

dbIcon+



**An icon editor for the 10x9 color icons
supported by DateBk5
for Use on Color Devices Only**

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in association with
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Introduction

DateBk5, like its predecessors DateBk4 and DateBk3, has supported from 1-52 monochrome icons in an 8x8 bitmap format. With V-5.0a, DateBk5 now also supports the use of from 1-255 color or grayscale icons in a 10x9 bitmap format and 256 colors (or 1,4 or 16 grays). The icon format is a trivially simple, one bitmap/record format that is fortunately also compatible with all the current color icon collections for Palm OS calendar and many other programs that support color icons. This compatibility guarantees the availability of a large number of icons in conjunction with the release of this icon editor and a version of DateBk5 that supports them. It also means that third party developers of icons do not have to re-create their icon collections in yet another icon format.

DateBk5 will first look for a color icon collection with the name **Icons-DATEBK5** (case is sensitive) and will use that. If no such database is found, then DateBk5 searches for a Database type with the type Rsrc (resource) and a CreatorID of Actn. If such a database is found, then up to the first 255 icons from that collection will be used by DateBk5. Use of the icons within DateBk5 is 100% identical to the use of monochrome icons. The only difference is that color icons lack the useful feature of monochrome icons to inherit the color of the event they are associated with—a feature that may prompt some DateBk5 users to continue to use the monochrome icons. If the color icon database is not found, or if DateBk5 is running on a device that cannot support the color/grayscale icons, DateBk5 automatically reverts to using the monochrome icons. Grayscale devices running OS 3.5 or later can use color icons and take advantage of grayscale shading although the existing color icon collections may need some tweaking to look good on a grayscale device. **Note:** the initial release of dbIcon+, does **NOT** support grayscale devices.

Program Installation

Just copy the **dbIcon+** program to your Palm organizer as you would any third party Palm OS application (i.e. use the install Tool and select the dbIcon+.prc file. Note that the icon editor only needs to be installed if you choose to edit the color icons. If you intend to use the icons in an existing collection without modification, it is not necessary to install dbIcon+. You will also need to load a default icon collection. The default icon collection file is called: **Icons-DATEBK5.PRC**. So use the Palm Install tool to install that along with dbIcon+. The first 52 icons in that collection match the existing 52 icons in the monochrome set provided with prior versions of DateBk5, so if you switch to the color icons, the correct icons should still be displayed.

When the program is run, it will complain if it is not able to find any icon collections. If that message appears, make sure that you have an icon collection loaded into the RAM of the Palm organizer you are using and that the Database type and Creator ID are as expected.

Operation

dbIcon+'s operation is **very** similar to that of other icon editors and will generally be intuitive, so your guesses will likely be correct.

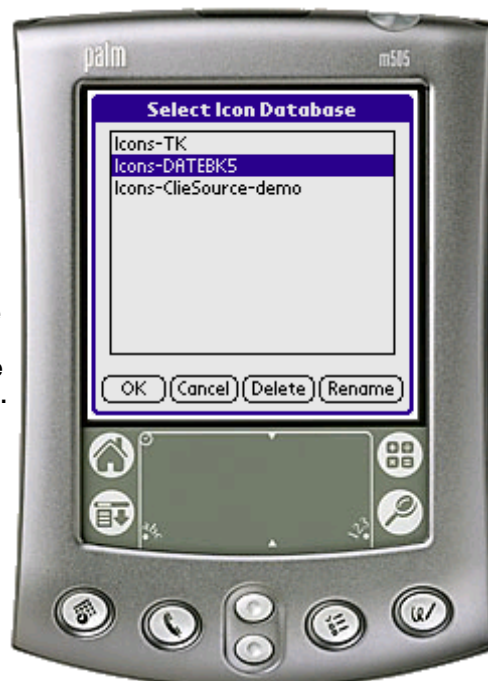
IMPORTANT WARNING !!

DateBk5 references Icons by position in the icon database. If you delete an icon, all the following icons “move up” - and you may suddenly find “wrong” icons assigned to events. Unless you are building a collection for first use, you may want to erase an icon (i.e. set it all to white) rather than delete it. Equally, you will likely want to add and paste icons at the end of the database rather than in the middle. See also *Paste & Replace Icon* feature.

Opening Screen

When dbIcon+ is launched, it looks up all color icon sets that have been loaded and allows you to choose the icon set to work with. If only one icon set is found, then the selection dialog is skipped. If the collection contains more than 255 icons, only the first 255 icons will be displayed and any remaining icons will be discarded when the database file is updated (see note on **IconDBSplitter** utility).

