

Advanced Uses For The Attached Image

This article is basically a list of all the advanced uses I have come across involving the WordPress plugin I wrote 'The Attached Image'. If you come across any new uses, or you have a use that you need help with please let me know either via email by using the contact form on [Return True](#) or leave a comment on the post originally created for The Attached Image. You can find that [here](#).

Showing A Caption

Sometimes you want to use a caption like WordPress does, but along with The Attached Image instead. It's actually pretty easy to do, but involves using Custom Fields. Unfortunately this is the only way (I can see) that it can be done. Anyway here is how to do it.

```
<div class="image_caption">
  <?php
  the_attached_image();
  if($caption = get_post_meta($post->ID, 'imageCaption', true)) : ?>
    <small><?php echo $caption; ?></small>
  <?php endif; ?>
</div>
<div style="clear:both;"></div>
```

Along with that code you need to add a little bit of CSS. This CSS will make your caption look like the default WordPress caption, you can change it if you like.

```
div.image_caption {
  background: #eee;
  margin: 5px;
  padding: 5px;
  float:right;
}
```

```
div.image_caption img {
  display:block;
}
div.image_caption small {
  display:block;
  text-align: center;
}
```

Finally all you need to do is add your caption text into a Custom Field with the key of `imageCaption`. You can change the key if you like.

Showing Multiple Images

To show more than one image is easy, but to show more than one image attached to the same post requires the use of a special parameter. First insert your first image in the normal way:

```
the_attached_image();
```

Then insert you second image using the special parameter like so:

```
the_attached_image('image_order=2');
```

There is no need to add image order on the first one as it is automatically set to 1.

Using The Attached Image Outside The Loop

Technically you cannot use The Attached Image outside the WordPress loop since it requires some of the information that WP creates during the loop. However you can use a trick to fool TAI into thinking it is in a loop by emulating the information it requires. This is great for when you have a list of post IDs without a loop.

```
//$post_ids is the variable with an array of post ids
foreach($post_ids as $post_id) {
  $post->id = $post_id;
  the_attached_image();
}
```

This will allow you to use a list of post IDs to show attached images. This is **not** useful if you need to show post info though as it only updates the post ID & not the information such as content, tags, categories and so on. To do that it would be best to supply the IDs to a query using the `post_in` parameter, as that would involve a loop you wouldn't have to worry about being outside a loop.

Well that's all I've come across for the moment. The uses for The Attached Image are practically endless. I've used it an uncountable number of times in the last two or three projects, and while WP 2.9 has got a similar feature integrated I'm hoping that TAI will stay alive because of the unique features it adds.

As I said at the start of this article, if you have any advanced uses that you have come up with, or you have a use but need help with the coding please feel free to contact me via the contact page on [Return True](#) or via the comments on the original [Attached Image post](#).

I'd also like to say thank you to everyone who has supported the plugin over it's development period. Thank you to all the donators, everyone who has contributed code & though who helped by finding bugs. Finally a huge thank you to all of you who use the plugin.

If you would like to help the further development of The Attached Image, you can by using the 'Donate' button, or the 'Amazon Wish List' button on the admin page for The Attached Image. You can also help by reporting any bugs you find, or by posting code snippets that use The Attached Image.

Thank you once more for reading & supporting the plugin.

Paul Robinson,
Return True Webmaster & Author of TAI.