AKVIS Enhancer

Image Enhancement Software



akvis.com

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BRING DETAIL TO YOUR PICTURES

If you take a photo of a black cat in a dark room the result can be far from ideal. Or if you make a photo of a beautiful view but the automatic settings focus on the sky and the shot comes out with uneven exposure - the sky is beautiful but the scenery is underexposed and one can hardly understand what is going on.

AKVIS Enhancer is image enhancement software that offers an individual approach to every part of the photo! The program offers a fast method to fix a dark picture, improve detail on an image, increase contrast and brightness, and adjust tones.

The software works in three modes: **Improve Detail**, **Prepress**, and **Tone Correction**. The main goal for these modes is the same - *image enhancement*, but the methods and the results are quite different. Different photos require different approaches at correction, in many cases the modes complement one another.



In **Improve Detail** mode, the program brings out details on an image by intensifying color transition. It strengthens the difference between adjacent pixels having different color gradations and allows revealing details in both shadows and highlights. This method is useful when you need to correct a photo with an uneven exposure or made in poor lighting conditions, get rid of haze or add a dramatic effect. It is the fastest and easiest way to fix dark pictures.

In **Prepress** mode, the program helps to adjust photos before printing or publishing online. Use this mode to increase the sharpness of borders and the contrast of the image. Even a high quality photo needs prepress processing that will give it a professional look.

In **Tone Correction** mode, the program makes corrections of the image brightness in light and dark areas. As a result the overall impression of the image improves considerably. Changes can be made to the entire image or only to selected colors.

Brighten up your pictures with **AKVIS Enhancer**!



The software is useful not only for **correction of family and art photos**, but can be efficient as well in **technical use**. Publishers of **technical literature** can apply Enhancer to show equipment illustrations in detail; doctors can use Enhancer to increase the level of detail on **roentgenograms**, etc.

AKVIS Enhancer is easy to use and learn. You can save frequently used settings as **Presets** and use them in the future. It optimizes your work and saves you time.

The program supports **Batch Processing** that lets you automatically process a series of images with the same settings.



The software is available as an independent *standalone* program and as a *plug-in* to photo editors. More...

The *standalone* version lets you use the *Post Processing* settings for further image correction, change brightness, contrast, gamma and saturation.

The plugin is compatible with Adobe Photoshop, Corel PaintShop Pro, etc. Check the compatibility.

During the trial period you can try all features of the software.



INSTALLATION

Attention! You must have administrator rights to install the program on your computer.

Before installing the AKVIS Plugin, please make sure that the photo editor where you want to install the plugin, is closed.

Follow the instructions to install **AKVIS Enhancer** in Windows.

- Start the setup **exe** file.
- Select your language and press the **OK** button to launch the installation process.
- To continue the installation process you have to read and accept the **License Agreement**.

  Activate the check box **"I accept the terms in the license agreement"**, and press **Next**.



- To install the **Plugin** you should select your photo editor(s) from the list.

  Hint:

  If your photo editor is not in the list, activate the component **Custom Plugins Directory** and choose the folder where you keep all plugins and filters, for example, **C:\My Plugins**. In this case you should set this folder as the plugins folder in the settings of your photo editor.

  Or you can copy the **8bf** file into the Plug-ins folder of your image editor.

  To install the **Standalone version**, make sure that the check-box **Standalone** is activated.
  To create a shortcut for the program on desktop, activate the component **Shortcut on Desktop**.

  Press the button **Next**.



- Press the button **Install**.



- The installation is in progress.



- The installation is completed.

  You can subscribe to the **AKVIS Newsletter** to be informed about updates and events. Enter your e-mail address.



- Press **Finish** to exit Setup.

After installation of the **standalone** version of Enhancer, you will see a new line in the **Start** menu: **AKVIS - Enhancer** and a shortcut on desktop, if during installation the component **Shortcut on Desktop** was enabled.

After installation of the Enhancer **plugin** you will see a new item in the Filter/Effects menu of your photo editor. For example in Photoshop: **Filter** -> **AKVIS** –> **Enhancer**. Please use this command to launch the plugin in the editor.

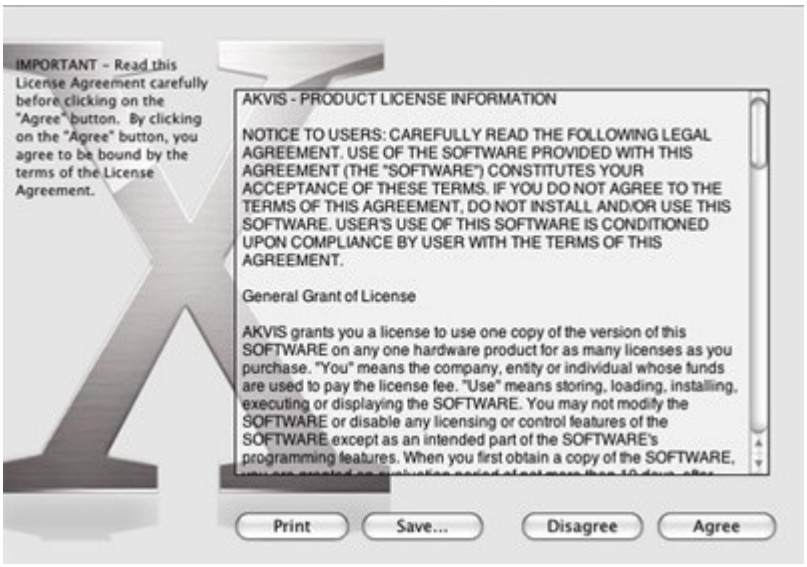
INSTALLATION

Attention! You must have administrator rights to install the program on your computer.

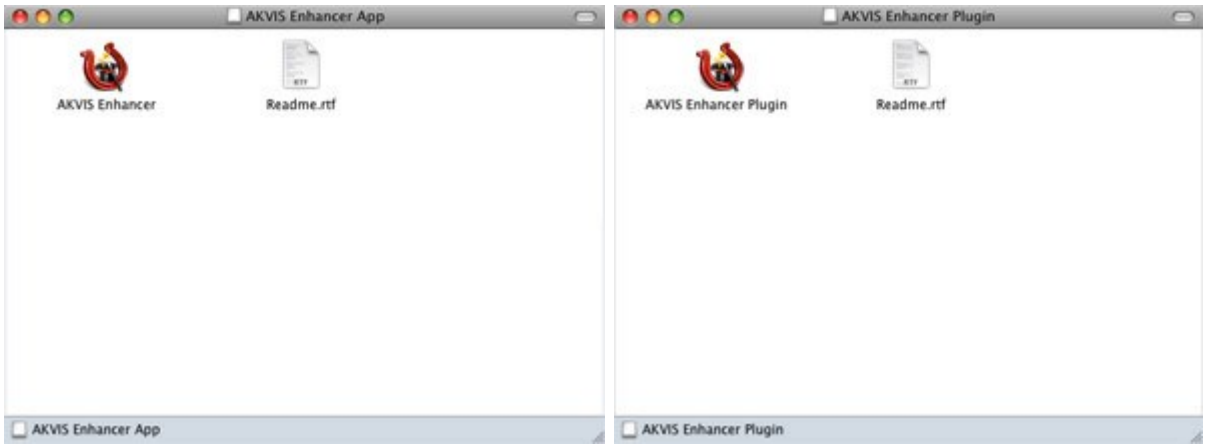
Before installing the AKVIS Plugin, please make sure that the photo editor where you want to install the plugin, is closed.

