

2010-05-25 CCCC Fourth Tues Plug-Ins

Photoshop (and other programs to one degree or another) support the use of Plug-Ins. Plug-Ins are 'adjustment' programs that run as part of Photoshop and, once installed, can 'usually' be found under the Filter tab. More on installation at the end of these notes.

Plug-Ins typically are programmed to use parts of Photoshop to do an adjustment or series of adjustments. We could 'maybe' do the same adjustments ourselves if we could figure out how to make all the Photoshop bits and pieces work as we'd want them to.

Plug Ins are specific to Computer Operating systems. Some Plug Ins are available only for the PC or the Mac, but not for both. Others have different versions for different versions of Photoshop. There are differences for those running a 32 or a 64 bit Operating system. It is best to be aware of the Plug Ins options before clicking the download button.

There are lists of free Plug-Ins (mostly for the PC, but I also found a list for the Mac folks!) and there are very expensive Plug-Ins and all kinds of prices in between. The nice thing is that all of the Commercial Plug-Ins that I've looked at so far, have free Demo downloads that you can download, install and try for 15 days or so to see if you like them. Noise Ninja puts an annoying grid over images, and others put watermarks into the image, but hopefully you will be able to learn to use the program well enough to decide if you'd like to purchase it.

Free Plug-Ins:

Over 150 FREE Photoshop Plug-Ins (most are Windows based... sigh)
There are lots of **free Photoshop plug-ins** which can fire your skills. This post aims to present **most of them (150+)** in a comprehensive way.

<http://www.webresourcesdepot.com/free-photoshop-plugins-collection/>

The Most Used 111 Photoshop Plugin

Here is the list of **111 free photoshop plugin**,

<http://www.iyiz.com/the-most-used-111-photoshop-plugin/>

Free (and some pay) XERO Plug-Ins

XERO has a selection of Photoshop-compatible plug ins available for download. These are all freeware, and were built using **Filtermeister**, with **Paint Shop Pro 8.10** as the host program - they should work without

problems with any Windows graphics program that supports the Adobe Photoshop plug in architecture. Please read the notes included in the download files for terms and conditions of use and redistribution.

<http://www.xero-graphics.co.uk/freeware.htm>

Little InkPot Plug-Ins free/pay

<http://www.littleinkpot.co.uk/>

A-Z of Free Photoshop Plug ins and Filters

<http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2009/08/03/a-z-of-free-photoshop-plugins-and-filters/>

The **Photoshop** community is choc-full of many free resources, tutorials, tips and techniques, .psd files and even Actions. There is one area that it sadly lacks in, and that is free plugins and filters. Of course, Photoshop has been the pioneer in graphic editor development for a long time now, and with each new version (its current version is CS4) has added an endless supply of features and addons, and as a result, perhaps the need for free plugins or filters is no longer required. Or has it been ignored?

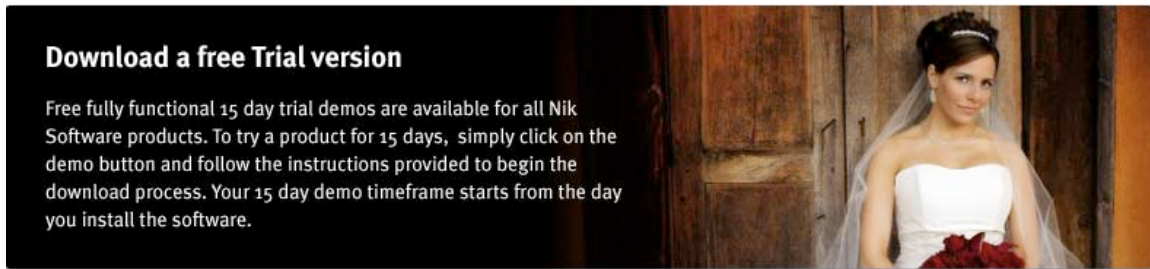
Traditionally plug ins are an amateur photographer's best friend, take your shots, fire up Photoshop, apply some well preset filters, and hey presto you have a reasonably professional image. Professional photographers have been known to use plug ins as a base and then tweak and add effects to achieve there own personal professional touch. Plug ins are basically an indispensable tool that do not receive the attention they deserve. And that brings us back to our original mystery, why are there so few free plug ins and filters? Do you know the answer? I don't.

Photoshop Plug-ins for Mac

Finally, for the Mac folks...

<http://www.pure-mac.com/photoplug.html>

I'll be Demo-ing the NIK Software package. I downloaded their Demo programs from their web site.



<http://www.niksoftware.com/site/>

Dfine 2.0

Best-in-class noise reduction to improve the quality of virtually every photo. Features new U Point technology for unprecedented selective control.

