

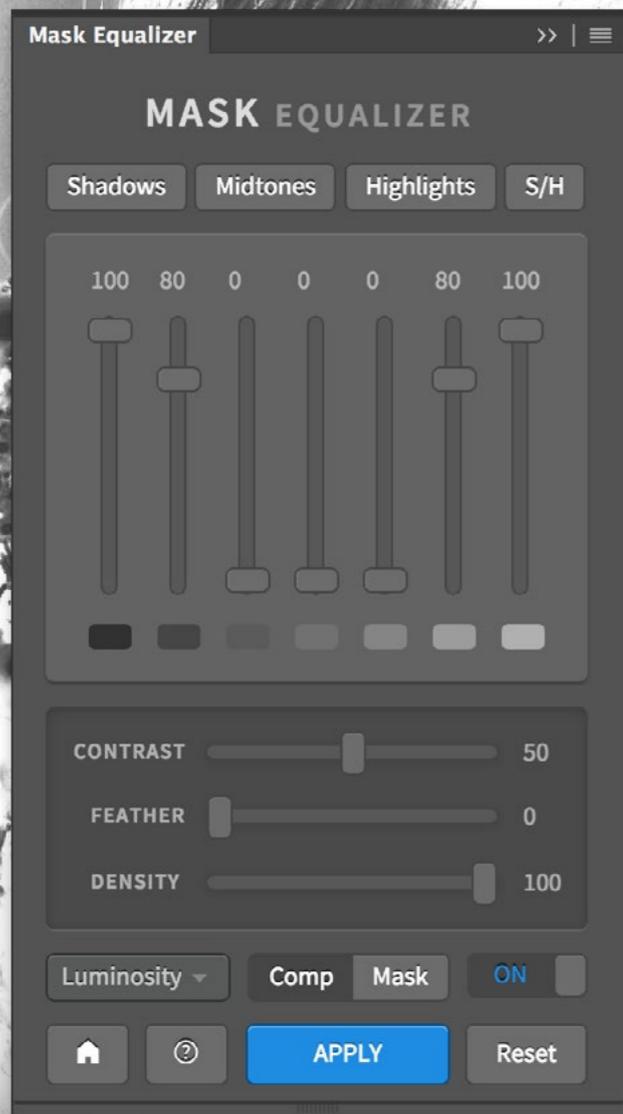


Quick Start >



KNOW HOW TRANSFER

the photography knowledge hub



MASK Equalizer

- Install
- Quick Start
- Open Mask
- The Panel
- Presets
- Sliders
- Layers
- Double Preview
- Feathering
- Mask at Work
- FAQ**
- Product Page
- Training
- Italiano

Install Mask Equalizer

The install files are downloadable from the download email links or logging in your ["My Account"](#) page

You can download the dedicated installer or the folder documentation that contains the user manuals in additional languages and extra contents as actions or test files.

Download 1: Mask Equalizer for MAC

Download 2:Mask Equalizer for WIN

Download 3: Documentation and extras

Right click and open to install

MAC users that have the security preference tab checked on "Allow apps downloaded from "Mac Apps Store" will receive an alert that this app is not downloaded from Apple Mac Store. OK and proceed to install.

WIN users will be asked "Do you want to allow this app from an unknown publisher to make changes to your PC?"

Ok and proceed to install.

Right click and open to install to uninstall

Same procedure using the Uninstall,app button



Additional step for pre-CC 2014 users

We mean the first version of. CC, released in 2013. 2014 and later are OK.

[To complete the installation please go to FAQ page >](#)

Compatibility

Photoshop CC and above
MAC OSX 10.7 Lion and above
WIN 10 and above (64bit only)

Install Tutorial

Quick Start Tutorial

KNOW HOW TRANSFER
the photography knowledge hub

Quick Start
Mask Equalizer

Mask Equalizer

MASK EQUALIZER

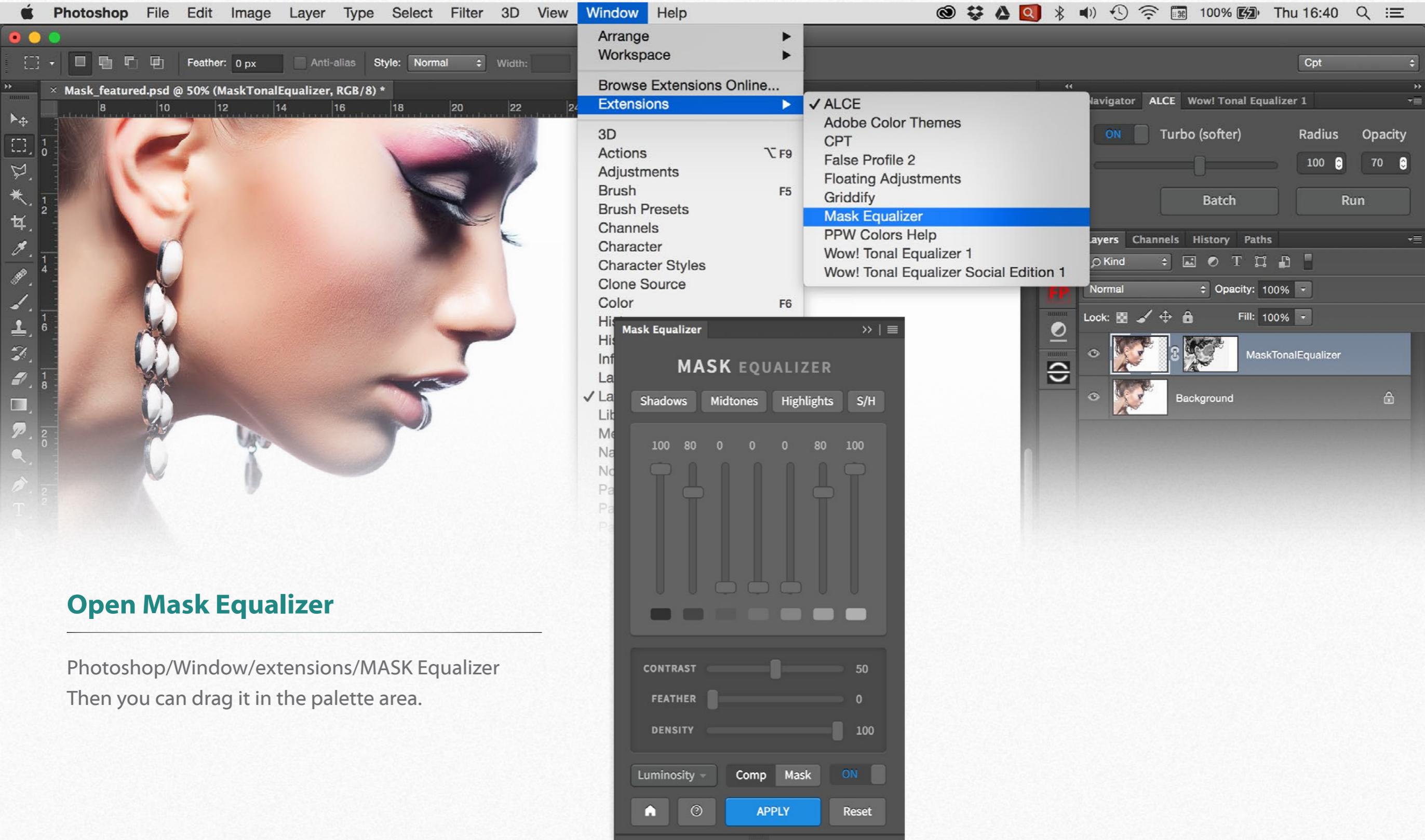
Shadows Midtones Highlights S/H

100 80 0 0 0 80 100

Mask Equalizer - Quick Start

[Watch Tutorial](#)

Open Mask Equalizer



Open Mask Equalizer

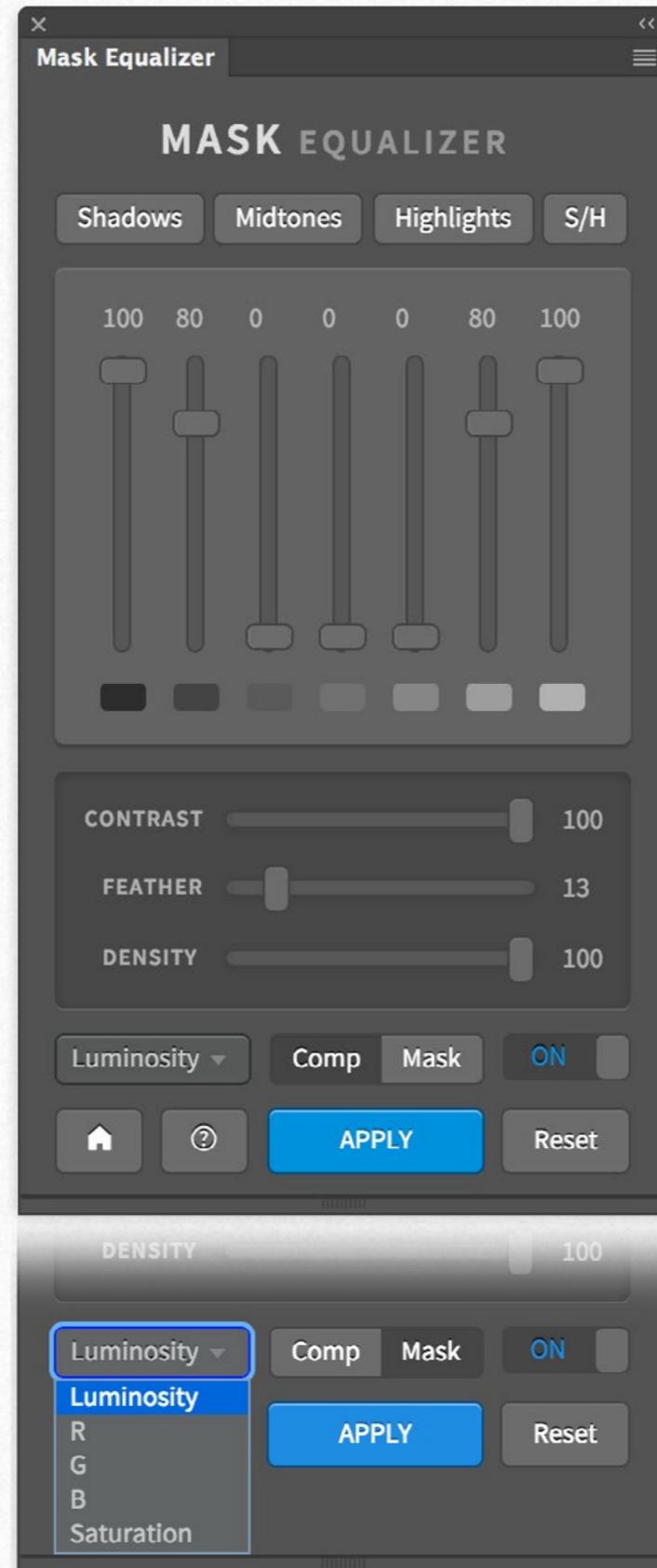
Photoshop/Window/extensions/MASK Equalizer
Then you can drag it in the palette area.

The Panel in Compact and Extended Mode



*Pull this small handle
to open the panel in full mode*

According to your needs you can compact the panel or extend it in full mode in order to access to the advanced options.