Follow the instructions to install **AKVIS Enhancer** in Mac OS X:

- Open the virtual disk **dmg**:
  - **akvis-enhancer-app.dmg** to install the **Standalone** version
  - **akvis-enhancer-plugin.dmg** to install the **Plugin** to your image editor.
- Read the **License Agreement** and press **Agree**, if you agree with the conditions.



- **Finder** will open with **AKVIS Enhancer** application or **AKVIS Enhancer PlugIn** inside.



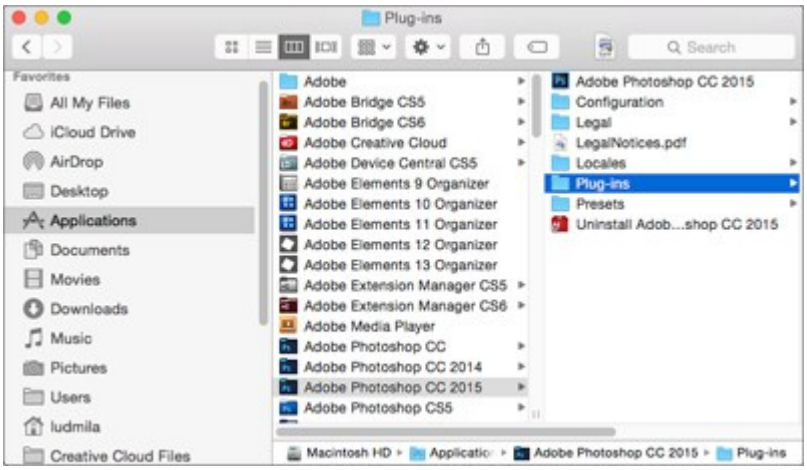
- To install the **Standalone** version just drag the **AKVIS Enhancer** application into the folder **Applications** (or any other place you like).

  To install the **Plugin** drag the entire **AKVIS Enhancer PlugIn** folder into the **Plug-Ins** folder of your graphic editor.

  For example:

  If you use **Photoshop CS6**, move the plugin into **Applications/Adobe Photoshop CS6/Plug-ins**.

  To add the plugin to **Photoshop CC 2015**, copy it into **Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2015/Plug-ins**.



After installation of the Enhancer plugin, you will see a new item in the Filter/Effects menu of your photo editor: **AKVIS -> Enhancer**. Please use this command to launch the plugin in the editor. For example, in Photoshop select in menu: **Filter - AKVIS - Enhancer**.

The standalone version is run by double-clicking on the application.

HOW TO ACTIVATE AKVIS SOFTWARE

Attention! During the activation process your computer must be connected to Internet.

If it is not possible, we offer you an alternative way (see below for Offline Activation).

Download **AKVIS Enhancer** and install the program. Read the Installation Instruction here.

When you run the unregistered version, a splash window will appear displaying general information about the version and the number of days left in your trial period.

You can also open the **About the Program** window by pressing the button in the program's Control Panel.



Click on **TRY IT** to evaluate the software. A new window will appear with variants of licenses to test.

You do not need to register the trial version to try all features of the software. Just use the program during the evaluation time (10 days after the 1st start).

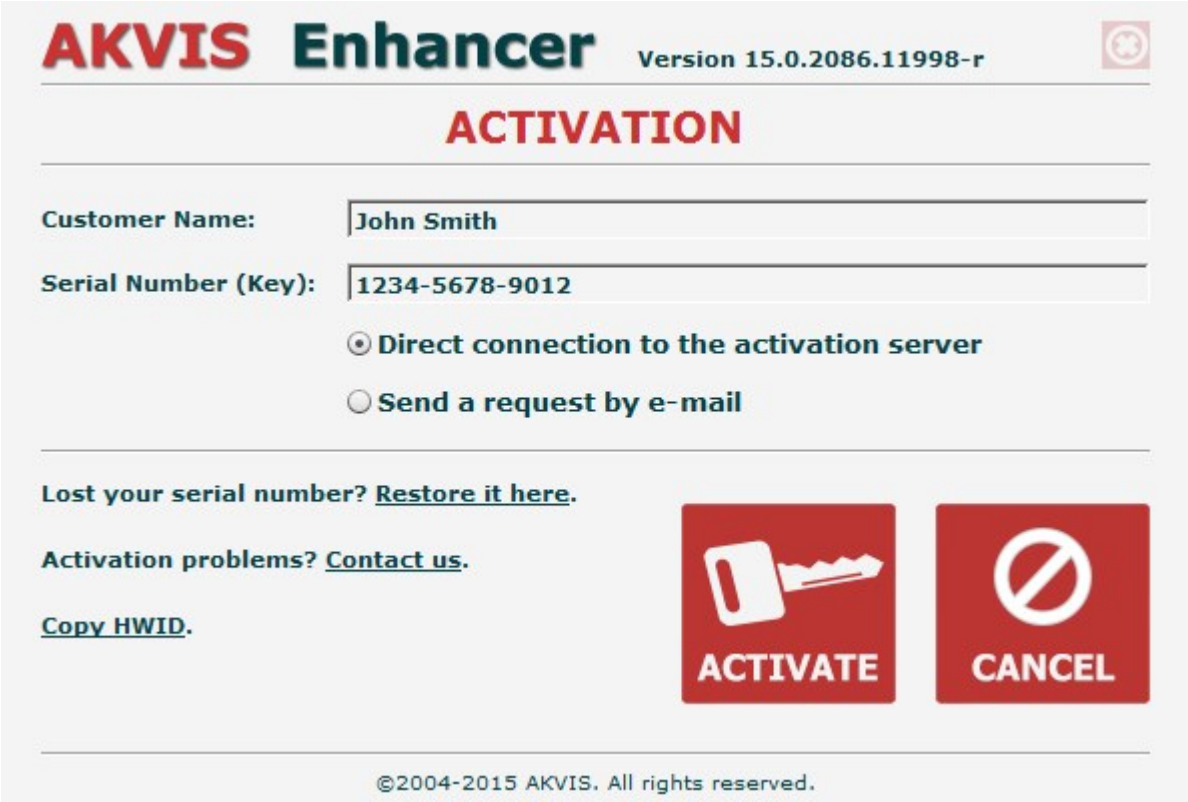
During the test period you can try all options and choose the license you like. Select one of the offered functionality types: **Home** (Plugin or Standalone), **Home Deluxe**, or **Business**. Your choice of license will affect which features will be available in the program. Consult the comparison table for more details about license types and versions of the software.

If the trial period has expired, the **TRY IT** button is disabled.

Click on **BUY NOW** to choose a license to order.

When the payment is effected, your serial number for the program will be sent to you within minutes.

Click on **ACTIVATE** to start the activation process.



Enter your name (the program will be registered to this name).

Enter your serial number (your license key).

Choose the method of activation — either direct connection to the activation server or by e-mail.

Direct connection:

We recommend activating the program using direct connection, as it is the easiest way.

At this step your computer must be connected to Internet.

Press **ACTIVATE**.

Your registration is completed!

Request by e-mail:

In case you have chosen activation by e-mail, a message with all necessary information will be created by the program.

NOTE: You can also use this method for **Offline Activation**:

If your computer is not connected to Internet, transfer the activation message to a computer connected to Internet, for example, with a USB stick. Send us this information to: activate@akvis.com.

Please do not send the screenshot! Just copy the text and save it.

We need your serial number for the software, your name, and HardwareID (HWID) of your computer.

We will generate your license file (**Enhancer.lic**) using this information and will send it to your e-mail address.

