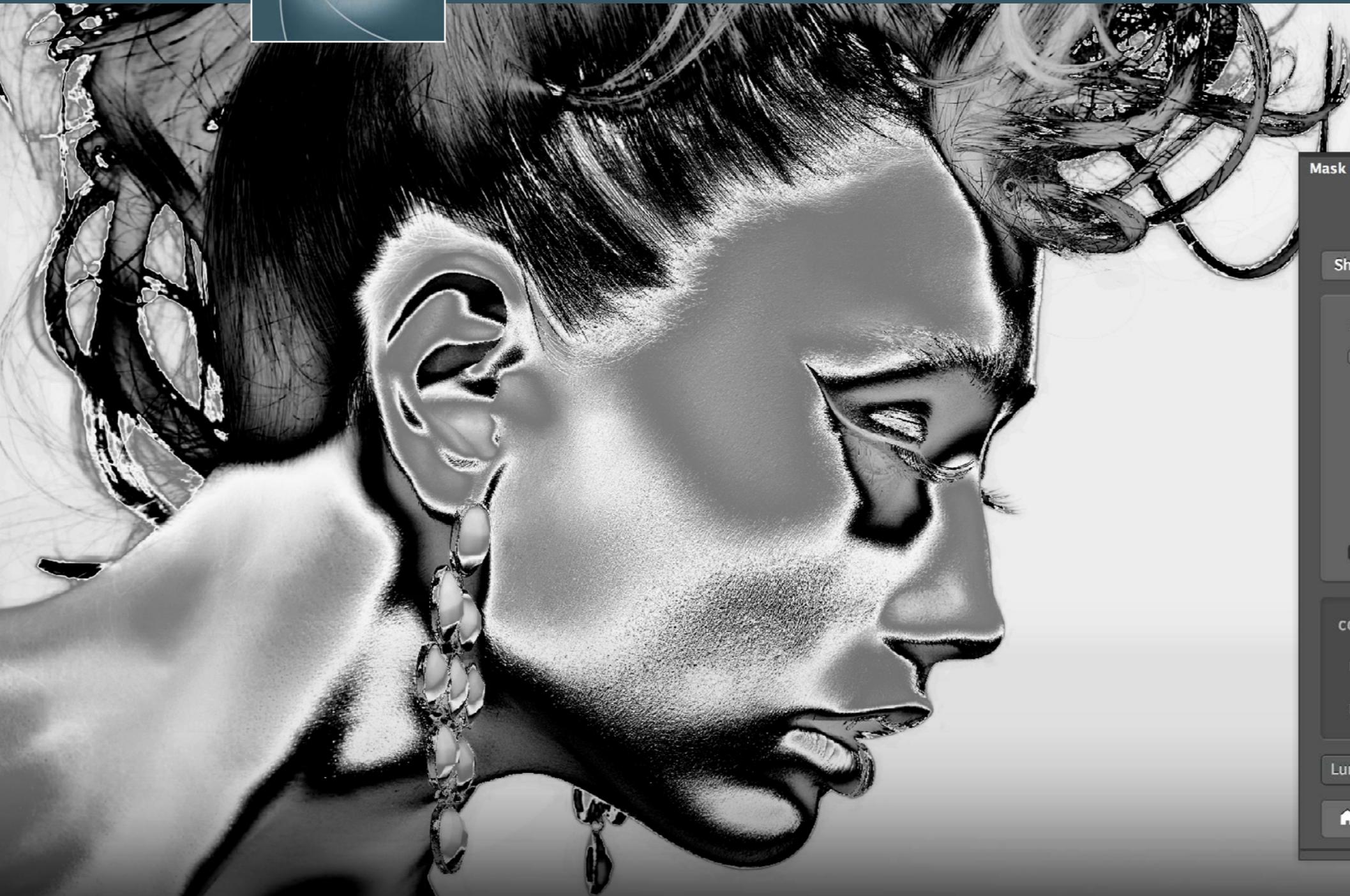




# KNOW HOW TRANSFER

the photography knowledge hub



## MASK Equalizer - Create Masks from Multiple Tonal Ranges

User Manual - Version 1.0.005 - July 2016

## 2. System Requirements and compatibility

- OS X 10.7 Lion and above
- Windows Vista and above (64 Bit)
- Photoshop CC and above

For further information visit the **MASK Equalizer page** >

**Problems? Go to the FAQ Page** >

or write to [support@knowhowtransfer.com](mailto:support@knowhowtransfer.com) >



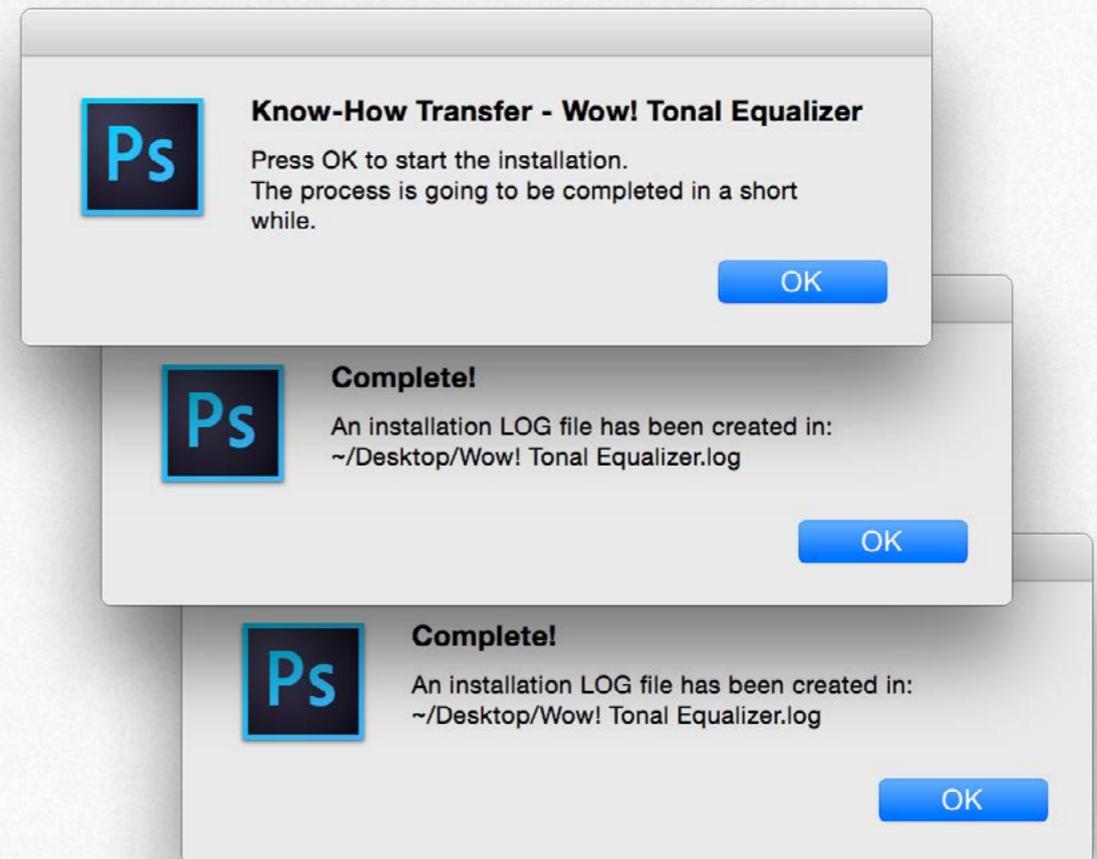
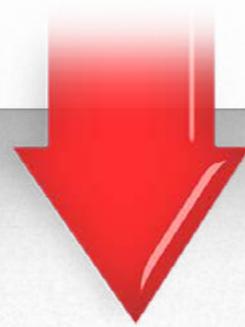
## 3a. Install MASK Equalizer - MAC



### MAC USERS

*The MASK! Equalizer Installation process is easy as a pie.  
Simply drag the installer.jsx file onto the Photoshop icon.  
Then ok the three further steps and restart Photoshop.*

**1. Unzip the Install Folder - 2. Drag the Installer.jsx file onto the Photoshop icon - 3. Ok the 3 windows - 4. Restart Photoshop**



*Ok the three window to start the installation, process,  
save the install log and restart*



