

# View/Rename Files using EXIF data

## Meaningless file names

Most cameras write sequences of images with file names that resemble

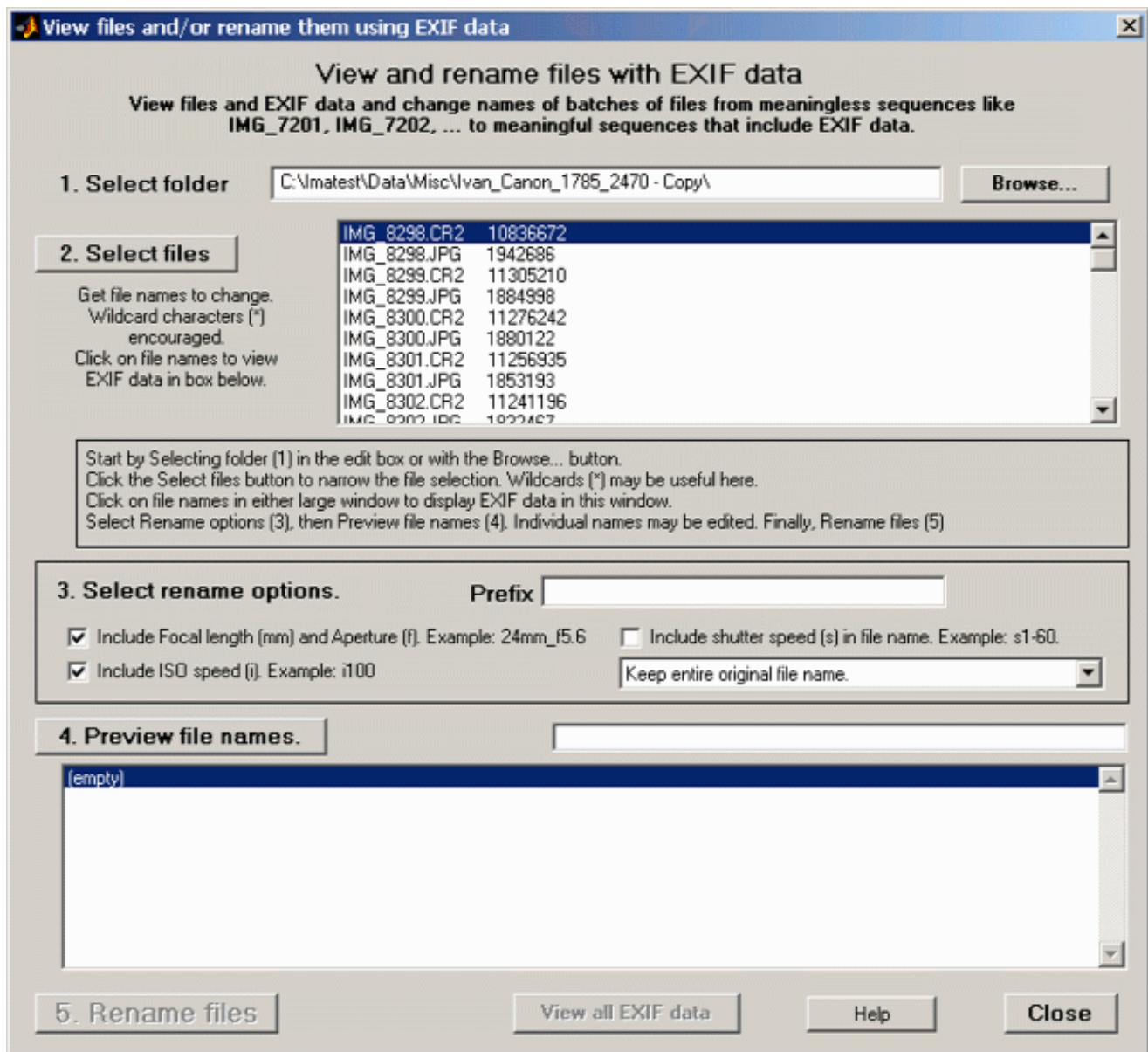
*IMG\_7201.jpg*  
*IMG\_7202.jpg*  
*IMG\_7203.jpg etc.*

