KNOW HOW TRANSFER
the photography knowledge hub

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

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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NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

RADIUS

100

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User Manual - Version 1.0.6 - February 2017

What's New in Next Compared to ALCE2

ALCE has been our bestselling product for many years and, since the release of ALCE2, its core functionality has not changed significantly. Recently, thanks to the know-how achieved developing plug-ins as Wow! and Mask Equalizer, we set out to make this outstanding product even better by improving on some of ALCE's weaknesses.
Specifically, we focused on creating a live preview, improving the embedded halos suppress tool, adding three masking sliders and last, switching to 32bit computing capabilities, not available in Photoshop and four core split processing.
The result was the Next Generation Local Contrast Enhancer, which we decided to rename NEXT.

Live Preview

ALCE missed the preview. Its routine was very complex and it has been necessary to improve the speed consistently. NEXT is at least three times faster compared to ALCE at 8 bit and eight times faster at 16bit. It means virtually live preview.

Halos Control

ALCE embedded a halos suppress tool. We have consistently improved it but, when needed you can deactivate it to get even further contrast. Despite this, we were still not satisfied and added a brand new masking option.

Masking

ALCE embedded an halos suppress tool. We have consistently improved it but, when needed you can deactivate it to get even further contrast. Despite this we still were not satistied and added a brand new masking option.

32bit / Quad-Core Processing

ALCE was a script, NEXT is a plug-in. It means that it uses its engine working in 32bit without color quantization and stretching the local histogram much better. With NEXT, gradations, highlights and shadows are smooth as never before.

Compatibility

Photoshop CC and above
MAC OSX 10.7 Lion and above
WIN 10 and above (64bit only)
For Photoshop versions from CS3 to CS6 you must buy ALCE >

Read More

Install NEXT

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 more languages and extra contents as actions or test files.

Download 1: NEXT for MAC
Download 2: NEXT for WIN
Download 3: Documentation

Double click or right click 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 has not been 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.

Double click or right click 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.
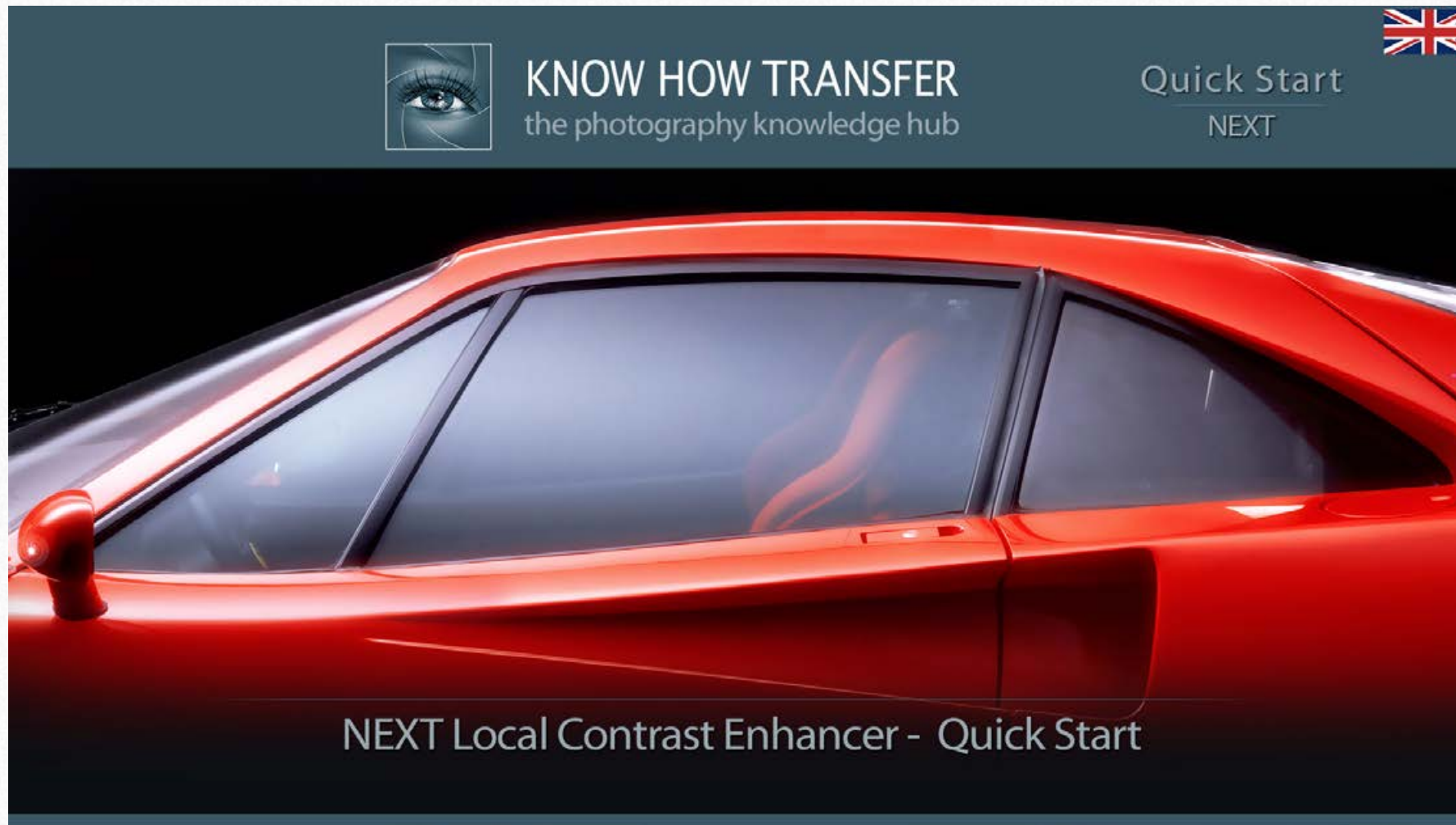2014 and later are OK.
To complete the installation, please go to FAQ page >