## 3b. Install MASK Equalizer - WIN

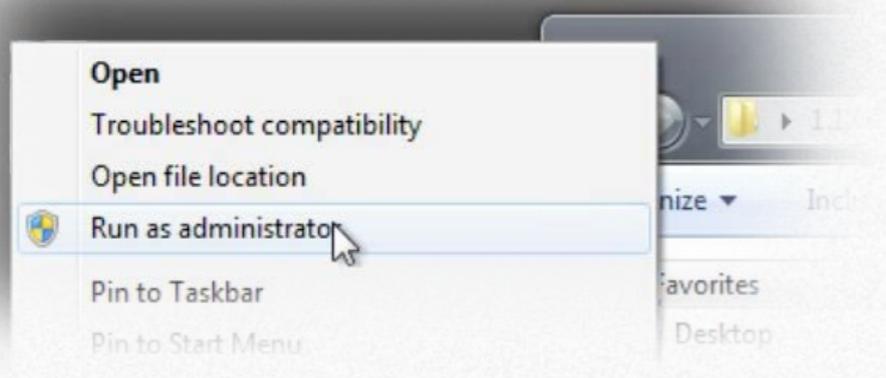


### WIN USERS

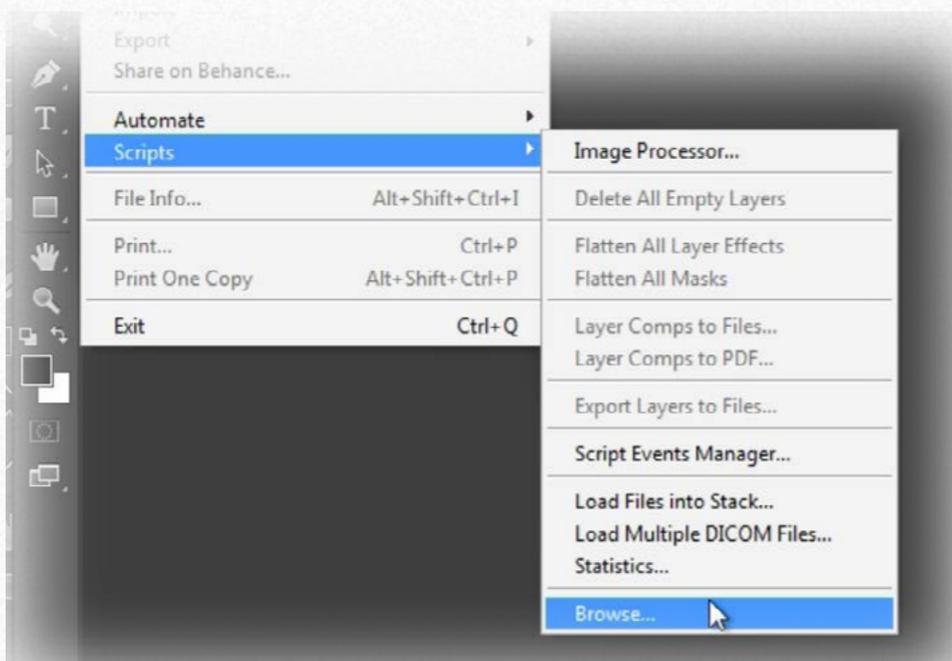
If requested WIN users must run Photoshop as an administrator  
(right click and choose "Run as administrator" option).

1. Unzip the Install Folder and copy its content on Desktop.

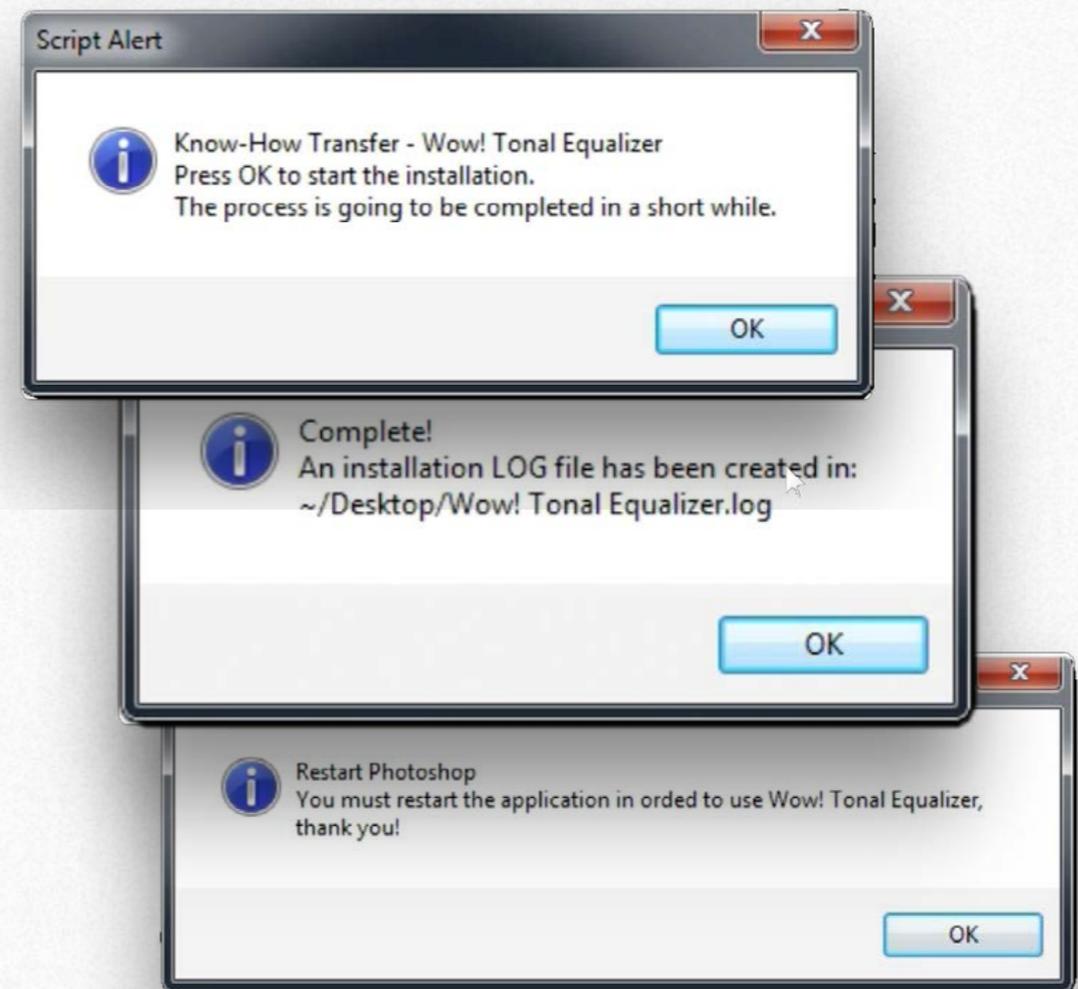
2. Run Photoshop as an Administrator



3. Through File -> Scripts -> Browse, open Installer.jsx



4. Ok the 3 windows



5. Restart Photoshop

## 3c. Optional Manual Install

In case of problems with the main installer use the files stored in the folder "Optional Manual Install" (WIN or MAC version) folder. Copy the files in the locations as shown below. **Then restart Photoshop.**



CC - All versions  
Hard Drive\Program Files\Common Files\Adobe\Plug-Ins\CC

**You can copy the folder in the user library or the system library, as you prefer.**

### User library option

CC 2015/2014 - 64 bit: C:\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Adobe\CEP\extensions

CC - 64 bit: C:\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Adobe\CEPServiceManager4\extensions

**The AppData folder by default is hidden. To reveal it search appdata or %appdata%**

### System library option

CC 2015/2014- 64 bit: C:\Program Files (x86)\Common Files\Adobe\CEP\extensions\

CC - 64 bit: C:\Program Files (x86)\Common Files\Adobe\CEPServiceManager4\extensions\



CC - All versions  
/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Plug-Ins/CC

**You can copy the folder in the user library or the system library, as you prefer.**

### User library option

CC 2014 and later: /Users/yourname/Library/Application Support/Adobe/CEP/extensions

CC: /Users/yourname/Library/Application Support/Adobe/CEPServiceManager4//extensions

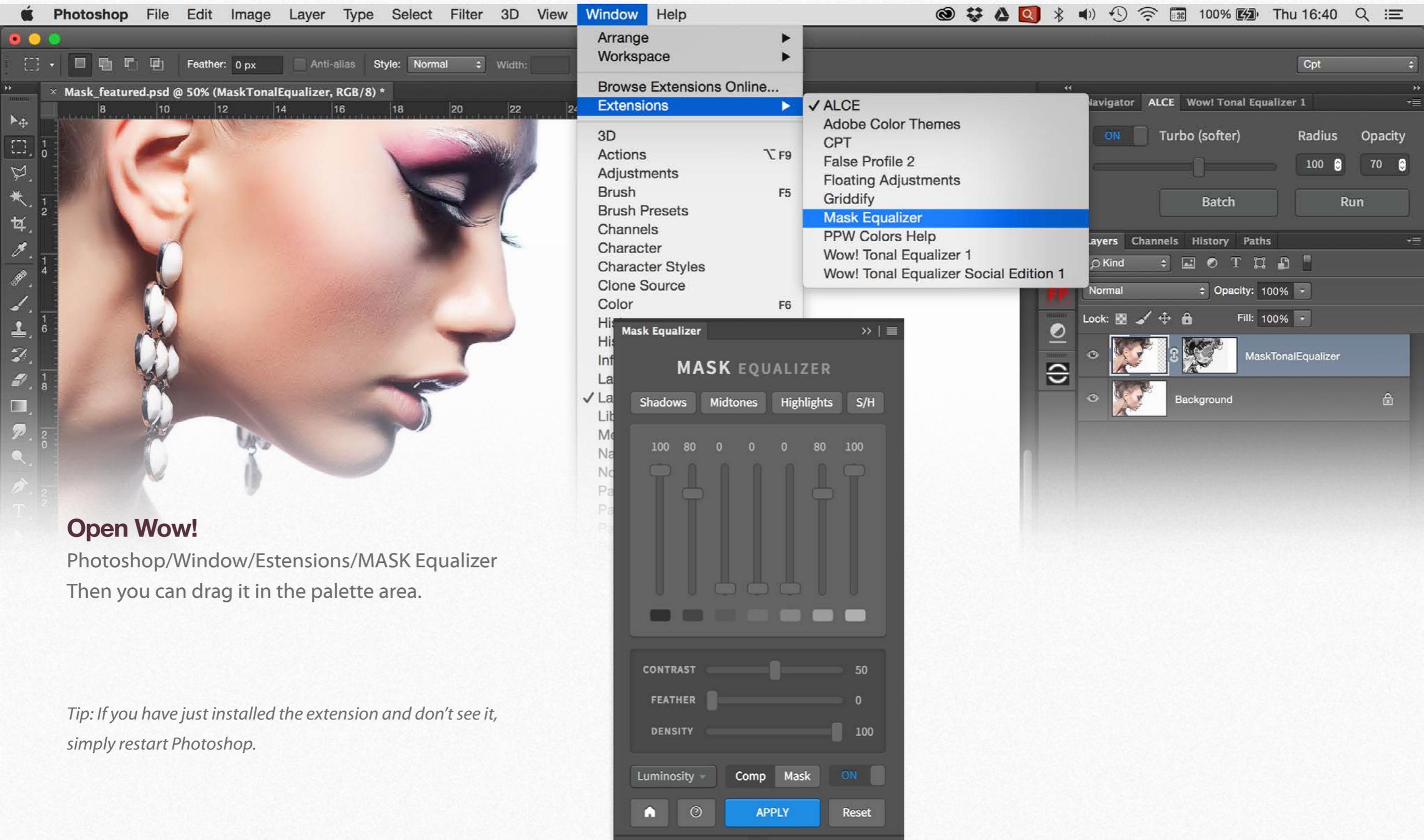
**The user Library by default is hidden. To reveal it go to Finder/Go menu and press the ALT key.**

