7. With the ability to easily search and find high-resolution images from sources like Amazon and Google Images, CoverScout is the ideal cover art application tool.

Import Your iTunes Library Automatically

You don't have to worry about exporting your iTunes library into another format or synchronizing two applications manually. CoverScout loads your music library every time you start the application and makes it available as a browseable list of albums.

Convenient Library Browser

Your Library Browser not just displays the artists and album titles, but also incorporates a status indicator. You'll see at a glance if your music has covers, and where they are stored.

Built-in Artwork Review

Checking a track's artwork status does not require switching to iTunes. Just select the track in CoverScout to review the cover and other information – the integrated size slider lets you shrink and expand the preview size at will.

Seamless iTunes Integration

When you're done with applying your covers, hop over to iTunes to listen to your favorite songs. CoverScout provides contextual menu items to let the music play or to view your music files in the Finder.

Search Artwork All Over the Web

CoverScout supports various Amazon websites and the resources available via the Google image search. To search for rare covers, you can even use the web itself and browse any website for album artwork.

Capture Your Own

Your cover just cannot be found on the web, but it's lying right next to you? CoverScout lets you apply it to your iTunes library directly, using any QuickTime™ compatible camera. You can even crop, rotate, and scale the captured image to achieve the best results!

Assign Artwork With a Single Click

Once CoverScout has found some artwork, copying it to your tracks is a matter of seconds. Double-Click or drag&drop the desired cover and your music will be visually enriched.

Copy iTunes Covers to Your Music

iTunes 7 fetches covers from the iTunes Store for you, but stores them in an external folder. To keep your artwork portable and accessible on most platforms, CoverScout lets you copy these covers right into your music tracks.

Powerful Filtering

Filter your library by artist name or album title - just like in iTunes. CoverScout adds filters for album type and cover status to let you locate missing covers and compilations at ease.

Installation

This section will assist with the installation of both CD and download versions of CoverScout.

Install CoverScout

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



How to Install CoverScout

If you bought the retail version of CoverScout:

- ▶ Insert the CoverScout CD into your computer

- ▶ Double click the CoverScout CD icon that appears on your desktop.
- ▶ Drag the file "CoverScout" to your applications folder.

If you downloaded CoverScout from equinux.com:

- ▶ Double click the downloaded dmg file.
- ▶ Drag the file "CoverScout" to your applications folder.

Activate CoverScout

Activating CoverScout is a simple and straightforward process. Described below are three different scenarios: Buy a new license online, activate a retail version and transfer a license.

Note Your equinux ID will be used to store and manage all your licenses. Whenever you purchase additional licenses or other products, please specify your equinux ID.

Buy a License

Obtaining a license for CoverScout and activating it on your Mac is a simple process.

To buy a license, please complete the following steps:

- ▶ Choose "CoverScout" > "Buy CoverScout..."

- ▶ Click “Buy CoverScout”
- ▶ If you are a new customer, choose your country and click “Next”.

or

- ▶ If you already registered with equinix, login with your equinix ID
- ▶ Choose the desired license
- ▶ Click “Check Out”
- ▶ Continue shopping for other equinix products

or

- ▶ Click “Continue Check Out”
- ▶ If you are a new customer, create a new equinix ID
- ▶ Select either “Bank Transfer” or “Credit Card” as your preferred payment option
- ▶ Enter your credit card data, if necessary
- ▶ Review your order and click “Complete Order”

If you paid by credit card, CoverScout will automatically be activated as soon as the order process is completed. Your license will be stored on your Mac.

Otherwise, we will send you an “Activation Code” as soon as we receive your payment. Please refer to the section below for instructions on how to use the “Activation Code”.

Activate a Retail Version

If you bought a retail version of CoverScout at your local software store or paid a license via bank transfer, you received an “Activation Code”. This code can be used to create a license.

To activate a retail version, please complete the following steps:

- ▶ Choose “CoverScout” > “Buy CoverScout...”
- ▶ Click “Activate CoverScout”
- ▶ Register a new equinix ID (if this is your first equinix product)

or

- ▶ Login with your equinix ID
- ▶ Enter your Activation Code

Your license will be created and stored on your Mac automatically.