If you test several lenses at several focal lengths and apertures you can easily generate a hundred or more files with similar names— none of which make sense unless you've taken careful notes or view the EXIF data for the files. To view the EXIF data in Windows Explorer (typically focal length, aperture, and a few others), right-click on the file name, click on Properties, click on the Details tab, then scroll down a bit. You're out of luck if you want the lens model. After you've done this about ten times you may be tempted to think unkind thoughts about Microsoft. But worry not, gentle reader, View/Rename Files can automatically rename batches of files to meaningful names, like

*EF1785\_85mm\_f5.6\_i100\_7201.jpg*  
*EF1785\_85mm\_f8\_i100\_7202.jpg*  
*EF1785\_85mm\_f11\_i100\_7203.jpg etc.*

## Starting View/Rename Files

After you've acquired a batch of image files and loaded them in a folder on your computer, press on the right of the Iimatest main window. This opens the View/Rename Files window.



View/Rename Files window, after opening

Brief instructions are displayed in a box near the middle of the window. There is a five-step sequence for viewing and renaming files. Quick summary:

1. Select folder	Select the folder for viewing/renaming files by entering its name in the Select folder window or pressing the Browse... button. The selection is saved and loaded the next time View/Rename Files is opened.
2. Select files	Open a window to select the files to view/rename. You can use the usual Windows tricks, including wildcard characters, to facilitate the selection.
3. Select rename options	Select options for renaming the files: what to add (for example, aperture and focal length) and what to keep from the original file names (all, numbers-only, or nothing).

4. Preview file names.	Preview the new file names using EXIF data in each file. The names can be individually edited if necessary.
5. Rename files	Rename the files. (Not available in Evaluation mode)

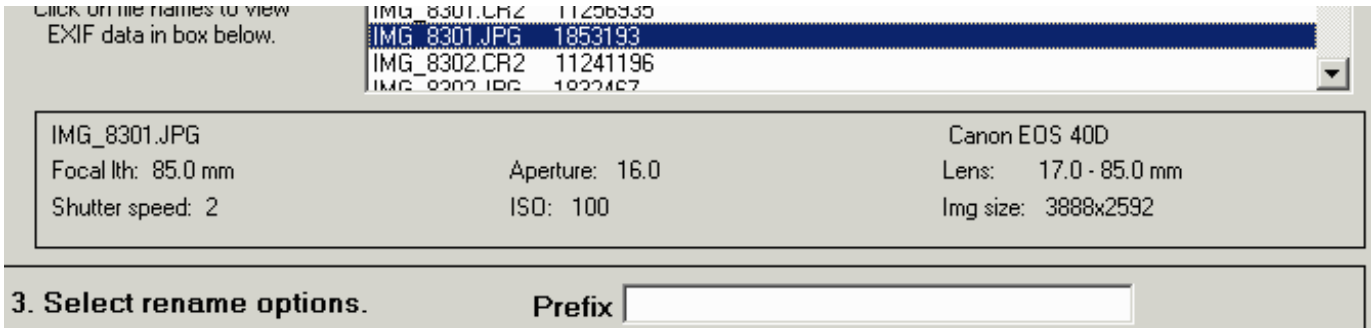
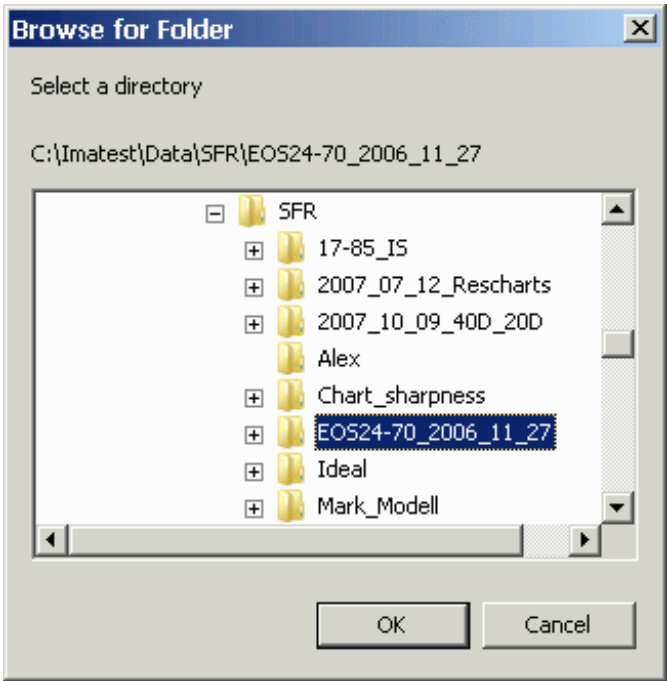
# 1. Select folder