Compatibility

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

Install Tutorial

Quick Start Tutorial

NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer - Quick Start

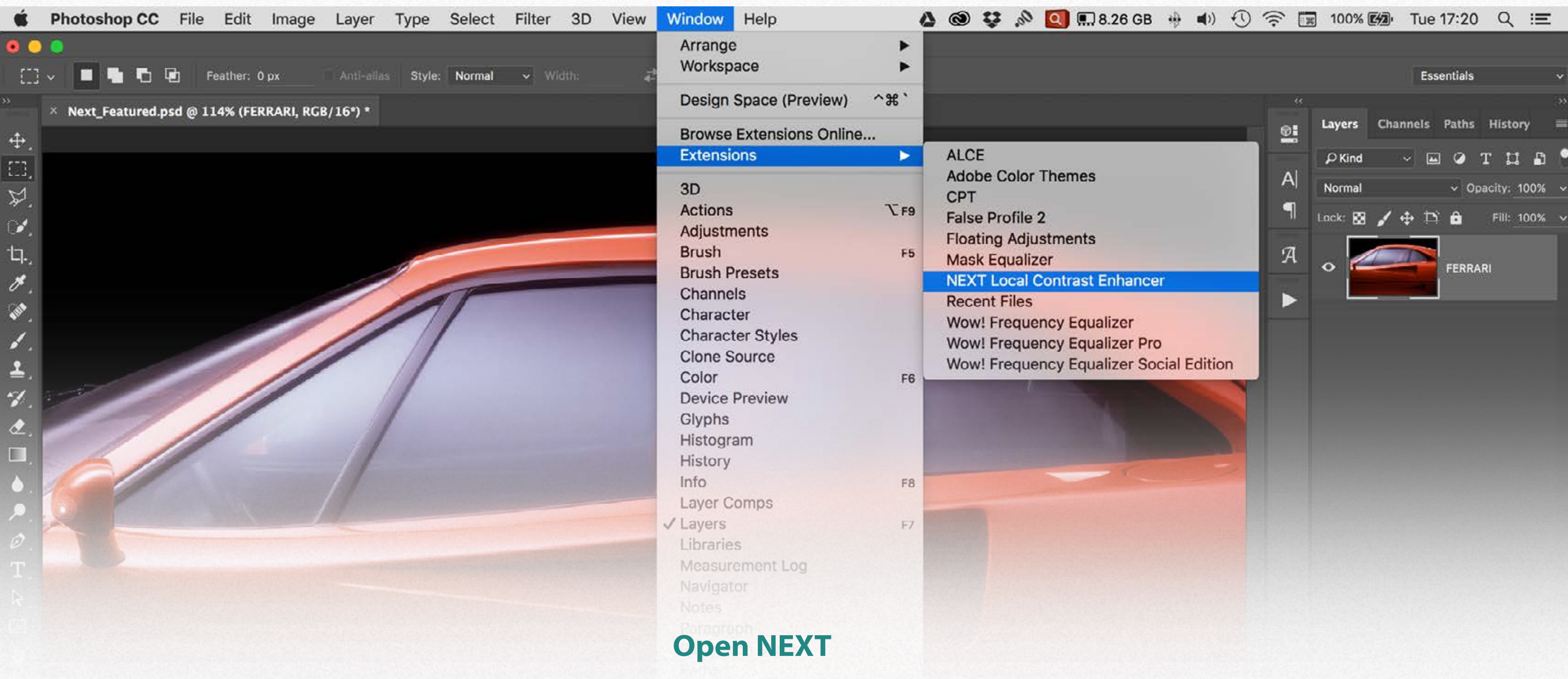## Access to user manual or update it

You can open this user manual from the book icon in the panel.

