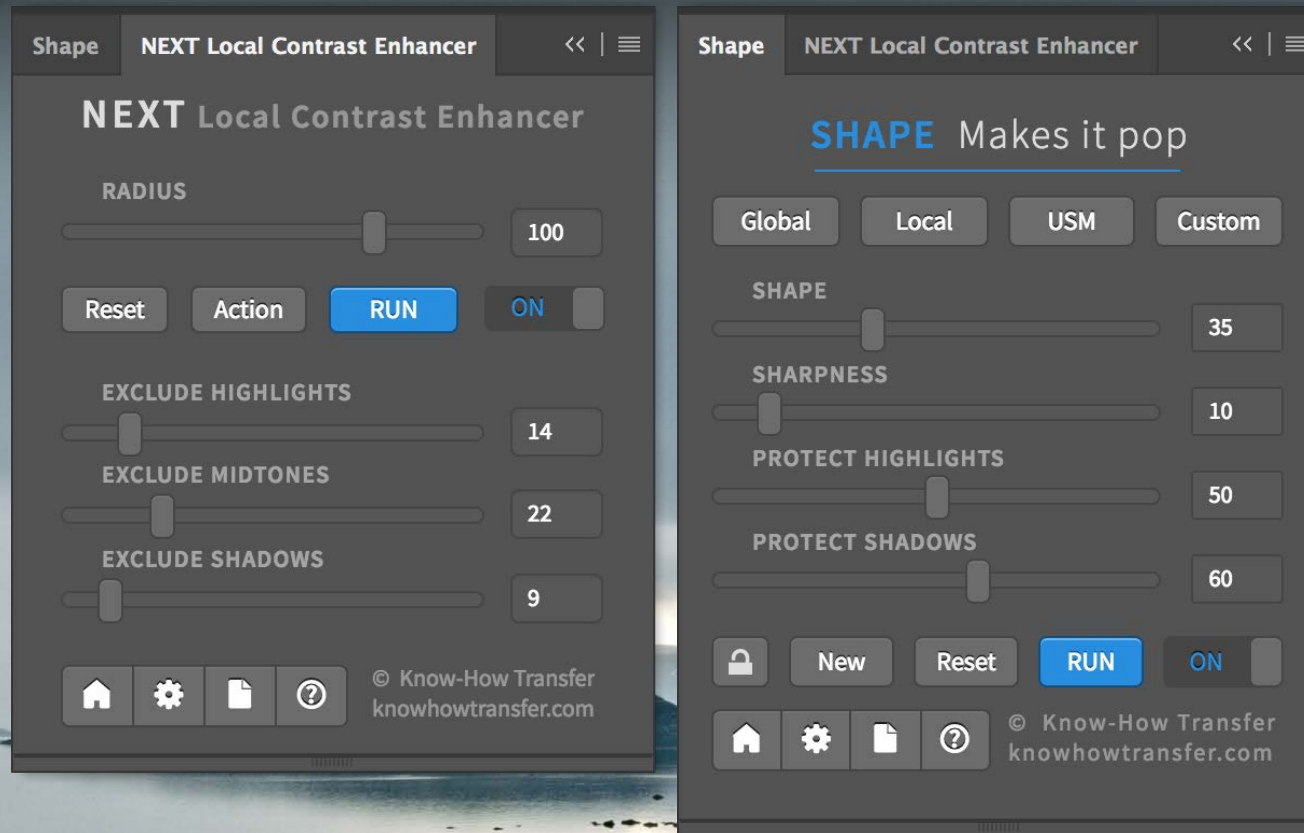


60 Pages



KNOW HOW TRANSFER

the photography knowledge hub



Quick-Start

Shape behavior

Next-Like

Halos

Landscape

Architecture

Portrait

Street Photo

Food

Product

Product Page

Try Shape

Buy Shape

Contrast Enhancement | Next & Shape compared

Interactive Booklet with all used setting - April 2020

How to use this booklet

Quick-Start

1. Download the pdf

Save it by clicking on the download icon in the top right corner and save it in your download folder.

A higher resolution version is available for download.

2. Open the pdf with Acrobat Reader

Mac users can watch it using "Preview"

3. View the pdf in full screen mode

Menu View/Full Screen Mode or command +L, or control + L

4. Compare versions using the index buttons

You can directly compare the different versions, using the green index buttons.

5. Browse pages using the arrows or swipe

Desktop:

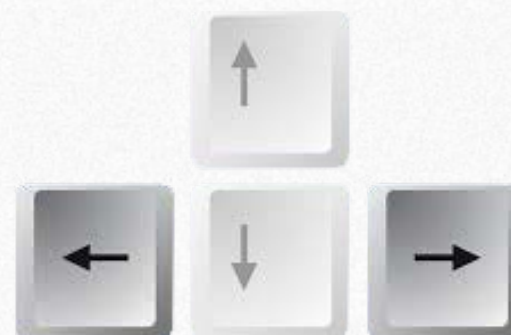
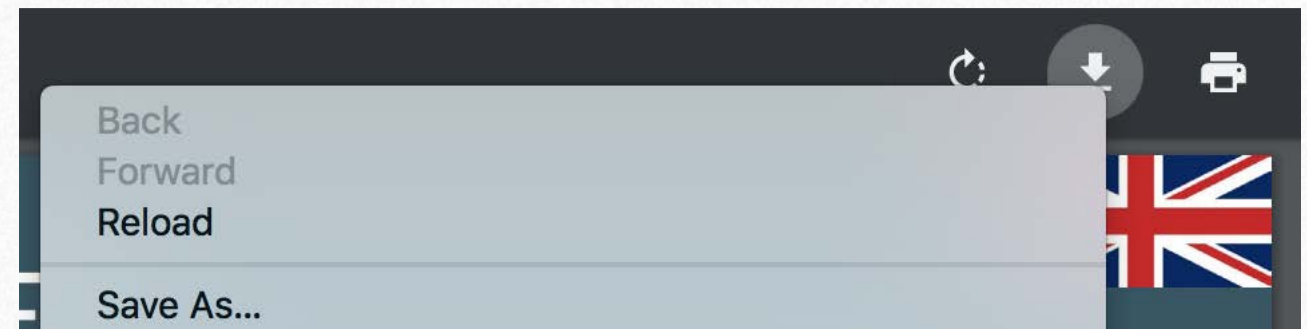
Go back & forth using the left/right arrows to watch the before-after examples.

Devices:

Swipe right and left to watch the before-after examples.

Any page displays the panel's settings used.

No further retouches applied unless specified.



Comparing Next & Shape

The two plugins are different in terms of behavior, color engine, and algorithm. With some subjects the delivers the same result, as you can see in the section “Next-Like.”

There are small differences as Shape is a bit more brilliant, but Next preserves the detail more in the shadows, especially at low radii. However, this shadow preserving often delivers a fake “HDR” style look. To understand what we mean compare the Next 20 to Shape Local+ version in the “Street Photo” section.

1. What’s more in Shape

SHAPE allowed us to add key functions that were difficult, if not impossible, to implement in NEXT.

We designed SHAPE using NEXT as a starting point, and improve it in five areas.

1. Introducing the multiple contrast mode.
2. Fixing the halos issue.
3. Adding a sharpening slider.
4. Adding Color boost control.
5. Allowing full customization.

Fixing the halos issue

Shape once for all fixed the more significant weakness of ALCE and Next, the halos.

There is a dedicated section about the Halos Issue, but you can halos fixed, virtually in all examples. No more noisy manual corrections through layer mask!



Next and Shape. Same enhancement, but no halos in Shape version below

How to get out the most of this booklet

About the luminosity

In general Next and Shape generate a file with the same luminosity. The exception is the norwegian fjord in the landscape section where the original used for Shape was lightened with an approximate gamma 1.2 correction.

How to read the comparison files

Shape Global and Shape Local are obtained just applying the preset. The panel view is just a reminder.

When you see for instance Shape Local + it means that the preset version has been modified, for instance adding Sharpness.

You can see the used values in the panel picture.

When we used custom versions you can find the preference window and the panel with the used settings.

Try Shape at home

Please download the Shape trial version and the sample files package to touch with your hand.

We also recommend to watch the "Introducing Shape" video

Quick-Start

A detailed explanation is available for any example. No retouch, no masking.