## Browse for folder

The first time View/Rename Files is opened, no folder or file names are displayed. You can open a folder for display by entering its name in the edit box to the right of **1. Select folder** (above) or by opening the window, shown on the right.

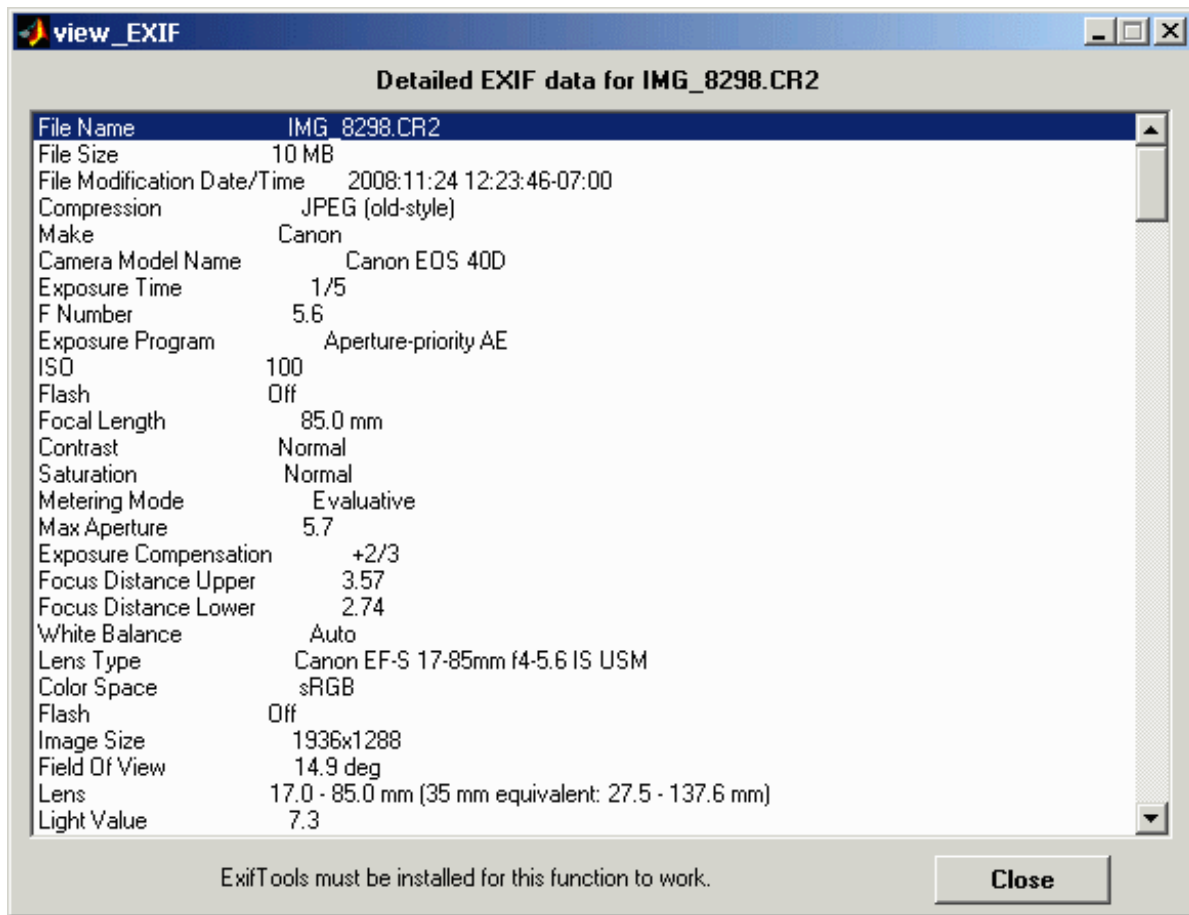
Once a folder is opened its contents (*all* files and file sizes in bytes) are shown in the large window to the right of **2. Select files**. The folder is saved and opened the next time View/Rename Files is opened.