### System library option

CC 2015 - CC2014: User Library/Application Support/Adobe/CEP/extensions

CC: User/Library/Application Support/Adobe/ CEPServiceManager4/extensions/

## 4. Open MASK Equalizer



**Open Wow!**  
Photoshop/Window/Estensions/MASK Equalizer  
Then you can drag it in the palette area.

*Tip: If you have just installed the extension and don't see it, simply restart Photoshop.*

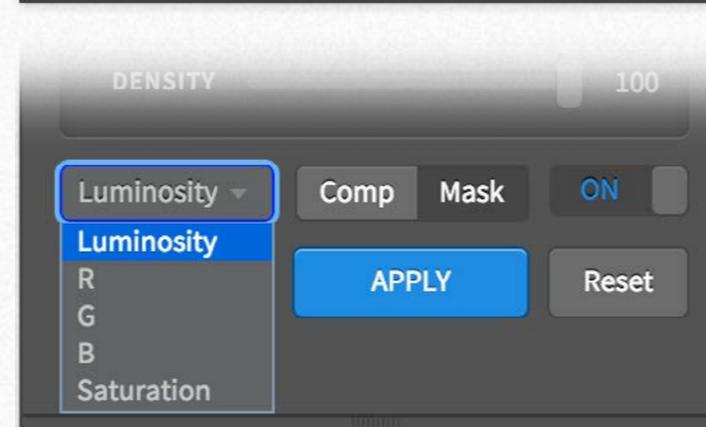
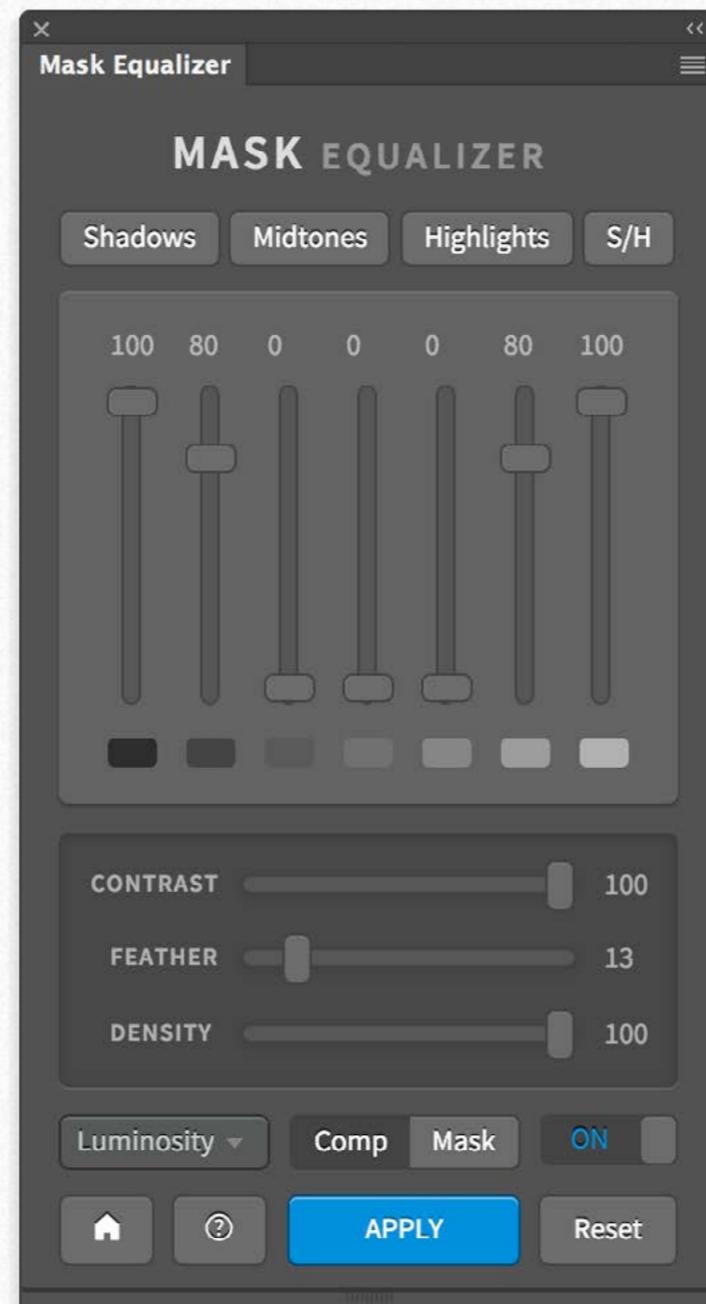
## 5. The MASK Equalizer Panel



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

### Full and compact 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.

## 6. Presets

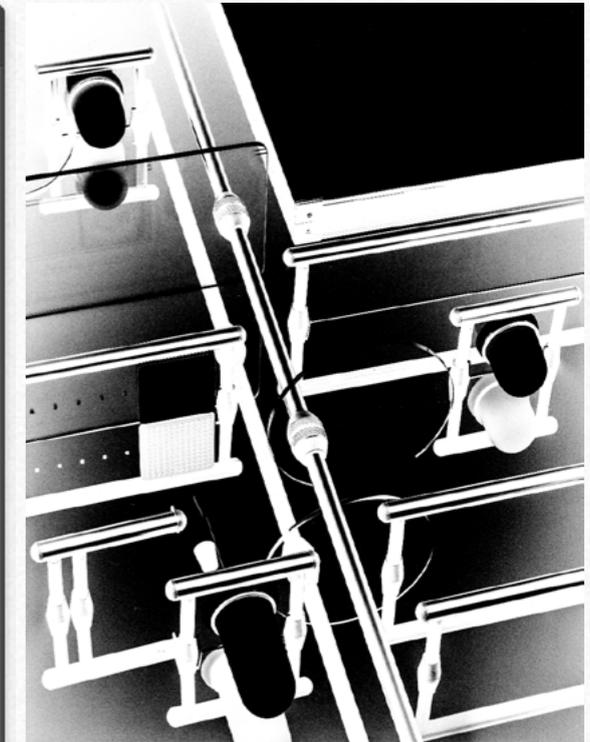
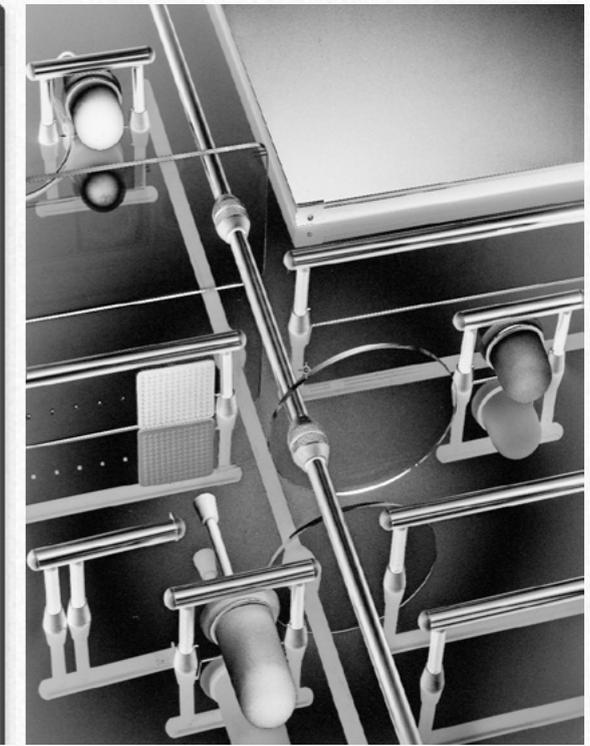
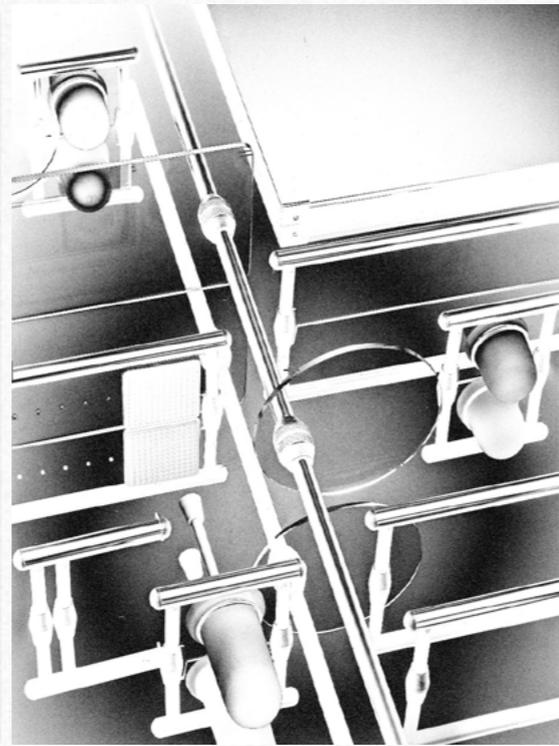
To start you have four presets buttons that cover the most common needs.