Download links

[Try Shape](#)

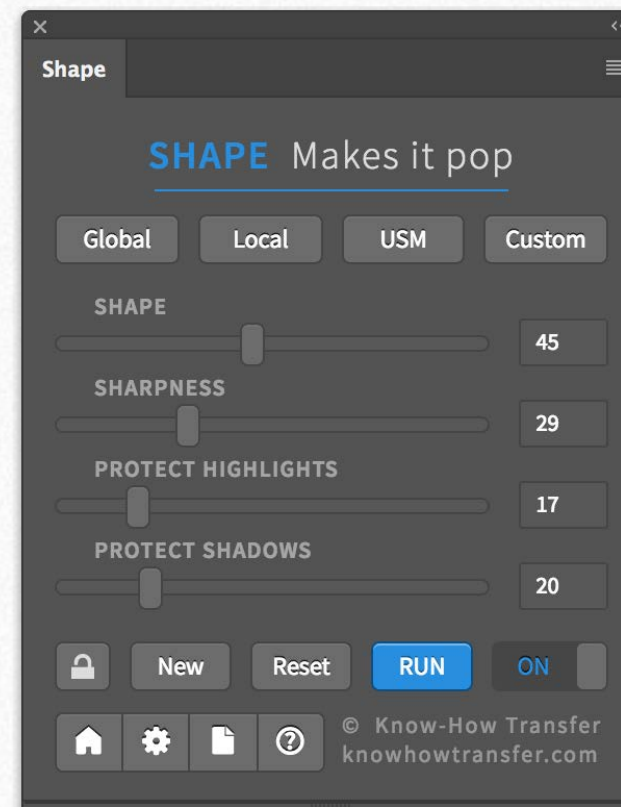
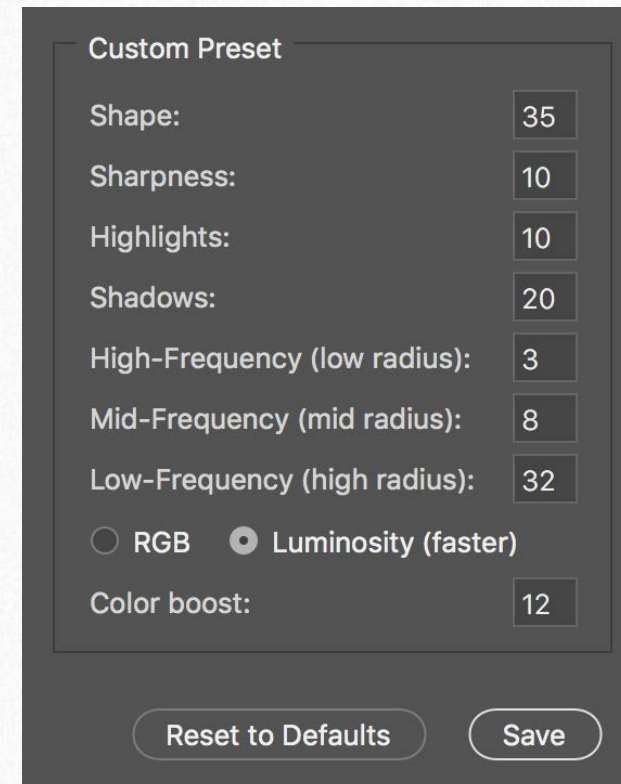
[Sample files](#)

[Shape Manual](#)

Watch the new videos

[Next Vs Shape](#)

[Introducing Shape](#)



Understand and customize the behavior of Shape

Shape behavior

A brief guide to understand and customize the behavior of Shape.

1. No preset

If you don't load any preset and just using the "Shape" or "Sharpness" sliders, the plugging will use the combination of frequency bands settings defined in the customizable Advanced Options settings.

By default the values are 3/50/200

2. Global

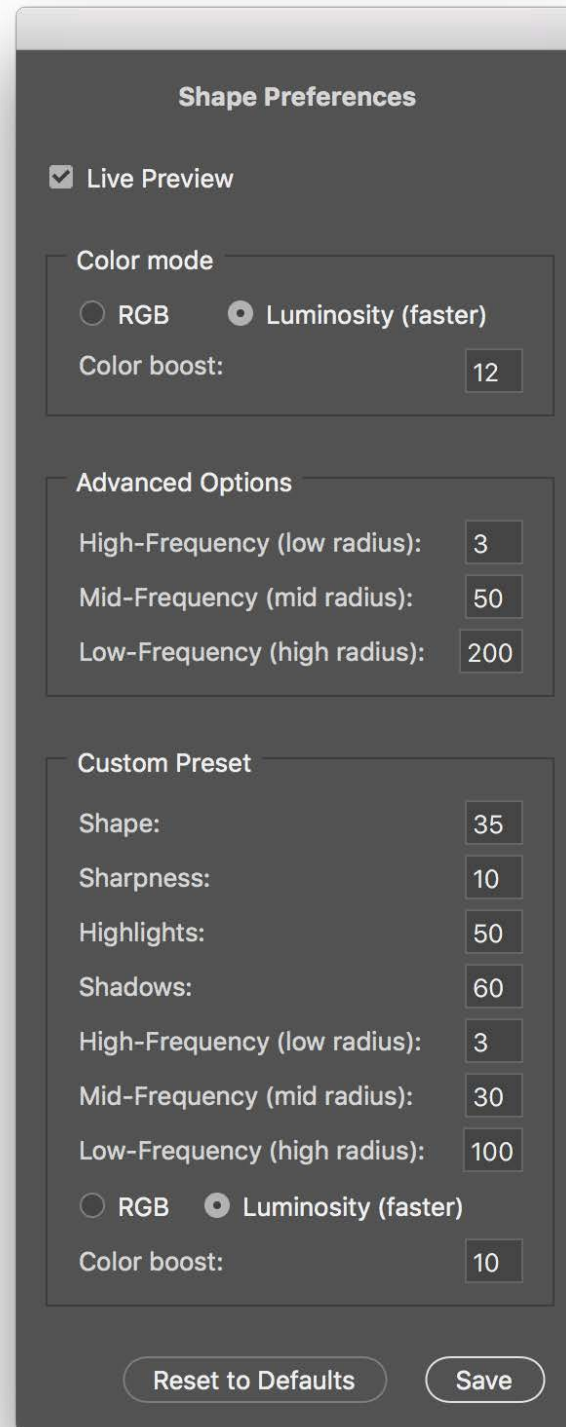
A combination of frequency bands settings (High, Medium and Low) enhancing Global Contrast focusing on mid-tones.

3. Local

A combination of frequency bands settings (High, Medium and Low) enhancing Local Contrast, similarly to NEXT in radius ranges 50/100.

4. USM

A special combination of frequency bands settings. In this case Shape works as a powerful sharpness enhancer. The "Color boost" value is = 0.

The image shows a 'Shape Preferences' dialog box with a dark grey background. At the top, there's a title bar 'Shape Preferences'. Below it, a checkbox 'Live Preview' is checked. The 'Color mode' section has two radio buttons: 'RGB' and 'Luminosity (faster)', with 'Luminosity (faster)' selected. A 'Color boost' slider is set to 12. The 'Advanced Options' section contains three sliders: 'High-Frequency (low radius)' at 3, 'Mid-Frequency (mid radius)' at 50, and 'Low-Frequency (high radius)' at 200. The 'Custom Preset' section has sliders for 'Shape' (35), 'Sharpness' (10), 'Highlights' (50), 'Shadows' (60), 'High-Frequency (low radius)' (3), 'Mid-Frequency (mid radius)' (30), and 'Low-Frequency (high radius)' (100). It also has radio buttons for 'RGB' and 'Luminosity (faster)' (selected), and a 'Color boost' slider set to 10. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Reset to Defaults' and 'Save'.

5. Custom

The "Custom" preset is customizable in "Preference in the "Custom Preset" section and allows you to set:

1. The starting "Shape" slider value.
2. The starting "Sharpness" slider value.
3. The starting "Highlights Protection" value.
4. The starting "Shadows Protection" value.
5. The color mode: "RGB" or "Luminosity".
6. The "Color Boost" value (only for "Luminosity" option).
7. The High, Mid and Low-Frequency values.

Watch "Introducing Shape"

Start from NEXT look and then improve the result

Next-Like

A brief guide to start from the most common effect you can get with NEXT. You will be able to improve it by far by using Shape's extra tools as Sharpness, Color Boost and more.

1. NEXT radius 50/100 approx.

Use the "Local" preset button.

2. NEXT radius 20/50 approx.

Two ways to work.

1. Set the High, Mid and Low-Frequency values in the "Advanced Options" without loading a preset and tweaking the sliders manually.
2. Set the "Custom Preset High, Mid and Low-Frequency values and load the "Custom" preset to start.

Now, you can tweak all the sliders manually.

Use the settings as shown in the figure on the left.

3. NEXT radius 20 and lower approx.

Same as above, but using settings shown in the figure on the left.

