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Renaming Multiple Files

by Alan German

Renaming one file in Windows is simple; just click on the file in File Explorer to highlight the name which can then be typed over or edited as desired. But, what if there are 12 files (or 1200), with names like 20241019_103224.jpg, that need to be renamed in a logical sequence? Sure, you could edit them one-by-one but a much more efficient method is to use a purpose-built utility program that can apply a naming template to all the slides automatically. Enter Advanced Renamer, a single-minded program from software developer Kim Jensen, that makes renaming multiple files a breeze.

When downloaded and installed, running the program displays a main screen that initially may seem a little daunting. However, the first topic in the online user guide is *Getting Started* and this provides simple, clear instructions, together with an annotated screenshot, of the four-step process to batch rename a group of files.

Firstly, the files to be renamed can be selected by clicking on the *Green plus sign/File* menu item under *Batch Mode*. This loads a standard file-browse window where multiple files can be selected for processing.

Next, selecting *New name* from the *Add batch method* area on the lower-left side of the window provides a text box where a template for the new file name can be developed. Text can be typed into this box and supplemented by any of a number of pre-defined entries. For example, one commonly-used construct is to add the entry *<Inc Nr>* - *Incrementing number* in order to include sequence numbers in the file names.

In the example shown in Figure 1, the initial file name, 20241019_103224.jpg, has been renamed to Mer-Bleue-01.jpg and this format has been automatically applied to the remaining files that have been selected for renaming.

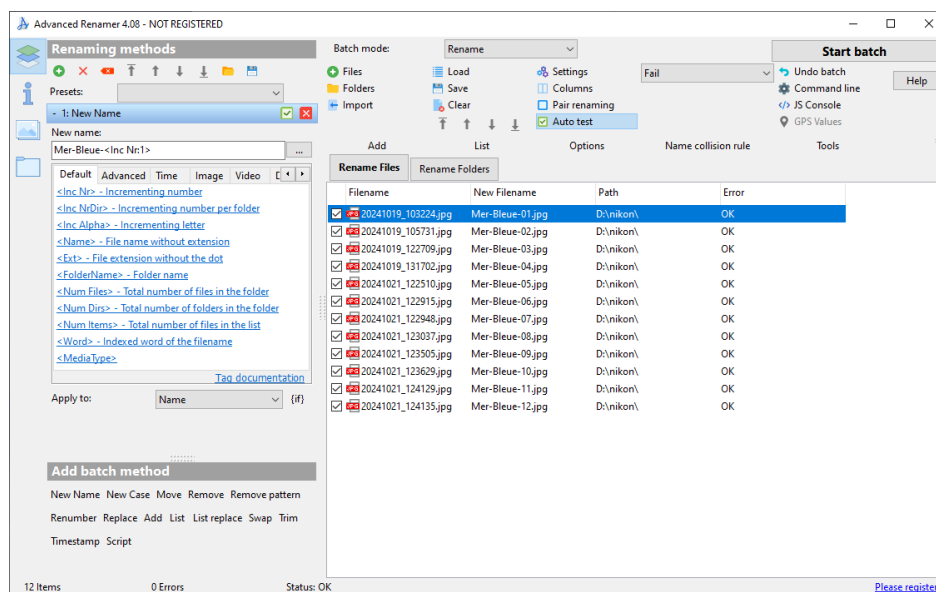


Figure 1. Files renamed using Advanced Renamer

The third, very useful, step is to review the set of new file names that are now displayed in the main program window. The template can be adjusted should the previewed results not be precisely those desired.

Finally, the *Start batch* control button is pressed to initiate the renaming process.

As its name suggests, Advanced Renamer has many more complex features, including the ability to change the case of text, use date and time information, conduct partial naming using search patterns, use music file tags and digital image metadata, and copying or moving files and folders. These advanced options provide a range of exceptionally flexible file and folder renaming constructs.

The program is available for Windows (64-bit only) and Mac computers. The User Guide is very comprehensive with clear descriptions of the available features together with a number of useful examples. And, while the program's interface may initially seem somewhat complex, it is actually very easy to perform a simple batch file renaming process for a specific group of files which is the most likely requirement for the majority of users.

Bottom Line

Advanced Renamer (Freeware)

Version 4.08

Kim Jensen

<https://www.advancedrenamer.com>



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