You can also download an updated version and replace it in this folder

MAC: Macintosh HD/Libreria/Application Support/NEXT

WIN: C:\Program Files\Common Files\Know-How Transfer\NEXT

Watch Tutorial

Training Page

Open Next from Photoshop / Window / Extensions

Open NEXT

Photoshop/Window/Extension/NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer

Do NOT open NEXT

Photoshop/Filter/Know-How Transfer/NEXT Local Contrast Enhancer
This menu item is only for internal use.

The NEXT Panel

Compact and extended mode

Here the panel in a clean, compact mode with the radius sliders and main buttons.
It can be expanded in several versions.
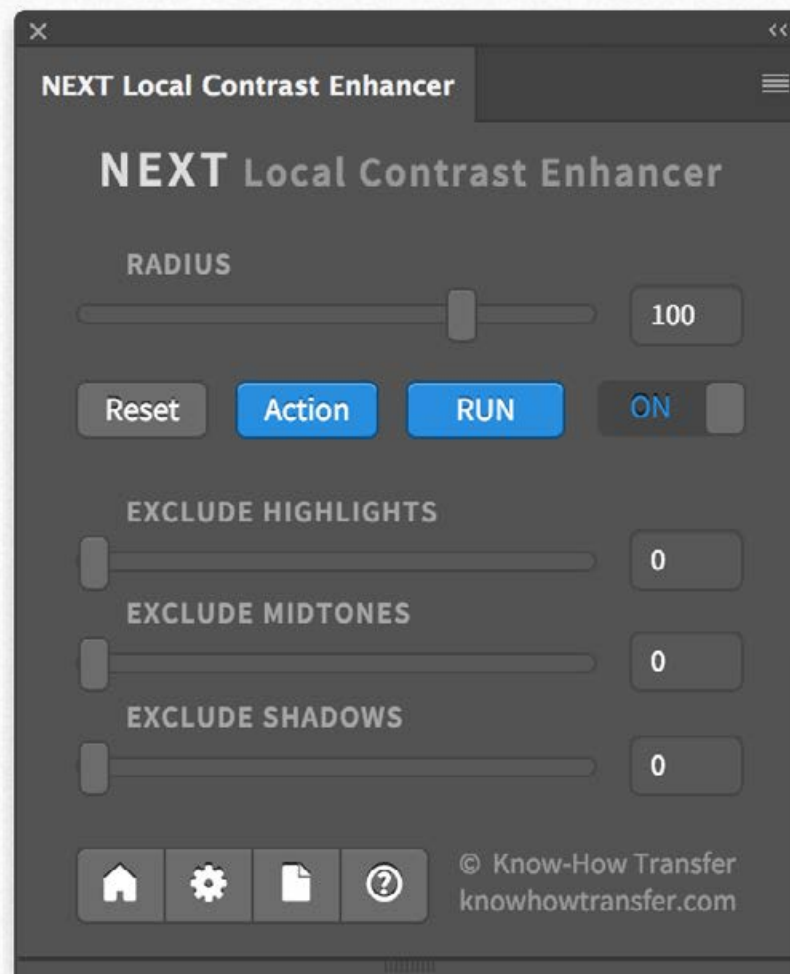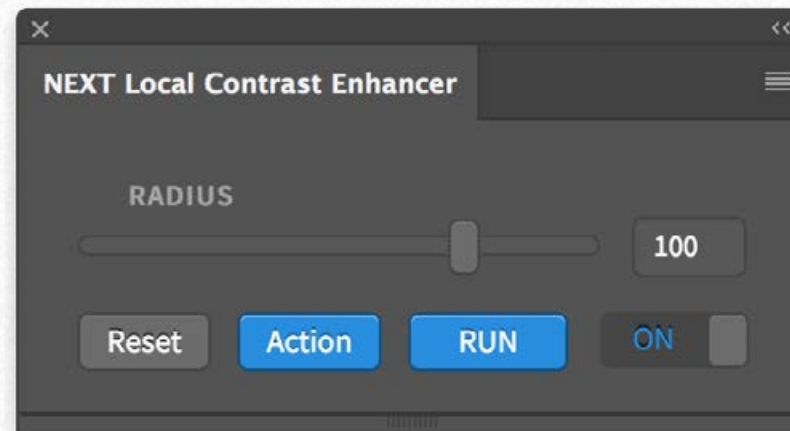Below the panel in expanded mode.

Radius

The core function of NEXT.
Ranging from 1 to 500 it sets the amount of local contrast.
The default value is 100.

RUN

Used to start NEXT the first time or re-apply the current setting to another image or layer.If you change settings, the new version is automatically displayed.

Reset - ON/OFF

Reset the values to default.
ON/OFF Compare the before/after version.

Action

Save the current setting, masking and preferences as a Photoshop action.