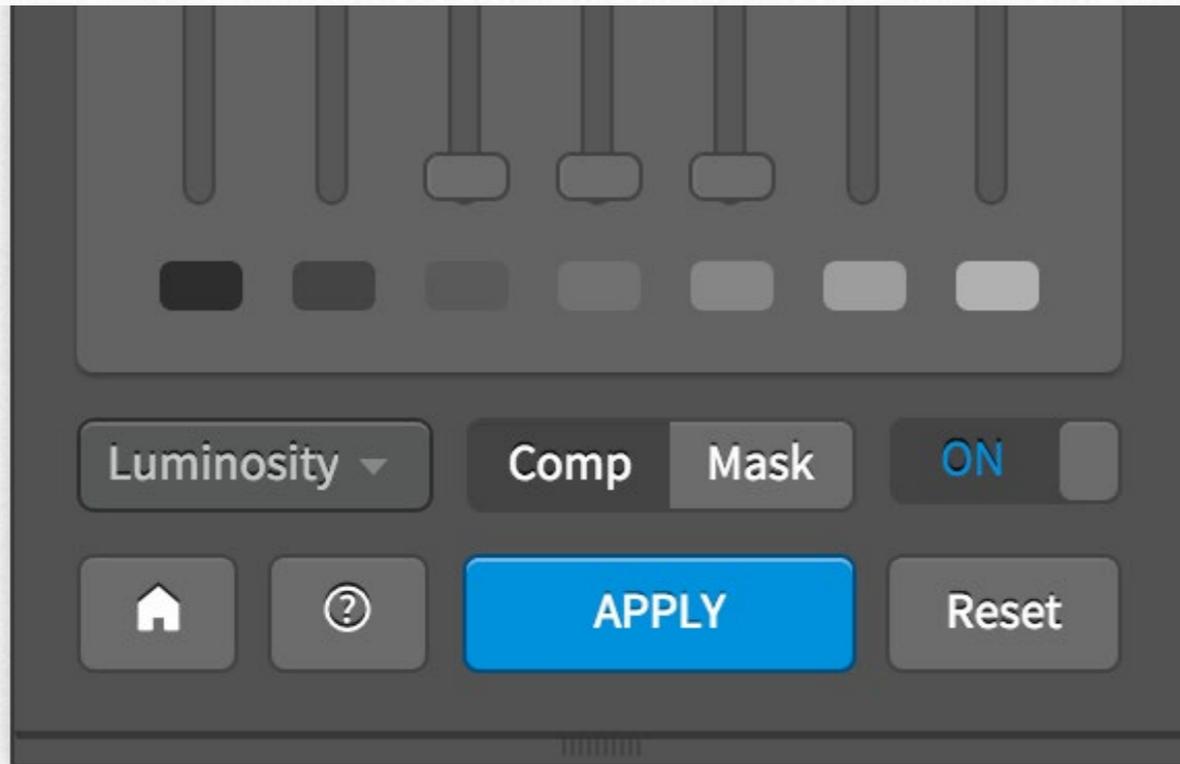
Easy presets section. Use one out the four buttons to create the most common masks to protect highlights, shadows, midtones and (the most frequent) shadows and highlights together. When pressing the buttons the sliders will set accordingly. Check the preview and proceed or tweak them manually for an easy to apply solution.

Intermediate sections. Tonal range (luminosity) sliders. They refers to blacks, shadows, shadows/midtones, midtones, midtones/highlights, highlights and whites. Starting from the presets, or from scratch you will able to easily and quickly create even the most complex mask.

The sliders in this third section allow to change the opacity of the mask, feather it or tweak its contrast while keeping the midtones unchanged. The use of these options, usually complicated, is made easy by the live preview which will allow you to work perceptively.

Fourth section. It contains the priceless wonder-option of the double live preview. You can opt to preview the black & white mask or just the image with the mask already applied. This section also contains the advanced users menu to use different channels: r, g, b, saturation, etc. instead of the default luminosity channel.

Additional Buttons



ON: Go back and forth from original to the mask applied preview.

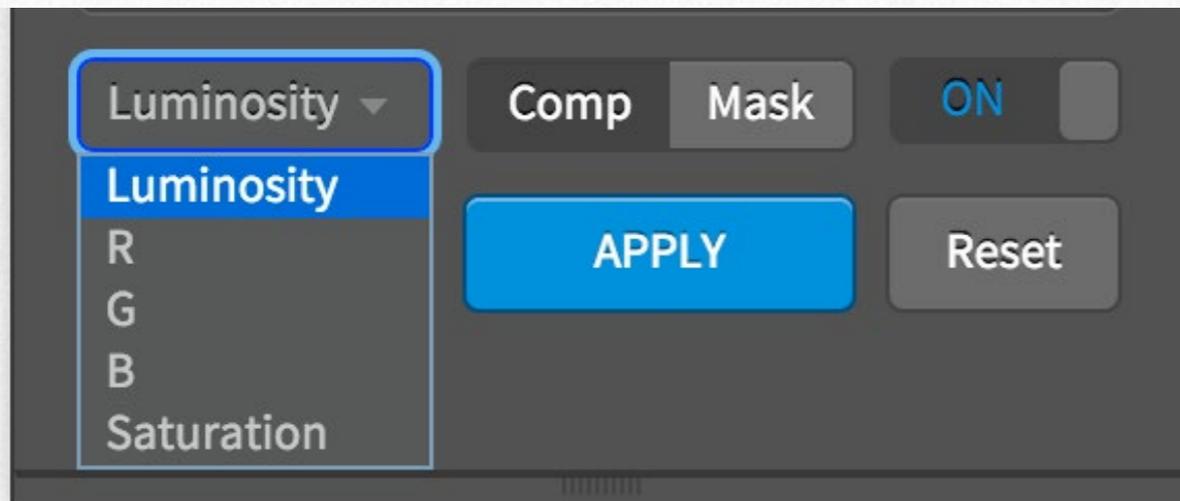
HOME: Links to MASK Equalizer web page

?: Info on version release

APPLY: In general you will not use it. When you re-open MASK Equalizer the sliders will set to the last values applied. In this case you must press APPLY to activate MASK.

RESET: Set all vertical sliders to 0

SMALL HANDLE: Use it to switch the panel from compact to full mode



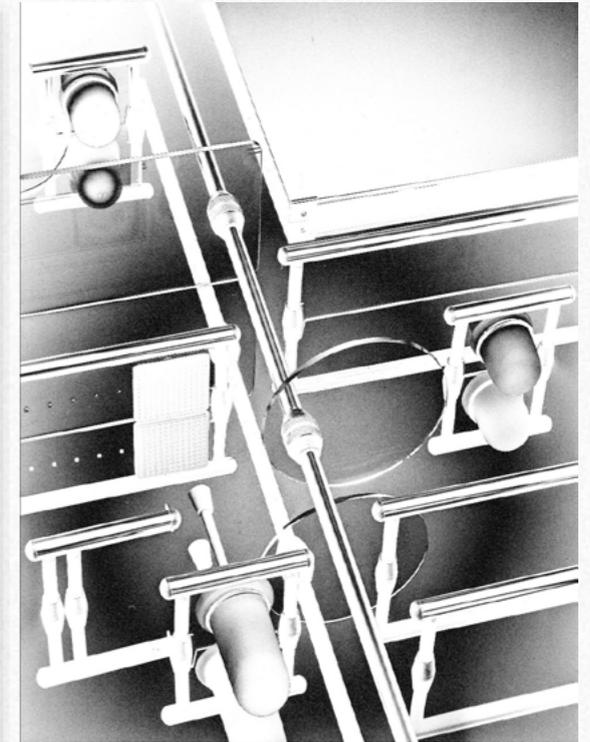
CHANNELS MENU: By default MASK Equalizer works in Luminosity mode that means that it uses the tonal bands of the L channel of Lab.

Alternatively you can use one the three channels of RGB or the Saturation channel of HSB.

The Presets

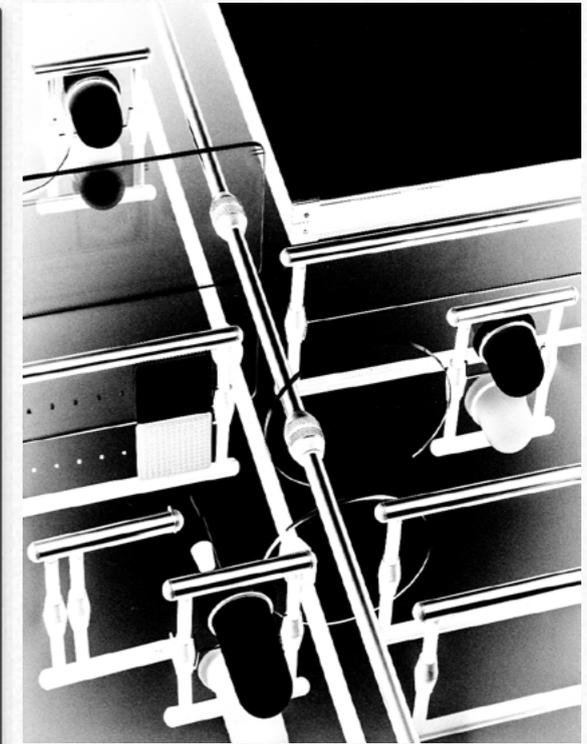
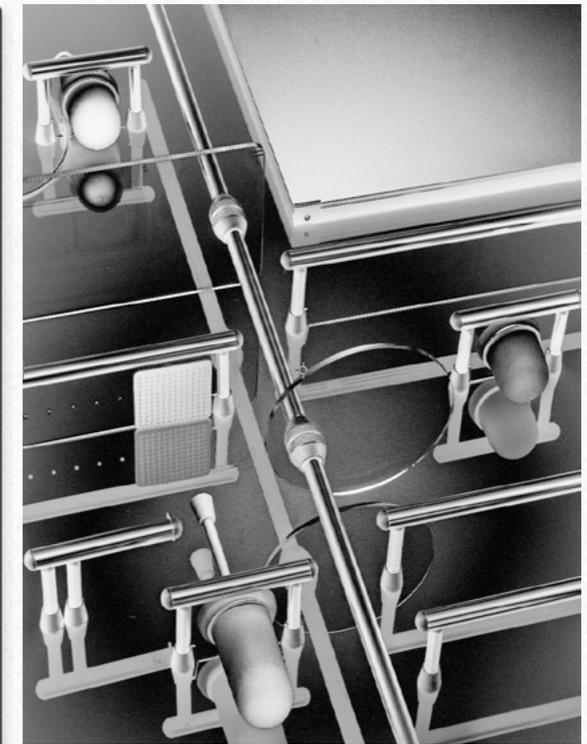
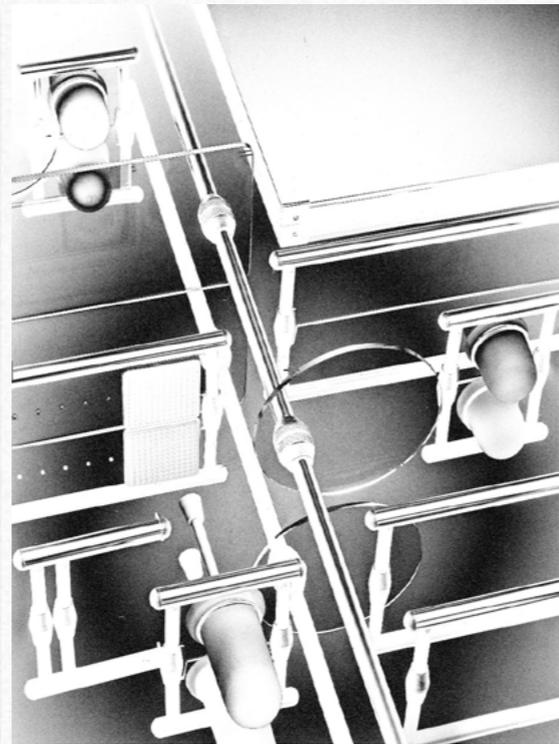
To start you have four presets buttons that cover the most common needs.

