



# TextSniper

A little app that puts on-screen text in your crosshairs.

## Info//

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<https://textsniپر.app>  
**£9.99, \$9.99, 10,99 €**  
**Compatibility: macOS 10.15 or later**

**T**extSniper is an OCR (Optical Character Recognition) app that can extract text from any document or window on your Mac, even if it's non-editable, non-selectable and non-searchable. You can then paste it into another app such as Notes or Pages, and use it however you see fit.

I know what you're thinking. 'Why would I spend money on TextSniper when macOS Monterey is on the way, with its built-in Live Text feature that does the same job?' In actual fact, TextSniper goes way beyond what Live Text can do. While Live Text is only for Monterey users on Macs with M1 chips, TextSniper works on any Mac running Catalina or later. It puts in a more comprehensive performance too. Live Text currently works only in Safari and with images, but TextSniper can take text from any application and file format. If you see text on the screen, TextSniper can capture it. It can also convert text to speech, which is great for the visually impaired, and it can even read QR and bar codes, converting them back into URLs and numbers respectively.

### Take Aim...

It's easy to use. Just select the TextSniper service you need from the menu bar icon, then drag the crosshairs over the text, and it's copied to the clipboard. From there, you can paste it into the app of your choice. You can customise TextSniper with keyboard shortcuts, add custom words

for jargon and specialisations that might not otherwise be picked up and set the speed of its text-to-speech service.

When you take aim with TextSniper, you almost always hit the target. In our tests, we were able to capture text from screenshots, app windows, photographs and more; with close to 100% success rate. It handled angled text, weird fonts, tiny words and fussy or partly obscured text with ease. Mistakes were few, and results were excellent. The only significant problems it had were with computer code and complex mathematical formulae, but perhaps this will be improved in a later update. Handwriting can be hit and miss too, but that's inevitable. Overall, TextSniper does an excellent job and is a real asset for those who often need to copy text. **AF**



We used TextSniper to capture the QR code seen on this website, then pasted the URL into TextEdit.



# AKVIS AliveColors

Does the Mac need yet another photo editor? Maybe...

**A**liveColors does a decent job of positioning itself between entry-level tools that need very little skill, and pro-level suites with comprehensive capabilities but steep learning curves. It has a good set of tools, which should be familiar enough to anyone who's used a photo editor before, and a great user interface that puts everything at your fingertips.

As well as improving your photographs, there are artistic brushes and filters that let you stylise your pictures, giving them a whole new look. It can also draw scalable vector graphics that can be resized without losing quality; if that's a feature that interests you.

There's an unnecessarily complicated payment tier, which ranges from a limited-functionality free app, a Home release with a few filters and effects missing and a Pro version which has all features present, but costs over three times as much as the Home release and you still have to pay extra for a year of updates. You can also get both versions on a subscription. Take

a look at the website for more information on what limitations go with which licenses.

### Look Alive!

The tools you get with AliveColors do a great job of lifting your photographs out of the realms of mediocrity, and styling them can be fun and rewarding. For example, there are masking tools that make it easy to cut out complex areas of a picture, such as the branches of a tree or a person's hair. Here you can do it automatically. Editable brushes are optimised for use with pressure-sensitive graphics tablets, and collage tools let you combine pictures quickly and easily. Batch processing lets you edit multiple photos with minimal intervention too.

All told, AKVIS AliveColors is a great app, and a good balance between comprehensive tools and ease of use. Recommended, but don't expect to master it in minutes. **AH**

## Info//

**AKVIS**  
<https://alivecolors.com>  
**Home: £36.00, \$49.00, 41,00 €**  
**Pro: £120.00, \$160.00, 135,00 €**  
**Compatibility: OS X 10.10 or later, 64-bit only**