Transfer a License

All licenses for equinix products are hardware bound. When registering our software on your computer, the license is created for this machine. This means that a license can only be used on a single computer.

However, transferring a license to a different computer is easy.

To transfer a license, please complete the following steps:

- ▶ On your old Mac, choose "CoverScout" > "Deactivate CoverScout"

The license will now be available for activating the software on your new Mac.

- ▶ Install CoverScout on your new Mac
- ▶ On your new Mac, choose "CoverScout" > "Activate CoverScout"

CoverScout will automatically fetch the free license.

Note From now on, the software cannot be used on the old machine. To transfer the license again, just repeat the process described above.

Application overview

CoverScout is a great application for a variety of scenarios. The following will describe the application's user interface in details.

Main Window Overview

CoverScout's main window is centered around the library browser which displays your iTunes library.



Library Browser

The library browser is divided into two panels:

- ▶ The left panel lists all albums in your iTunes library
- ▶ The right panel lists all tracks of the currently selected album

Context menus are available to start searches, play songs in iTunes, show original files in the Finder or to remove covers.

To invoke a context menu:

- ▶ Hold the Control key while clicking a track or an album

or

- ▶ Right-click a track or an album

Toolbar

The toolbar is located at the top of the main window. It provides quick access to search sources and assignment functions. The search field can be used to execute individual searches not based on your library data.

Artwork Inspector

The artwork inspector located at the bottom of the main window displays the current artwork for the track(s) selected above or lists artwork resulting from a search.

Two different views are available. The multi-track view is used for search results or if more than one track (or a single album)

is selected in the library browser. The single-track view displays a larger preview for a single track.

Library Summary

Below the artwork inspector, CoverScout displays a summary of your library:

- ◆ Total number of albums
- ◆ Number of albums with complete covers

Drawers

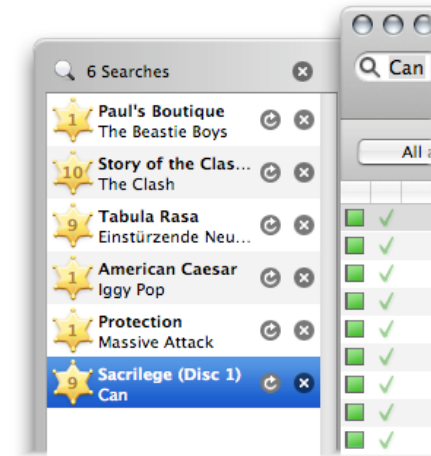
There are two drawers left of and below the main window.

To open or close a drawer, please complete the following step:

- ▶ Click the appropriate drawer button at the bottom of the main window (to the left and the right of the library summary).

Progress Drawer

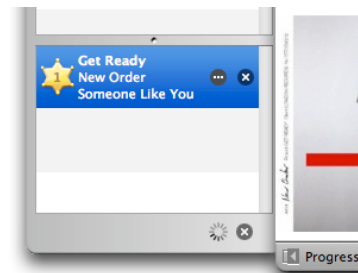
The progress drawer displays the progress of active searches and provides a history of all searches so far. Searches with pre-selected covers appear in light blue while the currently selected search is shown in blue.



The lower part of the progress bar can be expanded to display the active assignments. The assignment list is hidden by default.

To display the assignment list:

- ▶ Click and drag the little dot at the bottom of the progress drawer



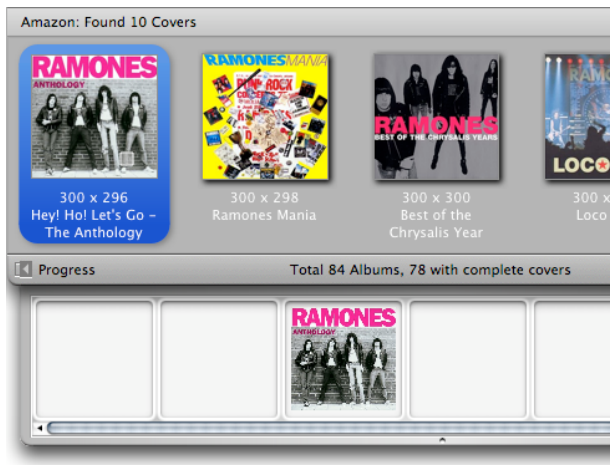
Note The assignment list displays a “queue”, i.e. it is empty unless there are assignments in progress.