You can examine selected EXIF data in individual files by clicking on the file name in the large window. The EXIF data appears in the box in the middle of the View/Rename Files window that displayed the brief instructions.



## Selected EXIF data

If you clicked on a file name you can also view all EXIF data (and that can be a HUGE amount of data— 200 or more lines ) by clicking the button at the bottom of the View/Rename Files window, which opens the window shown below.



## Detailed EXIF data

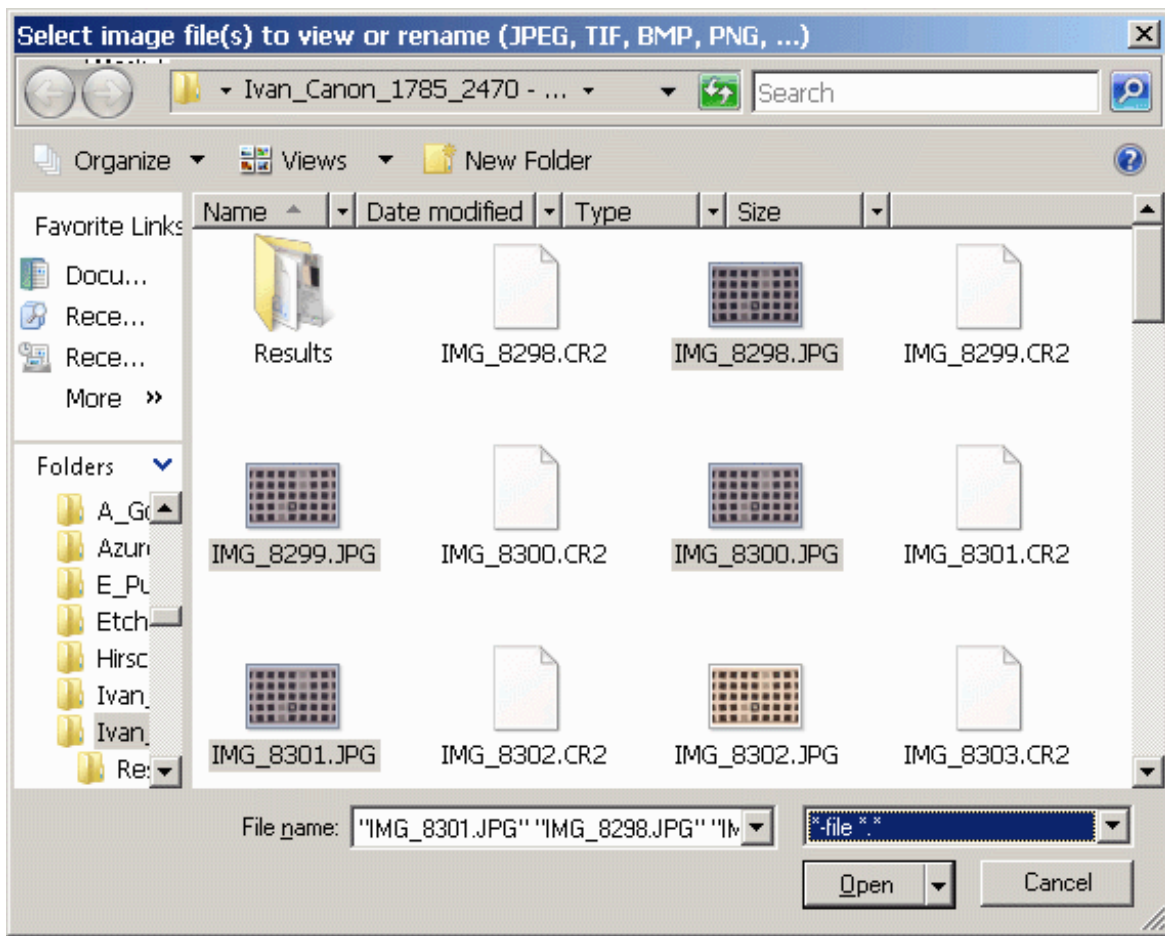
To view all EXIF data, [Phil Harvey's ExifTool](#) must be downloaded and installed.