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



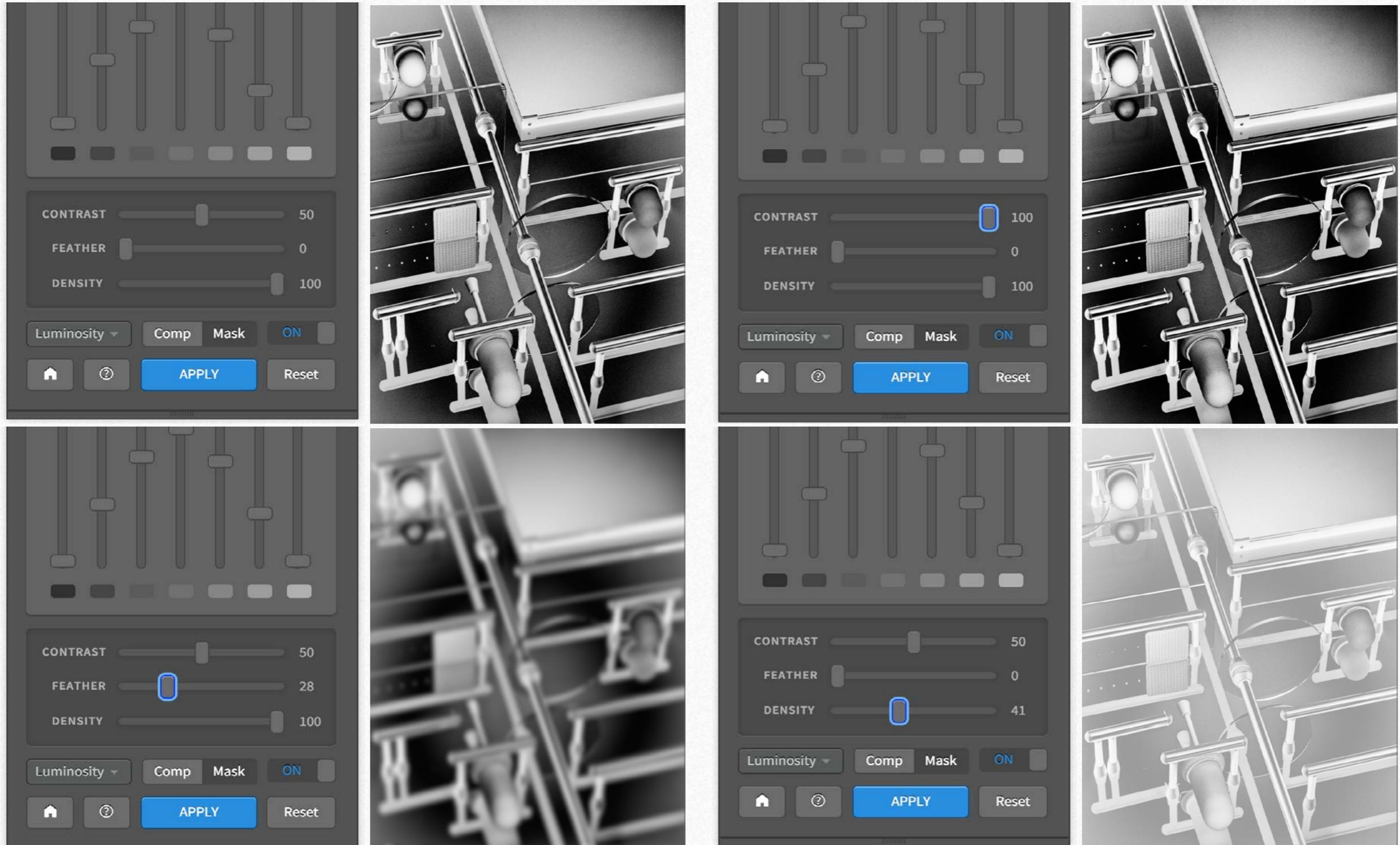
## 7. Vertical sliders

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**.



## 8. 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 allow you to work perceptively.



## 9. Mask and Comp Preview

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



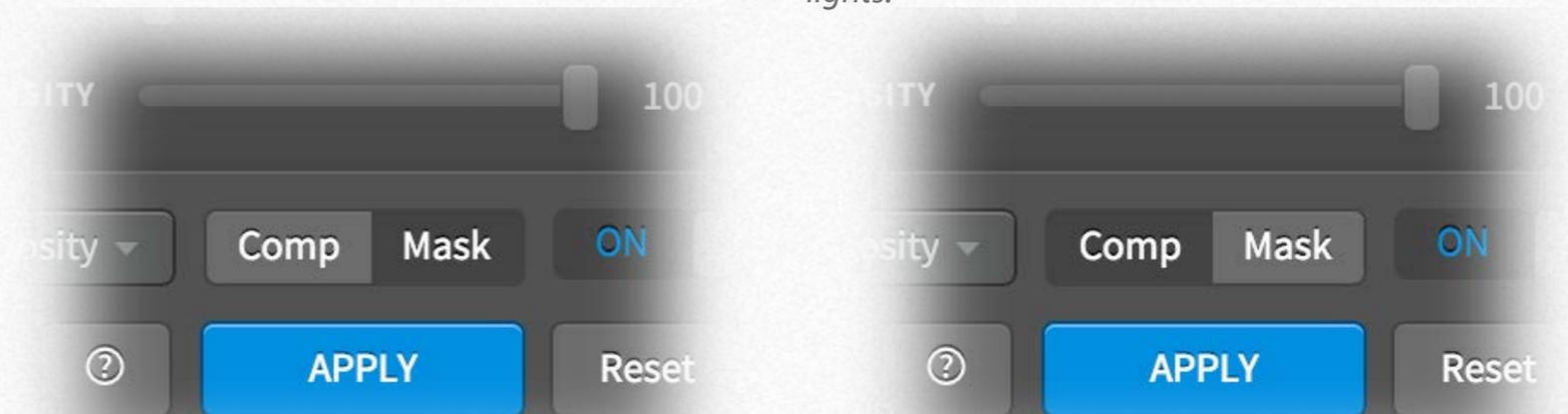
A quick example. The original was very flat. So we used Wow! (with preset "Enhanced Black Control") adding shape and mood. However blacks were too deep and whites, already in the original were not well detailed.



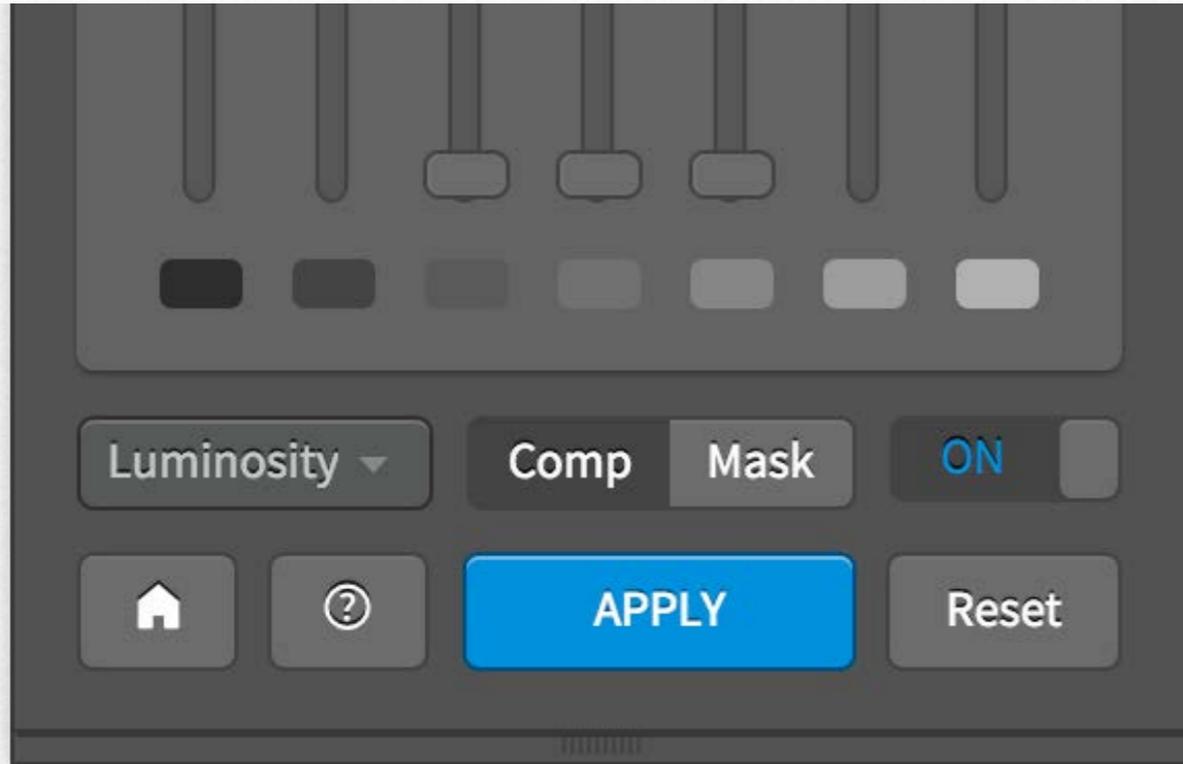
Mask preview (Mask button)