Masking sliders

The sliders progressively exclude the effect of NEXT on highlights, midtones or shadows
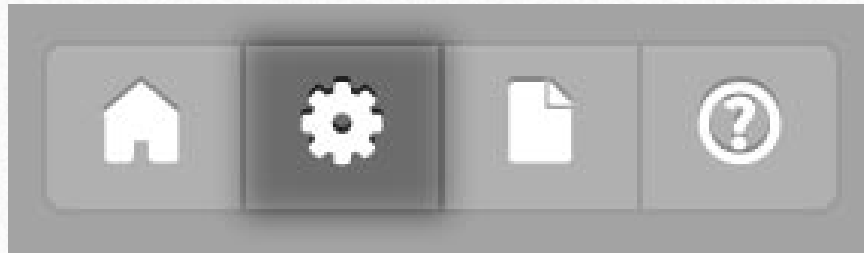Zero is no effect, 100 is full effect.

Footer buttons

1. Links to NEXT page.
2. Open the preferences tab where you can deactivate the live preview or the halo-smoothing option.
3. Open the user manual.
4. Info on version release

*Use this small handle
to expand or contract the panel*
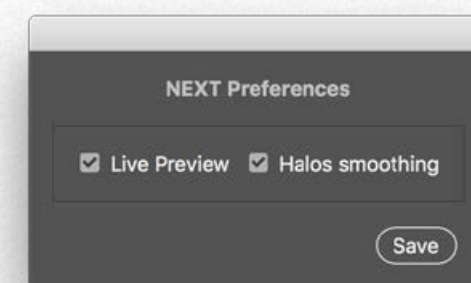
# Live View And Halos Smoothing Preferences

Live Preview to manual mode

By default, Next works in live preview and any after change the preview is updated. Unchecking this tab you can make your change and then press "Run" to apply.

Deactivate "Halos smoothing" option

ALCE embedded a halos suppress tool. We have consistently improved it but, when needed you can deactivate it to get even further contrast. Unchecking this tab the halos smoothing will be deactivate. The result in general is not nice. However sometimes may better than default.

An interesting technique is to get two Next layers. A standard one below and a version without halos suppress on the tool, add a black mask to this last one and, using a white mask tool reveal parts that are better.

How NEXT Runs The Layers
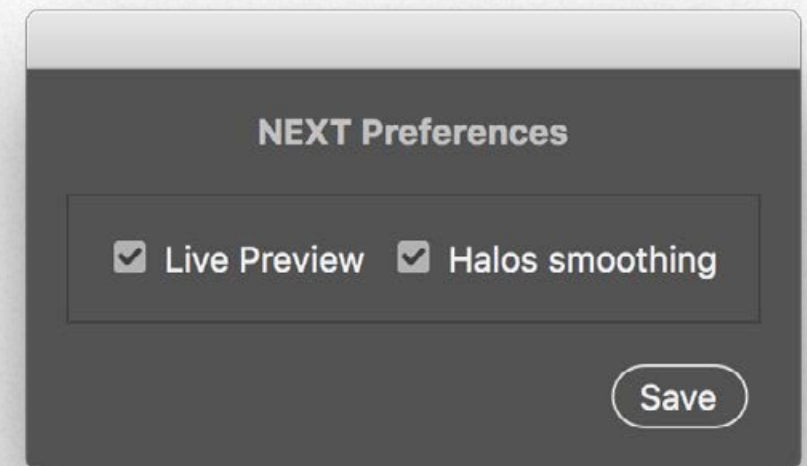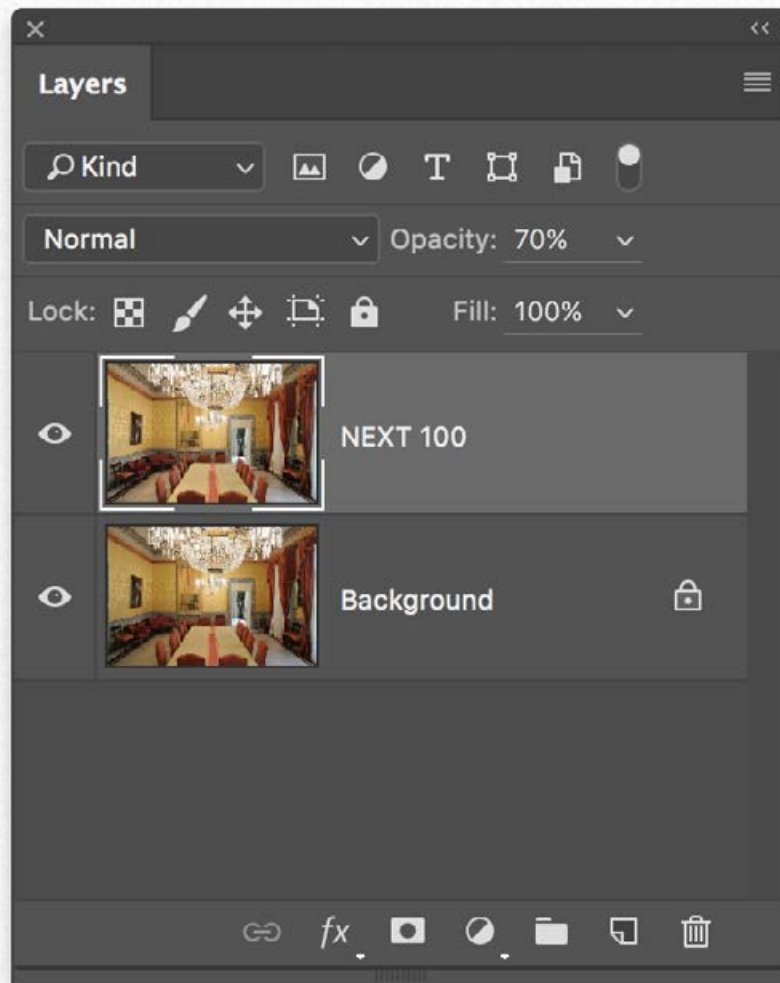
NEXT goes on a duplicate layer