Save the .**lic** file (do not open it!) to your computer where you want to register the software, in the **AKVIS** folder in Users' Shared (Public) Documents:

- **Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8**:

  Users\Public\Documents\AKVIS;

- **Windows XP**:

  Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\AKVIS;

- **Mac OS X**:

Users/Shared/AKVIS.

Your registration is completed!



When the program is registered, **BUY NOW** turns to **UPGRADE** that lets you improve your license (for example, change **Home** to **Home Deluxe** or **Business**).

BRING DETAIL TO YOUR PICTURES

The functionality of the program depends on the license type. During the evaluation period you can try all options and choose the license you like.

Every time you start the unregistered version you can choose between functionality types to test: Home (either the plugin or the standalone edition), Home Deluxe (plugin+standalone) or Business (plugin+standalone).

License Comparison:	**Home** (Plugin)	**Home** (Standalone)	**Home Deluxe** (Plugin+Standalone)	**Business** (Plugin+Standalone)
Purpose				
non-commercial use	✓	✓	✓	✓
commercial use	–	–	–	✓
Edition				
Plugin	✓	–	✓	✓
Standalone	–	✓	✓	✓
Features				
Improve Detail	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prepress Processing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tone Correction	✓	✓	✓	✓
Post Processing	–	✓	✓	✓
Presets	✓	✓	✓	✓
Batch Processing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Share	✓	✓	✓	✓
Print	–	✓	✓	✓
GPU-acceleration	✓	✓	✓	✓
EXIF, IPTC	–	✓	✓	✓
Color Space				
RGB	✓	✓	✓	✓
CMYK	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lab	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grayscale	✓	✓	✓	✓
8 / 16 bits	✓	✓	✓	✓
32 bits	✓	✓	✓	✓
Image Format				
TIFF	✓	✓	✓	✓

JPEG	✓	✓	✓	✓
BMP	✓	✓	✓	✓
PNG	✓	✓	✓	✓
RAW	✓	✓	✓	✓
DNG	✓	✓	✓	✓
PSD	✓	–		
OS				
Windows	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mac OS X	✓	✓	✓	✓
10-days trial	✓	✓	✓	✓
Price	**$ 69**	**$ 69**	**$ 99**	**$ 170**

WORKSPACE OF THE PROGRAM

AKVIS Enhancer can work independently as a *standalone* program or as a plug-in to a photo editor.

- *Standalone* is an independent program; you can open it by clicking on the program's icon.

  To launch the standalone version, run the program directly:

  On a Windows computer - select it from the **Start** menu or use the program's shortcut.

  On a Macintosh computer - launch the app from the **Application** folder.
- *Plugin* is an add-on for a photo editor, for example for Photoshop.

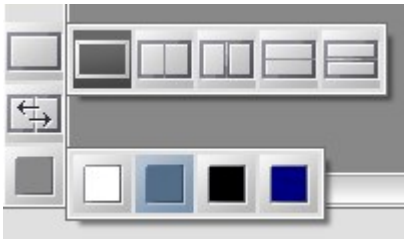
  To call the plugin, select it from filters of your image editing program.

The **AKVIS Enhancer** workspace looks like this:



AKVIS Enhancer Workspace, After tab

The left part of the program's window is taken by the **Image Window** with two tabs: **Before** and **After**. In the **Before** tab the original image is shown, while in the **After** tab you can see the processed image. You can switch between the windows by clicking on a tab with the left mouse button.
You can select how **Image Window** and **Before**/**After** tabs will be shown by adjusting the **Image View Modes** in the bottom part of the left panel.



The **Control Panel** contains the following controls:

- The button  opens the home page of **AKVIS Enhancer**.
- The button  (only in the standalone version) opens image for processing. The hot-keys are Ctrl+O on Windows, □+O on Macintosh.

  Right mouse click on this button displays the list of recent files. You can change the number of recent documents in the program's **Preferences**.
- The button  (only in the standalone version) saves image to the disk. The hot-keys are Ctrl+S on Windows, □+S on Macintosh.
- The button  (only in the standalone) opens the **Print** dialog to print the result. The hot-keys are Ctrl+P on Windows, □+P on Macintosh.
- The button  lets posting pictures from the program to the social networks: Twitter, Flickr, Google+, Dropbox.
- The button  imports a list of presets (from the **.enhancer** file).
- The button  exports presets (user settings for the image processing). You can save any number of presets to a separate file with the ending **.enhancer**.
- The button  (only in the standalone version) opens the **Batch Processing** dialog to automatically process a series of images.
- The button  starts image processing of the entire image (in the **Prepress** and **Tone Correction** modes).
- The button  (only in the plugin version) applies the result to the image and closes the plugin's window.
- The button  calls information about the program and opens the registration window.
- The button  calls the Help files. The hot-key is F1.
- The button  calls the **Preferences** dialog box for changing the program's options.

To the left of the **Image Window** there is the **Toolbar** with these tools:

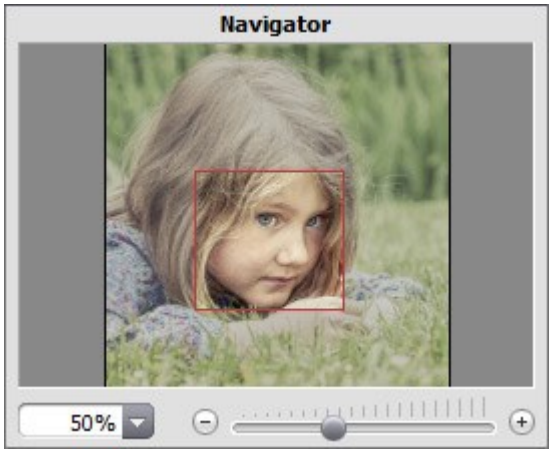
- The button  (in the **Prepress** and **Tone Correction** modes) switches on/off the preview window.
- The button  activates the **Hand** tool which allows you to scroll the image when it does not fit within **Image Window** at the desired scale. To use it click on the button, bring the cursor over the image, and while keeping the left mouse button pressed move in the desired direction.

  Double-clicking on the tool's icon  on the **Toolbar** makes the image fit the **Image Window**.
- The button  activates the **Zoom** tool, which changes the image's scale. To zoom in left click on the image. To zoom out left click with Alt on the image. Press Z to quickly access the tool.

  Double-clicking on the tool's icon  on the **Toolbar** makes the image scale to 100% (actual size).

And below, there are three buttons which control how the **Image Window** looks like.

You can navigate and scale the image using the **Navigator**. The frame in the **Navigator** surrounds the area of the image which is visible in the Image Window; the area outside of the frame will be shaded. The frame can be dragged, thereby changing the visible portion of the image. To move the frame, place the cursor within it, left click the mouse, and then drag.



To scroll the image in the **Image Window** you can press the spacebar on the keyboard and drag the image with the left mouse button. Use the scroll wheel of the mouse to move the image up/down, by keeping the `Ctrl` key pressed – to the left/to the right, by keeping the `Alt` key pressed – scale the image. Right-click on the scroll bar to activate the quick navigation menu.

Use the slider or the buttons ⊕ and ⊖ to scale the image. When you click on the ⊕ button or move the slider to the right, the image scale increases. When you click on the ⊖ button or move the slider to the left, the image scale reduces.

You can also change the image scale by entering a new coefficient into the scale field. The fall-down menu shows some frequently used coefficients.

You can use hot-keys to change the image scale `+` and `Ctrl`+`+` (□+`+` in Macintosh) to increase the image scale and `-` and `Ctrl`+`-` (□+`-` in Macintosh) to reduce the scale.