Use the **DELETE** button to delete the selected database, or **RE-NAME** to rename the currently selected database. You can return to this dialog at any time with the **Select Icon Database** command in the **Record** menu.



Function	Operation
Select	Tap on the icon to select it. It will be highlighted. If Select+ is unchecked you can drag and drop the icon to the desired position. If Select+ is checked, you can select multiple icons by clicking them, or dragging the stylus across them. To deselect all icons, toggle the Select+ checkbox.
Edit	Tap the Edit button to edit the selected Icon (you must have only one icon selected). You can also tap the selected icon to edit it (so a double-tap on an icon will bring it up for editing too).
Delete	Select icon(s) first, then select Delete from the Record menu. A confirmation dialog appears—answer yes to delete the icon, or no to skip the deletion.
Copy	Select the icon(s) and then select copy from the Edit menu. This copies the icon to an internal clipboard. If Select+ is checked, the icons are ap-pended to the existing clipboard contents, otherwise they replace the existing contents. Clipboard contents are discarded when you leave the program.
Paste	Select paste from the Edit menu to paste the icon(s) on the clipboard as new icon(s) which can then be edited. Items will be pasted in immediately above the selected icon. To overwrite the existing icon when pasting, use Paste & Replace Icon .
Create	To create a new icon, select New Icon from the Record Menu.
Save	To save all the editing changes in the current session, tap the SAVE button. If you try to exit without saving, dbIcon+ will prompt you to save.
Reload	To reload all the icons so they are restored to their original condition, select Reload All Icons from the Record menu. You will also need to confirm this action as any existing changes from the current session will be discarded.
Create new Collection	Paste to New Icon DB in the Edit menu creates a new icon collection and pastes in whatever icons are currently stored on the clipboard
Import B&W Icons	To import Black and White icons from an existing collection stored in the DATEBK3 memopad record, use the DateBk3 memoto clipbd command in the Edit menu. This will import them to the clipboard. You can then paste them into an existing collection or create a new one.
Empty Clipboard	Select Empty Clipboard from the Edit menu to clear out all icons currently in the clipboard
Clipboard Status	Clipboard Status in the Edit menu shows you how many icons you have in the clipboard.



The first 130 icons are shown on page 1 and the remaining 125 icons are displayed on Page 2.

If the **Select+** checkbox is checked, you can select more than one icon by clicking or dragging. If unchecked, only one icon can be selected at a time (for drag and drop).

Note: dbIcon at this point does not support transparency (i.e. pixels that do not hide what is “beneath” the icon. This feature may be added in a future release.

Editing Icon bitmaps

dbIcon+ displays the currently selected icon in a 8* magnification zoomed display to make it easier to set and clear various pixels. The icon is also displayed at actual size right beneath the zoomed display. To the right is the color selection palette which lists all the colors used to form the icon. When you tap on the work area, the pixel will be changed to the Active color.

Work area has one cell for each bit in the icon (10 across, 9 down). Tap the cell to change it to the Active color. If you just tap one cell **and** it is already in the active color, dbIcon+ will change the cell back to its original value (a convenient way to correct accidental taps).

The contents of the work area are displayed at actual size here. It is updated dynamically as you make changes in the work area.

Toolbar allows you to shift, rotate or flip the image (see details at bottom right).

OK—ends the editing of this icon and saves the changes for the main icon display (file is not updated).

Cancel—ends the editing of this icon and discards any changes made in this dialog.

Reload—discards all changes made in this dialog and refreshes the work area with the original contents of the icon.


Undo—reverses the last operation performed.

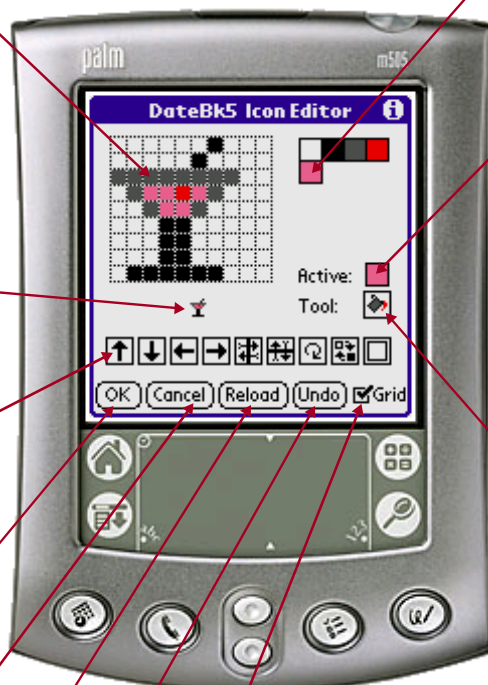
Grid—if checked displays a dotted grid delineating each cell in the icon bitmap. Grid makes it easier to see the cell boundaries.