The screenshot shows the 'Shape Preferences' panel with the following settings:

- ☐ Live Preview
- Color mode**
 - ☐ RGB
 - ☒ Luminosity (faster)
- Color boost: 12
- Advanced Options**
 - High-Frequency (low radius): 2
 - Mid-Frequency (mid radius): 16
 - Low-Frequency (high radius): 36
- Custom Preset**
 - Shape: 60
 - Sharpness: 0
 - Highlights: 0
 - Shadows: 0
 - High-Frequency (low radius): 2
 - Mid-Frequency (mid radius): 16
 - Low-Frequency (high radius): 36
 - ☐ RGB ☒ Luminosity (faster)
 - Color boost: 12
- Buttons: Reset to Defaults, Save

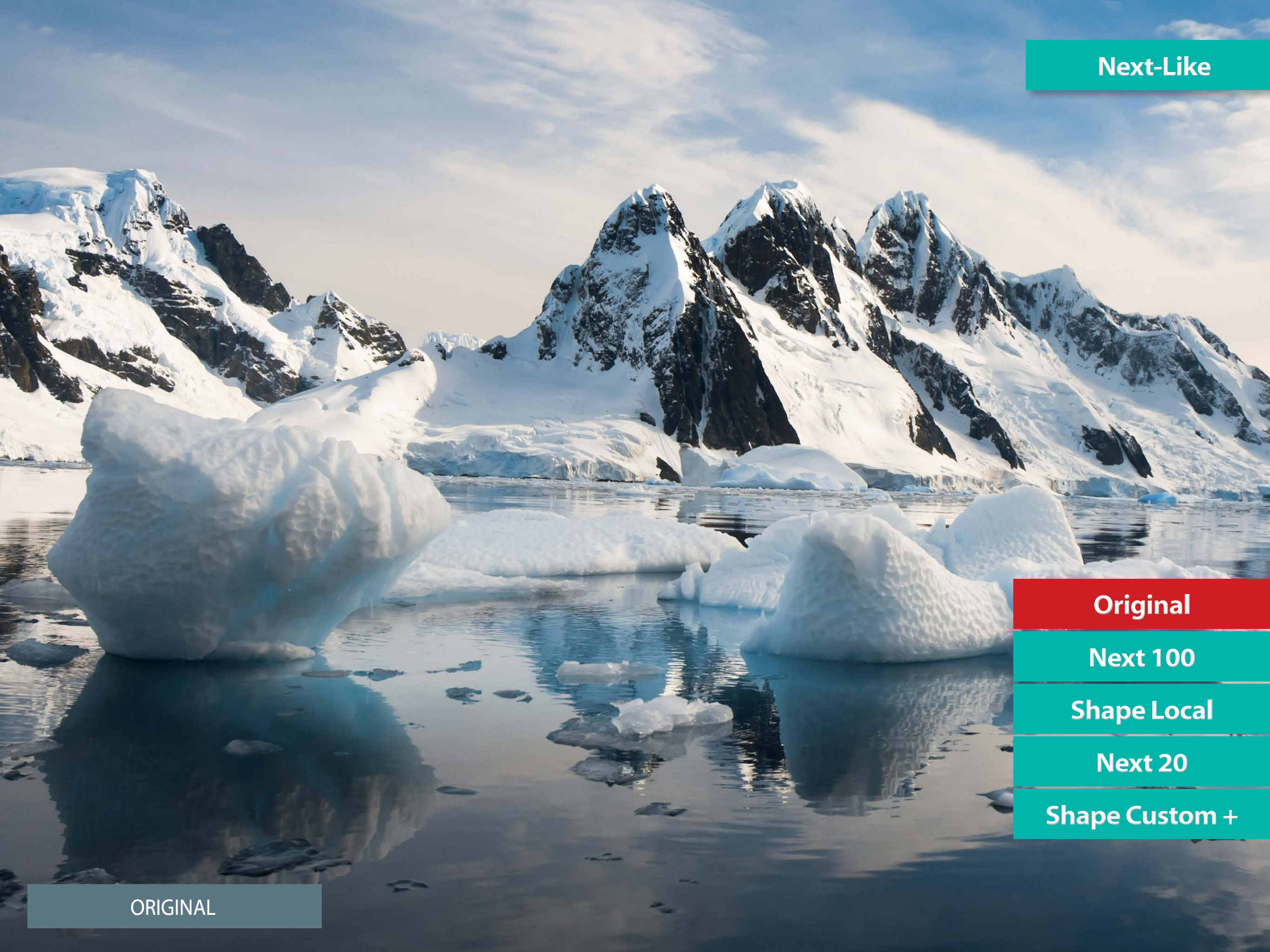
NEXT radius 50

The screenshot shows the 'Shape Preferences' panel with the following settings:

- ☐ Live Preview
- Color mode**
 - ☐ RGB
 - ☒ Luminosity (faster)
- Color boost: 12
- Advanced Options**
 - High-Frequency (low radius): 3
 - Mid-Frequency (mid radius): 6
 - Low-Frequency (high radius): 24
- Custom Preset**
 - Shape: 50
 - Sharpness: 20
 - Highlights: 10
 - Shadows: 20
 - High-Frequency (low radius): 3
 - Mid-Frequency (mid radius): 6
 - Low-Frequency (high radius): 24
 - ☐ RGB ☒ Luminosity (faster)
 - Color boost: 12
- Buttons: Reset to Defaults, Save

NEXT radius 20 and lower

Next-Like



Original

Next 100

Shape Local

Next 20

Shape Custom +

ORIGINAL

Next-Like

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NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

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NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

RADIUS

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Reset

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EXCLUDE HIGHLIGHTS

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EXCLUDE MIDTONES

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EXCLUDE SHADOWS

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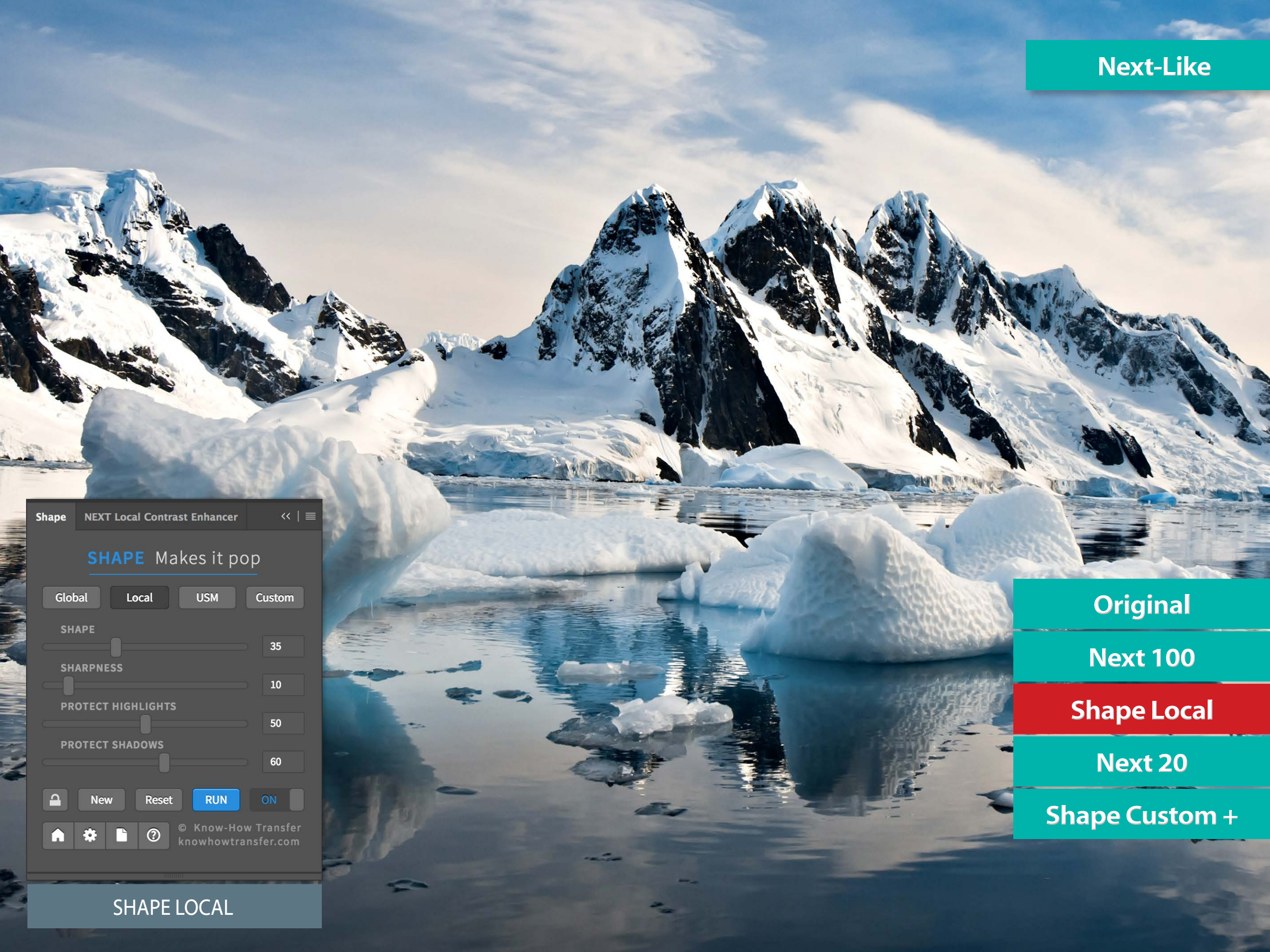
❓