Viveza 2

Powered by U Point® technology, Viveza 2 is the most powerful and precise tool available to globally or selectively control light and color in photographs without the need to create complicated selections or layer masks.

Color Efex Pro 3.0

52 photographic filters with over 250 effects for professional quality images.

Silver Efex Pro

Complete power and control to create professional quality black and white images in one convenient tool.

Sharpener Pro™ 3.0 The most advanced, powerful, and complete sharpening solution for photographers.

From Ken Pfeiffer, who will be demo-ing his favorite Plug-Ins..

Which are,,,

By far my favorite plug in set is the Topaz bundle.

<http://www.topazlabs.com/>

The reason is that it can easily do things that would take a very long time and/very specialized knowledge to do otherwise.

The current bundle is Adjust, Clean, DeJPEG, Denoise, Detail, Remask, and Simplify. There is a free 30 day trial, and after that it is about \$200.

My favorite tools in the bundle are

(1) Adjust, because it can do adaptive exposure, saturation, and contrast.

You can do virtual tone mapping on a single exposure. You can enhance details (like sharpening, but on a wider scale). The adjustments are "adaptive" because they depend on surrounding areas, to a configurable extent. You can quickly use a preset like "photo pop" that does just that to most images.

(2) Detail, because you can do some extraordinary detail enhancement

(adaptive) on different scales. There is a "skin smoothing and brightening" preset for portraits that is almost magic. You can blur and deblur adaptively.

(3) Simplify, because it has wonderful feature abstraction. You can very quickly create simulations of oil painting, watercolor, or sketches. Also cartoons.

Ken

From David Orias:

Fred Miranda's Velvia Vision. It is a plug in that tries to emulate the saturation and look of Fuji Velvia slide film. I use it because the classic color surf photographs used Velvia film for the high contrast and saturation.

Velvia Vision v1.5 (Mac) Direct Download!

[Full description and samples](#)

From the creation of the popular *Digital Velvia (DV)* action, **Velvia Vision™ v1.5** has evolved. It is a new Photoshop plug-in designed to enhance color and tone in your photographs. It provides a 200% range of error-free color intensity as well as smart algorithms to increase contrast, create moods and expand tonal range. With this new tool, photographers can preview settings and tweak intensity results for maximum control over their work. Another feature unique to this plugin, is that you can save and load your own Velvia Vision profiles.

Velvia Vision 1.5 main features:

Redesigned to work with CS3 and new Intel Macs

Simple and intuitive graphical interface.

200% range of error-free color enhancement intensity slider. (-100 to 100%)

Smart Contrast enhances tonal range whenever needed without clipping important highlight and shadow information.

Smart Color Correction provides natural colors by editing color information in the shadows and highlights

Warm Colors adds a natural late afternoon lighting mood to your photos.

Add dynamic range rescues important shadow and highlight detail, expanding your photo's tonal range.

Ability to "Save", "Load" and "Delete" custom Velvia Vision profiles.

Ability to "Preview" changes real time without leaving the plugin.

Option to save results as a new layer or to edit your original file.

NOTE: PC and Mac FM plugins are offered as separate packages. Make sure to order the correct one for your operation system.

From Stuart Wilson:

There is a plug-in that I am interested in but know little about...DxO which corrects for lens distortion plus some things I don't even understand, like increasing exposure latitude in raw...

DxO Optics Pro:

http://www.dxo.com/intl/photo/dxo_optics_pro

3 essential reasons for using DxO Optics Pro:

1- Perfect photos with no optical flaws

Automatically correct distortion, vignetting, lack of sharpness, chromatic aberrations and colored fringes with a module adapted to your lens/camera configuration. More than 2000 camera-lens combinations calibrated!

2- Color and detail at the highest ISO settings

Push your camera up to two stops above its limits. Preserve the colors and details of your images—even those taken at the highest ISO settings, thanks to the most advanced RAW converter on the market. Stretch your dynamic gain up to two stops for all lighting conditions.

3- Easy-to-use and customizable interface

Discover the most intuitive design for the best image processing tools. Create and save your own finely-calibrated settings according to your own needs and tastes, and automatically treat hundreds of images using batch processing.

Plug In Installation:

Many downloaded Plug Ins will install themselves into the correct folder on your computer.

Mac people should open the Finder, select Applications, then Adobe Photoshop CS3 (or appropriate version) and drag the Plug In package to the Plug In folder. You need to restart Photoshop to have the installation take effect.

PC folks should open Windows Explorer and install (drag and drop) the downloaded plug ins into the following folder: Program Files\Adobe\Adobe Photoshop CS3\Plug-Ins

You need to restart Photoshop to have the installation take effect.