Shadows Midtones Highlights and Shadows + Highlights added. This last one is the most common. You can of course modify them.



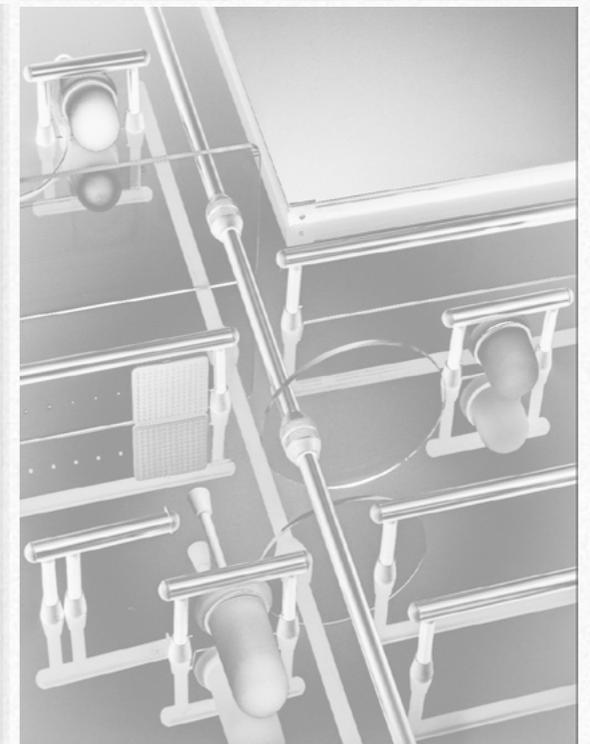
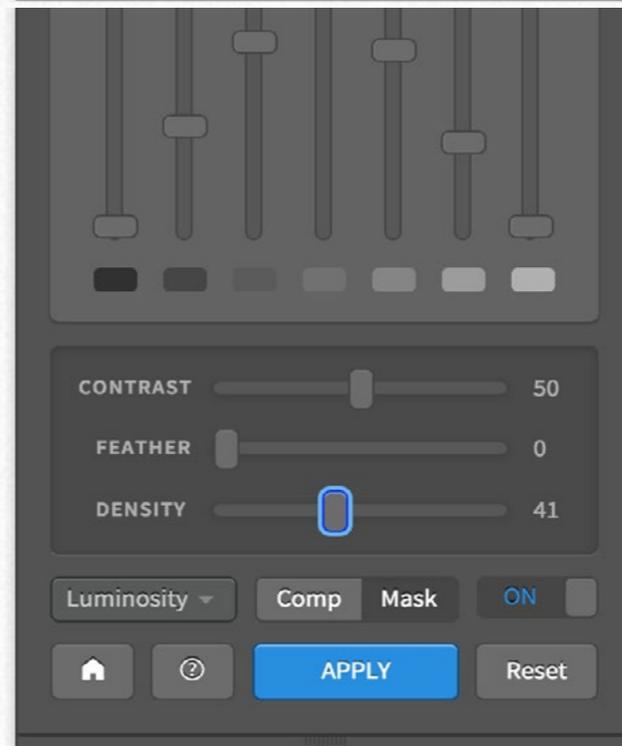
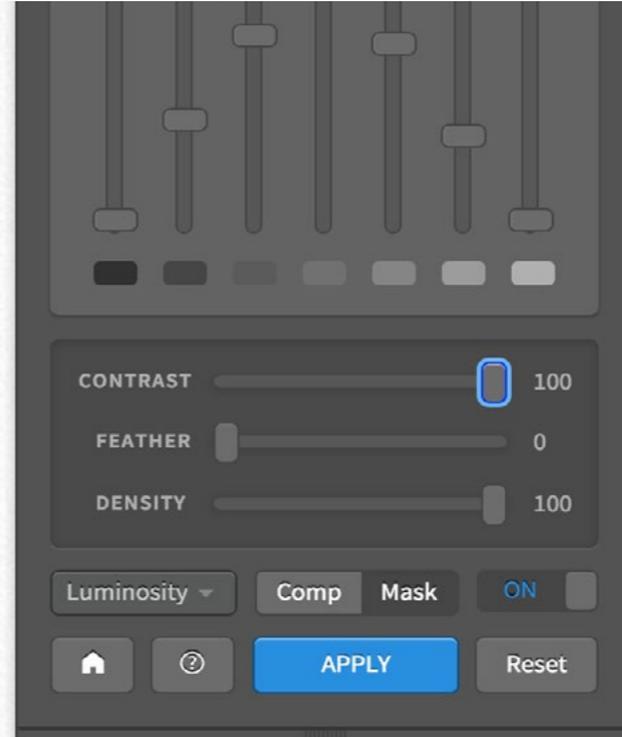
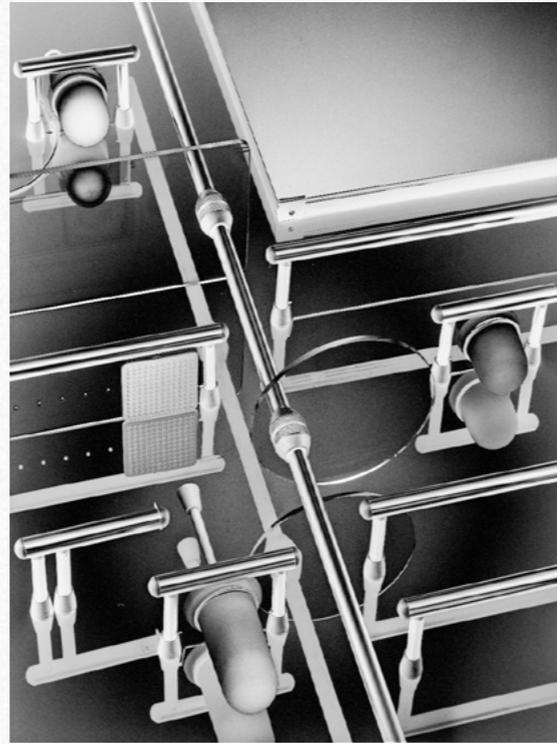
Vertical Sliders

Multiple tonal range (luminosity) sliders. They refers to blacks, shadows, shadows/midtones, midtones, midtones/highlights, highlights and whites. Starting from the presets, or from scratch you will able to **easily and quickly create even the most complex mask**.



Horizontal Sliders

The horizontal sliders allow to change the opacity of the mask, feather it or tweak its contrast while keeping the midtones unchanged. The use of these options, usually complicated, **is made easy by the live preview which will allows you to work perceptively.**



How to Move the Sliders

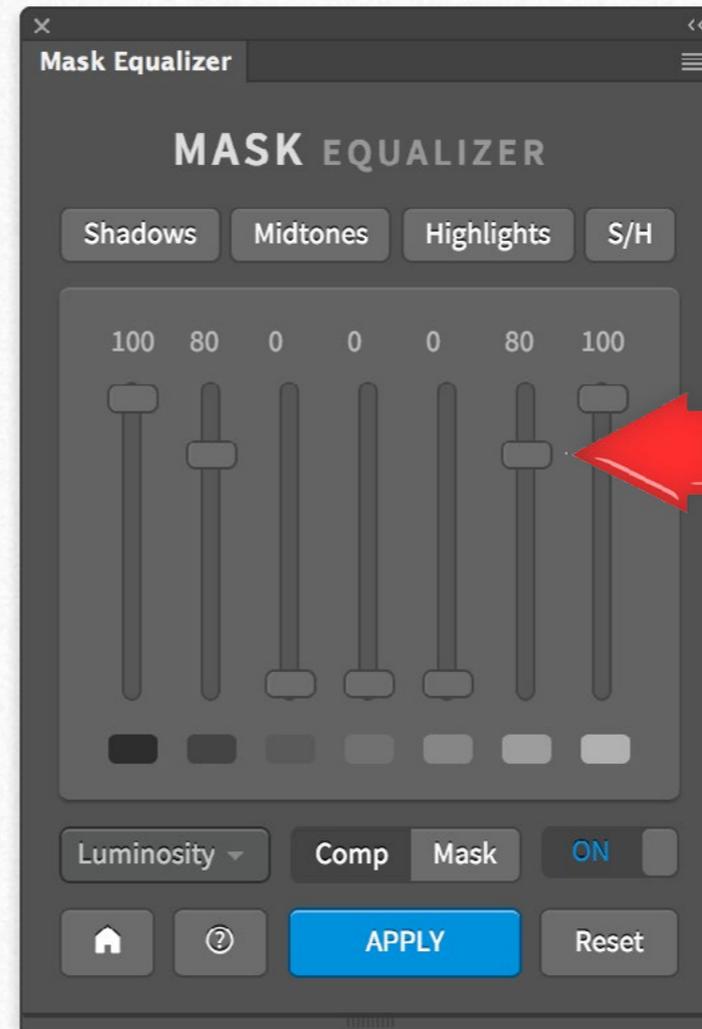
The sliders must be used differently according if you are using CC 2015 and above, or previous CC versions.



**Drag and release
or
point and click**

CC 2015 and above

Click where you want to place the slider or drag it: the preview will be applied only once released the mouse.



**Point
and click**

**Do not drag
and release**

CC and CC 2014

Because of an Adobe issue, while you drag the slider the preview is continuously applied. This greatly slows down the preview. Simply click where you want to place the slider.

Do not drag the slider

Dedicated Tutorial

Comp and Mask Preview

The double live preview is the priceless wonder-option of MASK Equalizer. You can preview the black & white mask or just the image with the mask already applied. Switching from mask to image (comp) preview you will be able to refine the mask avoiding posterization and halos.



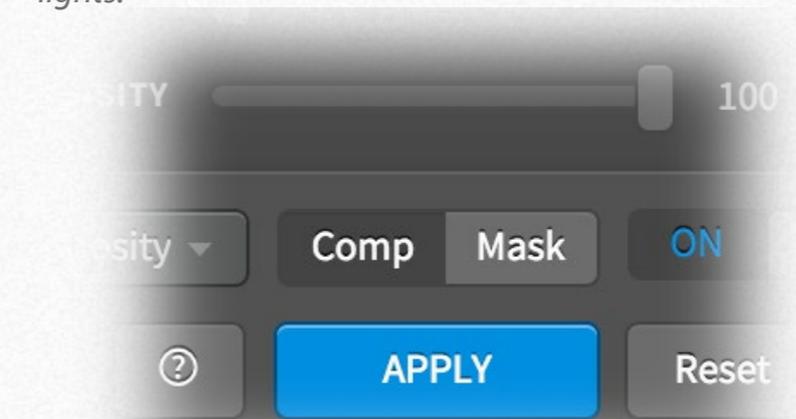
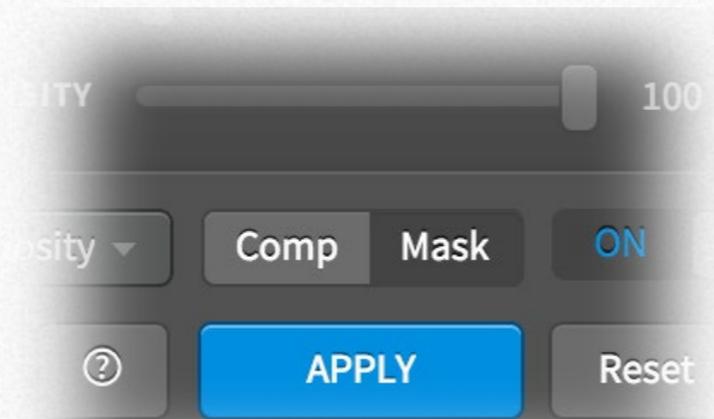
A quick example. The original was very flat. So we used Wow! (with preset "Enhanced Black Control") adding shape and mood. However blacks were too deep and whites, already in the original were not well detailed.