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- Original
- Next 100
- Shape Local
- Next 20
- Shape Custom +

NEXT 100

Next-Like



Shape

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

<< | ☰

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

35

SHARPNESS

10

PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS

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PROTECT SHADOWS

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- Original
- Next 100
- Shape Local
- Next 20
- Shape Custom +

SHAPE LOCAL

Next-Like

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NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

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NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

RADIUS

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Original

Next 100

Shape Local

Next 20

Shape Custom +

NEXT 20

Next-Like

Custom Preset

Shape:

60

Sharpness:

0

Highlights:

0

Shadows:

0

High-Frequency (low radius):

2

Mid-Frequency (mid radius):

16

Low-Frequency (high radius):

36

☐ RGB

☒ Luminosity (faster)

Color boost:

12

Reset to Defaults

Save

Shape

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

60

SHARPNESS

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PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS

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PROTECT SHADOWS

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New

Reset

RUN

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Original

Next 100

Shape Local

Next 20

Shape Custom +

SHAPE CUSTOM +

Next-Like

Custom Preset

Shape:

60

Sharpness:

0

Highlights:

0

Shadows:

0

High-Frequency (low radius):

2

Mid-Frequency (mid radius):

16

Low-Frequency (high radius):

36

☐ RGB

☒ Luminosity (faster)

Color boost:

12

Reset to Defaults

Save

Shape

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

60

SHARPNESS

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PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS

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PROTECT SHADOWS

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Original

Next 100

Shape Local

Next 20

Shape Custom 1

SHAPE CUSTOM 1



Halos

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 20

Shape Custom 1

ORIGINAL

Halos

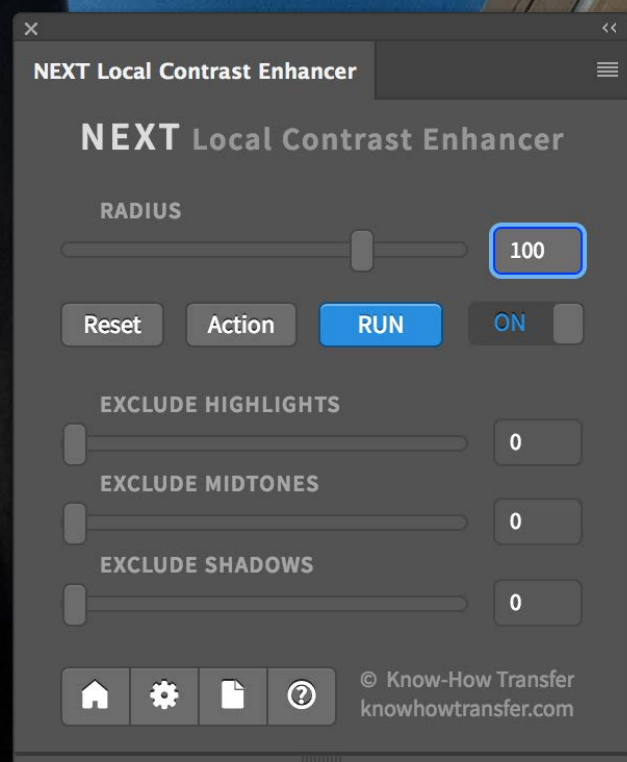
Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 20

Shape Custom 1



NEXT 100

Halos

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 20

Shape Custom 1

Shape NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer << | ≡

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global Local USM Custom

SHAPE 35

SHARPNESS 10

PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS 50

PROTECT SHADOWS 60

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SHAPE GLOBAL

Halos

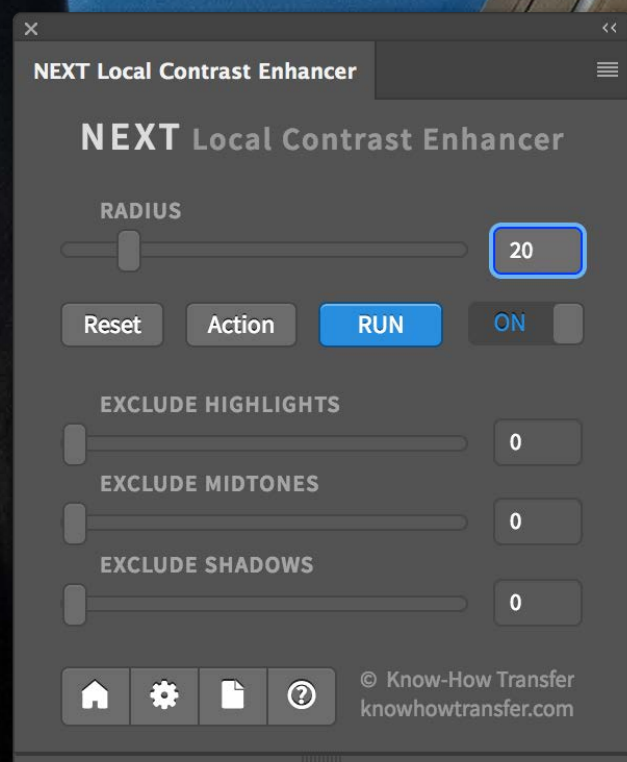
Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 20

Shape Custom 1



NEXT20

Halos

Custom Preset

Shape:

60

Sharpness:

10

Highlights:

10

Shadows:

30

High-Frequency (low radius):

4

Mid-Frequency (mid radius):

16

Low-Frequency (high radius):

32

RGB

Luminosity (faster)

Color boost:

8

Reset to Defaults

Save

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Shape

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SHAPE

Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

60

SHARPNESS

10

PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS

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PROTECT SHADOWS

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Reset

RUN

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Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 20

Shape Custom +

SHAPE CUSTOM +

Halos



Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 20

Shape Local

ORIGINAL

Halos

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NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

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NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

RADIUS

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- Original
- Next 100
- Shape Global
- Next 20
- Shape Local

NEXT 100

Halos



Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 20

Shape Local

Shape NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer << | ≡

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global Local USM Custom

SHAPE 35

SHARPNESS 10

PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS 50

PROTECT SHADOWS 60

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SHAPE GLOBAL

Halos



Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 20

Shape Local

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NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

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NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

RADIUS

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NEXT 20

Halos



Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 20

Shape Local

Shape

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

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SHAPE Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

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PROTECT SHADOWS

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SHAPE LOCAL



Halos

Original

Next 50

Shape Local

ORIGINAL

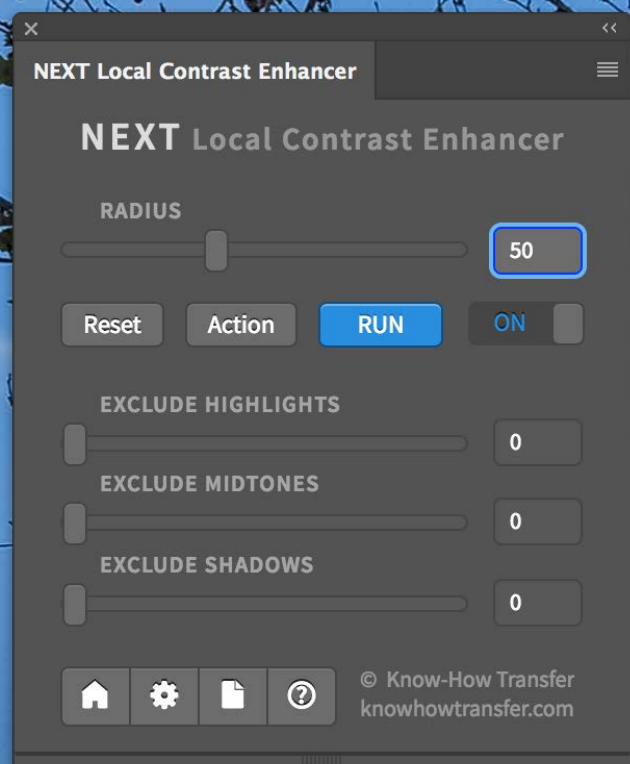
Halos

Original

Next 50

Shape Local

NEXT 50



Halos

Original

Next 50

Shape Local

Shape

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

<< | ≡

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

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SHARPNESS

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PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS