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



## 10. Additional buttons and channels menu.



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

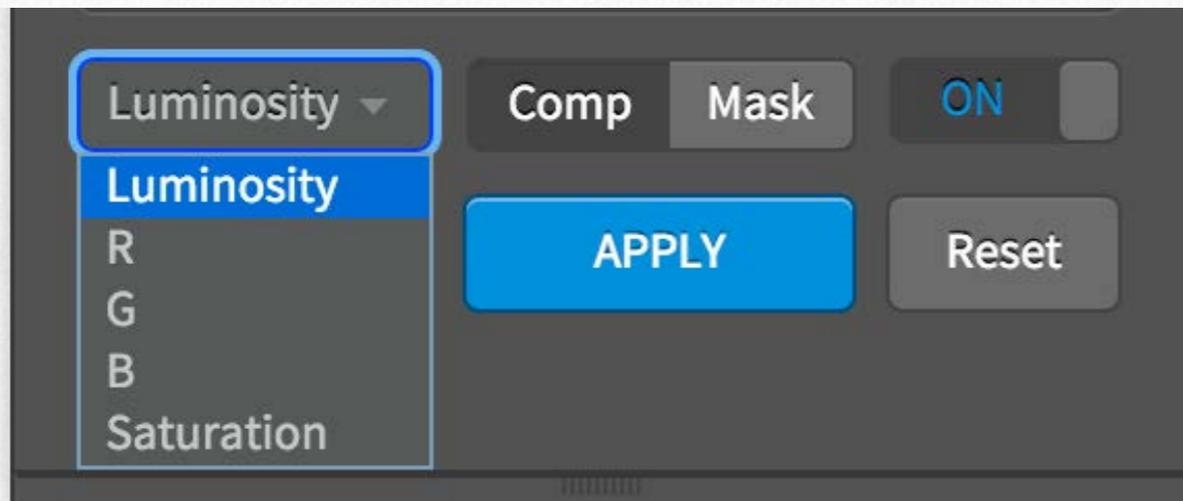
**HOME:** Links to MASK Equalizer web page

**?:** 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.

# 11. How to move the sliders

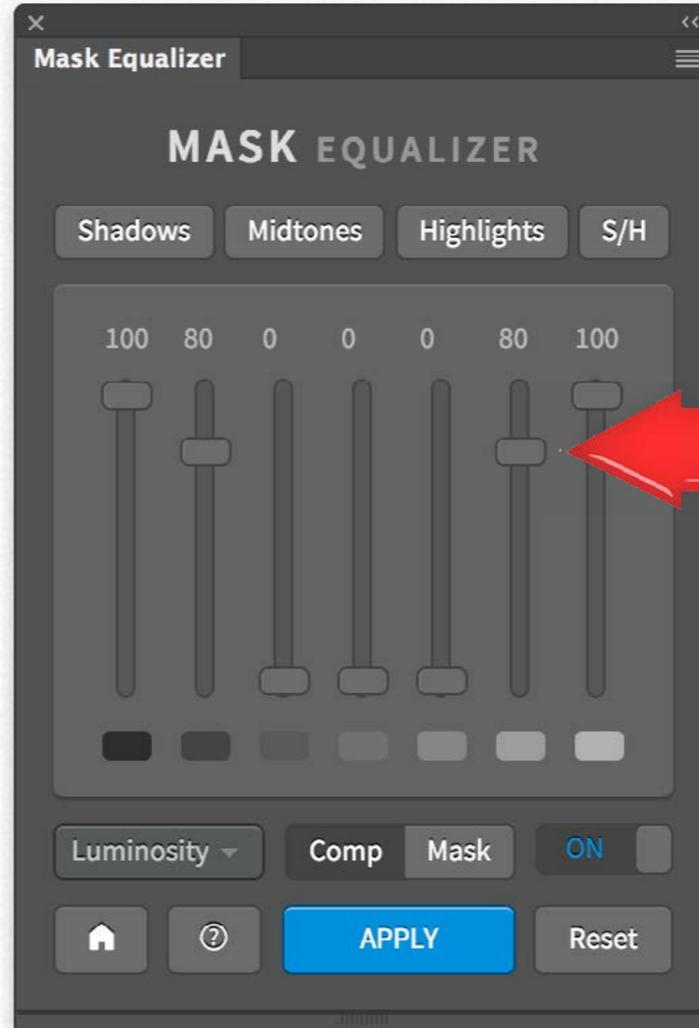
The sliders must be used differently according if you are using CC 2015 and above, or previous CC versions.



**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**

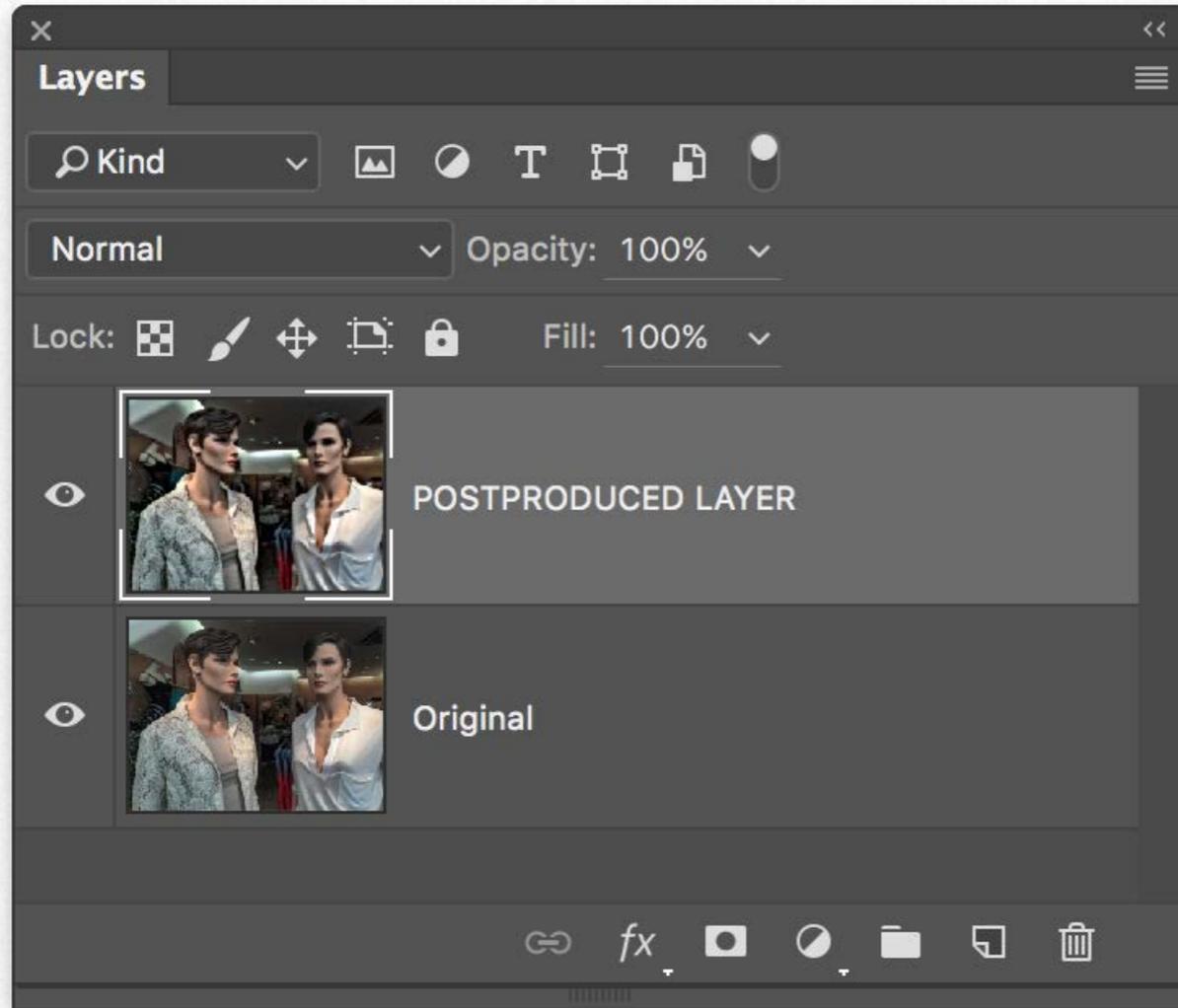
**Do not drag and release**

## CC and CC 2014

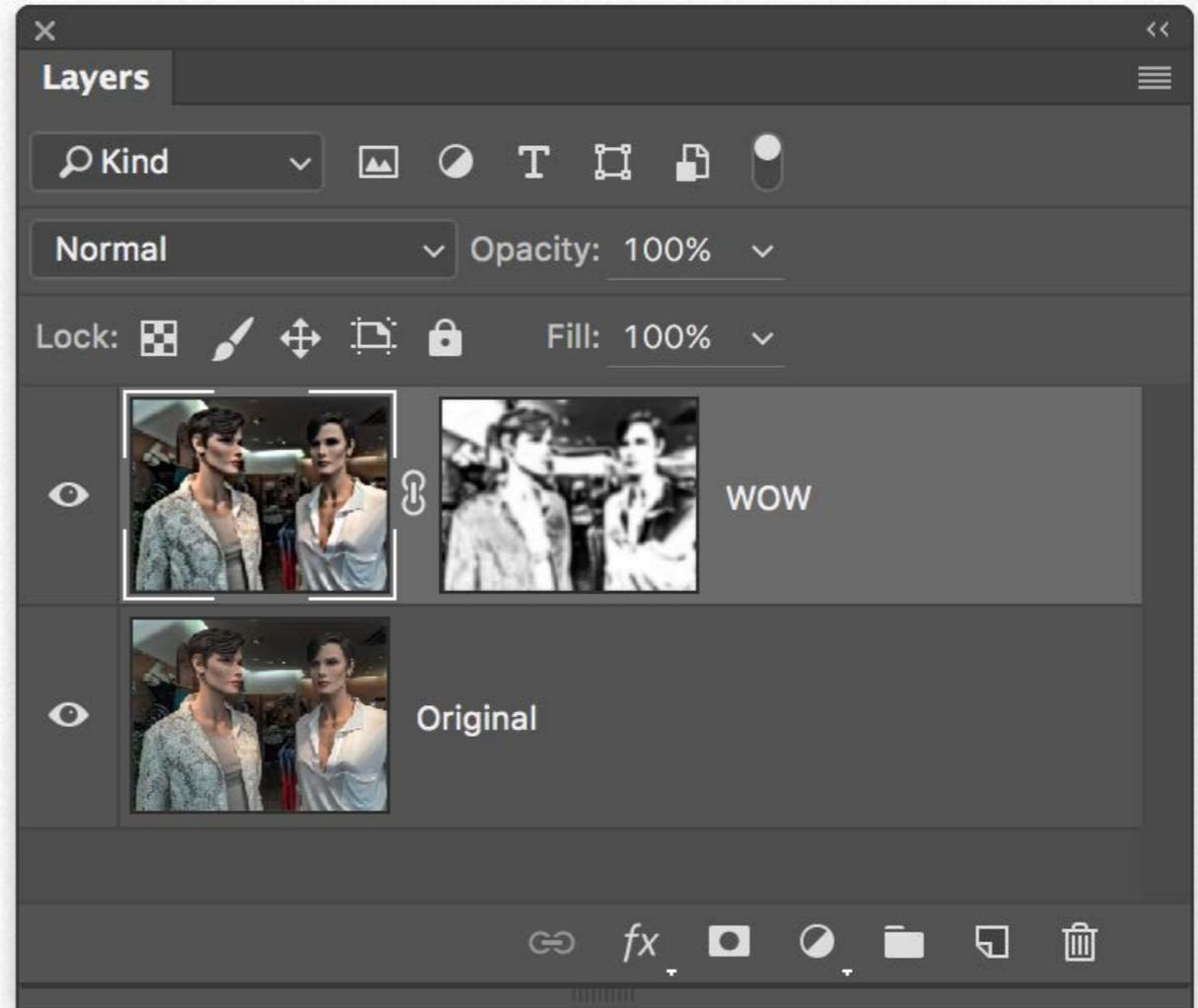
Because of an Adobe issue, while you drag the slider the preview is continuously applied. This greatly slows down the preview. Simply click where you want to place the slider.