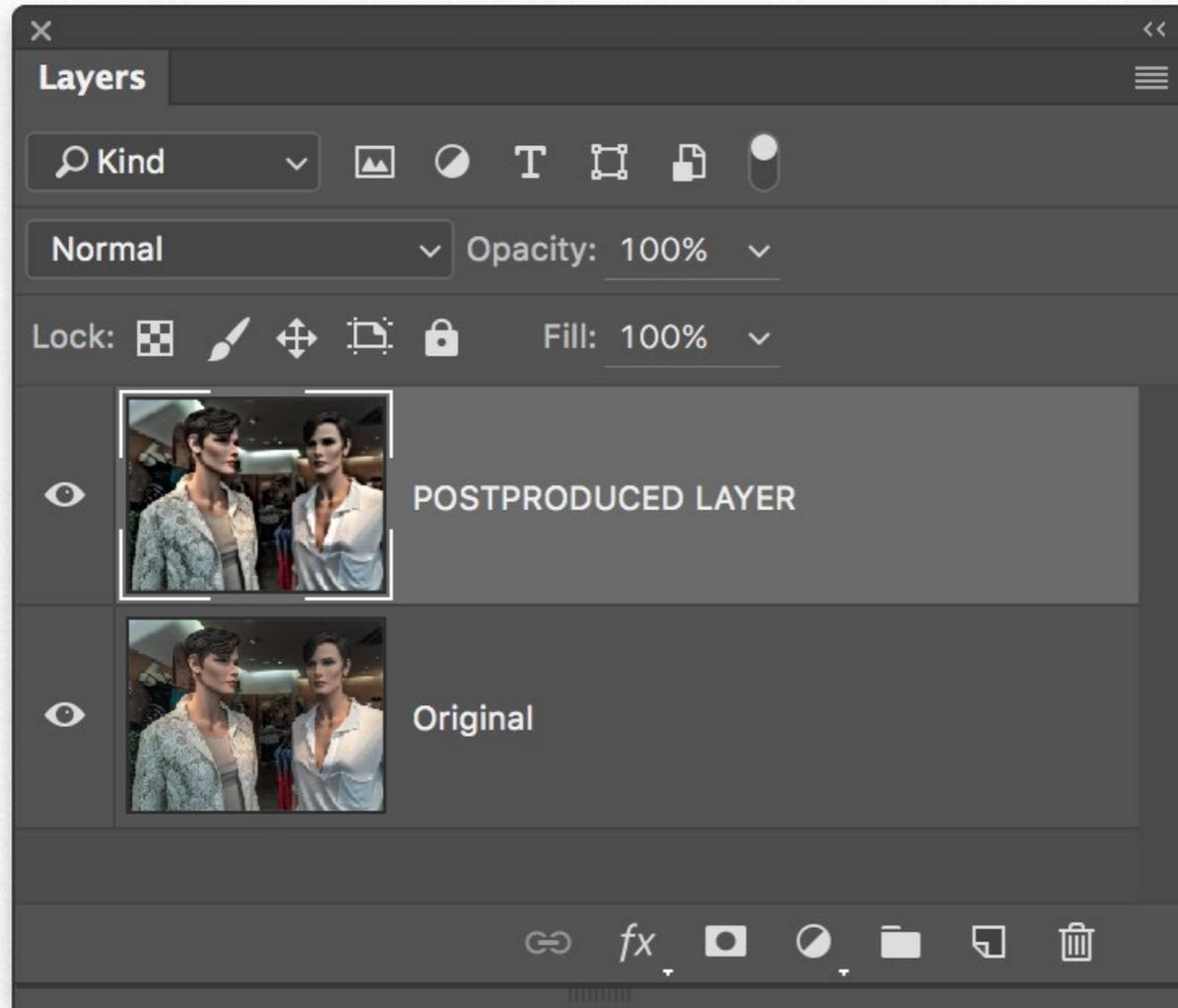
Mask preview (Mask button)



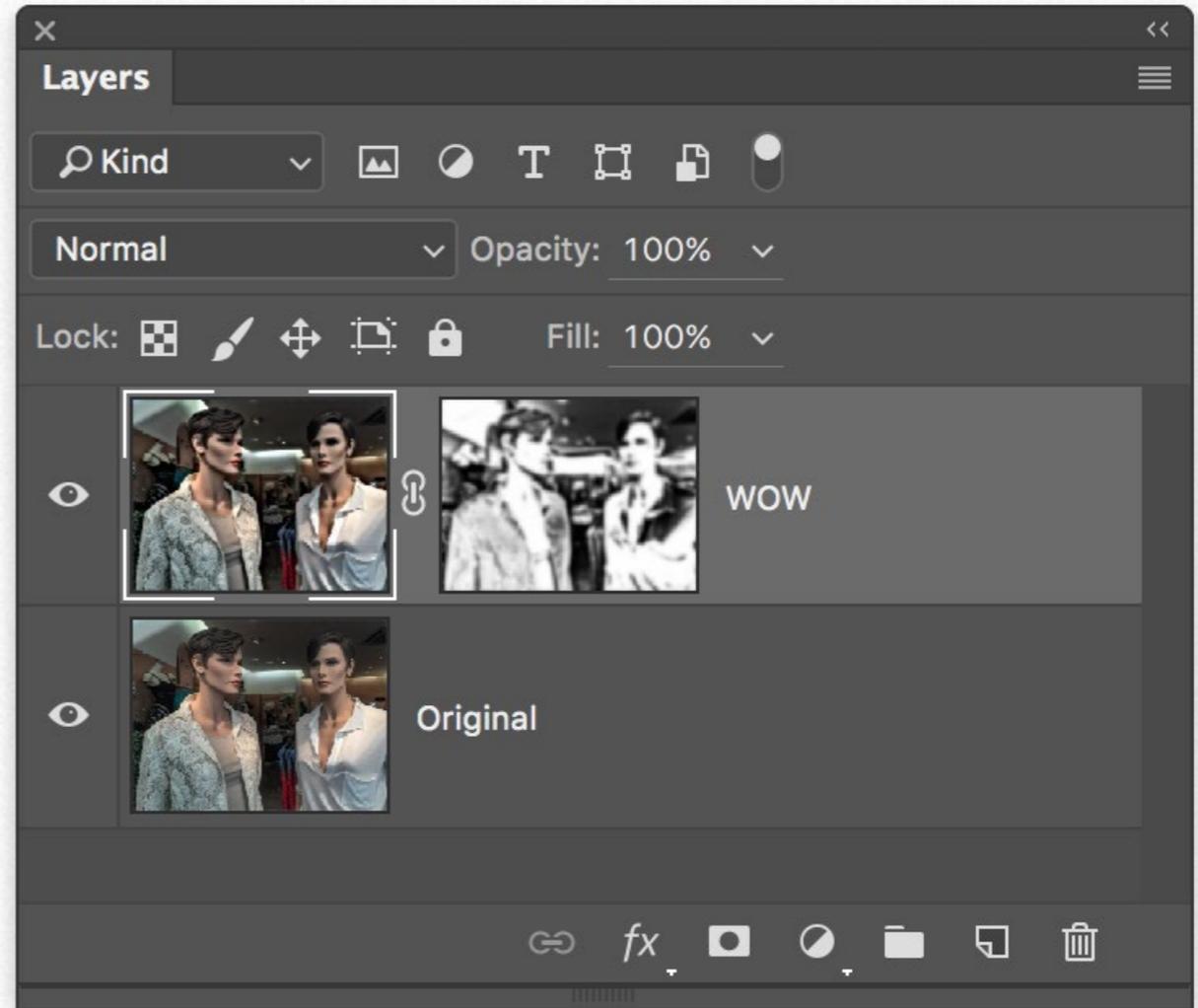
Comp preview (Comp Button) and the final result after adding a 50 feathering to avoid banding in the neon lights.



How Mask Equalizer Works with Pixel Layers



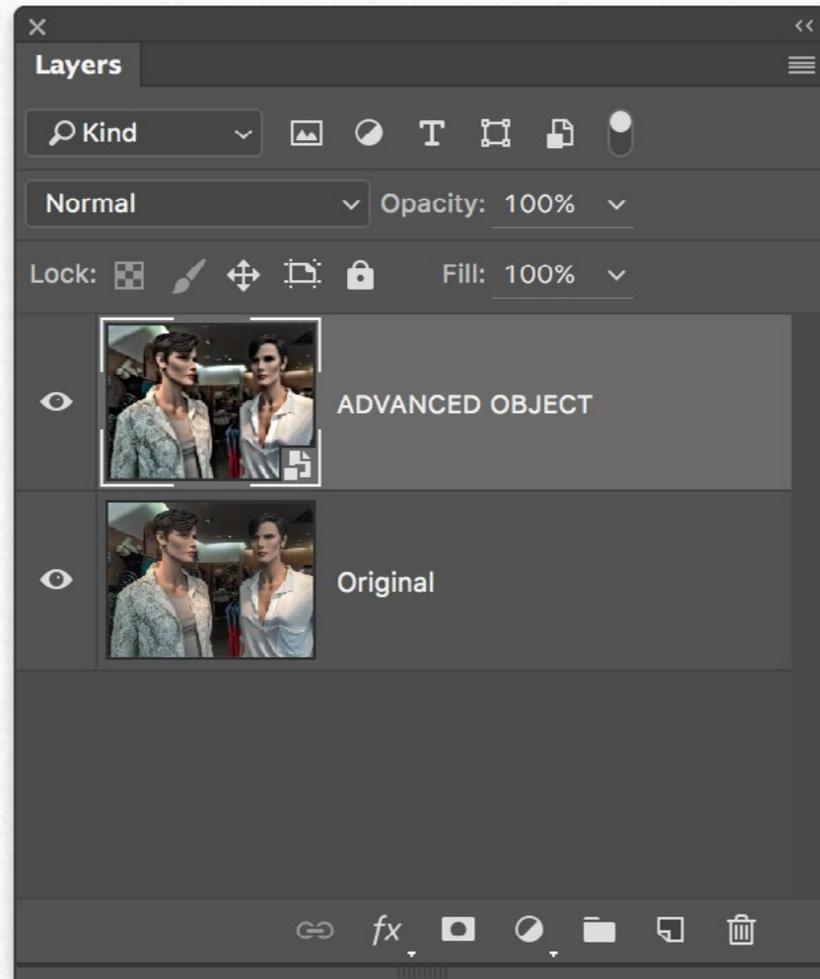
BEFORE: Start with the original layer and with a second layer already post-produced. For instance you may have added a layer mask, a version with a lot of clarity or an application of Know-How Transfer (Wow!, VitaminBW, ALCE etc) or third party.