By default NEXT apply his effect on a duplicate layer that is named with the radius value. In this case: NEXT 100.
If you change any slider the new version will reply the previous until you will not go to the next history state or flatten.
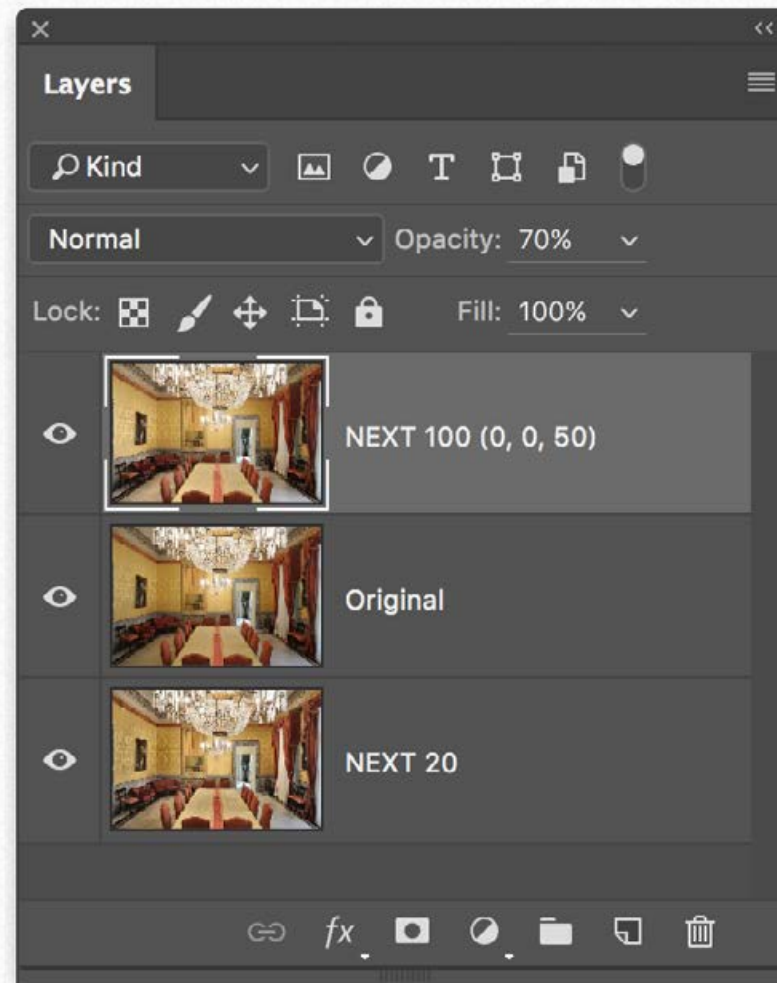
Get different versions

If you want to compare different versions, you must drag the NEXT layer below the original. Now you will be able to apply NEXT again.
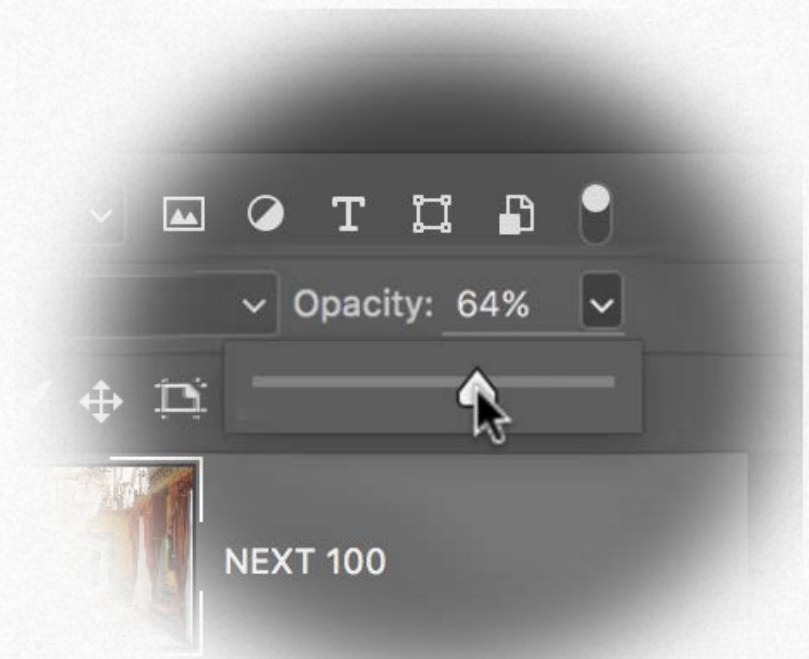
NEXT layer opacity