**Do not drag the slider**

## 12. How MASK Equalizer works with bitmap layers.



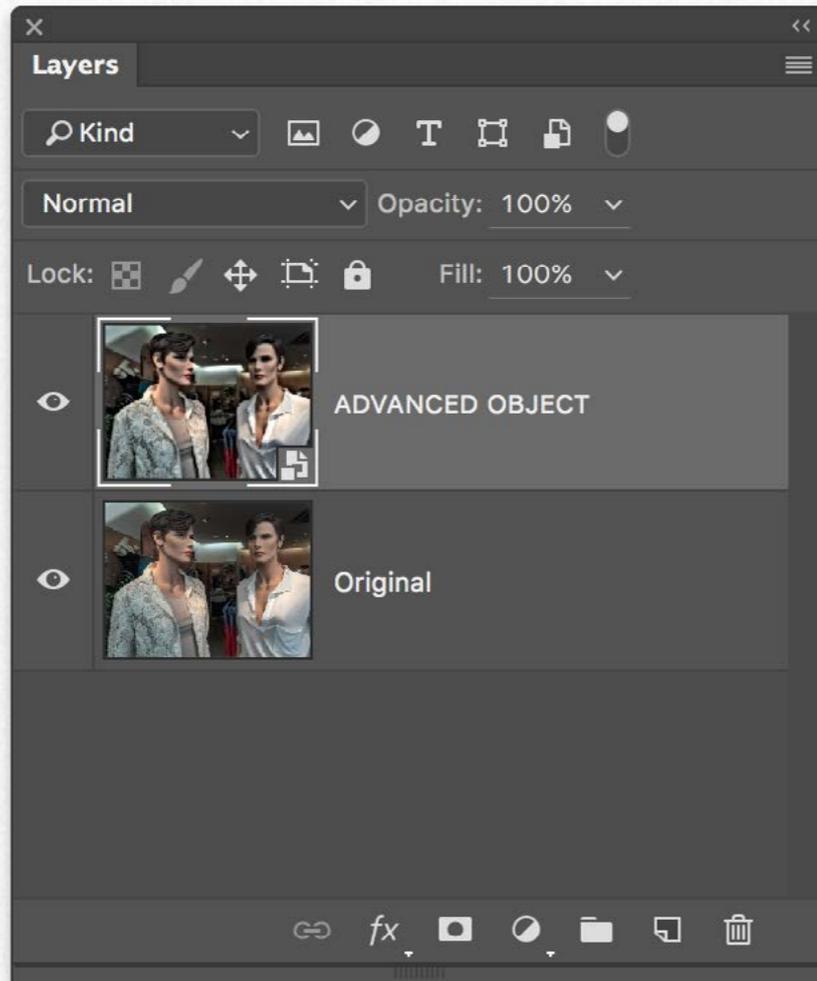
**BEFORE:** Start with the original layer and with a second layer already post-proroduced. For instance you may have added a layer mask, a version with a lot of clarity or an application of Know-How Transfer (Wow!, VitaminBW, ALCE etc) or third party.



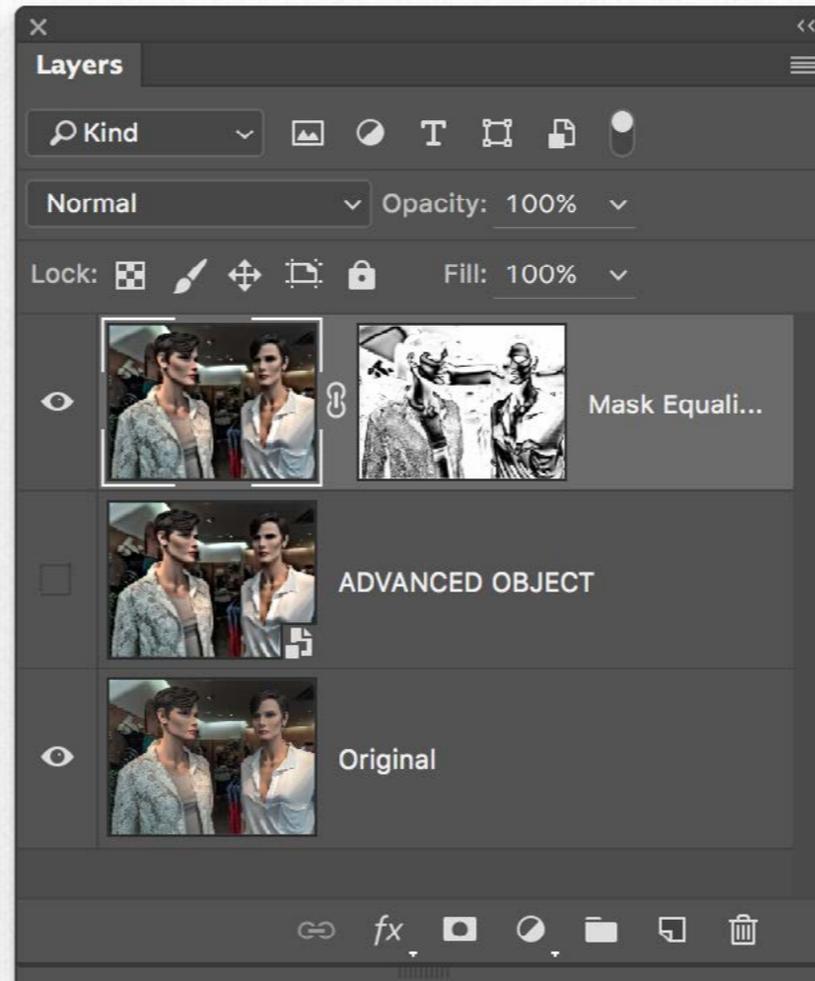
**AFTER:** The mask created have been added to the previously selected layer.