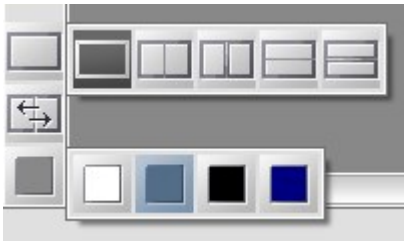
Below the **Navigator** is the **Settings Panel** where you can choose the image enhancement **Mode** and adjust its settings.

In the **Presets** field you can save favorite settings as a preset to use them in the future. When you launch the program, it uses the settings of the last used preset.

Under the **Settings Panel** you can see **Hints** for the parameters and buttons when you hover over them with the cursor. You can choose where the hints will be shown or hide them in the program's **Preferences**.

IMAGE VIEW MODES: BEFORE AND AFTER

At the bottom of the Toolbar of **AKVIS Enhancer**, there are three buttons which let you choose how the **Image Window** will look like and arrange the **Before** and **After** tabs.



- Click the first button to open a submenu that contains various options for viewing the original and processed images:

  - The button  provides the standard image window mode with two tabs: **Before** and **After**.

  - The buttons  and  divide the main window into two parts, vertically or horizontally, respectively. The original and processed images become partially visible and the tabs are combined to form the whole picture.





  - The buttons  and  split the main window into two parts, vertically or horizontally, as well. However, in contrast to the previous option, the windows display the same fragment of the image before and after processing.





Note: Use two windows side by side when you want to see and compare the original and processed versions of an image fragment on one screen. If you would rather see the final image

as a whole, you can choose the standard image view mode.

- The button  swaps the positions of the original image and result when displaying two windows.
- The 3rd button lets you choose the background color of the **Image Window**. Pressing , , or  changes the background color to white, gray, or black, while clicking on  opens the **Select Color** dialog where you can choose a color of your choice.

HOW TO USE THE PROGRAM

AKVIS Enhancer improves details on your pictures, fixes dark photos, adjusts tones, contrast, and brightness in images. It offers an individual approach to every part of the photo. The software can work independently as a *standalone* program as well as a *plug-in* to a photo editor.

Follow the instructions below:

- **Step 1.** Open an image.

  - If you work with the standalone edition:

    The dialog box **Select File to Open** appears if you double-click on the empty workspace of the program or if you click on . Use the hot-keys: Ctrl+O on Windows, □+O on Macintosh. You can also drag the required image into the workspace of the program.
    The standalone program supports **JPEG**, **TIFF**, **BMP**, **PNG** and **RAW** file formats.

  - If you work with the plug-in:

    Open an image in your photo editor by calling the command **File -> Open**.

    Call the plugin from the menu of the editor:

    in **Adobe Photoshop** and **Photoshop Elements** - **Filter –> AKVIS –> Enhancer**;
    in **Corel PaintShop Pro** - **Effects –> Plugins -> AKVIS –> Enhancer**;
    in **Corel Photo-Paint** - **Effects -> AKVIS -> Enhancer**.



Original Image

- **Step 2.** Select the processing **Mode** in the drop-down menu in the **Settings Panel**.
  - **Improve Detail** mode helps to *bring out details* on an image. The program strengthens the difference between adjacent pixels having different color gradations and reveals details not only in shadows but even in overexposed and mid tone areas.
  - **Prepress** mode lets you adjust photos before *printing* or *publishing* in Web. The program increases the sharpness of borders and the contrast of the image.
  - **Tone Correction** mode is used for *color adjustment*. The program corrects brightness in the light and dark areas. As a result, the overall impression of the image improves considerably. Changes can be made to the entire image or to a part of the image depending on the selected colors.

  You can find a comparison of the modes here.

- **Step 3.** Adjust the parameters of the chosen **Mode** in the **Settings Panel**.



- **Step 4.** If needed, in the *standalone* version, you can correct the image further using the settings in the **Post Processing** tab.
- **Step 5.** If you like the new settings of the parameters, you can save them as a *preset* and use them later. To save the settings, enter a name for the preset in the **Presets** field and press the button **Save**.

  When moving a cursor over a preset in the drop-down list, the quick result appears in the **Preset Preview** window.



To process the image with a certain preset, select this preset from the list. In **Improve Detail** mode the image will be automatically processed with the preset's settings; in **Prepress** and **Tone Correction** modes press ▷ to run image procesing.

Next time you launch the program, these settings will be used by default. If you change the parameters you can return to the initial settings of the selected preset by clicking on **Reset**.

To delete a preset, select it from the list and click on the button **Delete**.

- **Step 6.** Share your image by clicking on . It opens the list of the services where you can publish the image: Twitter, Flickr, Google+, Dropbox.

  In the standalone version, you can also print your result using .

- **Step 7.** Save the result:

  - If you work with the standalone program:

    Click on the button  to open the **Save As** dialog box. You can use the hot-keys: Ctrl+S on Windows, □+S on Mac. Enter a name for the file, choose the format (**TIFF**, **JPEG**, **BMP** or **PNG**) and indicate the target folder.

  - If you work with the plugin:

    Press the button  to apply the result and close the plugin window. The **AKVIS Enhancer** plugin will close and the picture will appear in the workspace of the photo editor.

    Call the **Save As** dialog box using the command **File -> Save As**, enter a name for the file, choose the format and indicate the target folder.

IMPROVE DETAIL MODE

In **Improve Detail** mode, the program brings out details in an image, in both shadows and highlights.



Image Correction in Improve Detail mode

Follow the instructions below to process the image in **Improve Detail** mode:

- **Step 1.** Once this mode is selected the photo is automatically processed with the last used parameter values (the first time - with the default values). The result is shown in the **After** tab.



- **Step 2.** Adjust the value of the **Preview Size** parameter.

  This parameter sets the image size at the preliminary processing stage and can have the following values: 1, 1/2, 1/4, and 1/8. At value = 1, the program processes the image in its original size. At value = 1/2, it is reduced twice, at value = 1/4 by 4 times, at value = 1/8 by 8 times. The processing time is reduced accordingly.

It is an *auxiliary* parameter and does not influence the real size of the image. The original image (its height and width) will stay the same.

This option lets you speed up the pre-processing stage when trying different settings to obtain the best result. It is useful on photos which do not require close attention to every detail, when it is enough to see the general outcome.

Note: Once you have changed the image correction parameters, it is recommended to process the image with **Preview Size** = 1 to make sure that the best settings are chosen.

- **Step 3.** Adjust the image correction parameters. All changes are applied automatically.
  - **Shadows** (0-50). The parameter strengthens shadows in the image. Increasing the value makes dark areas even darker.



Shadows = 5



Shadows = 40

  - **Highlights** (0-50). The parameter lightens the image. Increasing the value makes light areas even lighter.



Highlights = 5



Highlights = 40

  - **Saturation** (-50..50). The parameter changes the color intensity of the image.



Saturation = -25



Saturation = 25

  - **Gradient Contrast** (0-50). The parameter helps to mildly increase the contrast in gradient areas making the image more prominent and expressive.



Gradient Contrast = 10



Gradient Contrast = 50

- **Level of Detail** (0-50). The parameter defines the amount of detail. The higher the value, the sharper the outlines, and the more details are revealed in the image.



Level of Detail = 5



Level of Detail = 45

- **Threshold** (1-10). The parameter defines which parts will be intensified when increasing the level of detail. At low values the program reveals all details in the image, at high values small details will not be changed.



Threshold = 2



Threshold = 10

- **Lightness** (0-20). The parameter helps to illuminate dark areas. As you increase its value, the image becomes lighter.