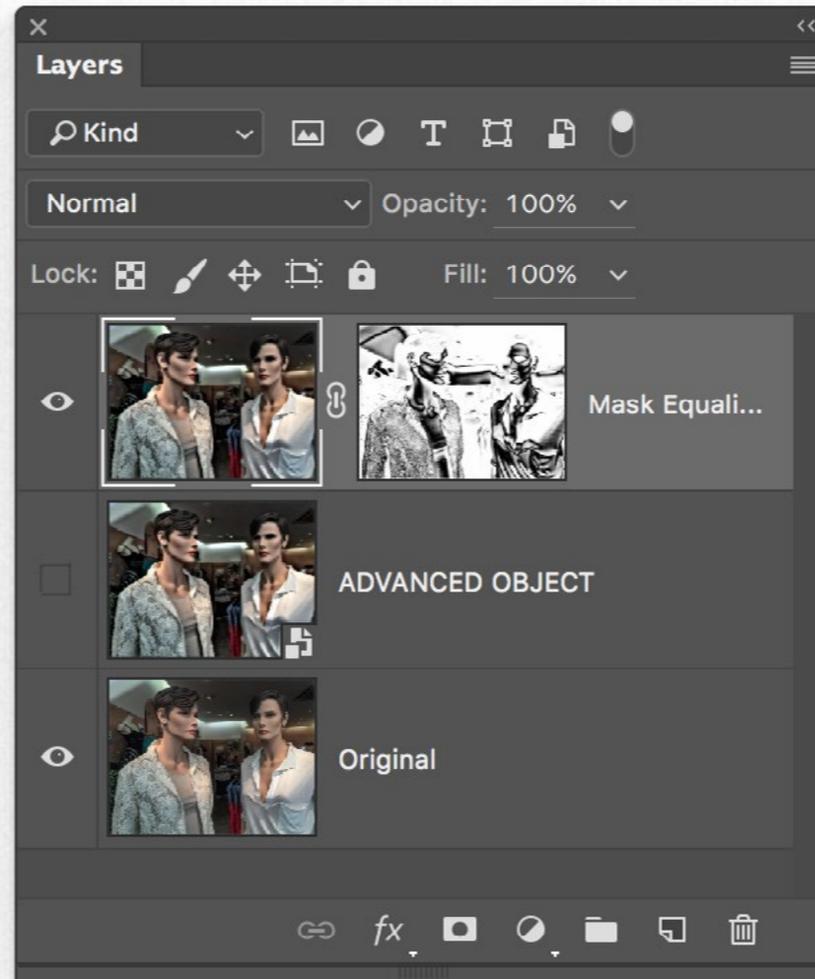
AFTER: The mask created have been added to the previously selected layer.

NOTE: MASK Equalizer works with RGB files only, 8, 16 or 32 bit.

How Mask Equalizer Works with Advanced Objects

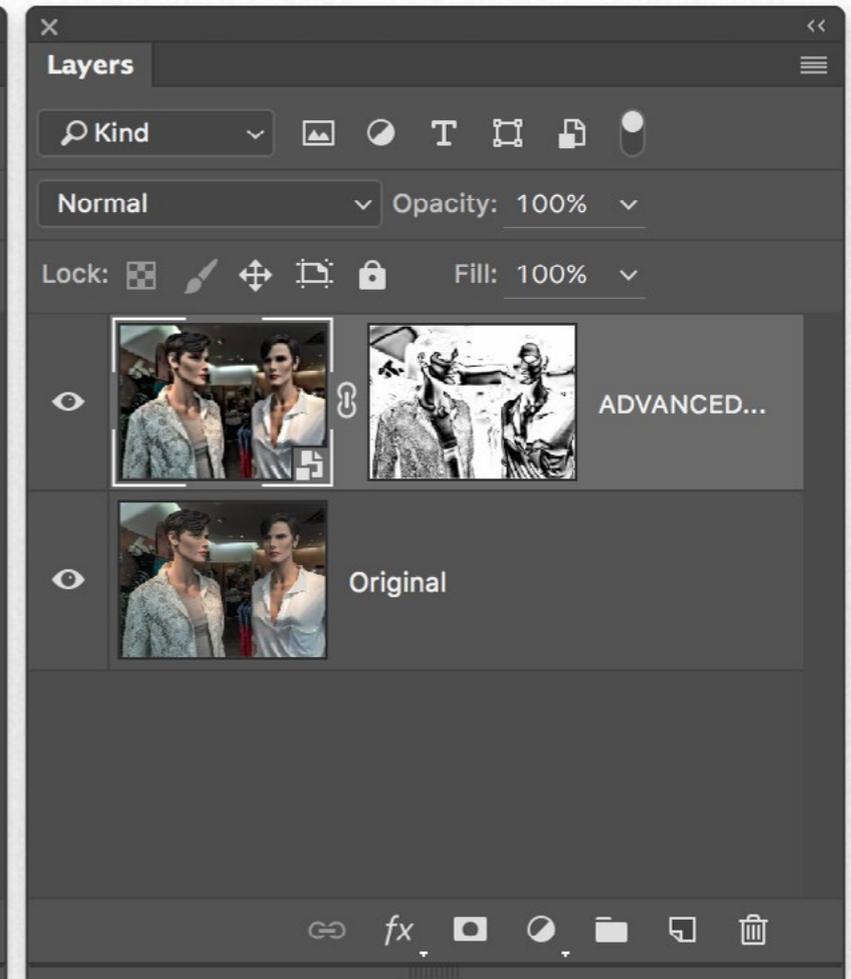


BEFORE: Similar situation as the previous page but with an advanced object.



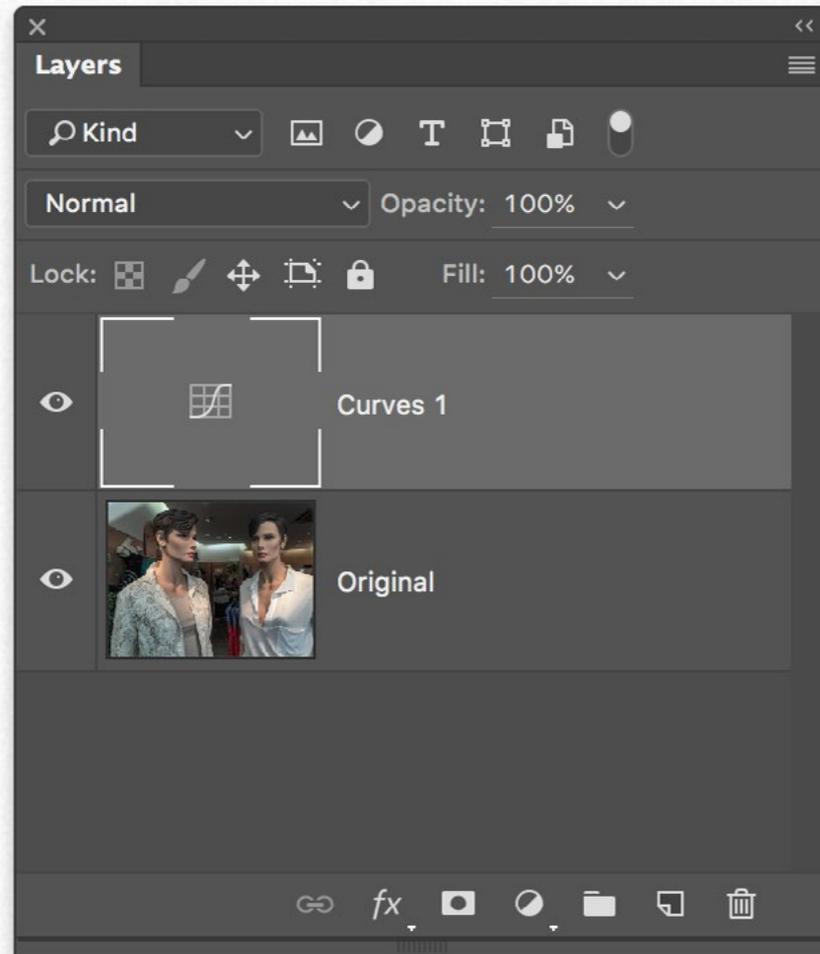
AFTER: As MASK Equalizer cannot work on advanced object it creates a composite layer on the top and deactivate the selected advanced object as this allows to see the preview also in this case.

NOTE: A PS window will alert you that a duplicate layer will be created on the top.

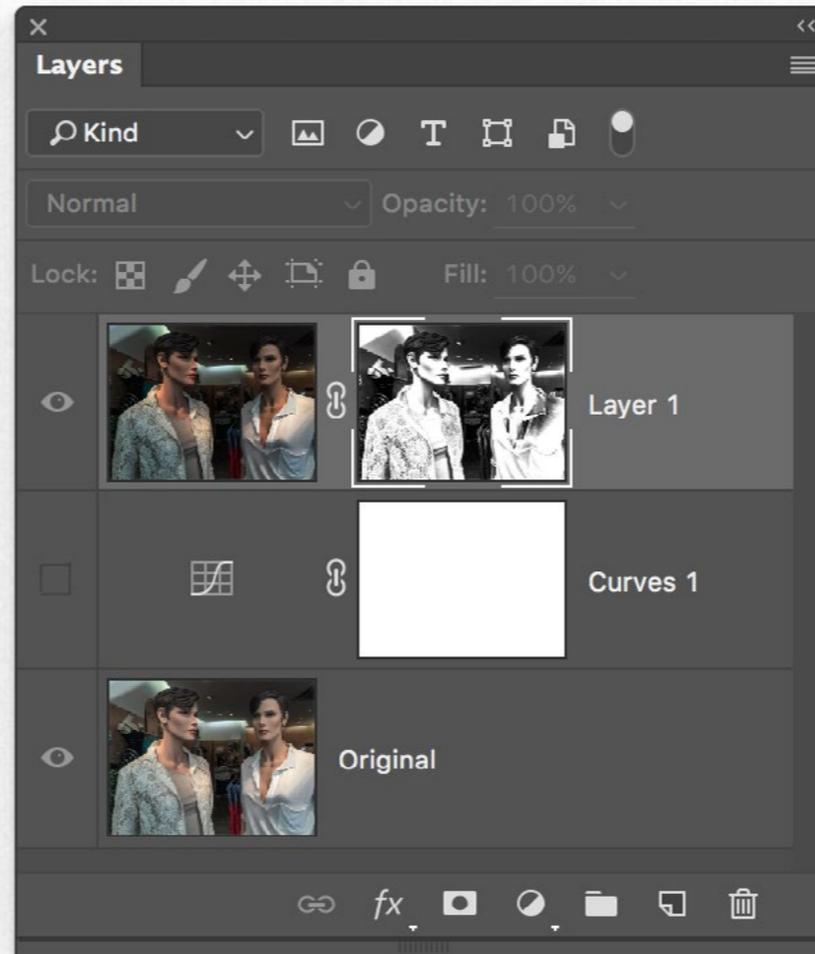


THE MASK ON THE ADVANCED OBJECT: The user must simply drag the mask to the advanced object, activate it and trash the temporary layer.