Clipboard

Covers can be stored temporarily in a clipboard for later use.

To store search results or existing covers in the clipboard:

- ▶ Select a cover from the artwork inspector
- ▶ Drag and drop the cover onto the clipboard



To remove covers from the clipboard:

- ▶ Drag and drop a cover onto the trashcan

Once you stored covers in your clipboard, you'll probably want to assign them to your tracks.

To apply covers from the clipboard:

- ▶ Drag and drop a cover onto an album or track

Note The clipboard will be emptied when the application is quit.

Inspect Your Library

Before you start searching and applying covers, you'll probably want to inspect your iTunes library.

Import the Library From iTunes

Each time you start up CoverScout, it automatically reads the library and displays a list of available albums.

Note If iTunes is not running, CoverScout will start iTunes.

Cover Status and Album Type

For each album, the current cover status is displayed in two columns.

<input type="checkbox"/>	The Beastie Boys	Check Your Head
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Beastie Boys	Hello Nasty
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Beastie Boys	Ill Communication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Beastie Boys	Paul's Boutique
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Beastie Boys	To The 5 Boroughs (US)
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Beastie Boys	Licensed To Ill

The left column shows the general cover status:

- ◆ A white square signals that none of the album's tracks is covered (Status: missing)
- ◆ A grey square means that some of the tracks are covered (Status: incomplete)
- ◆ A green square shows that all tracks are covered (Status: complete)
- ◆ A question mark signals that the cover status is unknown to CoverScout




Note For single tracks, there are only three states (missing, covered/complete and unknown).

iTunes 7 is now capable of fetching album covers from the iTunes Store, but it stores the artwork externally (instead of the music files themselves). The second status column in CoverScout displays the storage location of your covers:

- ◆ A green check mark shows that all covers are stored in your music files (as ID3 tags)
- ◆ A grey triangle signals that the covers are stored externally by iTunes (as so-called "iTunes covers")

Note For albums, the grey triangle appears if either all or some of the individual tracks' covers are iTunes covers.

The third column defines the album type:

- ▶    Compilations are marked with four circles in a third column

Manual Reload

There are two reasons why you would need to do a manual reload of your iTunes library:

- ◆ If you added or changed some files while CoverScout is running
- ◆ If there are many albums with an unknown cover status.

The unknown cover status emerges if iTunes 7 is used to modify music files, because the new iTunes version does not include cover information in the library file anymore.

To reload the iTunes library manually:

- ▶ Choose "Cover" > "Reload iTunes Library"

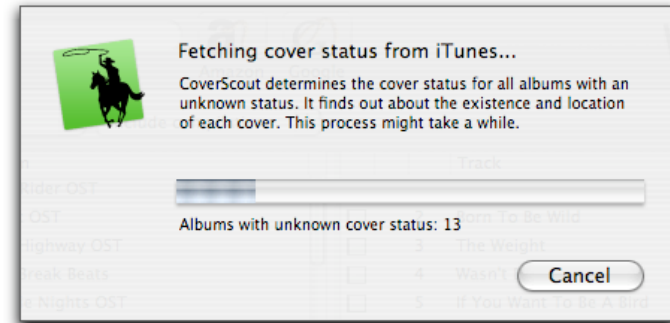
or

- ▶ Hit ALT-CMD-R

or

- ▶ Click the "Reload" button in the toolbar

CoverScout will then reload the iTunes library, recognize new songs and determine the cover status for songs/albums with an unknown cover status.