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

## 13. How MASK Equalizer works with advanced object layers.

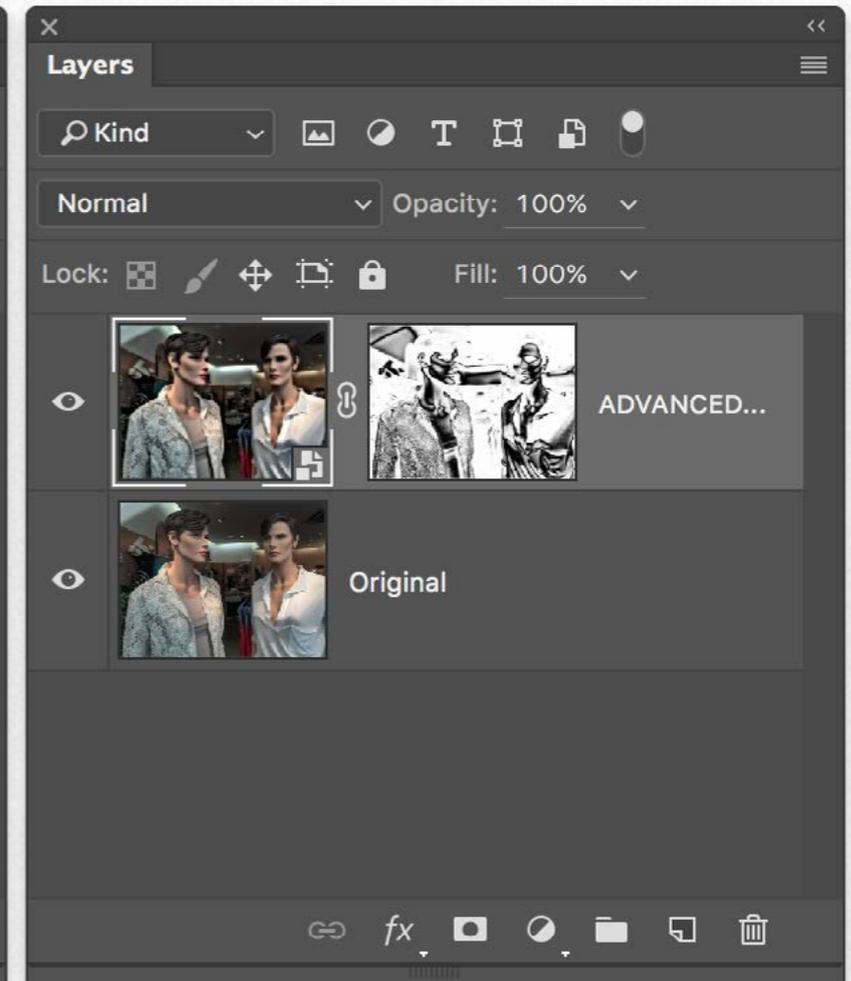


**BEFORE:** Similar situation as the previous page but with an advanced object.



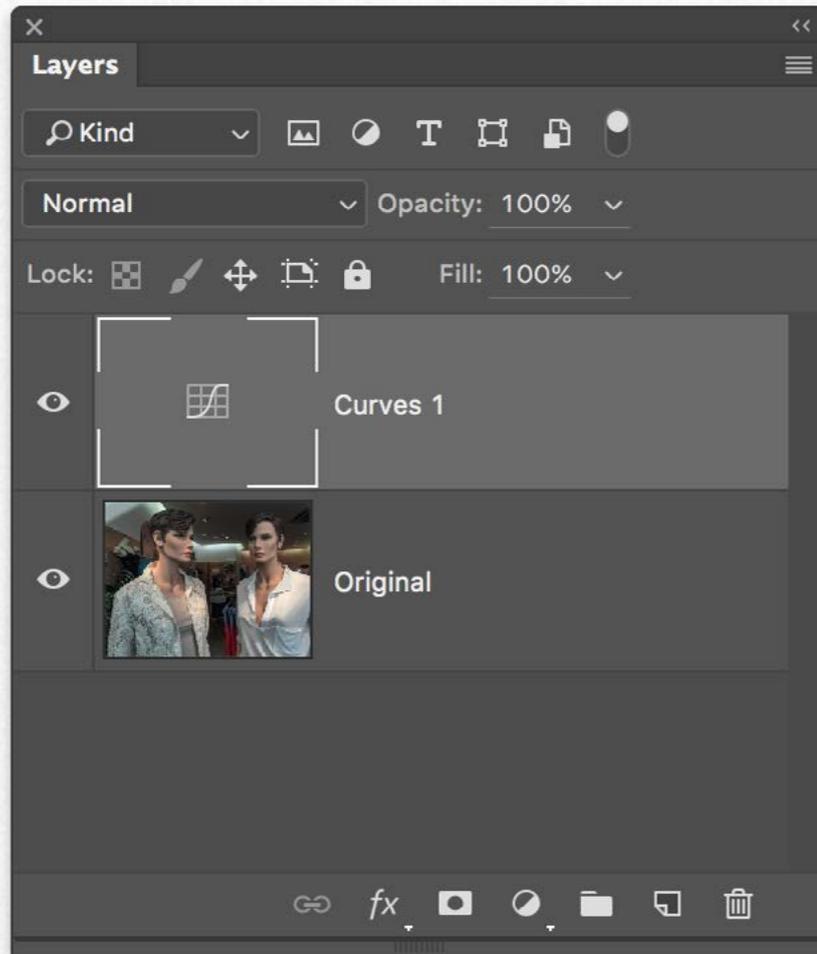
**AFTER:** As MASK Equalizer cannot work on advanced object it creates a composite layer on the top and de-activate the selected advanced object as this allows to see the preview also in this case.

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

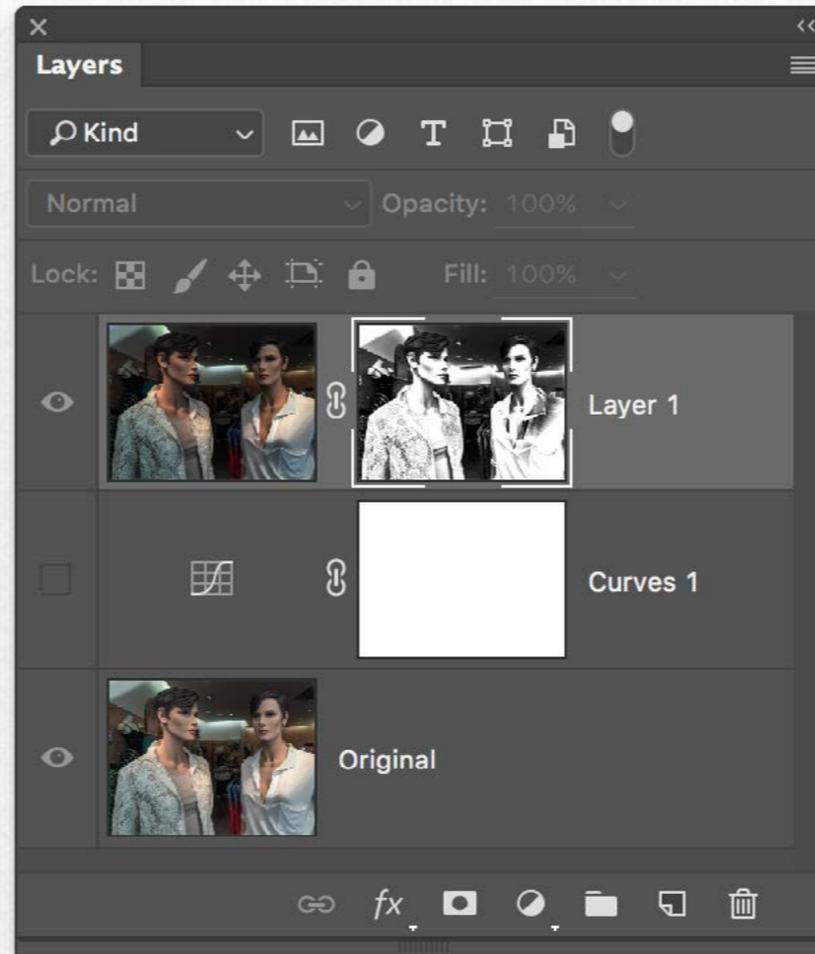


**THE MASK ON THE ADVANCED OBJECT:** The user must simply drag the mask to the advanced object, activate it and trash the temporary layer.

## 14. How it works with adjustment layers.

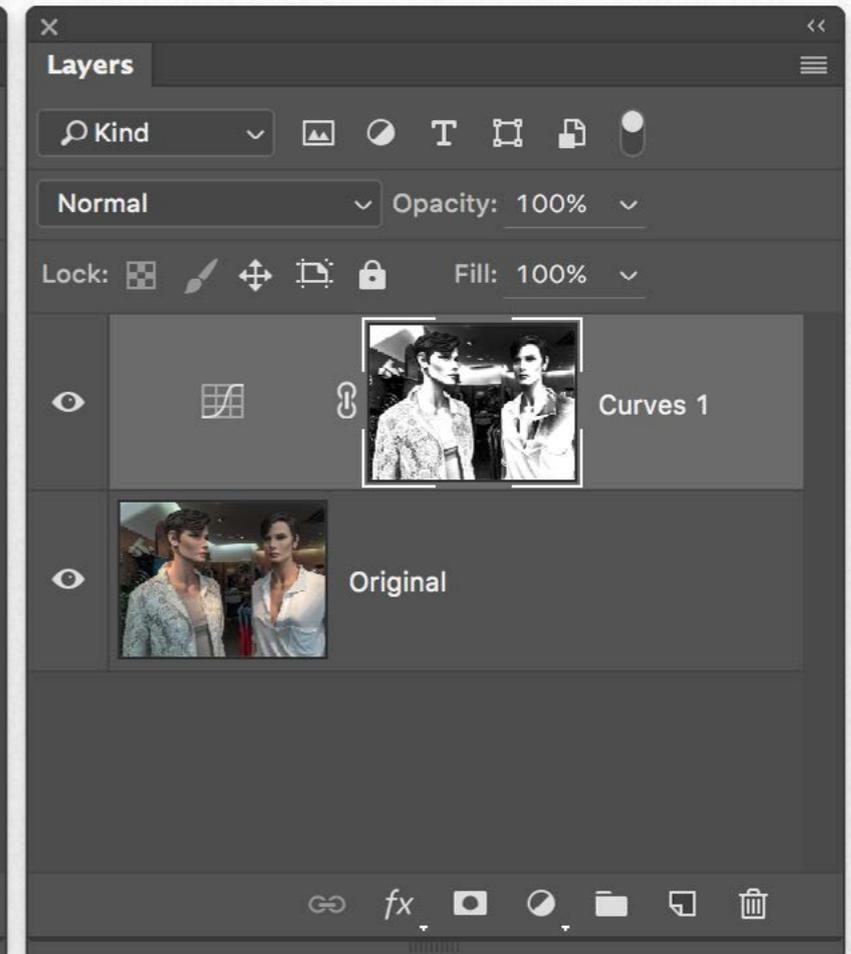


**BEFORE:** Start with an adjustment layer already applied.



**AFTER:** As MASK Equalizer cannot work on adjustment layers it creates a composite layer on the top and de-activate 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.