How Mask Equalizer Works with Adjustments Layers

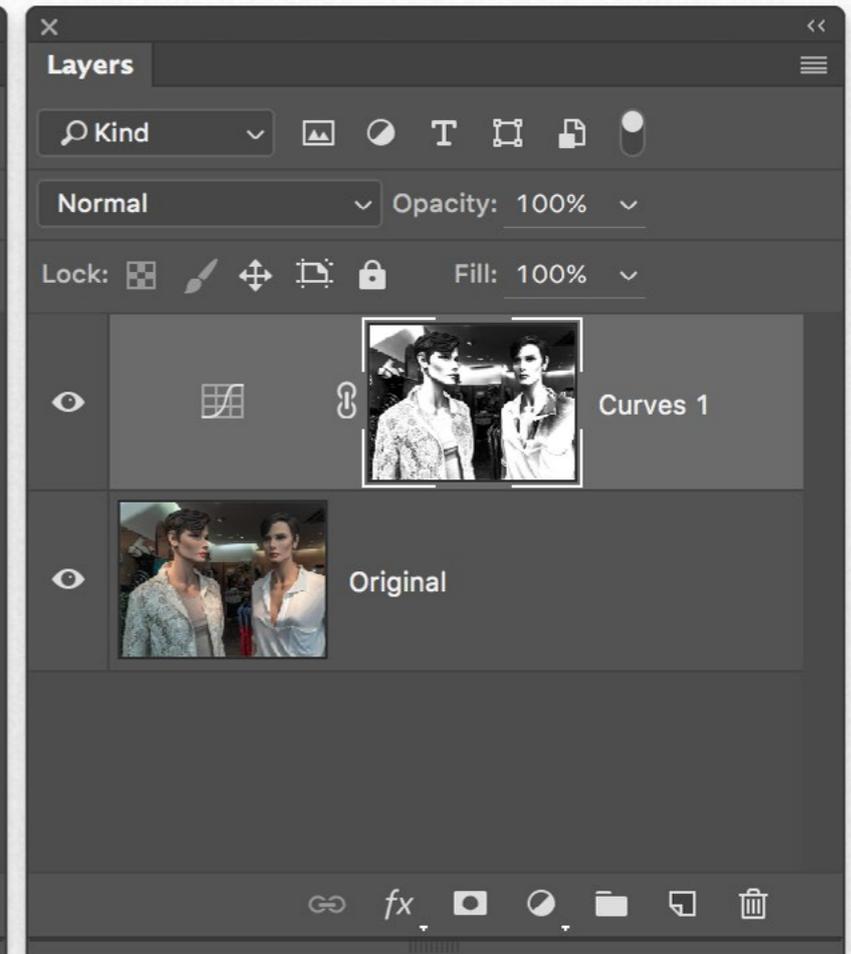


BEFORE: Start with an adjustment layer already applied.



AFTER: As MASK Equalizer cannot work on adjustment layers it creates a composite layer on the top and deactivate the adjustment layer as this allows to see the preview also in this case.

NOTE: A PS window will alert you that a duplicate layer will be created on the top.



THE MASK ON THE ADJUSTMENT LAYER: The user must simply drag the mask to the adjustment layer, activate it and trash the temporary layer.

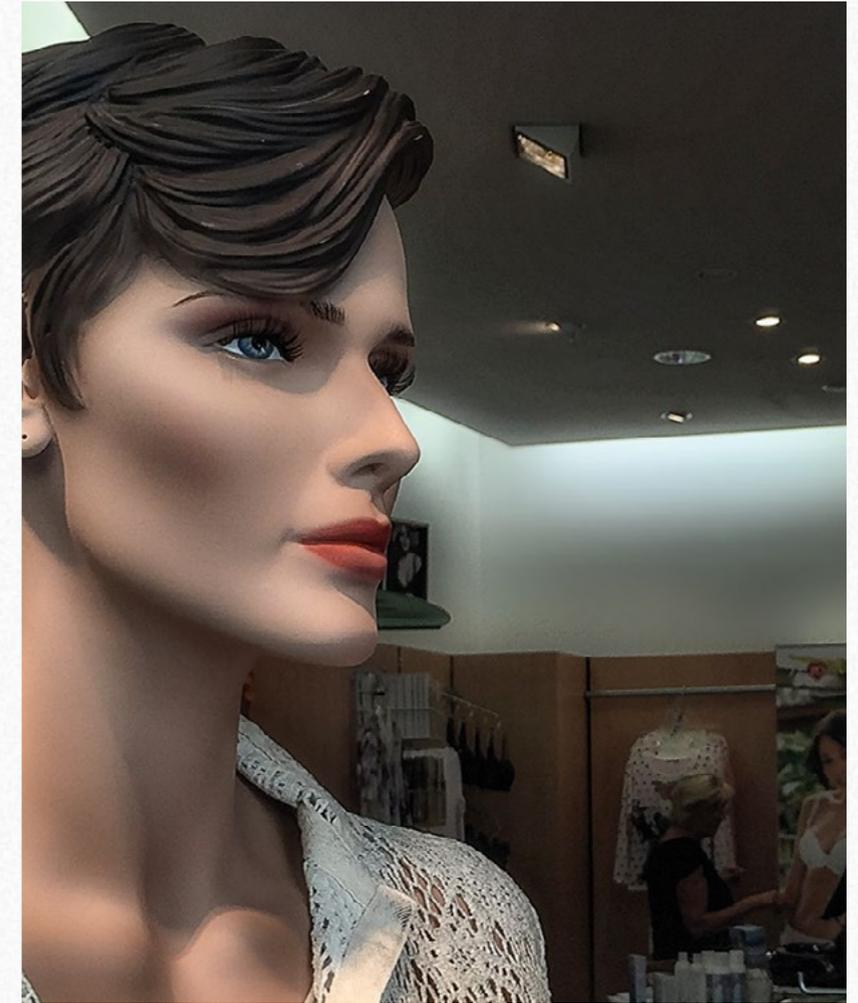
How to Use the Feather Slider. Case 1



MASK PREVIEW: The mask judging from the mask preview seems to be perfect.



COMP PREVIEW: Once switched to comp preview you may notice some banding.

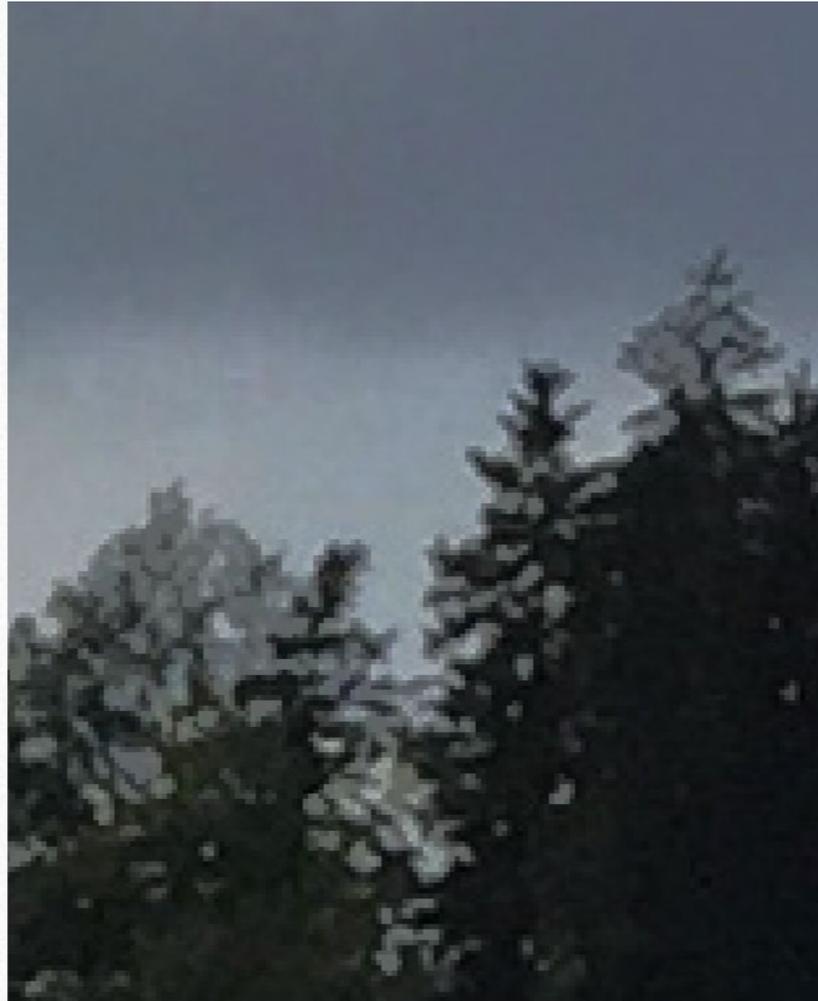


FEATHER 15: The banding have been removed. Usually we suggest to feather the mask at the end of the process as a sharper mask is easier to be judged.

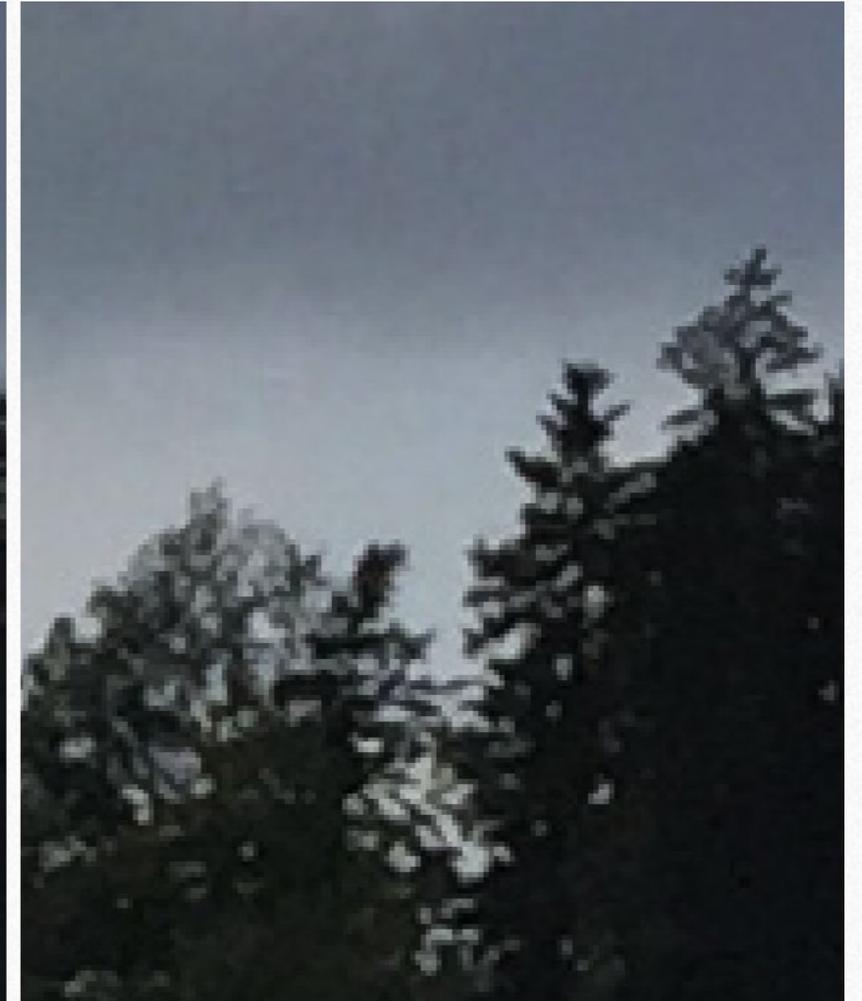
How to Use the Feather Slider. Case 2



MASK PREVIEW: The mask, judging from the mask preview seems to be perfect.