- Go to the [ExifTool home page](#) and download the Windows standalone executable (a zip file). This file is not included in the Imatest installation because it is [frequently updated](#).
- In Windows Explorer, double-click on the downloaded zip file.
- Copy the contents ( exiftool(-k).exe ) to the Imatest installation folder (typically C:\Program files\Imatest in English-language installations).
- Rename exiftool(-k).exe to exiftool.exe.
- In **Options and Settings II** (in the main Imatest window), **Exif data acquisition** should be set to **Get EXIF data from ExifTool & save ALL EXIF data**.

EXIF fields are explained in [Wikipedia](#) and [ExifTool Tag Names](#).

## 2. Select files

This step is only needed if you don't want to rename *all* the files in the folder. (All files are displayed whenever a folder is opened.) Press to open the dialog box shown below.



File selection window

You can select the files to change using the usual Windows techniques (shift-click, control-click, etc.), then press Open. There are a number of tricks that can facilitate the selection of batches.

- You can enter a name with one or more wildcard characters in the File name box, then hit return. This will display only files that meet the wildcard criteria. For example, \*.JPG will display all JPEG files in the folder (omitting the CR2 (Canon RAW) files).
- You can change the View (Details, List, Thumbnails, etc.) and the order in which files are displayed.

### 3. Select rename options

New (renamed) file names have the following structure, where all fields except the last are optional. Brackets are used below to separate fields— they're not a part of the file name.

*[Prefix][focal length\_aperture][ISO speed][shutter speed][part of all of the original file name]*

where focal length is followed by 'mm', aperture is preceded by 'a', ISO speed is prefixed by 'i', and shutter speed is prefixed by 's'. In shutter speeds that include slash (/) characters, i.e., 1/6 (second), / is replaced by -, i.e., shutter speed will appear as s1-6.

Options for the last portion of the new name include

*Keep only numbers from original file name.*

*Keep entire original file name.*

*Do not keep original file name. Add numbers 1 2 3 ...*

Examples: **IMG\_8298.JPG** could be changed to

**EF17-85\_85mm\_f5.6\_i100\_s1-6\_IMG\_8298.JPG** (maximum information; keeps all of the old name)

**EF17-85\_85mm\_f5.6\_8298.JPG** (Good for testing lenses: lens type, focal length, aperture, and original file number.)

**1.JPG** (Minimal name; not very useful)

Step 3 lets you view the results of your choice.