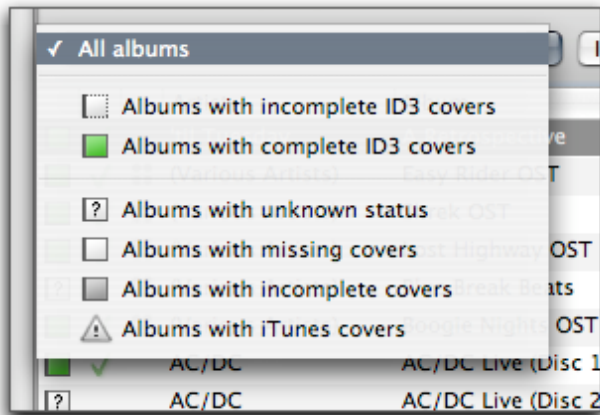


Filter the Library Browser

You can filter your library using various criteria, among them cover status, album title, or type.

To filter for cover status:

- ▶ Choose one of the options from the status filter drop-down, located at the top of the library browser



“Albums with complete ID3 covers” are just fine - this filter displays albums which do not require any maintenance.

“Albums with incomplete ID3 covers” displays all albums for which at least one track has

- ◆ no cover
- ◆ an unknown cover status or
- ◆ a iTunes proprietary iTunes cover

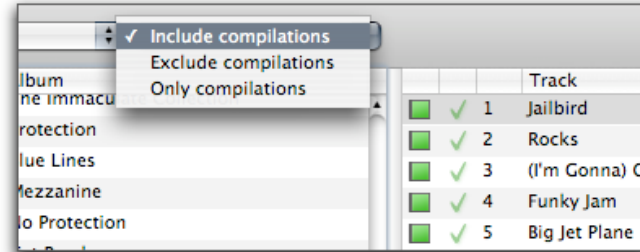
In other words: By choosing this filter, you'll see all covers which need maintenance.

We recommend to use this filter when completing your library – once there are no albums displayed here, your library is complete.

The other filters are just subsets of the second filter – albums which have an unknown status, missing or incomplete covers, or iTunes covers. These filters can be used for statistical purposes.

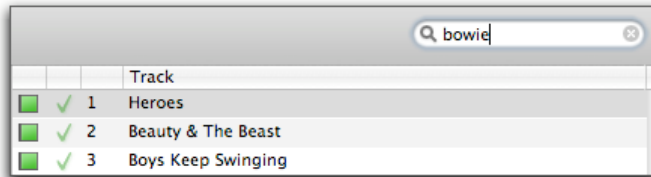
To filter for album type:

- ▶ Choose one of the options from the album type filter drop-down, located at the top of the library browser



To filter for artist, album or track:

- ▶ Select the filter field at the top right of the library browser
- ▶ Enter your search string



Copy iTunes Artwork

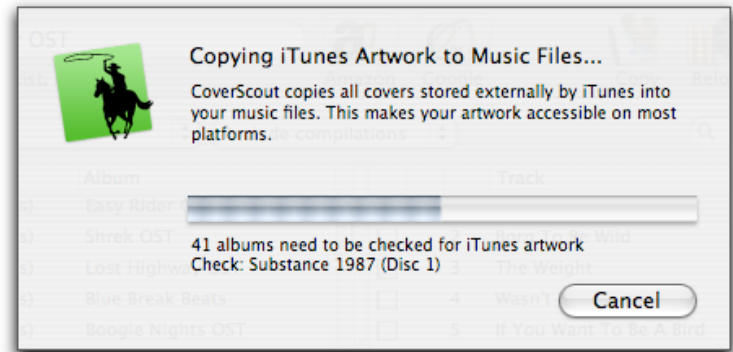
As mentioned above, iTunes 7 stores covers externally on your harddrive. To keep your artwork accessible on alternative platforms, these covers need to be present within your music files (as ID3 tags). CoverScout lets you copy all iTunes artwork into your music files with a single click.

To copy iTunes artwork into your music files:

- ▶ Click "Copy" in the toolbar

or

- ▶ Select "Cover" > "Copy iTunes Artwork"



Search for covers

Finding artwork for your songs and albums is very simple. This section covers the methods for locating that perfect image for your album.

