



AirPhotoUSAx.avx Extension Version 1.1

OVERVIEW

The AirPhotoUSAx.avx file is an ArcView extension written to run inside of ArcView version 3.1 or later (but not ArcView 8.1 or later since it does not support Avenue scripts). Its function is to extract an AirPhoto from any of the AirPhotoUSA aerial photography CD-ROMs for the extents of the current ArcView window and place it in the background. When you zoom in to the point that the photography starts to visually degrade you can select the “Extract AirPhoto” menu item again to pull in an AirPhoto optimized for that view extents. Also, if you zoom out to the point that the AirPhoto no longer fills the window you can select the “Extract AirPhoto” menu item again to fill it.

PHOTOMAPPER INSTALLATION

This tool requires the PhotoMapper program (version 2.70 or later). PhotoMapper can be installed by running setup from the root of the AirPhotoUSA CD-ROM. Or for a demo CD-ROM (where no setup.exe exists at the root of the CD) PhotoMapper.exe can be accessed directly from the CD-ROM. If you have version of PhotoMapper prior to 2.70 you will need to download the latest version of PhotoMapper at <http://www.photomapper.com/update>.

AIRPHOTOUSAX.AVX INSTALLATION

Installing the AirPhotoUSA ArcView extension is very easy. Follow these steps:

- 1) Copy the file AirPhotoUSAx.avx from the CD into the EXT32 folder in the ArcView folder.
- 2) In ArcView from the file drop down menu go to Extensions.
- 3) Place a check mark next to the AirPhotoUSAx Extension. In order for the Extension to load each time ArcView starts place a check mark in the box “Make Default”.
- 4) Click OK and a “AirPhotoUSA” menu item will show next to help when a view is open.

PREFERENCES

To set the preferences select “Preferences” from the “AirPhotoUSA” menu. The “AirPhoto file to be created” path name should be on a drive which has sufficient free space to hold a file of at least the size specified for “AirPhoto Resolution” (see below). This file should have a .TIF extension. If all you are doing is viewing the aerial photography on the screen (vs printing it) we recommend that you set the

“AirPhoto Resolution” (which is specified as a maximum file size in megabytes) to 5 to 10 megabytes. This will be quick and allow you to zoom in a little ways before the image starts to visually degrade. When you get ready to print you can increase the size and extract a new AirPhoto to provide the resolution required for a good quality print. The larger the file size the more you can zoom in before the images starts to visually degrade. The recommended file sizes for prints is as follows:

For 8.5 x 11 use 7 to 10 megabytes

For 11 x 17 use 15 to 20 megabytes

For 17 x 22 use 35 to 45 megabytes

For 24 x 36 use 65 to 75 megabytes

For 36 x 48 use 100 megabytes

When specifying the “PhotoMapper .map File” in the preferences where the .map files are read from a CD-ROM, wild cards are typically used. This causes the program to use whatever .map file is found on the CD-ROM drive which is in the drive. If your CD-ROM is on the E: drive then you could specify “E:*.map” (without the quotes). The program will actually look down as far as 2 folder levels deep to find a .map file when wild cards are used and will use the first PhotoMapper .map file encountered.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If the view projection is undefined or set to Latitude/Longitude the first time an AirPhoto is extracted the view extents will change slightly when the AirPhotoUSAx extension sets the view projection to match the AirPhoto. Just export it again and the file will be over written and the new file will fill the view since the view projection is no longer in Lat/Lon. If, when using the “Extract AirPhoto” menu item, PhotoMapper starts, displays the aerial photography then stops without exiting you need to make sure you are using PhotoMapper version 2.70. The version number shows on the title bar of PhotoMapper. Also, make sure the correct PhotoMapper.exe file is specified in “Preferences”

You will get an all grey AirPhoto anywhere beyond the extents of the aerial photography in the particular .map file specified in “Preferences”. If the AirPhoto comes in as all grey, the .map file specified in Preferences probably doesn’t contain aerial photography for the area within the current ArcView window.

If the AirPhoto doesn’t show after using the “Extract AirPhoto” menu item it may be obscured by solid filled regions (polygons) which overlap it. Use the “Style Override” for those layers to make regions display as an outline only or make those layers invisible.

If the AirPhoto doesn’t show after using the “Extract AirPhoto” menu item or it shows up in the wrong place it may be due to the projection or units PhotoMapper is using when extracting the AirPhoto. If your map data is not stored as Latitude/ Longitude then you must tell PhotoMapper to export in the same projection and units used by your other map data. To set the projection and units PhotoMapper uses when exporting press the “Set PhotoMapper Export Projection and Units” button

in the "Preferences" dialog started from the "AirPhotoUSA" menu within ArcView. This starts up PhotoMapper with the map file specified in the preferences and allows you to edit the export projection to be used with that map file. This step need only be performed once per .MAP file as PhotoMapper remembers the settings. It is not possible to export the AirPhoto as Latitude/Longitude. However, ArcView does a great job of displaying your Lat/Lon vector data with the AirPhoto in whatever projection it is exported in - as long as the view projection is set to the projection PhotoMapper exports to.