Color Selection Palette. Lists all colors in the current icon. Tap on the color to make it the active color.

The active color is the color that will be used to draw pixels in the work area. Tap the color to bring up the color picker dialog which lists all possible colors. When you select a color it will become the new active color and is also copied to the color selection palette.

The normal drawing tool is the pencil which just changes the one pixel that is tapped in the work area. Tap the tool icon to change it to the paint-bucket:

The paint-bucket tool  changes **all** pixels in the work area that match the tapped pixel to the active color.



Up Down Left Right H-flip V-flip Rotate Revs. Erase

up/down left/right	Moves the entire icon in the direction of the arrow. The display wraps so the row/column being shifted off the display re-appears at the opposite side.
H-flip	Flips the icon around the center point (as if you were looking at the other side)
V-flip	Flips the icon vertically about a horizontal, centered line
Rotate	Rotates the icon 90 degrees clockwise. Only the leftmost 9 pixel columns are involved in the rotation.
Rev.	Reverses each pixel (Black->White, White->Black). Color inversions invert RGB values
Erase	Erases the entire work area (sets all pixels white)

Technical Support

As freeware, technical support is limited, so don't send an email requesting two hours of telephone support in how to use the application. 😊 In addition to emailing the standard support email address: swsupport@pimlicosoftware.com, you can also post a query on the DateBk3/4/5 discussion forum: pimlicodatebk@yahoogroups.com (go to www.yahoogroups.com and join the list, or send an email to DateBk4-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

Sony Clie Users: you need to disable the high-resolution assist feature for dbIcon+ as there is a flaw in the implementation of the high-resolution assist feature that interferes with dbIcon+. If you do not do that, the work area will not properly display the icon.

Handera Users: you will not be able to run dbIcon+ due to bugs/incompatibility issues in the Handera OS. It is possible that a dedicated version of dbIcon+ running exclusively in high resolution mode might sidestep these problems, but this will require further testing and experimentation.

Database type and Creator ID: For compatibility with existing color icon collections, dbIcon+ looks for files with a Database type of **Rsrc** and a Creator ID of **Actn**. The filename can be any legal filename (the filename is displayed in the selection dialog). If you have two databases with the same name, you will need to change the name of one of them so you can see both at the same time (use dbIcon's **rename** button). If you have two or more databases with that type and creator ID, DateBk5 merely loads the first one it finds. To make sure it loads one icon collection, rename your final collection to **Icons-DATEBK5**.

Sources for Icon Collections

There are several sources for color icons. Any icon collection marked as compatible with Palm OS Calendar programs should work with DateBk5. Included with dbIcon+ is a basic collection. Other icon collections can be found at almost all Palm Software archive sites, such as www.PalmGear.com. There are also many other sites around the internet such as:

www.twokidsinagarage.com www.beraustin.com/designsbybert_site/palmos.asp www.geocities.com/sdgware/

You can also use monochrome icon collections, although all the icons will be automatically converted to 8-bit color format when loaded into dbIcon+.

Handling large icon collections

dbIcon can only handle icon collections of 255 icons or less. Some icon collections are much larger. To handle these larger icon collections, use the freeware application IconDBSplitter which is in the DateBk5.zip archive or which can be downloaded from: <http://www.PimlicoSoftware.com/Icondbsplitter.prc>.

DateBk5

If you are not familiar with DateBk5, DateBk5 is the most powerful calendar application for the Palm OS organizer. A light version of DateBk5's predecessor, DateBk3 was licensed to Handspring and appears in the ROM of all Handspring devices as their "advanced datebook application": Datebook+. DateBk5 has a 45-day free trial period and can be downloaded from: <http://www.PimlicoSoftware.com/datebk5.htm>.



Upgrading to DateBk4 or DateBk5 from DateBk3

Existing DateBk3 users can upgrade to DateBk4 or DateBk5 for \$10. DateBk5 is a **free** upgrade for all registered DateBk4 users.

The Gorilla Haven Connection

All the profits from the sale of DateBk3/4/5 (and this means virtually all the revenue) are donated to wildlife conservation and in particular, the Dewar Wildlife Trust's **Gorilla Haven** project which is building a secluded facility for Western Lowland Gorillas on the Dewar's 324 acres in the North Georgia Mountains. See www.gorilla-haven.org for more details.

The Dewar Wildlife Trust also provides funding to various in-situ conservation projects in Africa such as the Limbe Wildlife Center in Cameroon, and contributes to organizations fighting the bushmeat trade.