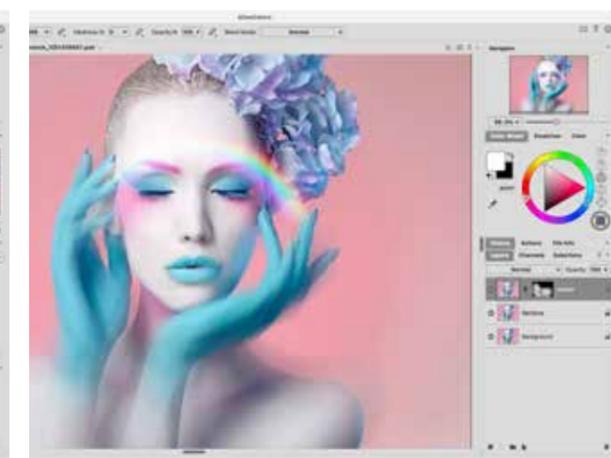
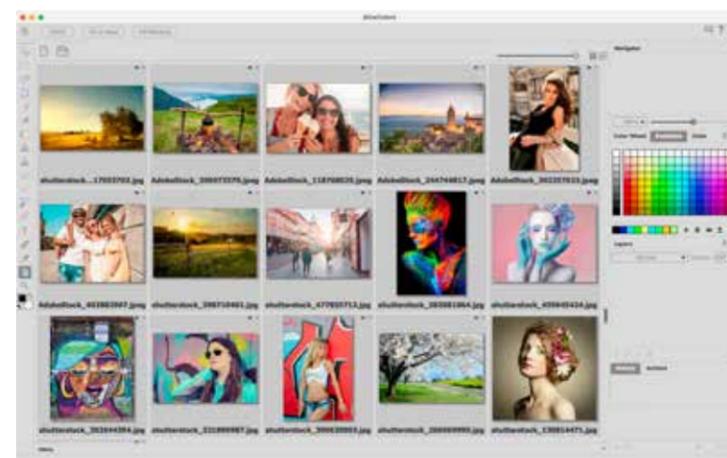
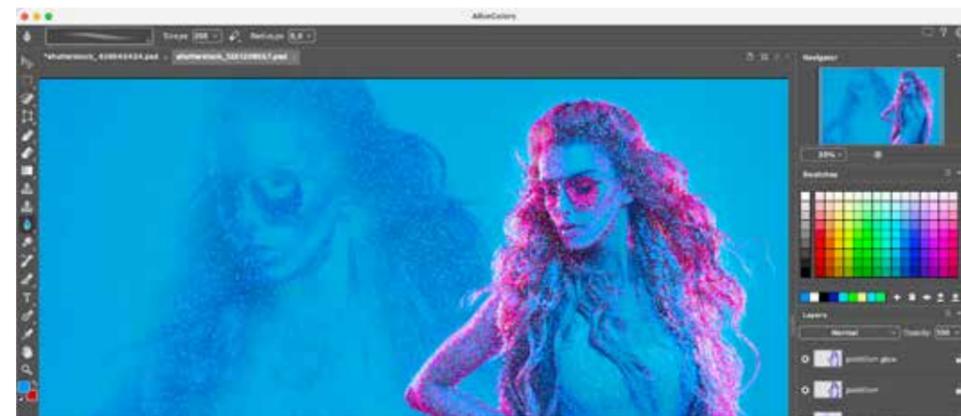
## Verdict//

**PROS AND CONS:**  
 + Great user interface  
 + Decent set of filters  
 + Versatile tools  
 - Mediocre text editing

### LAST WORD

A solid photo editor that does more than lift your pictures, but the Pro version is a little expensive.

**RATING: 4/5**



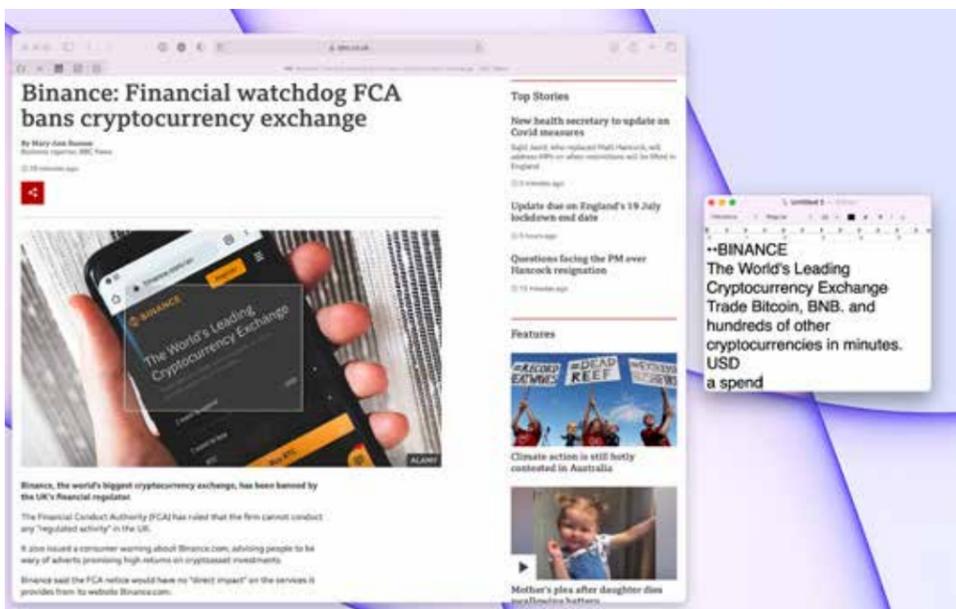
ESSENTIAL AppleUser MAGAZINE **5/5** RECOMMENDS

## Verdict//

**PROS AND CONS:**  
 + Comprehensive and versatile  
 + Excellent OCR  
 + Text-to-speech feature  
 - Not great at symbols

**LAST WORD**  
 An excellent app that does exactly what it claims, and does it well.

**RATING: 5/5**



It can handle a photo on a website with text set at an angle, though it did mistake a comma for a full stop.