ViewFinder 9.10 Release Notes — June 12, 2021

This software upgrade is a private investment of Robin Myers, Larry Guyer and Marty Gregory to extend the functionality of ViewFinder for Macintosh computer systems. The initial development costs are to be recovered by the purchase of this software upgrade by our Better Light owners. Updates to correct bugs and functionality issues for this version 9 will be included at no cost to the subscribers.

2021 USB-2 HS-Series or SCSI Control Boxes with Mac OS 10.13 or later only:

This new 64-bit ViewFinder version 9.10 replaces the previous version 7.4.4 from 2009. If you are working with newer Mac computers and using Mojave (10.14), Catalina (10.15), Big Sur (11.0) and beyond, you should purchase and use this new software to avoid operational problems. It has also been working on High Sierra (10.13).

This version is compatible with Intel Macs and Apple Silicon Macs running OS 10.13 or higher. This version was primarily created to correct changes to Apple operating systems beginning with MOJAVE (10.14) and higher. Functionality remains the same as ViewFinder 7.4.4 and may still have some lingering bugs due to limited beta testing and the fact that we are trying to accommodate all of the changes that Apple has made on several past OS versions.

Not recommended for Macintosh users that remain on older computers and are using Mac OS of High Sierra 10.13 or earlier and you should continue to use ViewFinder 7.4.4. Previous versions of ViewFinder software for Mac and Windows machines are on the Better Light website: http://betterlight.com/downloads.html

IMPORTANT: If you discover any issues, please provide detailed information regarding the symptoms, your computer and Mac OS version, and include any images or screen captures that illustrate the problem. Send this information to larry@betterlight.com.

We will keep an active list of ViewFinder 9.10 subscribers so we can provide any updates to fix bugs or functionality issues for this software version in the near future. Continue watching our posts on the Better Light Owners' Forum betterlight@groups.io for product news, bulletins and user discussions.

….. More …..

IMPORTANT STARTUP INFO:

You can unzip the attached file and work with the ViewFinder application from your desktop or move it to the Applications folder.

I DO RECOMMEND THAT YOU REMOVE (and save temporarily) TWO FILES FROM **User/Library/Preferences folder:**

ViewFinder Prefs and **com.betterlight.viewfinder.plist**

This will minimize any issues with the new coding required for version 9.10. There are a lot of changes in how these newer Mac OS systems work and we ran into many problems because of the conflicts with the various Mac operating systems and our new Viewfinder. These two preferences files will automatically be recreated when you reopen ViewFinder. **NOTE:** This will result in all settings returning to the software defaults, so any custom settings will be lost. The ViewFinder Users' Manual gives instructions on saving custom tone curves and a full set of current application settings.

==================================

KNOW ISSUES WITH VIEWFINDER 9.10:

— **Color Profiles:** Apple made changes to the way color management works going way back before we released 7.4.4 and ever since the ICC profiles that we have activated on the Color Tab Panel have NOT visually modified our ViewFinder Preview images…however, the profiles are added to the TIFF header and are applied to the image when opened in Photoshop. Marty, our software engineer, has received some new information on Apple's color management protocol and we hope that we can improve the functionality of the applied profiles in the future.

— **ViewFinder Window:** The ViewFinder application window does not always reopen at the same size and position as it was when the app was closed. This seems to work OK on some computer/OS combinations, but not on others. Make sure "Auto Save Preferences" is checked in the top menu bar under "File". Let us know if you have problems with this.

Keep in mind that the ViewFinder Prescan is a small subsampled scan size and will not be as large as desired on today's high-resolution monitors. For best results always view the Prescans at 100%. The current viewing percentage is shown at the very bottom left corner of the window and can be adjusted from the Display menu at the top menu bar. The "Zoom to Fit" button at the bottom of the screen will enlarge the Preview to fill the size of your ViewFinder application window and may not show the accurate sharpness of the image.

— **Option+Restart:** Because we are attempting to accommodate all of the coding variations of several different Apple OS versions, you may have some functions that are not working as expected. If some unexpected situation occurs you can flush some of these conflicts by holding down the Option key while reopening ViewFinder. CAUTION: This will result in all settings returning to the software defaults, so any custom settings will be lost. The ViewFinder Users' Manual gives instructions on saving custom tone curves and a full set of current application settings.

— **Apple Silicon (M1) Macs**: We have had limited testing on the newest Apple Silicon computers. The app is built with both the Intel and M1 compiled code in it so it runs natively on an M1 system. It also works just the same when "Open Using Rosetta" is turned on to run the 68xx code on the M1 (although noticeably slower to launch). Some new Macs don't have a USB-A port so an adapter is required. Also, keep in mind that there are two different types of ports on the iMac that look the same but work differently. Check your computer's manual to identify how the specifications of these ports…some ViewFinder issues might be solved by just changing to a different USB port.

— **Sounds:** ViewFinder is "supposed to" locate .aiff sounds that are in the Users/xxxx/Library/Sounds folder as well as the System Sounds. This has not always worked on all computer/OS combinations, but has worked now on my MacBook Pro laptop with High Sierra and a new iMac running Catalina.

— **Pano Mode** is not currently active and will be added soon. An update will be provided at no charge to anyone using the PanoWideView Adapter or Panoscan Camera when it is available.

FOR QUESTIONS AND SUPPORT CONTACT:
Larry Guyer at Archetype Imaging LLC
Email: larry@betterlight.com *Email preferred for faster reply.*
Voicemail: 702-485-2920