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PROTECT SHADOWS

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SHAPE LOCAL

Landscape

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local +

Next 20

Shape Custom +

ORIGINAL

Landscape

Original

Next 100

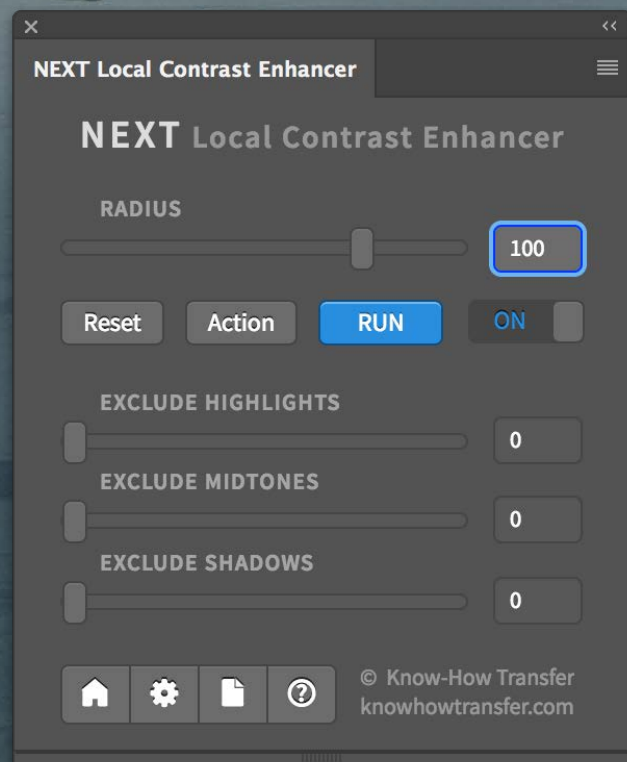
Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local +

Next 20

Shape Custom +



NEXT 100

Landscape

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local +

Next 20

Shape Custom +

Shape

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

<< | ≡

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

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SHAPE

35

SHARPNESS

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PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS

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SHAPE GLOBAL

Landscape

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

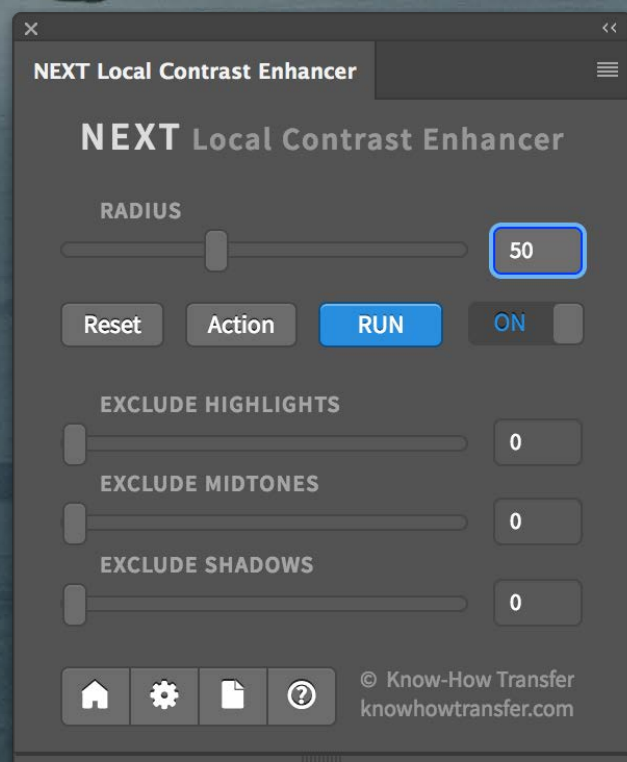
Next 50

Shape Local +

Next 20

Shape Custom +

NEXT 50



Landscape

Original

Next 100

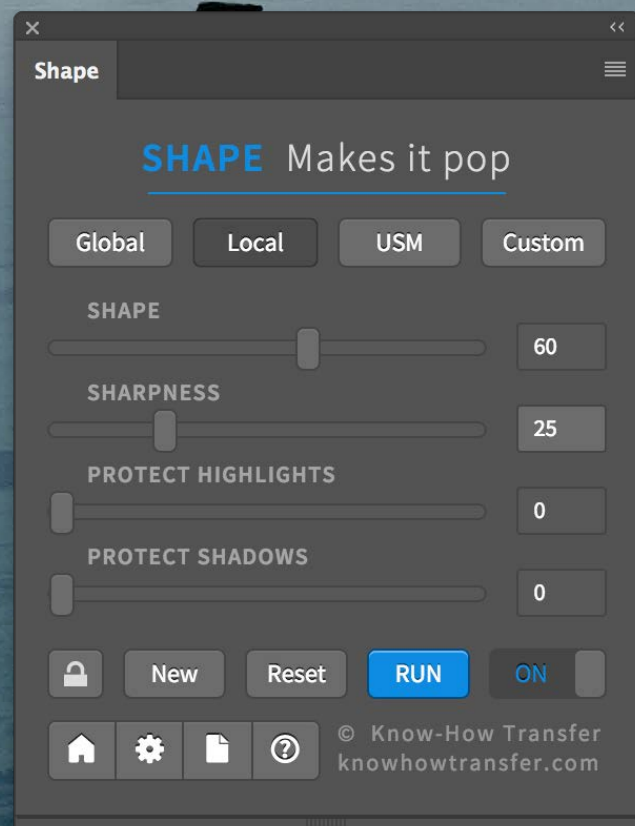
Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local +

Next 20

Shape Custom +



LOCAL + SHARPNESS 25

Landscape

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

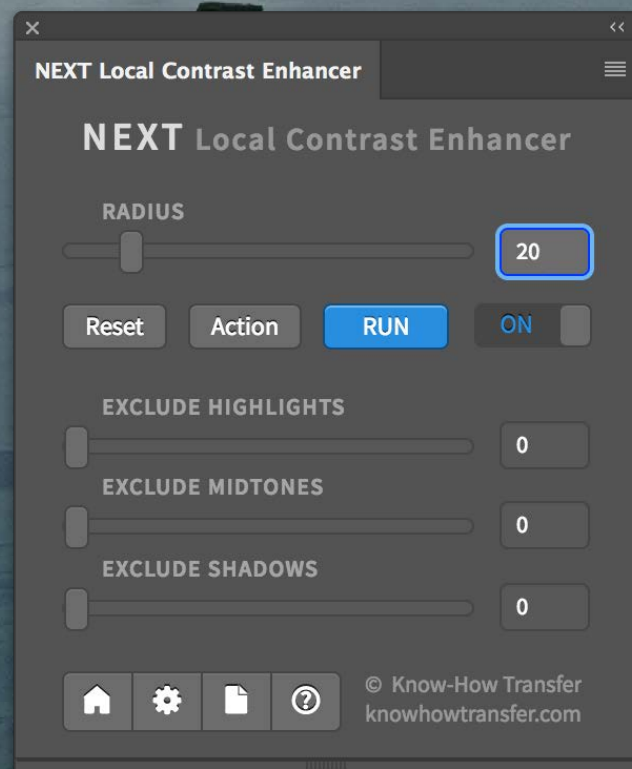
Next 50

Shape Local +

Next 20

Shape Custom +

NEXT 20



Next-Like

Custom Preset

Shape:

35

Sharpness:

10

Highlights:

10

Shadows:

20

High-Frequency (low radius):

3

Mid-Frequency (mid radius):

8

Low-Frequency (high radius):

32

RGB

Luminosity (faster)

Color boost:

12

Reset to Defaults

Save

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Shape

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SHAPE

Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

45

SHARPNESS

29

PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS

17

PROTECT SHADOWS

20

New

Reset

RUN

ON

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Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local +

Next 20

Shape Custom +

WATCH TUTORIAL

A low-angle photograph of a classical building facade, likely a government or institutional building, featuring ornate carvings and columns. A modern, dark, angular canopy structure is visible in the foreground, partially obscuring the building. The sky is clear blue.

Architecture

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local +

ORIGINAL

Architecture

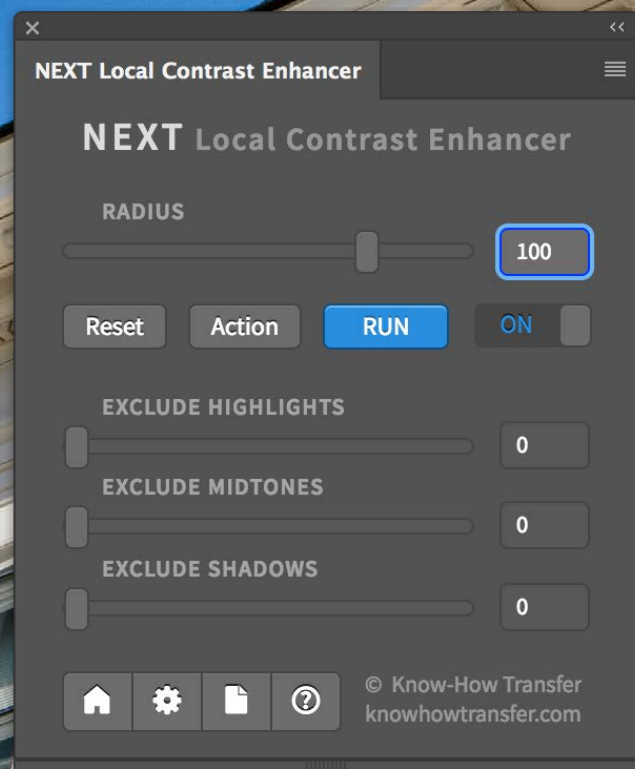
Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local +