NETX's layers are at 70% opacity.
This will allow you to decrease or increase the enhancing effect.

About Local Contrast

Global versus local

Whether used as a final touch-up tool or early in the workflow to set up the structure of an image, Local Contrast Enhancement is a processing technique which improves realism and tridimensionality in pictures: it's like being in front of the subject rather than a mere bi-dimensional reproduction of it.

We were gifted with a built-in local contrast enhancement routine which always runs, and that's why the comparison of the pictures shown below, before and after the application of our tool, are remarkable examples of successful image processing.


Improvement of local contrast

Humans don't see things like cameras do: the software running in our brain and constantly processing the visual information passed on by the eyes is enormously more sophisticated than any camera chipset. When we look at things out in the world, we're continuously calibrating and extracting detail depending on the subject we are looking at and also on its surroundings.

But, what is local contrast?

Whatever tool we use for this, the fact is that a lot of contrast still lies, hidden and unexploited, in the image. We need to process every area of the picture separately to make the most out of it, so that all of the image's features may be greatly intensified.

Watch "What is Local Contrast"
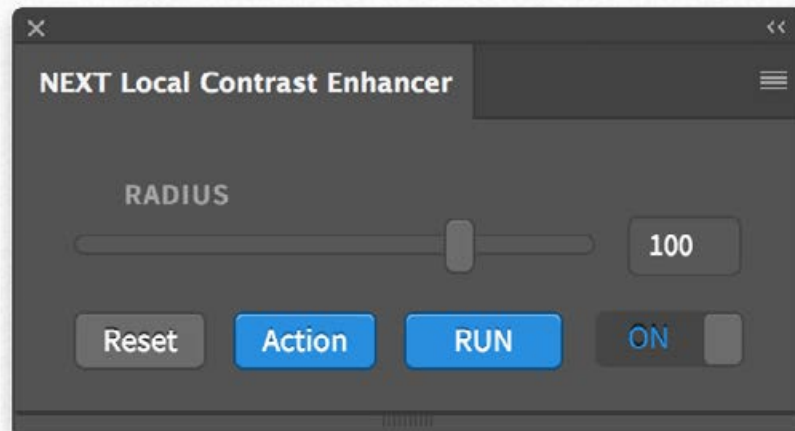
The Radius

The Radius. The core feature of NEXT

Except for Radius 1 that is a powerful sharpener, the radius value defines how local the contrast will be. Easy to say, not so easy to understand.

Understand how radius works

We offer you three ways to understand what radius is.

Watch the Radius tutorial. It's about ALCE but the working the principle is the same.

Radius tutorial

Take a couple of your standard files. Apply NEXT with different radius values and compare them. Then reduce the file at 25% and re-apply the same values. This will help you to understand what file-size sensitive means in practice.
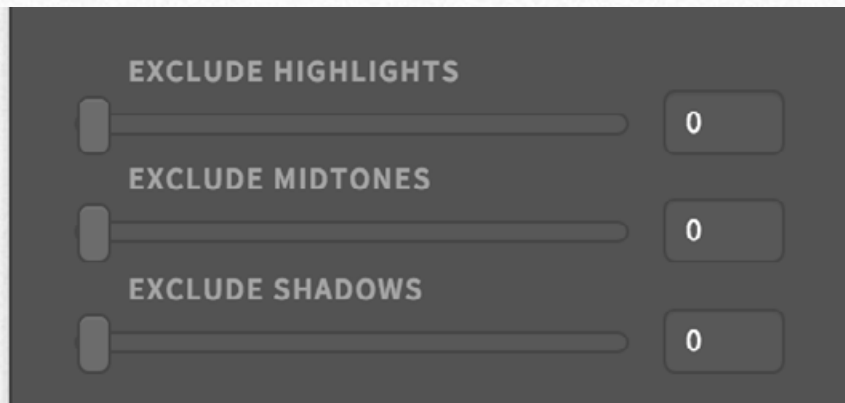
You may also download an instructive test file.