Lightness = 5



Lightness = 20

PREPRESS MODE

When printing photos, the result on paper will sometimes be different than what appears on your monitor. While the contours of objects may look perfect on the screen, on paper they may appear fuzzy. To avoid this, process the image before it is printed.

Use **Prepress** mode to increase the sharpness of borders and the contrast of the image.

Even if you are not going to print the photos you can use this mode to improve them. For example, before publishing in your online album.



Original Image



Result

To process an image in **Prepress** mode:

- **Step 1.** Once this mode is selected the **Quick Preview** will appear. It is a square area outlined with the "marching ants". This lets you quickly preview the result in different areas of the image. You can move it to any part of the image - drag and drop or double click. To compare the result with the original picture, click and keep mouse pressed within the preview area.



  You can change the preview area size in the program's preferences.

- **Step 2.** Adjust the image processing parameters.

  The parameters under **Sharpness** can be used to make an image appear sharper and its details clearer.

  - **Radius**. This parameter, which accepts values between 1 and 100, determines the width of the zone in which the boundaries of objects are sharpened. A high value may cause halo artifacts.
  - **Strength**. This parameter affects the degree of contrast enhancement along the boundaries of objects. When the parameter is increased the image becomes clearer. Its work depends on the value of **Radius**. It accepts values from 0 to 100.

The parameters under **Contrast** enhance the contrast of the image by lightening light areas and darkening dark areas.

- **Shadows**. This parameter accepts values from -50 to 100. This parameter enhances shadows. Increasing the value will make dark areas darker, while decreasing the value makes them lighter.
- **Highlights**. This parameter accepts values from -50 to 100. When you move the cursor to the right of 0, the light areas of images become even more light. Moving the cursor to the left increases the number of gray tones.



- **Step 3.** To process the entire image press .

TONE CORRECTION MODE

Tone Correction mode is used for adjusting the image brightness in light and dark areas. As a result the overall impression of the image improves considerably. Changes can be made to the entire image or to a part of the photo depending on the colors selected for correction.



Original Image Result

To process an image in **Tone Correction** mode, follow these steps:

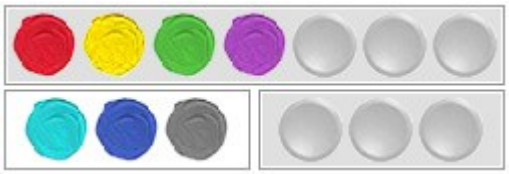
- **Step 1.** Once this mode is selected the **Quick Preview** will appear. It is a square area outlined with the "marching ants". This lets you quickly preview the result in different areas of the image. You can move it to any part of the image - drag and drop or double click. To compare the result with the original picture, click and keep mouse pressed within the preview area.



You can change the preview area size in the program's preferences.

- **Step 2.** You can choose the colors to be corrected. To do this use the **Color Sets**.

The original set consists of seven colors. There are two additional sets below it, each consisting of three cells. Move colors from the main set into lower cells. By dragging colors you can have from one to three sets of colors. To switch from one color set to another click on it with the left mouse button. The chosen set is highlighted with a white background.



The **Color Indicator** makes it easier to form a color set.



When you move the cursor over the image, this line displays the color components in the corresponding point. This helps to select colors more precisely, to edit the certain area.

- **Step 3.** Adjust the parameters separately for each **Color Set**.

  The selected set has a white background. Change the parameters for it:

  - **Radius** (1-60). This parameter determines the area to be analyzed by the algorithm. After analysis, new color and brightness information is assigned to the point, to attribute it to one of the color sets, that is used for futher processing.
  - **Shadows** (0-100). The default value of this parameter is 0 and dark areas are not corrected. As the parameter's value is increased, dark areas become lighter, and details there become more discernible. Objects in dark silhouettes become more like they were when photographed.
  - **Highlights** (0-100). The default value of this parameter is 0 and light areas are not corrected. As the value of the parameter is increased, light areas become darker, contrast increases, and objects stand out more while the picture overall has more volume and appears more accurate.



Note: If color components do not belong to the same set, the application of the parameters is mixed. For example, if red and yellow there are in different sets, the correction of orange will be performed within both color sets.

- **Step 4.** To process the image press the  button.



COMPARISON OF MODES

All modes in **AKVIS Enhancer** are designed to improve images. All modes work with areas in light and shadow, to reveal previously obscure details.

"Then why do we need all these modes and why should we not just choose one and use it?" you ask.

Answer: The main goal is the same, *correction*, but the methods used and the results are quite different.

Compare the results of the same image processed in different modes to see the difference:



Original Image
Click on the image to view a larger version in a separate window

Improve Detail mode strengthens the difference between pixels to reveal additional details hidden in an image. Details are its strong point. However, in revealing details it can also strengthen digital noise which is often present in photos.



Result with Improve Detail Mode
Click on the image to view a larger version in a separate window

Prepress mode increases the sharpness of borders and the contrast of the image, revealing objects. This mode is helpful when you want to adjust photos before printing or publishing in Web.



Result with Prepress Mode
Click on the image to view a larger version in a separate window

Tone Correction mode improves an image through correction of the brightness of the certain colors in the light and dark areas. Processing is not just performed in light and shadow, but also in the tints, that lets improving the image within the specified color range. Due to this it may lead to a lack of depth in an image compared to **Improve Detail** mode. It is best to use when making tone correction in certain areas of an image.



Result with Tone Correction Mode
Click on the image to view a larger version in a separate window

Resume:

In **Improve Detail** mode the entire image was processed. Details were revealed well on the stem and leaves, but the flower petals came out too light.

In **Prepress** mode the flower became sharper and more visible on the background.

In **Tone Correction** mode color restriction has been set. The color lilac was chosen (the predominant color of the petals) and only areas with this color were processed. Other areas - the stem, leaves, and the background - were left unchanged.

These results show that when comparing **AKVIS Enhancer** modes, one is not always superior to another. Different photos require different approaches at correction, so it is not possible to predict beforehand which mode would be more effective.

In many cases the modes complement one another. Applying changes with all modes can considerably improve the result. If you use all three modes on an image, we recommend starting from **Improve Detail** mode, saving the image, applying **Tone Correction** mode, saving, and, in the end, using **Prepress** mode for the final touches.

POST PROCESSING

Use one of the modes in **AKVIS Enhancer** to improve a photo. For further image correction you can use the **Post Processing** tab. It is available only in the **standalone** edition because any image editor offers these features, so there is no reason to use this section in the plugin.



Before Post Processing

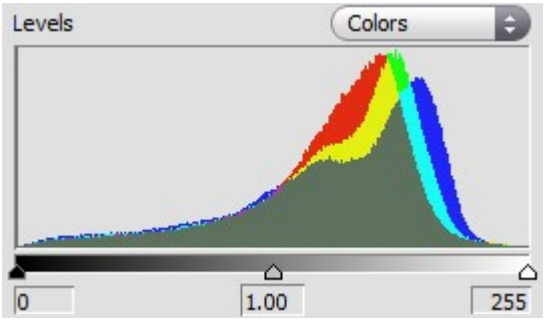


After Post Processing

The **Post Processing** tab contains a **Histogram** and four parameters: **Brightness**, **Contrast**, **Gamma** and **Saturation**.

A **Histogram** is a graph that shows the tonal range of an image. On the horizontal line the brightness values are set - from the darkest to the lightest. The vertical line sets the number of pixels having this lightness value.

Below the histogram there are three sliders that can be moved to change the image contrast.



The extreme point on the right end represents pixels having the maximum brightness (white points). If the histogram does not have such pixels, the image does not contain any white points. If we move the white slider to the left, the point against which the slider is located will assume the maximum brightness (255) and the pixels having this value will become white. The brightness of other pixels will be re-calculated accordingly. The image will get lighter.