NEXT 100

Architecture

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local +

Shape NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer << | ≡

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global Local USM Custom

SHAPE 35

SHARPNESS 10

PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS 50

PROTECT SHADOWS 60

🔒 New Reset RUN ON

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SHAPE GLOBAL

Architecture

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local +

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

RADIUS20

ResetActionRUNON

EXCLUDE HIGHLIGHTS0

EXCLUDE MIDTONES0

EXCLUDE SHADOWS0

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NEXT 20

Architecture

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local +

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Shape

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SHAPE Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

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SHARPNESS

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PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS

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PROTECT SHADOWS

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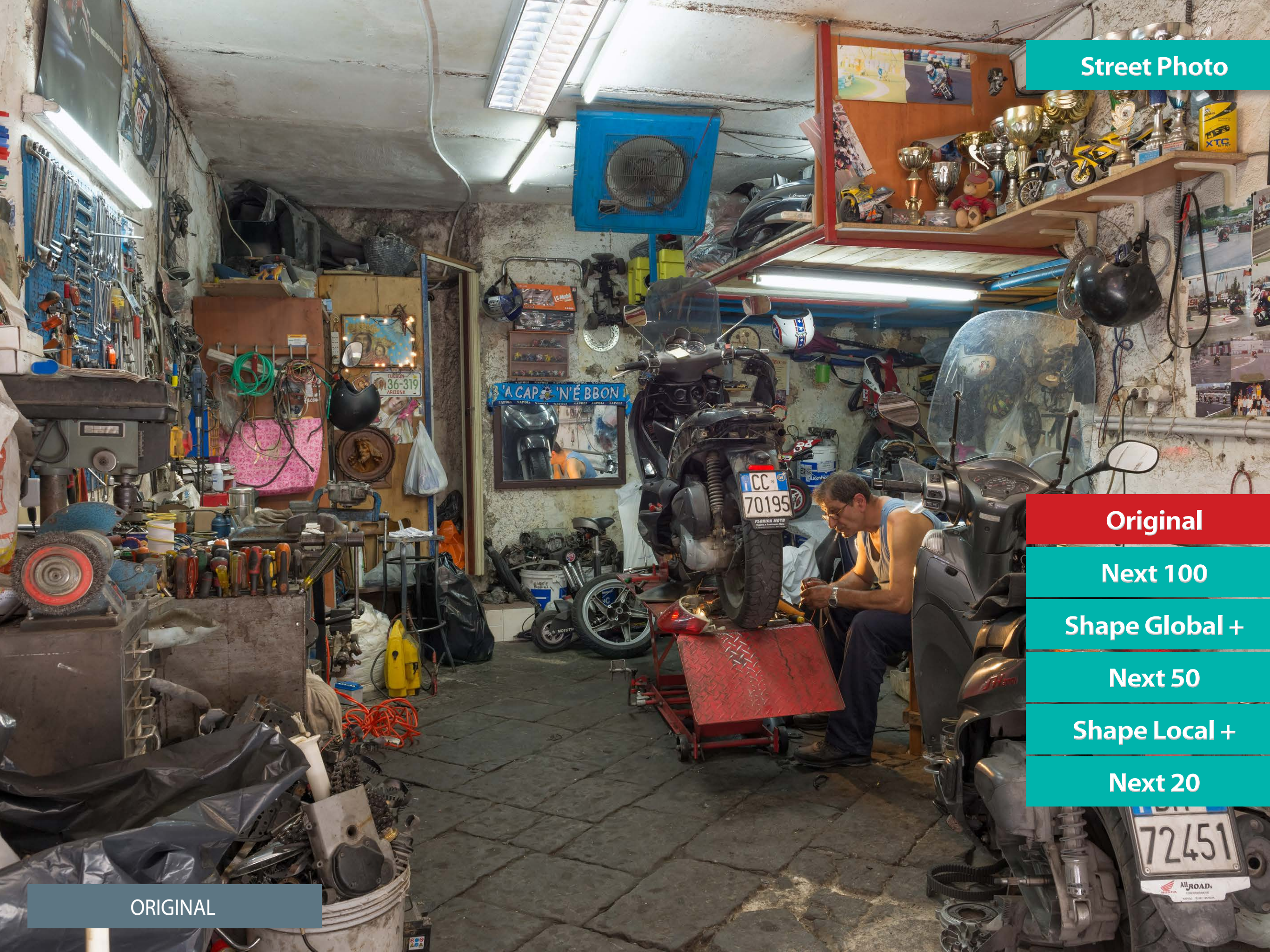
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SHAPE LOCAL SH 40



Street Photo

Original

Next 100

Shape Global +

Next 50

Shape Local +

Next 20

ORIGINAL

Street Photo

Original

Next 100

Shape Global +

Next 50

Shape Local +

Next 20



NEXT 100

Street Photo

Original

Next 100

Shape Global +

Next 50

Shape Local +

Next 20

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global Local USM Custom

SHAPE 35

SHARPNESS 30

PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS 50

PROTECT SHADOWS 60

Lock New Reset RUN ON

Home Settings File Help © Know-How Transfer knowhowtransfer.com

SHAPE GLOBAL +

Street Photo

Original

Next 100

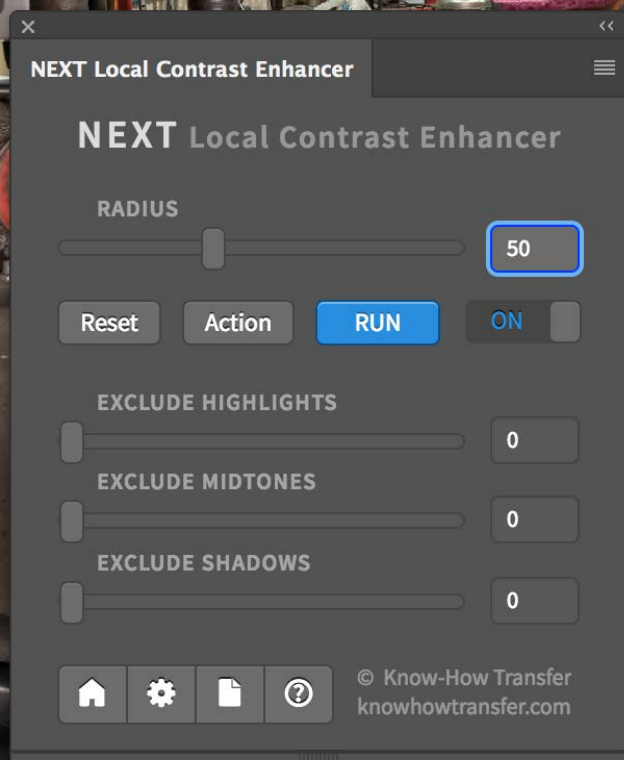
Shape Global +

Next 50

Shape Local +

Next 20

NEXT 50



Street Photo

Original

Next 100

Shape Global +

Next 50

Shape Local +

Next 20

SHAPE LOCAL +

Shape

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global Local **USM** Custom

SHAPE 35

SHARPNESS 40

PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS 20

PROTECT SHADOWS 42

Lock New Reset **RUN** ON

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Street Photo

Original

Next 100

Shape Global +

Next 50

Shape Local +

Next 20

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

RADIUS

20

Reset Action RUN ON

EXCLUDE HIGHLIGHTS

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EXCLUDE MIDTONES

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EXCLUDE SHADOWS

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NEXT 20

Portrait

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Shape

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SHAPE Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

60

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PROTECT SHADOWS

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New

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ORIGINAL

- Original
- Next 100
- Shape Global
- Next 50
- Shape Local



Portrait

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local

×

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

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NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

RADIUS

100

Reset

Action

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EXCLUDE HIGHLIGHTS

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EXCLUDE SHADOWS

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NEXT 100

Portrait

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local

Shape

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

<< | ≡

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

35

SHARPNESS

10

PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS

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PROTECT SHADOWS

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New

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SHAPE GLOBAL





Portrait

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local

×

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

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NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