Next Sample File

Visit NEXT' training page. We are adding a lot of before/after, videos and extra contents.

Training Page

Masking Sliders

Exclude highlights, mid-tones or shadows

NEXT has three masking sliders. They are hidden when you open the panel in compact mode.
With these sliders progressively exclude Next effects on highlights, mid-tones, and shadows. Works well in shadows and to remove halos in flat backgrounds.

How sliders work

The sliders create a selection of highlights, mid-tones or shadows. These masks are similar to the corresponding presets of Mask Equalizer. 0 is no effect, 100 is full effect.
Moving the sliders you will not change the shape of the selection, but the intensity of the embedded mask.
The great advantage of these embedded sliders is that you can balance radius and exclude in one go.

Masking
with Mask Equalizer

For a further control or to get a separate layer mask you should use Mask Equalizer, also available in a convenient bundle.

About Mask Equalizer

Save Action Button
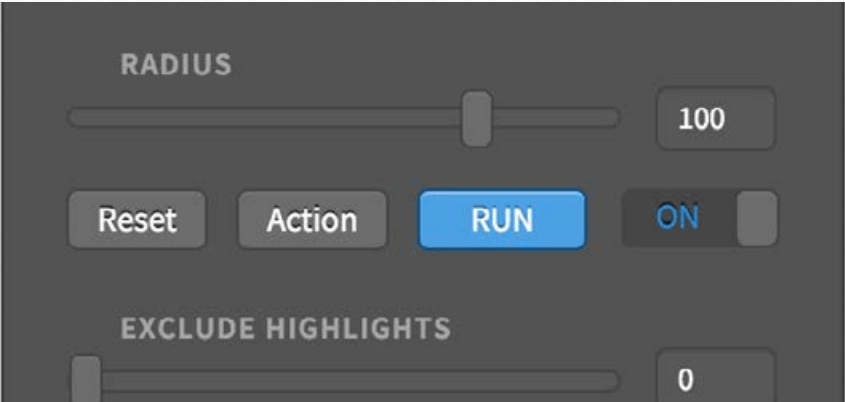
Save an action with your custom setting

Whatever your setting are, you can save a custom action that will include the sliders setting and eventually the "Suppress Halos" mode. You can recall that action to apply later to another image, or you can add it to another action to create a custom batch option

Read more

Quick rescue page

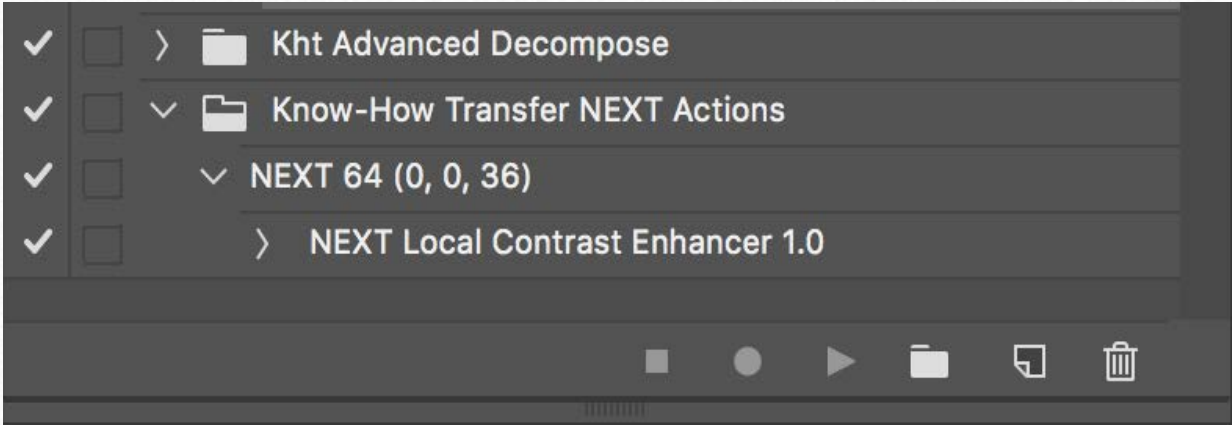### NEXT used with Mask Equalizer crashes PS

Please upgrade Mask Equalizer to the latest version 1.1.0

Launching NEXT from the filter menu nothing happens

This menu item is only for internal use. Open NEXT from
Window/Extensions/NEXT menu.

After install there is no NEXT in the Extensions list

1. You have not restarted Photoshop after the install
2. You are installing on Photoshop CS6 or older that are not compatible.
3. In WIN you are working on 32bit. Wow! Pro only works at 64bit.

Install 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.next**
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.

NEXT is very slow

Probably you are using Photoshop CC or CC 2014 and dragging the
layers cursor.
Because of an Adobe issue, while you drag the sliders the preview is
continuously applied. This significantly slows down the process.
Simply point and click in the place where you want to stop the cursor.
Do not drag and release.
Watch the tutorial on this issue. It shows MASK, but NEXT is the same,

Dedicated Tutorial

Still have problems?