The extreme point on the left end represents pixels having the minimum brightness (black points). If the histogram does not start at the left end, the image does not have any black pixels (brightness = 0). If you move the black slider to the right, the point against which the slider is located will assume the minimum brightness value. As a result this tone will become black, while other pixels will be re-calculated accordingly. The image will get darker.

The middle slider defines the tone of the image that will have the brightness of 128 (middle-gray tones). If you move the slider to the left, the mid-gray tones get lighter; if you move the slider to the right, the mid-gray tones get darker.

Near the histogram there is a drop-down list with image channels (**RGB**, **Red**, **Green**, **Blue**, **Colors**, **Luminosity**). It is possible to adjust every channel separately or correct a combined channel.

The **Post Processing** tab also contains parameters that correct the brightness and contrast of the image, make gamma-corrections and change the saturation of the image.

- The **Brightness** parameter is used to change the image brightness. It accepts values between -100 and 100 with the default value of 0. The higher is the value of the parameter, the lighter all pixels of the image are, and vice versa.

- The **Contrast** parameter is used to increase (if the value is over 0) or reduce (if the value is under 0) the difference between bright and dark parts of the image. The parameter accepts values between -100 and 100 with the default value set to 0.
- The **Gamma** parameter is used to change the overall contrast of the image by increasing or reducing mid-tones and gray mid-tones. The parameter accepts values between 50 and 250 with the default value set to 100.
- The **Saturation** parameter is used to change the intensity of colors on the image. The parameter accepts values between -100 (gray color) and +100 (saturated colors). By default the value is set to 0.

As you adjust the settings in this tab, the processing is started automatically. The result is shown in the **After** tab.

BATCH PROCESSING

AKVIS Enhancer supports **batch processing** that lets you automatically process a series of images.

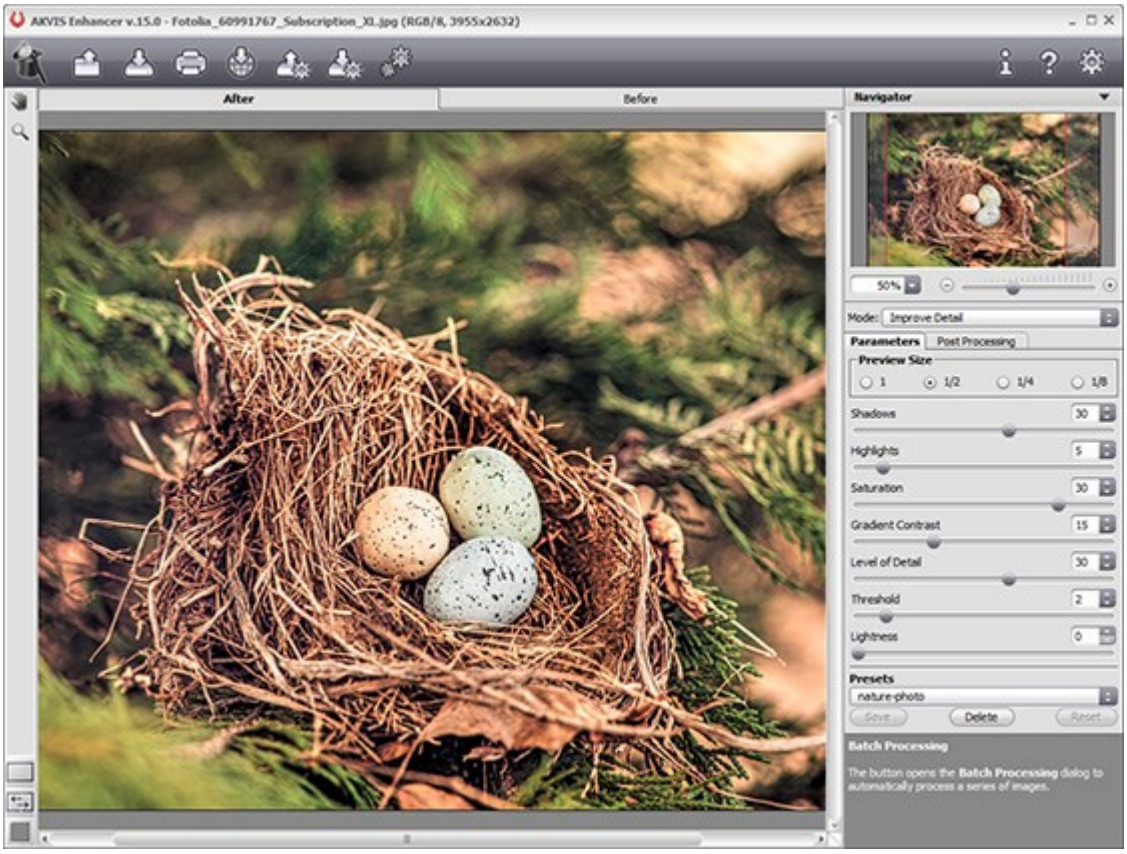
Batch processing is available for all modes of the program. It is useful when dealing with a lot of photos taken under the same conditions with identical camera settings. It saves you time and effort.

Using batch processing is simple. Find the instructions below how to work with **standalone** version. If you use the **plugin**, click here.

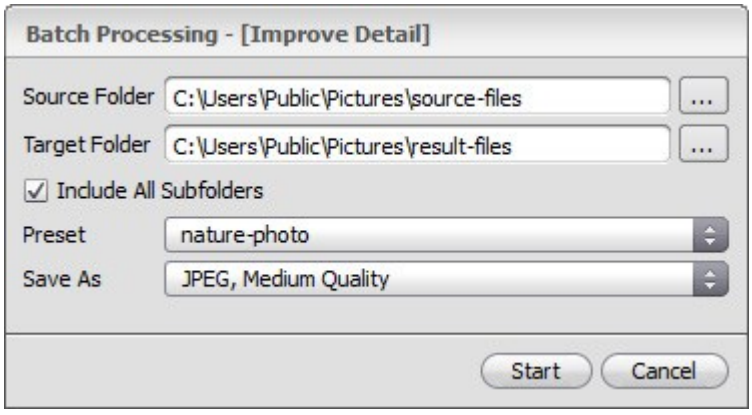
Follow the instructions:

- **Step 1.** Start the standalone version of **AKVIS Enhancer** and open one of the photos.
- **Step 2.** Select a mode (in this case **Improve Detail**) and adjust the parameters for this image.

  Since these settings should be applied to all photos in the series, they should be saved as a **preset**.



- **Step 3.** Click on the button  in the **Control Panel** to open the **Batch Processing** dialog window.



Here you can adjust the options to process the images with one of the presets of the **selected mode**.

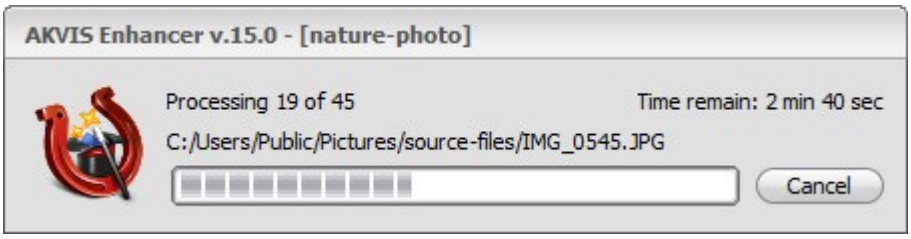
In the **Source Folder** field choose the folder which contains the photos to be processed.