RADIUS

50

Reset

Action

RUN

ON

EXCLUDE HIGHLIGHTS

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EXCLUDE MIDTONES

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EXCLUDE SHADOWS

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NEXT 50

Portrait

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local

Shape

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

<< | ≡

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

35

SHARPNESS

10

PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS

50

PROTECT SHADOWS

60

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New

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SHAPE LOCAL



Food

Original

Next 100

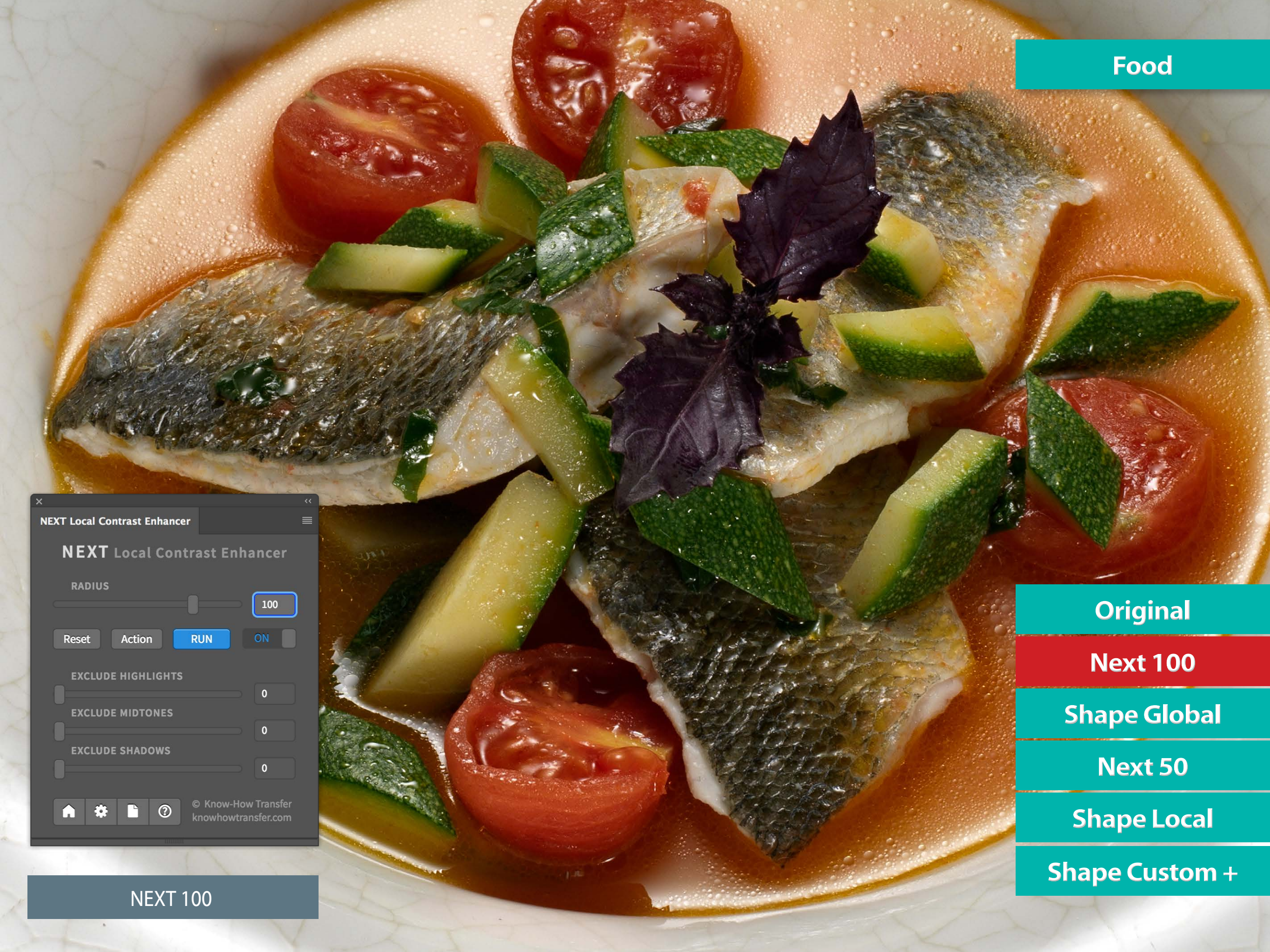
Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local

Shape Custom +

ORIGINAL



Food

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NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

≡

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

RADIUS

100

Reset

Action

RUN

ON

EXCLUDE HIGHLIGHTS

0

EXCLUDE MIDTONES

0

EXCLUDE SHADOWS

0

🏠

⚙️

📄

?

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Original

Next 100

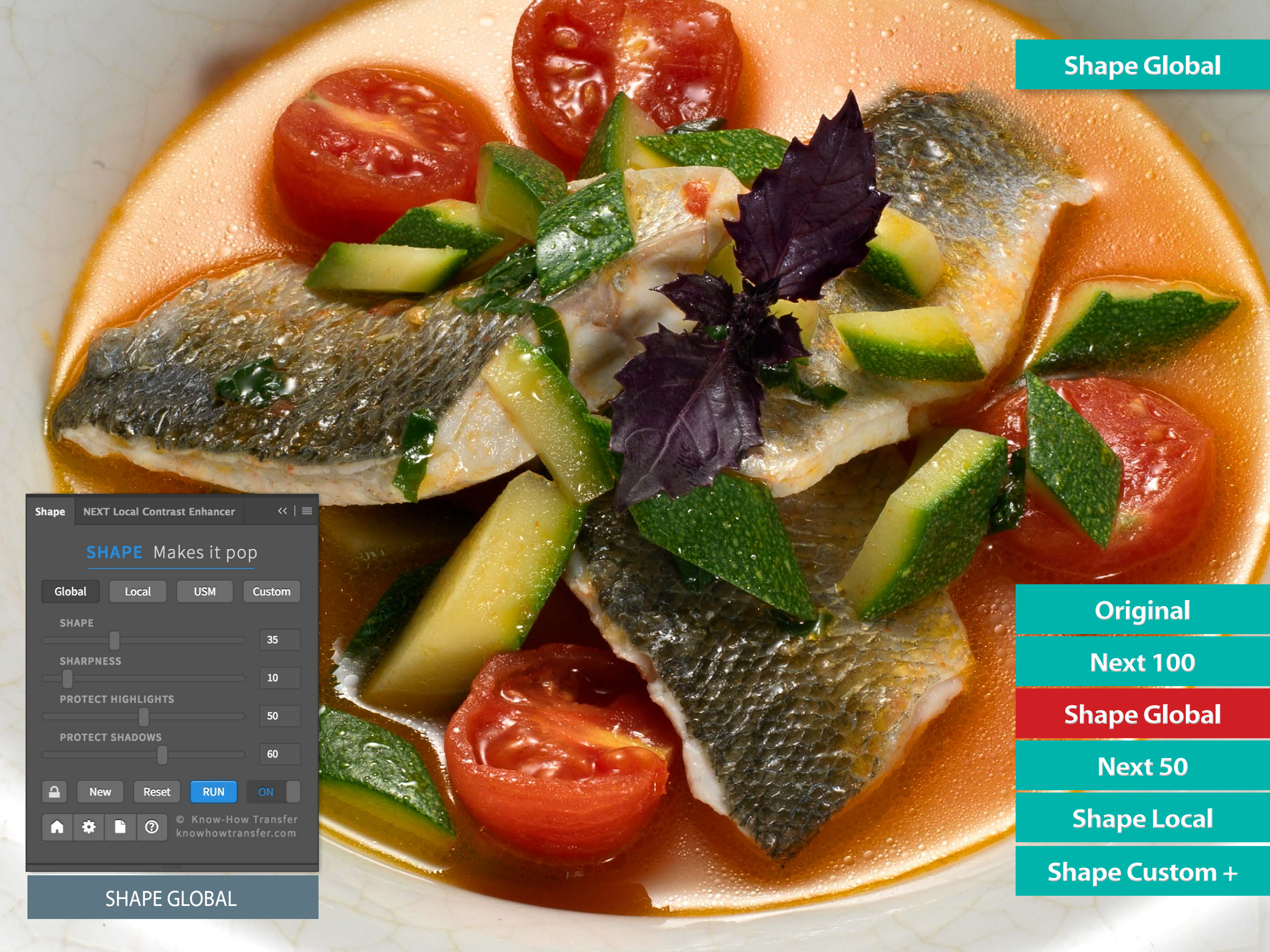
Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local