Amazon

Cover searches at Amazon are seamlessly integrated into CoverScout. Searching these two sources is quite simple.

To search covers at Amazon:

- ▶ Select the albums and tracks you would like to search in the library browser

or

- ▶ Enter a combination of artist and album name in the search field of the toolbar
- ▶ Click "Amazon" in the toolbar

CoverScout will start searching and display all active and completed searches in the progress drawer (s. "Application overview" above for a screenshot of the drawer).

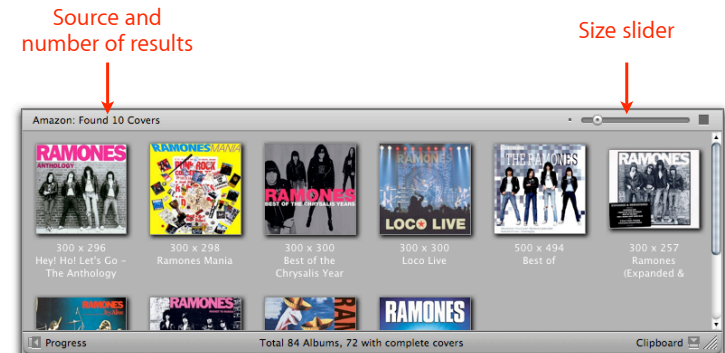
The artwork inspector displays all results for the selected search, including the number of results and the source used for searching (see below). A convenient size slider allows you to preview the covers in various sizes.

To change the preview size in the artwork inspector:

- ▶ Click and drag the slider knob to the right to enlarge the cover

or

- ▶ Click and drag the knob to the left to minimize the cover



Depending on the number of searches, you can now pre-select covers and apply them in bulk or apply them manually one by one.

To select and apply covers in bulk:

- ▶ Select a single search by clicking its entry in the progress drawer
- ▶ Single-click a cover in the artwork inspector to pre-select it
- ▶ Repeat the last two steps for every search in the progress drawer

- ▶ Click the “Apply” button in the toolbar once to make CoverScout apply the selected covers to the appropriate tracks

To apply covers one by one:

- ▶ Select a single search from the progress drawer
- ▶ Double-click one of the results to apply it

or

- ▶ Drag and drop it on the desired albums or tracks

Applying covers might take a while, depending on the number of searches and your system’s performance. All current processes are displayed in the assignment list at the bottom of the progress drawer (s. “Application overview” above for a screenshot).

Note Please do not start new searches while CoverScout is busy applying covers.

Google Images

Searching Google is actually quite different from searching Amazon. Searches will be performed in an integrated browser window (instead of the artwork inspector), and you can even browse the web to search for covers manually.

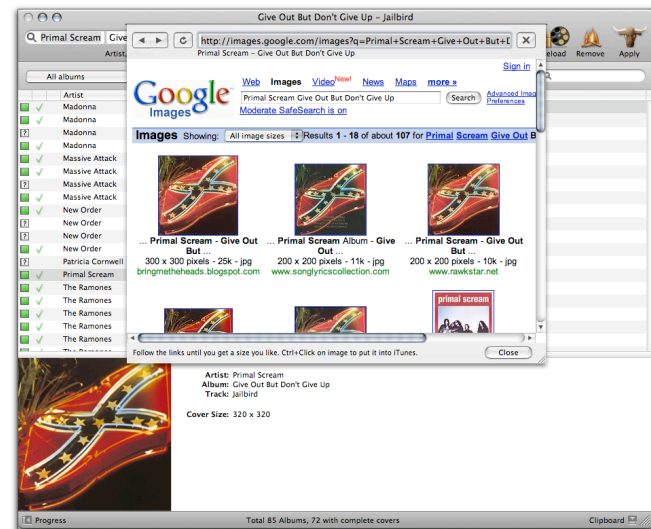
To search covers with Google Images:

- ▶ Select the albums and tracks you would like to search in the library browser

or

- ▶ Enter a combination of artist and album name in the search field of the toolbar
- ▶ Click “Google” in the toolbar

The integrated browser window will open.