## 4. Preview file names

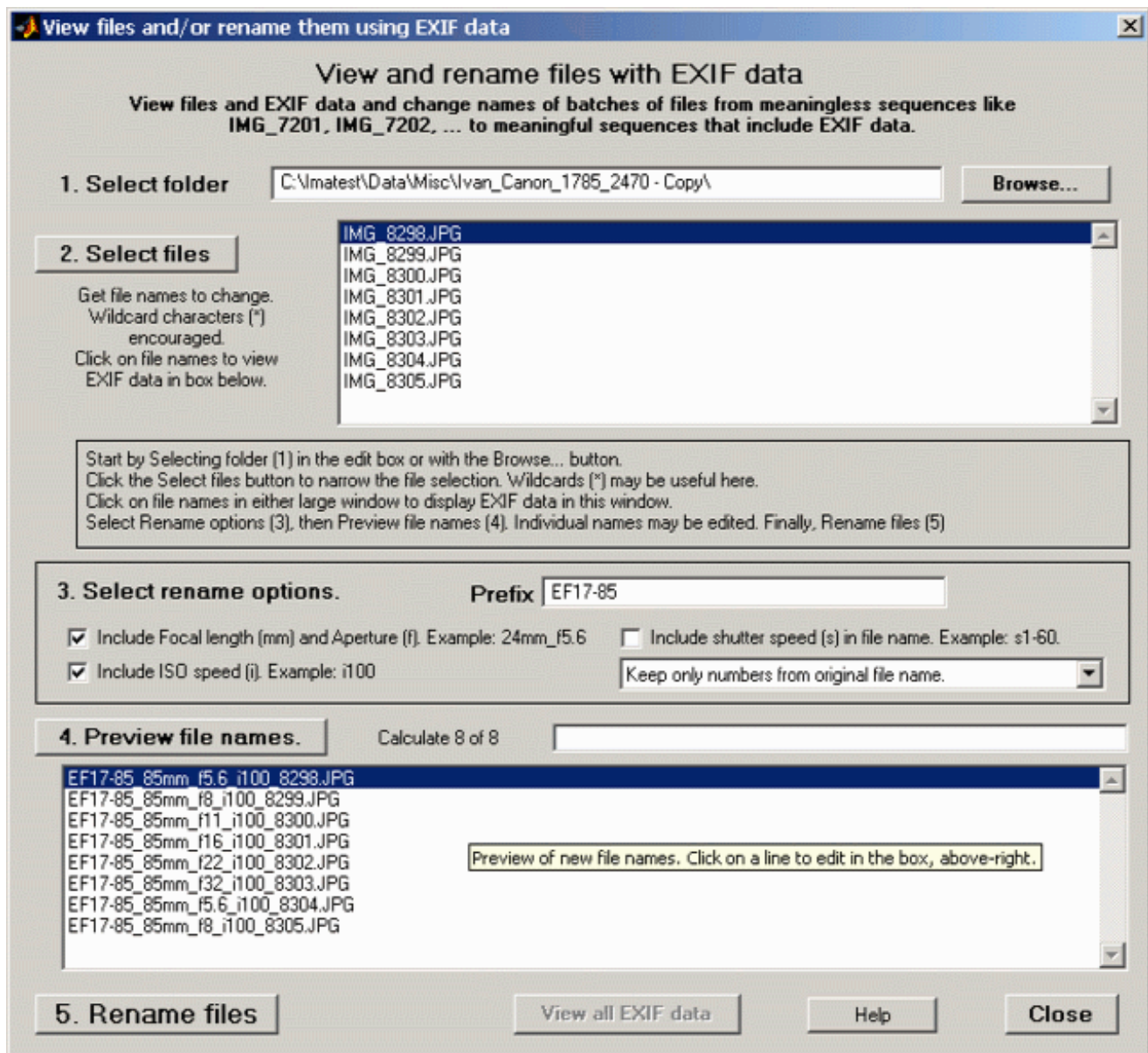
After you have selected the files and rename options, you can preview the new names by pressing the button. This does not commit the changes. EXIF data from each file is read and processed for this operation, which takes roughly one second per file. You should review the selections carefully and repeat the process if the new names are not to your liking..

You can edit individual file names by clicking on them and editing them in the box to the right of . Type Enter when you finish editing a line. When the new names meet your needs, move on to the next step.

## 5. Rename files

This is the final step. You'll be asked to confirm the operation. The View/Rename Files window will look something like this prior to the operation.





View/Rename Files window, ready for file rename

You cannot perform this step in Evaluation mode, but you can do everything else, including examining EXIF data and previewing the new file names.