COMP PREVIEW: Once switched to comp preview you may notice a very ugly effect in some borders.



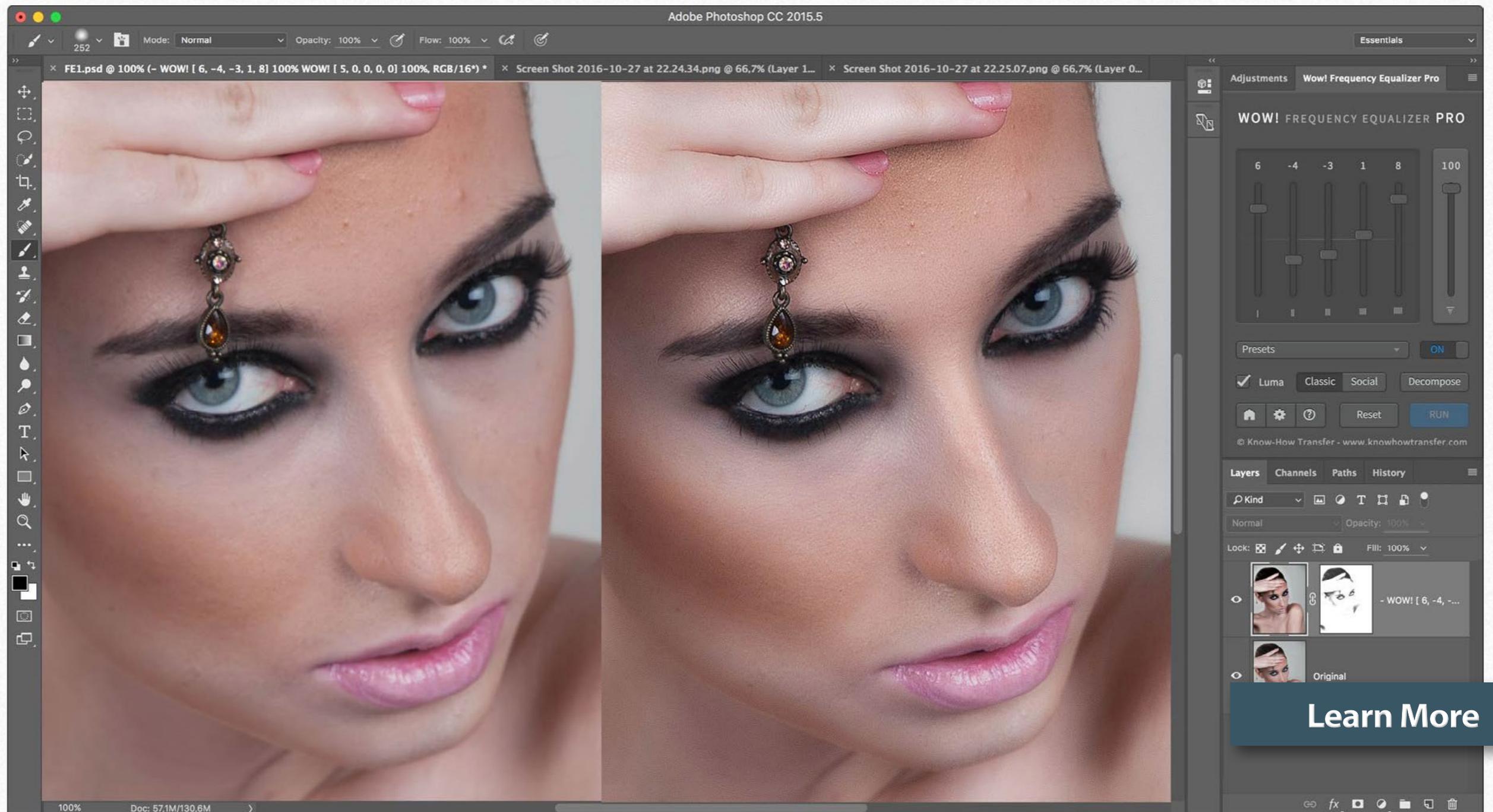
FEATHER 35: The transition have been greatly improved. Please notice that this correction is perceptive. The user don't need to be an expert.

Mask Equalizer with Wow! Frequency Equalizer

This plug-in that creates sophisticated luminosity masks with one click, really shines used together with Wow!

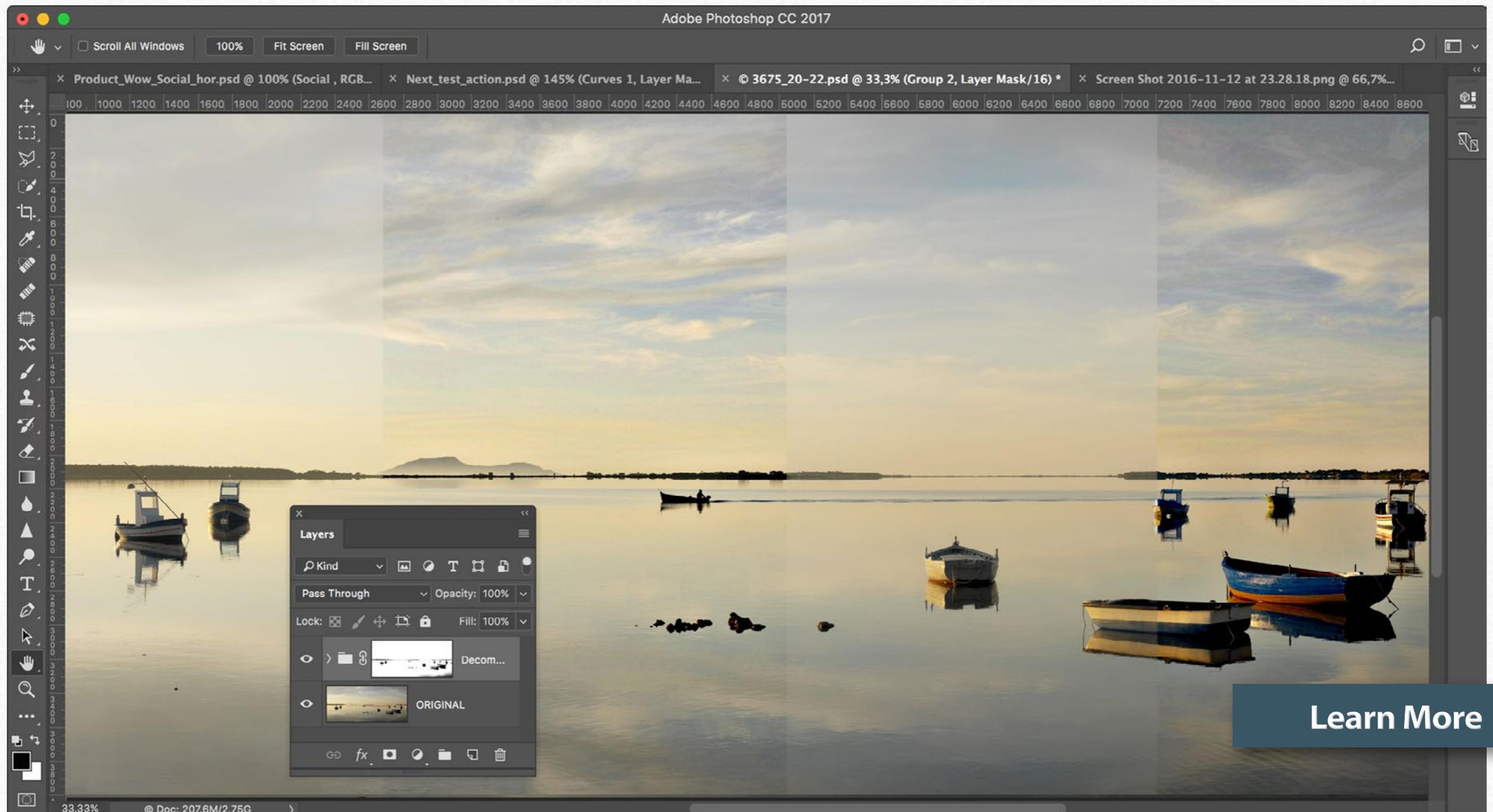
Thanks to Mask Equalizer you can push the sliders of Wow! without worrying about blacks details or lights unwanted areas.

Just apply the highlights+shadows presets, a quick adjustment and a bit of feathering will fix this issues. As a final touch , opacity slider will help you to control the amount of the effect. This before after below is one-step application.



Mask Equalizer with Wow! Pro and Decompose

If you own Wow! Pro there is a non-conventional technique that works great with landscape, architecture, interiors or products. Simply launch the Decompose, then reduce the opacity of the Base layer. Results are stunning and even better if you go around 25% opacity but you may have problems with blacks or highlights. Loading a Shadows or Highlights+Shadows preset and tweaking it you can finely control the tonal result switching back and forth from mask and comp preview . In this sample below for instance you can set the black as you like.



Mask Equalizer with Camera Raw

Mask Equalizer is a perfect complement with Camera Raw. You can export two or more versions and add a layer mask on the top layer.

Fix the ugly rendition of blacks with clarity and many other issues.

Out of this example Mask Equalizer is a must have tool virtually in any digital workflow

The screenshot displays the Adobe Camera Raw interface. The main image is a night photograph of a city street featuring large billboards for L'ORÉAL PARIS. The billboards show three women and the text "Maquillador Oficial PASARELA CIBELES" and "PORQUE TÚ LO VALES.". The interface includes a toolbar at the top, a histogram on the right, and a settings panel on the right. The settings panel shows the following adjustments:

Setting	Value
White Balance	Custom
Temperature	4000
Tint	+63
Exposure	+0,28
Contrast	-8
Highlights	0
Shadows	0
Whites	-25
Blacks	+5
Clarity	+60
Vibrance	0
Saturation	0

A "Learn More" button is overlaid on the bottom right of the interface. The bottom status bar shows "Save Image...", "Adobe RGB (1998); 8 bit; 57,57 by 43,18 cm (22,2MP); 240 ppi", "Cancel", and "OK".

Quick rescue page

Photoshop crashes using Mask Equalizer

Probably the Photoshop preferences has been corrupted, you must delete them; actions and anything saved will be preserved.

As you start Photoshop.

MAC: Press and hold Command+Alt+Shift

WIN: Press and hold Alt+Control+Shift

Mask Equalizer used with Next crashes PS

Please upgrade Mask Equalizer to the latest version 1.1.0

Additional step for pre-CC 2014 users

We mean the first version of. CC, released in 2013. 2014 and later are OK.