Shape Custom +

NEXT 100



Shape Global

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local

Shape Custom +

Shape

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

<< | ≡

SHAPE

Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

35

SHARPNESS

10

PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS

50

PROTECT SHADOWS

60

🔒

New

Reset

RUN

ON

🏠

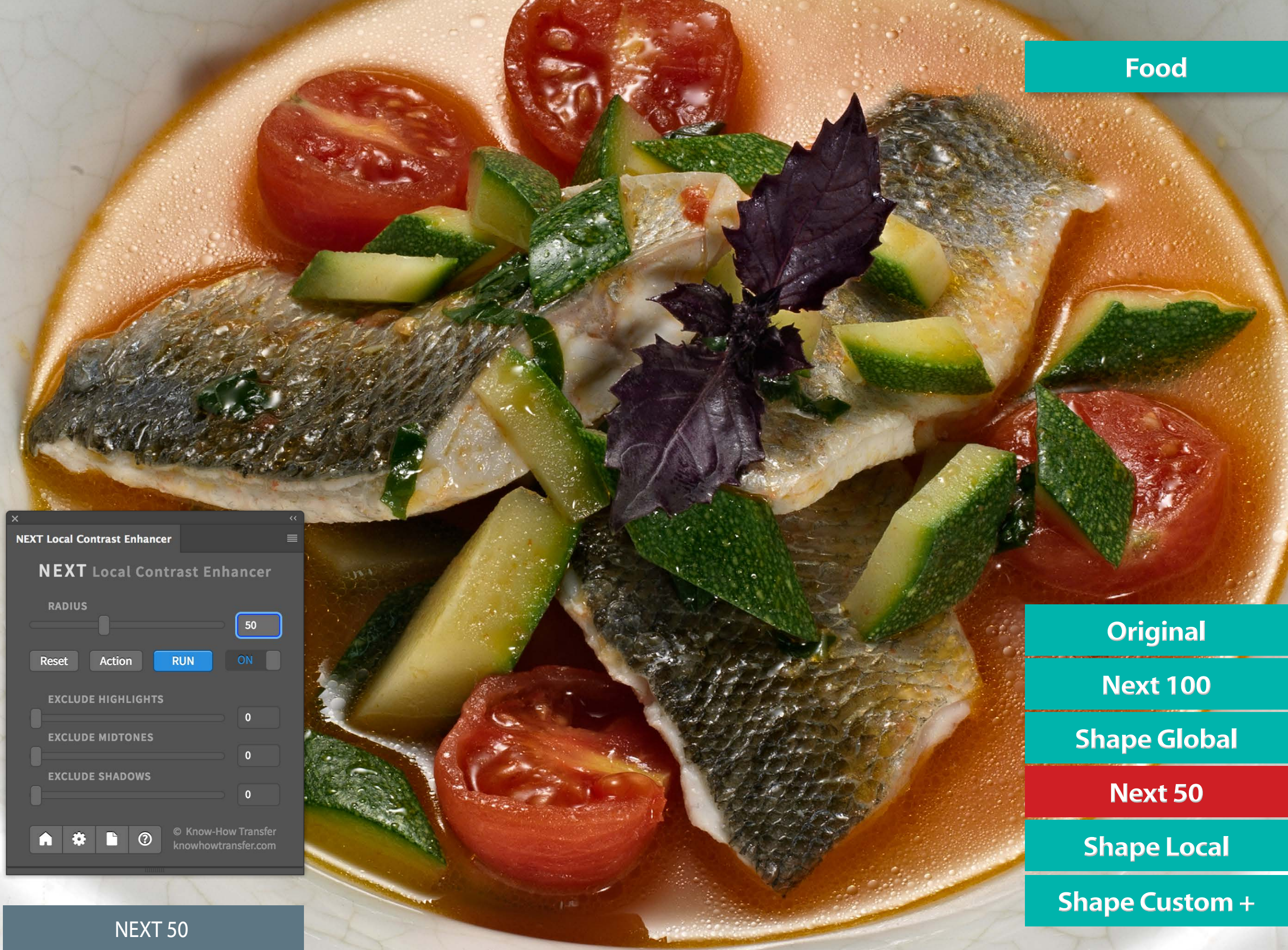
⚙️

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SHAPE GLOBAL



Food

×

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

≡

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

RADIUS

50

Reset

Action

RUN

ON

EXCLUDE HIGHLIGHTS

0

EXCLUDE MIDTONES

0

EXCLUDE SHADOWS

0

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Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local

Shape Custom +

NEXT 50

Food

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local

Shape Custom +

Shape

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

<< | ≡

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

35

SHARPNESS

10

PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS

50

PROTECT SHADOWS

60

🔒

New

Reset

RUN

ON

🏠

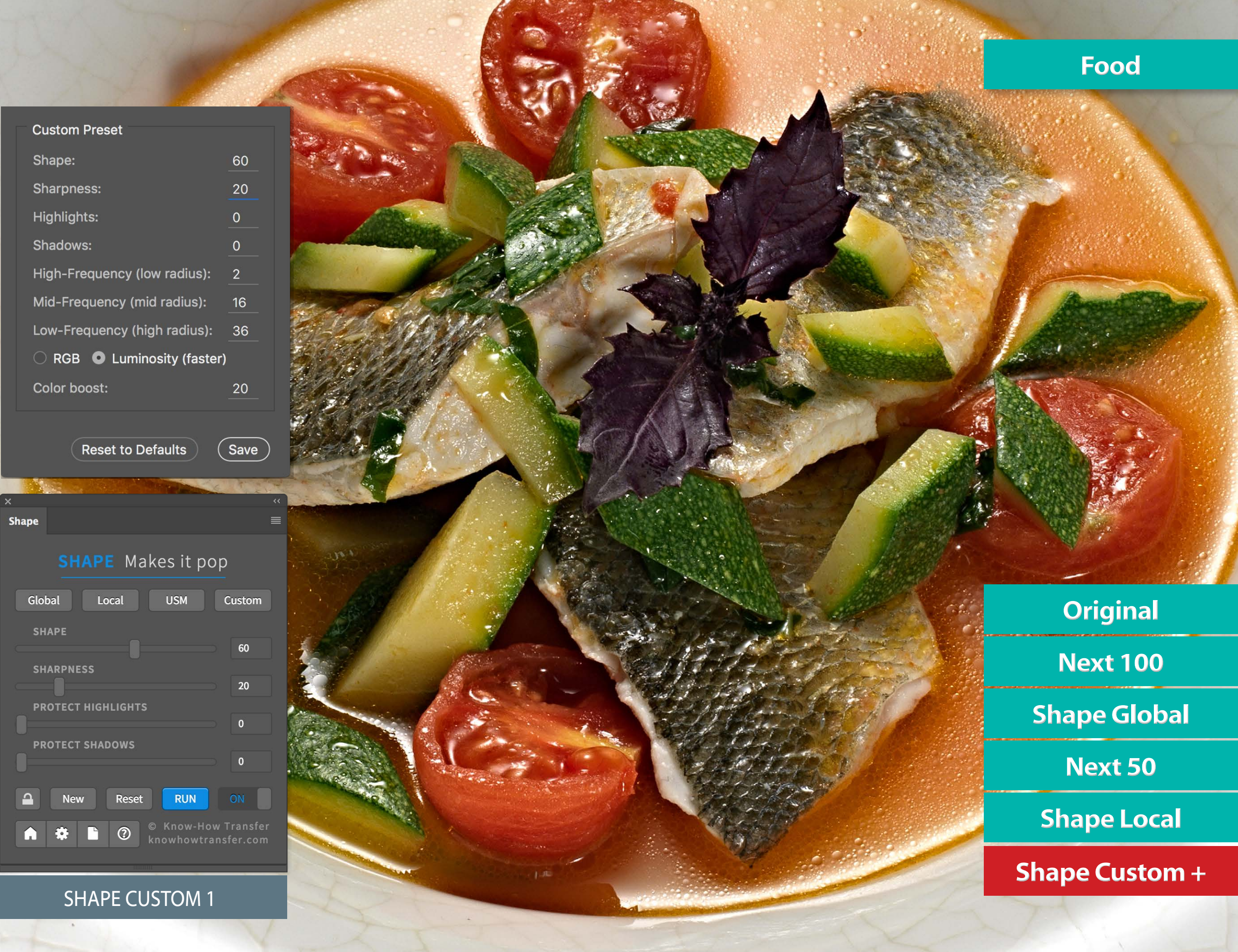
⚙️

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❓

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SHAPE LOCAL



Food

Custom Preset

Shape: 60

Sharpness: 20

Highlights: 0

Shadows: 0

High-Frequency (low radius): 2

Mid-Frequency (mid radius): 16

Low-Frequency (high radius): 36

☐ RGB ☒ Luminosity (faster)

Color boost: 20

Reset to Defaults

Save

×

Shape

≡

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

60

SHARPNESS

20

PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS

0

PROTECT SHADOWS

0

🔒

New

Reset

RUN

ON

🏠

⚙️

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❓

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SHAPE CUSTOM 1

Original

Next 100

Shape Global

Next 50

Shape Local

Shape Custom +



Product

Original

Next 100

Shape Global +

Next 50

Shape Local +

ORIGINAL

Product

×

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

≡

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

RADIUS

100

Reset

Action

RUN

ON

EXCLUDE HIGHLIGHTS

0

EXCLUDE MIDTONES

0

EXCLUDE SHADOWS

0

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⚙️

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❓

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Original

Next 100

Shape Global +

Next 50

Shape Local +

NEXT 100

Product

Original

Next 100

Shape Global +

Next 50

Shape Local +

×

Shape

≡

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

35

SHARPNESS

40

PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS

50

PROTECT SHADOWS

78

🔒

New

Reset

RUN

ON

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⚙️

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SHAPE GLOBAL +

Product

×

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

≡

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

RADIUS

50

Reset

Action

RUN

ON

EXCLUDE HIGHLIGHTS

0

EXCLUDE MIDTONES

0

EXCLUDE SHADOWS

0

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⚙️

📄

?

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Original

Next 100

Shape Global +

Next 50

Shape Local +

NEXT 50

Product

Original

Next 100

Shape Global +

Next 50

Shape Local +

×

Shape

≡

SHAPE Makes it pop

Global

Local

USM

Custom

SHAPE

35

SHARPNESS

40

PROTECT HIGHLIGHTS

50

PROTECT SHADOWS

78

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New

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SHAPE LOCAL +



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