Note In the [Google Preferences](#), the option “Open search results in a new browser window” must be **deactivated**. Otherwise, any click on a search result will open a window in an external browser.

- ▶ Click one of the preview covers to access a full size version
- ▶ Click “See full-size image”
- ▶ Right-click (or CTRL-click) the image to invoke the context menu “Apply cover”
- ▶ Choose the menu option to apply the cover

Searching the Web

Instead of searching Google Images, you can also use the integrated web browser to fetch artwork from any website.

To search the web manually:

- ▶ Click “Google” in the toolbar to open the browser window
- ▶ Enter the desired URL in the address bar
- ▶ Locate your preferred artwork
- ▶ Right-click (or CTRL-click) the image to invoke the context menu “Apply cover”
- ▶ Choose the menu option to apply the cover

Capture and Edit Covers

Instead of searching artwork at Amazon or on the Web, you can simply capture the covers you already own, using CoverScout and a compatible camera. If you're not happy with an image or you'd like to improve existing covers – the built-in cover editor is there for you

Capture

If a QuickTime™ compatible camera (like Apple's iSight) is connected to your Mac, you can capture any image and apply it to your albums.

To capture a cover:

- ▶ Select an album or a track in the library browser

- ▶ Click the "Edit" button in the toolbar

or

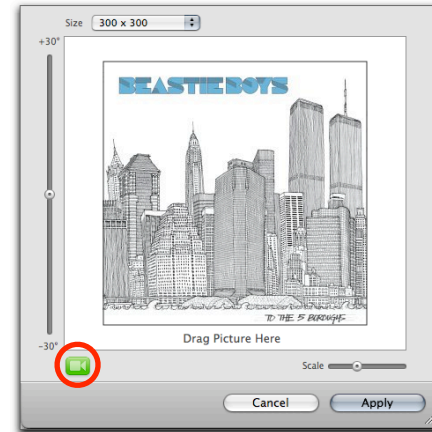
- ▶ Select "Cover > Edit Cover..."

or

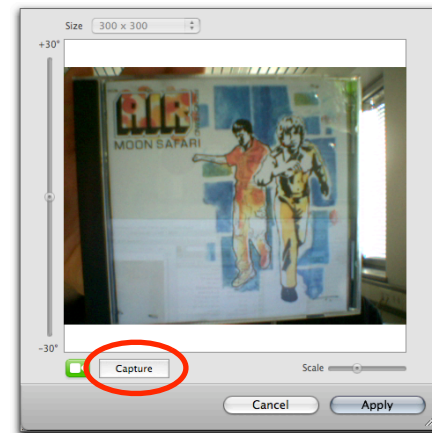
- ▶ Right-click an album, a track or a cover displayed in the artwork inspector and choose "Edit Cover..."

A dialog will open, displaying the current cover (if available). At the lower left of this dialog, a green camera symbol should be visible.

- ▶ Click the camera symbol



The dialog will change to display what is currently visible for your camera.



- ▶ Click the “Capture” button next to the camera symbol to capture an image
- ▶ Change crop size, scale and rotation as desired (s. below for details)
- ▶ Click “Apply” to apply the image to your album

Edit

The built-in cover editor can be used to crop, scale, or rotate existing covers or captured images.

To edit a cover:

- ▶ Select an album or a track in the library browser
- ▶ Click the “Edit” button in the toolbar

or

- ▶ Select “Cover > Edit Cover...”

or

- ▶ Right-click an album, a track or a cover displayed in the artwork inspector and choose “Edit Cover...”

A dialog will open, displaying the current cover.