Move the in folder **com.knowhowtransfer.maskequalizer**
from CEP to CEPServiceManager4 folder

This is the path for WIN

C:\Program Files (x86)\Common Files\Adobe\CEP\extensions\

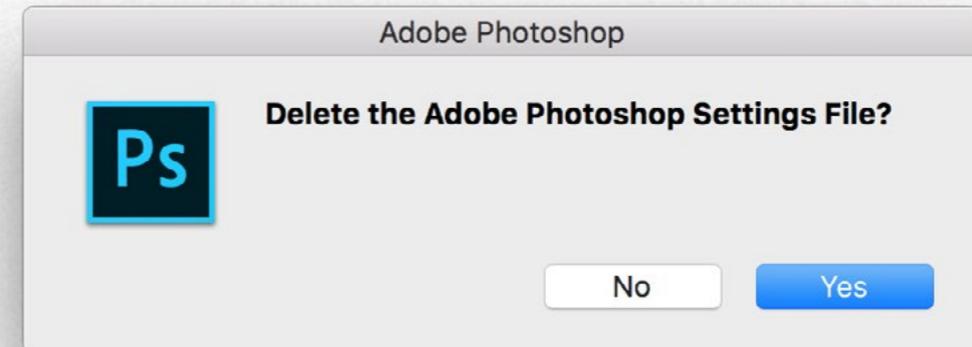
C:\Program Files (x86)\Common Files\Adobe\CEPServiceManager4\extensions\

This is the path for MAC

Macintosh HD/Library/Application Support/Adobe/CEP/extensions

Macintosh HD/Library/Application Support/Adobe/ CEPServiceManager4/extensions/

If you don't see the folder **CEPServiceManager4** create it manually and inside create a folder named **extensions**. Please type them as they are. Names are case-sensitive.



Still have problems?

[Go to FAQ page](#)



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the photography knowledge hub

About Know-How Transfer The Photography Knowledge Hub

Everyone dealing with photography and digital imaging will find a unique mix of instructional and how-to content here. We offer applications specifically designed by photographers for photographers, as well as effective tutorials and free resources. Our mission is to create a community, a Central Hub of Photography Knowledge, where photographers can exchange experiences, share information and grow their skills.

[Read more about our team.](#)

Many of our team come from the school of the great Dan Margulis and still have a very special relationship with him. We are pleased to report here what he wrote about this group in his famous post “La Dolce Vita - An era ends”:

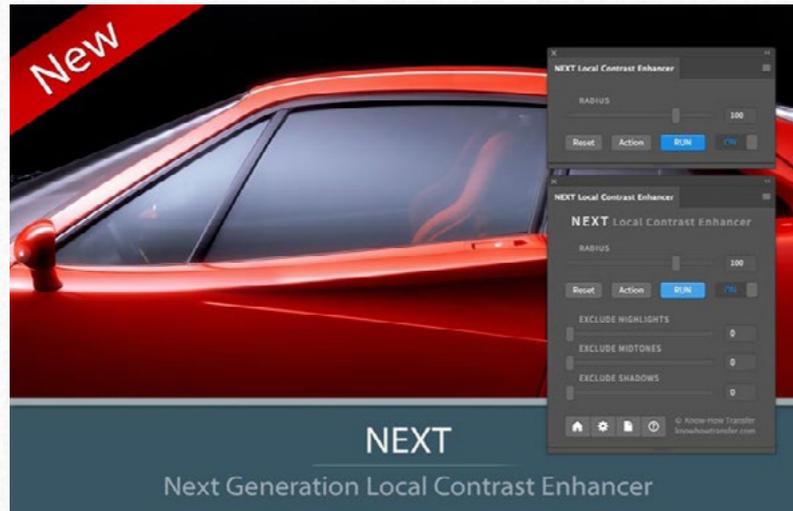
Watch the About Us Video

La Dolce Vita. An Era Ends By Dan Margulis

They say that Italians get emotional at times like this, and that Italians love beautiful things. I admit to feeling a bit Italian myself as I write this. I *have* developed an emotional attachment to the country, no doubt. And the relationships I have entered into with several of my students in that country have evolved into something, well, profoundly loving. The old joke has it that in heaven, all lovers are Italian. Right offhand I can think of a couple of exceptions to this generality, but there is no need to go off-topic.

The truth is that it is a land of love and great beauty, made all the more beautiful professionally by seeing the new and sophisticated imaging algorithms being developed by Davide with Marco Olivotto, and by seeing how Alessandro, Daniele Di Stanio, Tiziano Fruet and others have brought first-class color instruction into a country where it was rarely found previously.

Professional Plugins for Photoshop



[NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer](#)

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer. The Next Generation ALCE. Live preview, improved embedded halos suppress tool, three masking sliders, Quad-Core processing and 32bit computing, not available in Photoshop.

PS CC and above - MAC & WIN.

[Buy €30 >](#)



[Wow! Frequency Equalizer Pro Edition](#)

Same features of Wow! Classic plus the new Decomposition button You can now turn each frequency into its own pixel layer for a better and more precise frequency based retouching.

PS CC and above - MAC & WIN.

[Buy €40 >](#)



[VitaminBW - Single and Triple Tone Black&White Converter](#)

An original approach to B&W Conversion with a very clean and simple interface. Simply press the "Single Tone" or the "Triple Tone" button to be quickly introduced to advanced conversion techniques.

PS CS6 and above - MAC & WIN.

[Buy €28 >](#)

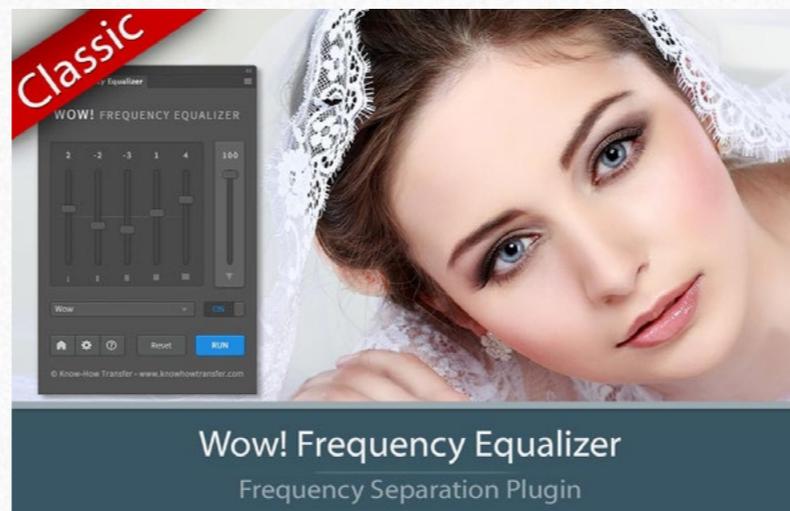


[Wow! Frequency Equalizer Social Edition](#)

A miniaturized version of Wow! with a re-designed algorithm with shorter range sliders and dedicated preset optimized for sizes from 800 to 1500 px. Works with files up to 1920x1920 px.

PS CC and Above - MAC & WIN

[Buy €15 >](#)



[Wow! Frequency Equalizer Classic Edition](#)

Boost and soft an image in one step detail scales through five dedicated sliders. Positive values, which add detail or shape. Negative value remove detail and create great, soft transitions.

PS CS6 and Above - MAC & WIN

[Buy €30 >](#)

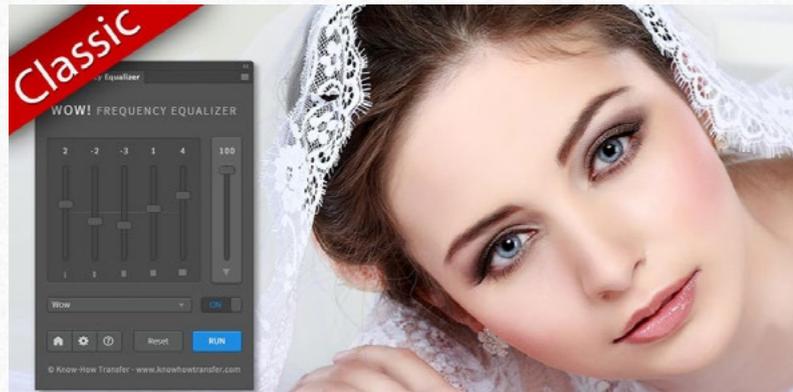


[Channels Power Tool - Advanced Mask Editing](#)

Easily get a preview or create masks out of all available channels. Use the powerful Apply Image option to precisely recover the details of your files. CPT will enhance your color control precision and productivity. PS PS CS5 and Above - MAC & WIN.

[Buy €24 >](#)

The Wow! Range. Classic, Pro, Social and Video Edition



Wow! is an exclusive Photoshop extension that improves images with a magical combination of sharpening, shape and smoothing – we call this the “The Wow! Factor.”

Wow! adds style, image sharpness and three-dimensionality together with incredibly smooth transitions. Use our easy presets with just one button, or take full control with the high quality live preview to add and remove details by tweaking our five dedicated sliders.

There are four versions of Wow!, three for Photoshop and one for video.



Wow! Frequency Equalizer Classic Edition (Former Wow! Tonal Equalizer)

Our Premium Frequency separation Plugin. Five detail scales working independently with positive (add contrast sharpening and local contrast) and negative (remove contrast and smooth) values.

PS CS6 and above MAC & WIN. **Buy €30>**

Wow! Frequency Equalizer Pro Edition

Same features of Wow! Classic plus the new Decomposition button You can now turn each frequency into its own pixel layer for a better and more precise frequency based retouching.

Works with two different engines: Classic and Social

PS CC and above - MAC & WIN. **Buy 40>**



Wow! Frequency Equalizer Social Edition

A miniaturized version of Wow! Classic with a re-designed algorithm with shorter range sliders and dedicated presets optimized for sizes from 800 to 1500 px. **Works with files up to 1920x1920 px**

PS CC and above MAC & WIN. **Buy 15>**



Wow! Frequency Equalizer Video Edition for Adobe Premiere and After Effects

Works with the same powerful engine of Wow! Classic. Same ease of use and tuning effect. Wow! generates an instant video preview and the export process his very fast. It's easy to use.

PS After Effects and Premiere CS6 and above - MAC & WIN. **Buy €30>**

Specifications for all versions

Works on 8,16 and 32bit files - New wavelet based algorithm

Multi CPU accelerated. - 32bit color depth internal processing.

[Wow! Home Page](#)

Freeware and Professional Raw Scan Service



Floating Adjustments

Restore the Old CS3 Style Floating Window

Floating Adjustments - Restores the old CS3 floating window

Restores the Adjustment Layers' bigger, floating windows look and behaviour which was the norm back in CS3. It allows the creation of 10 Adjustment kinds as big, floating windows, and the modifications of existing adj.

PS CS6 and above - MAC & WIN.

Get Free >



False Profile

Luminosity Control Using Gamma

False Profile - Tonal range control with low or high gamma

A Photoshop extension to automate the assignment of false RGB profiles for a full control of the luminosity. Brings new features and refinements to the process of assigning false profiles. Works in conjunction with the Dan Margulis' PPW Tools.

PS CS5 ans above - MAC & WIN.

Get Free >



Hasselblad 3F 16bit Raw Scan

The Best Service on the Market. For your Analog Workflow

Hasselblad 3F 16bit Raw Scan Service

3F is a raw file obtained from an analog original. We will scan your film with the Hasselblad hi-end scanners. Send us you originals from a 35mm to a 13x18cm/5x7", color or black and white, negative or positive. All PS Versions, MAC & WIN. Buy 3F 16 bit R

CS2 and above, MAC & WIN

Buy Raw Scan €7each.>

Photoshop Plugins Page

Store



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the photography knowledge hub

Links and Credits

Mask Equalizer © knowhowtransfer.com / bigano srl

Plugin developed by KnowHowTransfer

GUI Panel Design by Davide Barranca

Images credits: cover: and page 4

©Irina Gromovataya- depositphotos.com

other images © Roberto Bigano

[Visit Know-How Transfer](#)