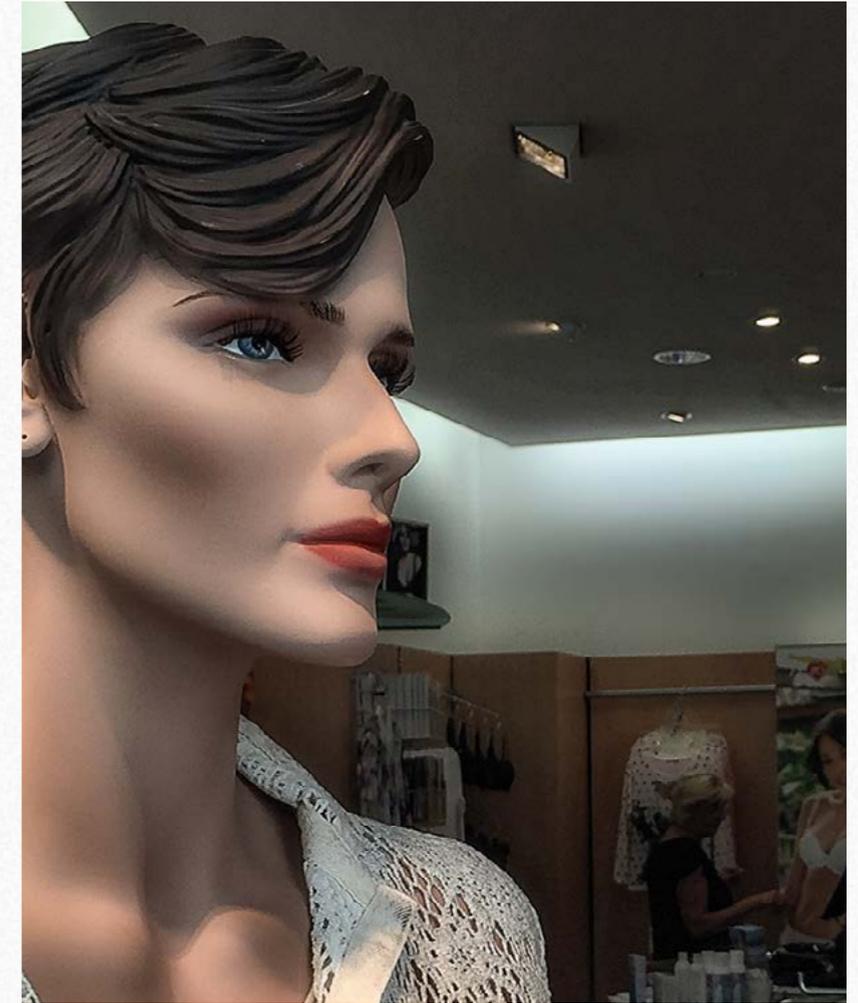
## 15a. How to use the feather slider. Case 1



**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 at the end of the process as a sharper mask is easier to be judged.

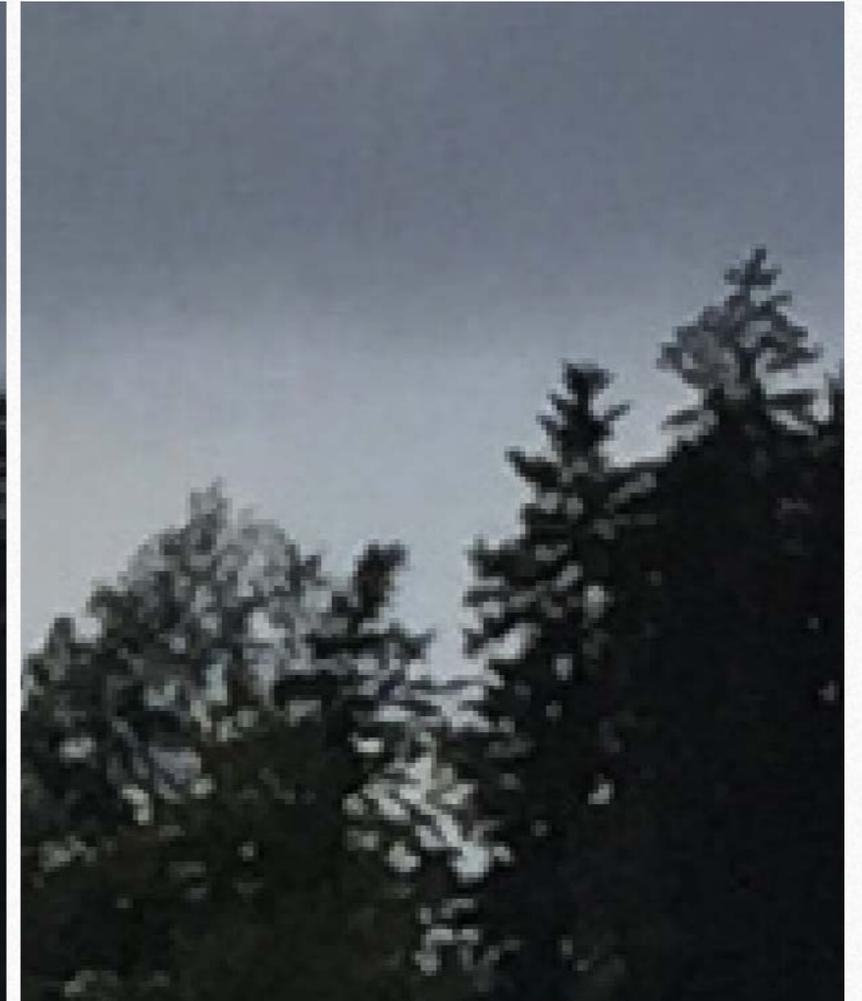
## 15b. How to use the feather slider. Case 2



**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 perceptible. The user don't need to be an expert.



# KNOW HOW TRANSFER

the photography knowledge hub

## Know-How Transfer – The Photography Knowledge Hub

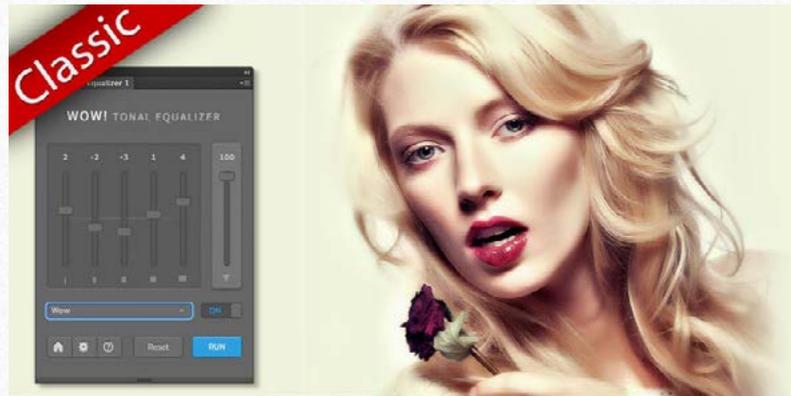
A new platform by the same team who developed ALCE, formerly RBG Group or Bigano and associates.

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 here >](#)

Many of them come from the school of the great Dan Margulis and still have a very special relationship with him. I'm pleased to report here what he wrote about this group taken from his famous post "La Dolce Vita - An era ends":

*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 off-hand 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.*

# 16. A brief presentation of our Apps for Photoshop.



**Wow! Tonal Equalizer**  
Frequency Separation Plugin

*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 CC 2015, CC2014, CC, CS6 - MAC & WIN. [Buy €32 >](#)



**Wow! Frequency Equalizer Pro**  
Decompose frequencies with sliders or pixel layers

*Wow! Frequency Equalizer Pro Edition*

Same features of Wow! Classic plus the new Decomposition button and more. You can now explicitly turn each frequency into its own pixel layer for a better and more precise frequency based retouching.  
PS CC and above - MAC & WIN. [Buy 45 >](#)



**VitaminBW**  
Single and Triple Tone Black & White Converter

*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 >](#)



**DoubleUSM**  
Advanced Control of Dark and Light Halos

*Double USM - Two Channels Advanced Sharpening*

Works separately on Dark and Light halo's components of an image. With a double set of sliders and his high quality preview, Double USM fills the gap. For traditional, HiRaLoam or creative mixed sharpening.  
PS C5 and above - MAC & WIN. [Buy €15 >](#)



**ALCE**  
Local Contrast Enhancer

*ALCE - Advanced Local Contrast Enhancer*

An easy-to-use and powerful Photoshop tool to effectively improve and finely tune the local contrast of an image. His smart algorithm avoids the clipping issues typical of methods like shadows/highlights.  
PS C53 and above - MAC & WIN. [Buy €28 >](#)



**Channels Power Tool**  
Advanced Mask Editing and Worklow Optimizer

*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, Social and Video Edition

Wow! is an exclusive Photoshop extension that improves your images with a exclusive 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. **Now Available in Classic, Social and Video Edition.**

Wow! Social Edition For Photoshop	Wow! Classic Edition For Photoshop	Wow! Video Edition For After Effects and Premiere Pro
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>A Small Jewel For Web Sized Image</b></li><li>• 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. <b>Works with files up to 1920×1920 px</b></li></ul> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BUY €13</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The Classic Version for Photoshop</b></li><li>• Our premium Frequency Separation Plugin with presets optimized for medium and high sized files. You can work in live preview or classic mode (set values and apply).</li></ul> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BUY €32</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The Video Version</b></li><li>• Works with the same powerful engine than Wow! Classic. Same ease of use and tuning effect. Generates an instant video preview and the export process his very fast.</li></ul> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BUY €32</a></p>

## Freeware



**2015**

**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 cc 2015, CC2014, CC, CS6 - MAC & WIN.

[Get Free >](#)



**2015**

**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 CC 2015, CC2014, CC, CS6, CS5 - MAC & WIN.

[Get Free >](#)

## Premium Raw Scan Service



**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 your 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

ALL PHOTOSHOP VERSIONS, MAC & WIN

Buy Raw Scan €7 each.>

[Apps Store >](#)

[Apps home page >](#)



# KNOW HOW TRANSFER

the photography knowledge hub

## 17. Links and Credits

MASK Equalizer © knowhowtransfer.com / bigano srl  
MASK Equalizer is developed by KnowHowTransfer  
GUI Panel Design created by Davide Barranca  
Manual design by Marco Diodato

[MASK Equalizer Page >](#)

[Store Home Page >](#)

[Products Home Page >](#)

[bigano.com >](#)

Images credits: cover: and page 4 ©Irina Gromovataya - depositphotos.com / Page 2: ©Conrad Bak - depositphotos.com