In the **Target Folder** choose the folder where the processed photos will be saved.

You can check **Include All Subfolders** to process all images in all subfolders of the selected folder (keeping the structure).

Next, select your **Preset**, and choose the format and image quality of the saved files in the **Save As** list.

Press **Start** to begin batch processing of the photos.



It's also possible to use batch processing with the Enhancer plug-in. If you've never used this feature before it is simple to learn. Just create an **Action** in **Adobe Photoshop** and apply the plug-in with the same settings to a folder full of images.

The batch processing with the plugin is useful when, in addition to photo correction, you also want, for example, to convert all the photos to the same size.

BATCH PROCESSING WITH ENHANCER PLUG-IN IN PHOTOSHOP

AKVIS Enhancer PlugIn offers batch processing — the possibility to apply the plug-in to a series of photos. All modes of the plugin support batch processing. We take the **Improve Detail** mode for this tutorial.

Batch processing is very useful and time saving when you have to correct a number of photos taken with the same camera settings in similar circumstances. This method applies the same settings of **AKVIS Enhancer** to a folder full of images. So you won't need to fix every photo separately.

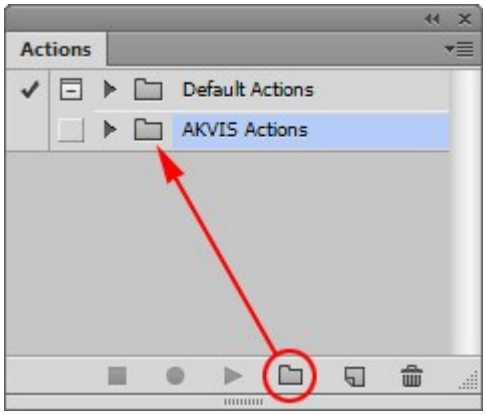
Even if you have never used batch processing you will find no difficulties in understanding it. First you create an **Action** and then apply it in **Adobe Photoshop** to a photo folder.

- **Step 1.** Create two new folders, for example: "source-files" and "result-files". Place original images into the "source-files" folder. Edited photos will be saved in the "result-files" folder.
- **Step 2.** Open one of the original images in **Adobe Photoshop**. We will use this photo to adjust **AKVIS Enhancer** settings and create an action.

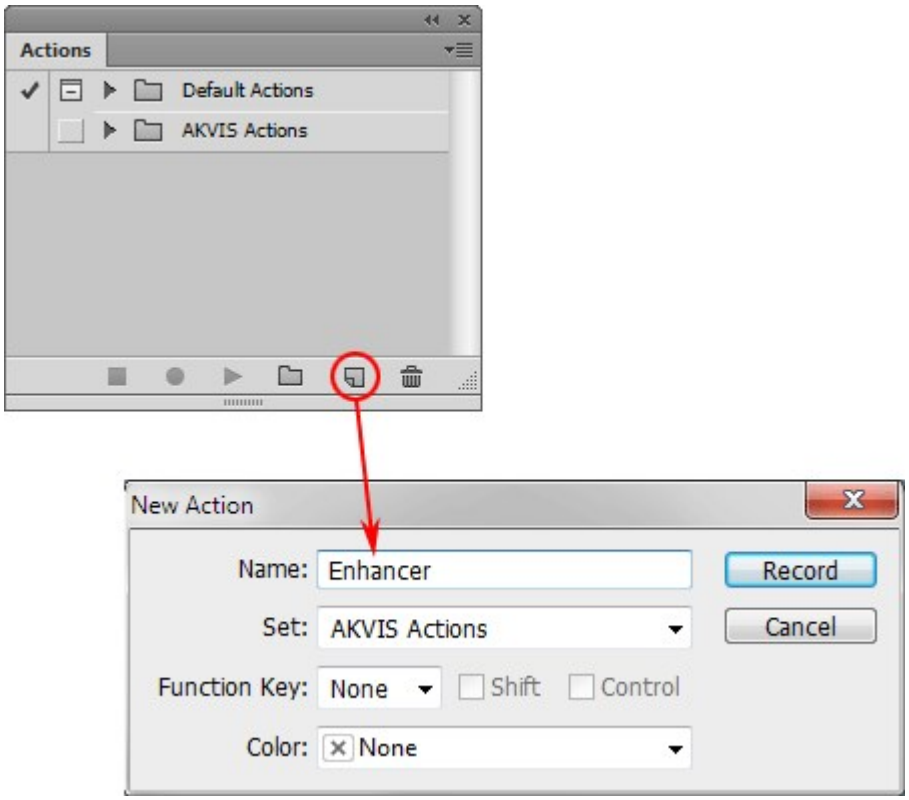


- **Step 3.** In the **Actions** palette click **Create New Set** button. In the dialog window give a name for a new set of actions, for example, "AKVIS Actions".

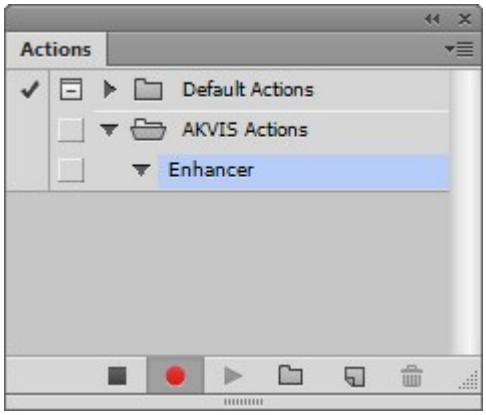
  If you already have a special set for the AKVIS actions, you can just choose it.



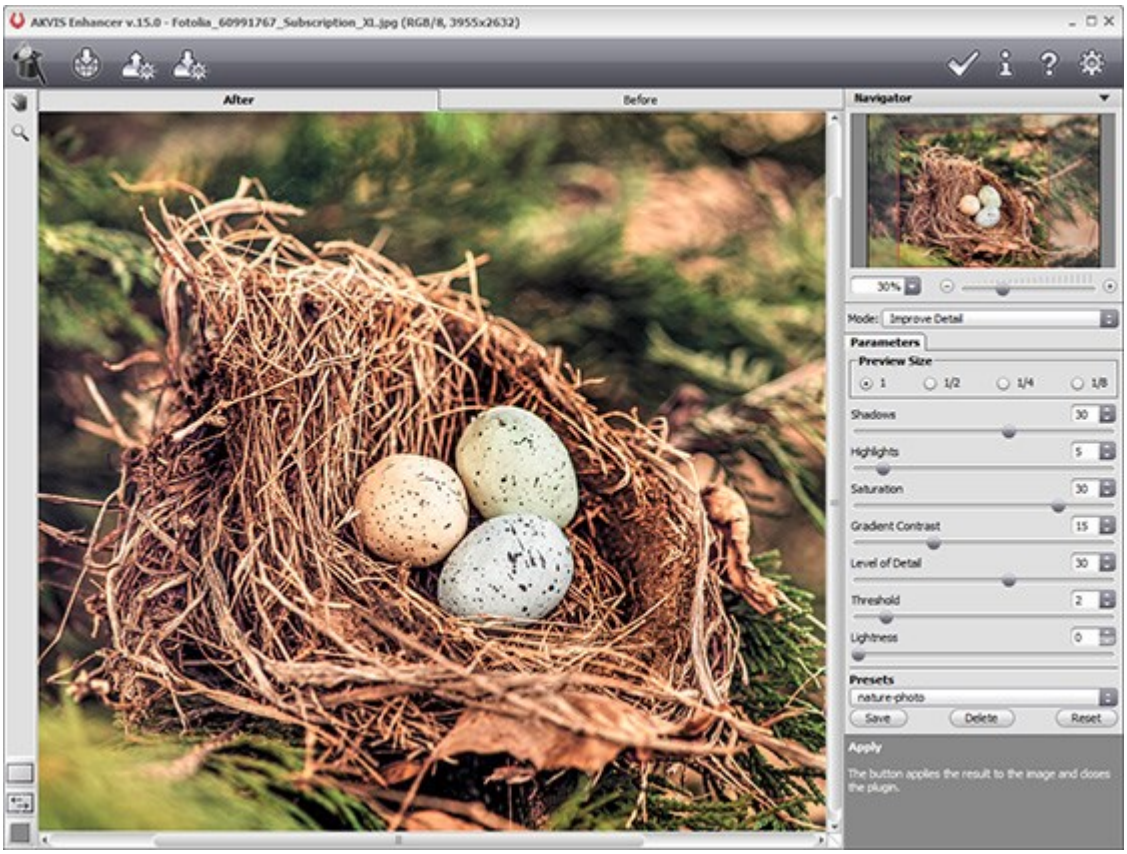
- **Step 4.** Press **Create New Action** and give a name for it, for example, **Enhancer**.