Go to FAQ page

Update the current version or download again

Check if a newer release is available

Here where you can check the latest version number
1. At the bottom of the product page
2. In the FAQ page under Version and Compatibility
3. In the purchase page

Download the latest version of the application

To download the latest version;
1. Go to your My Account Page
2. Log-in using your username and your password. If you don't remember it, please use the password recovery service.

Once inside you can:
1. Download the latest version of the purchased applications.
2. Edit your personal details, password and email address included.
3 You can of course also add our freeware or buy new products.
In this case, once completed the payment go back to your "My account page" and download the app just purchased.
.

Downloadable items

1. MAC installer, as a DNG
2. WIN installer, as an EXE
3. Documentation and extras, as a zip.

Update the embedded manual

You can access the user manual trough the book icon at the bottom of the panel.
You may verify if a more recent version is available checking the release date in the manual's front page.

To update the embedded manual:
1. Download the latest version.
2. Replace it in the propers folder.
MAC: Macintosh HD/Library/Application Support/NEXT
WIN: C:\Program Files\Common Files\Know-How Transfer\NEXT

Check Version

My Account Page

Download Manual

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.

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

Mask Equalizer - Create Masks from Multiple Tonal Ranges

Start from one preset and, with just one click, create a mask, modify it using sliders or manually create a custom one from scratch. Preview live both the mask or the image with the mask applied.
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 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 1920×1920 px.
PS CC and Above - MAC & WIN.   *Buy €15 >*

Wow! Frequency Equalizer Classic Edition

Boost and soft an image in one step detail scale through five dedicated sliders. Positive values, which add detail or shape. Negative values remove detail and create great, soft transitions.
PS CS6 and Above - MAC & WIN   *Buy €30 >*
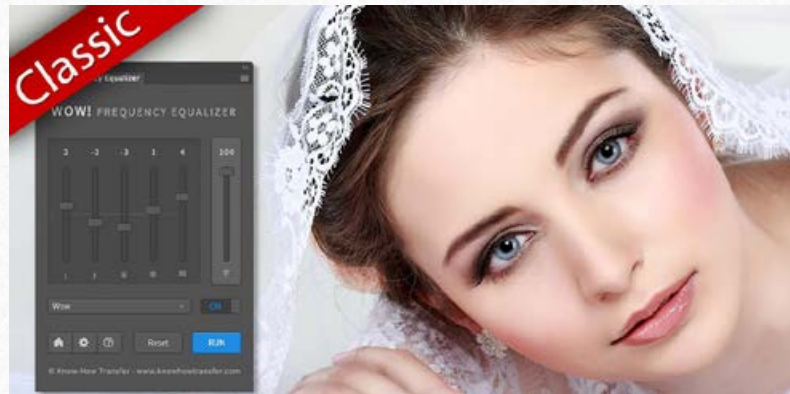

Channels Power Tool - *Advanced Mask Editing*

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 1920×1920 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.
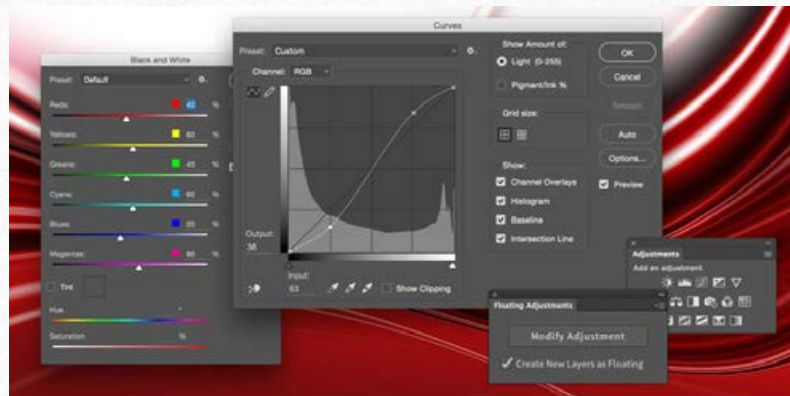*PS After Effects and Premiere CS6 and above - MAC & WIN.*   **Buy €30>**

Specifications for all versions

Works on 8,16 and 32bit files - New wawelet 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

False Profile
Luminosity Control Using Gamma

Hasselblad 3F 16bit Raw Scan
The Best Service on the Market. For your Analog Workflow

Floating Adjustments - Restores the old CS3 floating window

Restores the Adjustment Layers' bigger, floating windows look and behavior 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 - 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 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*
CS2 and above, MAC & WIN   ***Buy Raw Scan €7each.>***

Photoshop Plugins Page

Store

Links and Credits

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Plugin developed by KnowHowTransfer
GUI Panel Design by Davide Barranca

Images credits:
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other images © Roberto Bigano

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