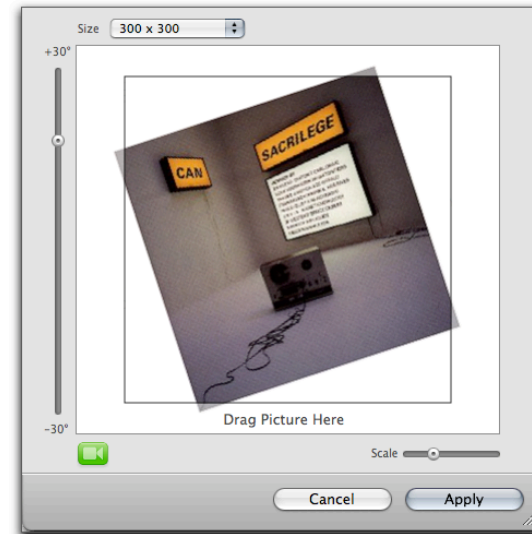
- ▶ Use the slider to the left to rotate the picture (up to 30 degrees in each direction)

or

- ▶ Use the scale slider to increase or decrease the cover size

or

- ▶ Use the crop size menu at the top to define the final cover size (e.g. 300x300 pixels)

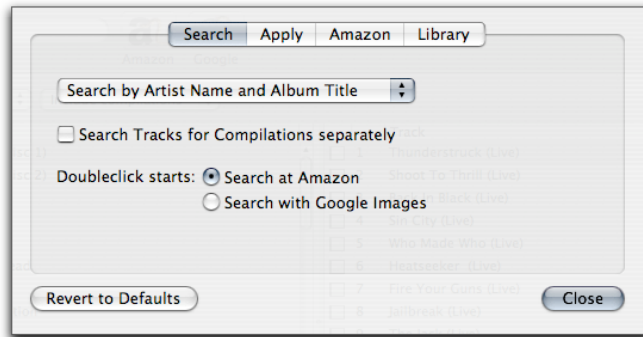


Preferences

CoverScout's preferences are organized in five tabs.

Search

The Search tab allows you to set various search-related parameters.



To select the search method:

- ▶ Choose "Search by Artist Name"

or

- ▶ Choose "Search by Artist Name and Album Title"

For compilations, you can make CoverScout search for each individual track (in order to find the original albums' artwork) instead of searching for the album name.

To search for compilation tracks separately:

- ▶ Check the appropriate box

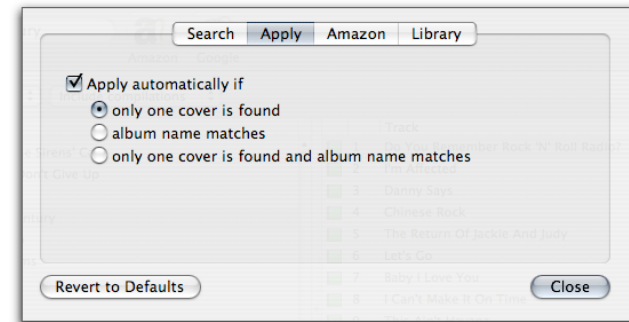
The last setting can be used to define a default search source which is used when double-clicking a track or an album.

To set the default search source:

- ▶ Choose one of the two options (Amazon or Google Images)

Apply

The Apply tab provides options for automatic application of covers to tracks. This is useful for applying artwork in bulk.



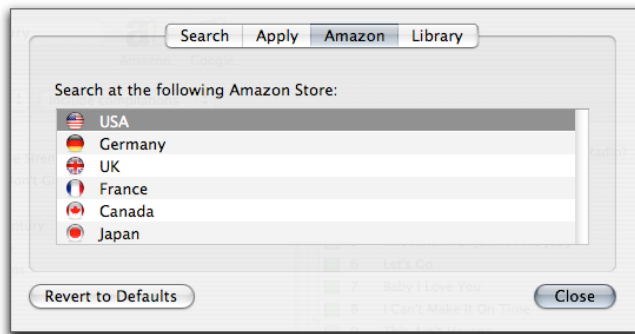
To enable automatic assignment:

- ▶ Check the appropriate box
- ▶ Choose one of the three modes

Note If you allow CoverScout to apply covers automatically, make sure to check the result afterwards.

Amazon

The Amazon tab lets you choose between various national stores.



To choose one of the national stores:

- ▶ Choose an entry from the list

Library

In the Library tab, you can decide which elements from your iTunes library should be ignored while it is loaded into CoverScout.

To exclude Podcasts or Videos from the library browser:

- ▶ Check the appropriate box in the Library tab