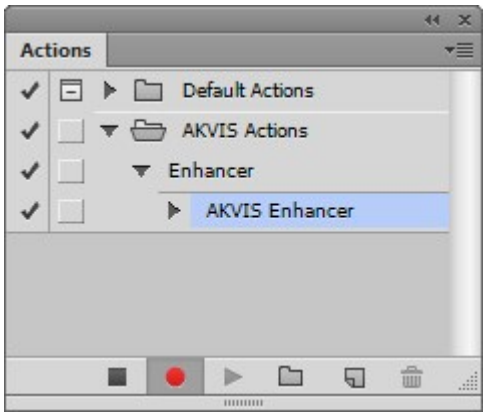
Press the **Record** button, and the recording of the action will immediately start.



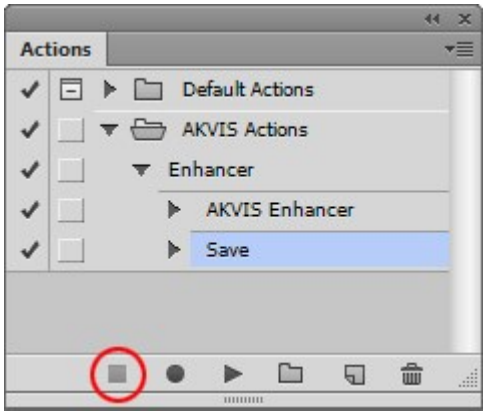
- **Step 5.** Let's call **AKVIS Enhancer** plug-in and set optimal parameters.



- **Step 6.** Press the button . The plug-in window will close and the effect will be applied to the image. In the **Actions** palette, in your new action, you will see a new line - **AKVIS Enhancer**.



- **Step 7.** Remember that the action is still being recorded. Now, you should save the image. Choose **Save As** in the **File** menu and save the image into the destination folder.
- **Step 8.** Stop the action recording by pressing **Stop playing / recording** at the bottom of the **Actions** palette.

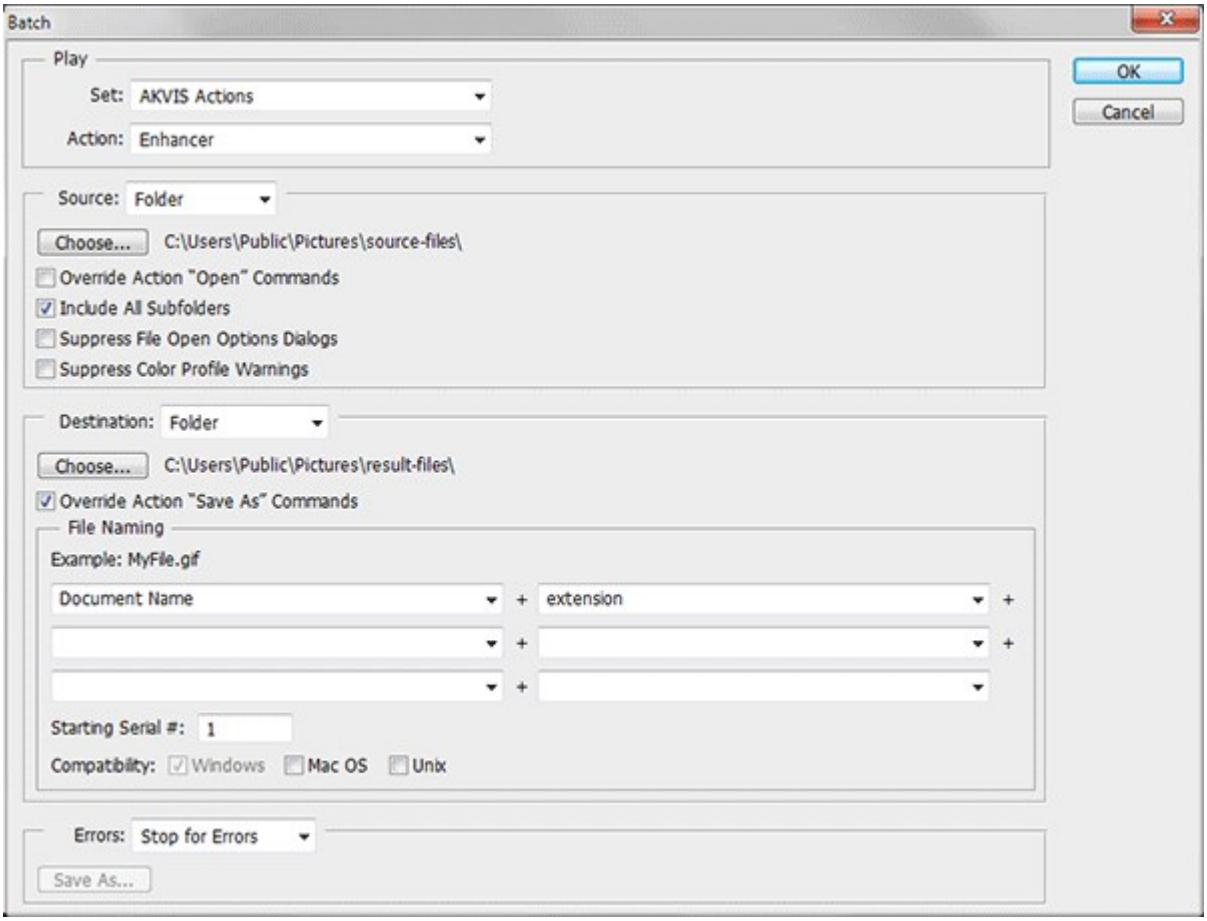


- **Step 9.** Delete the file that you have just saved.

- **Step 10.** The action is created and we can proceed to batch processing of the photos.

  In the **File** menu of the editor choose **Automate -> Batch**.

- **Step 11.** In the **Batch** dialog window and set the parameters:
  - In the **Set** drop-down list choose "AKVIS Actions" entry and in **Action** list - "Enhancer".
  - In the **Source** option set **Folder**. Press the **Choose...** button and select "source-files".
  - As the Open command was not recorded in the action, the **Override Action "Open" Commands** check-box should be deactivated.
  - For **Destination** select **Folder**, then press the **Choose...** button and select "result-files".
  - Activate **Override Action "Save as" Commands** check-box.
  - In the **File Naming** section you can create the filenames structure for the resulted images. If you do not want to change the names, in the first combo-box choose **Document Name**, and in the second - **extension**.

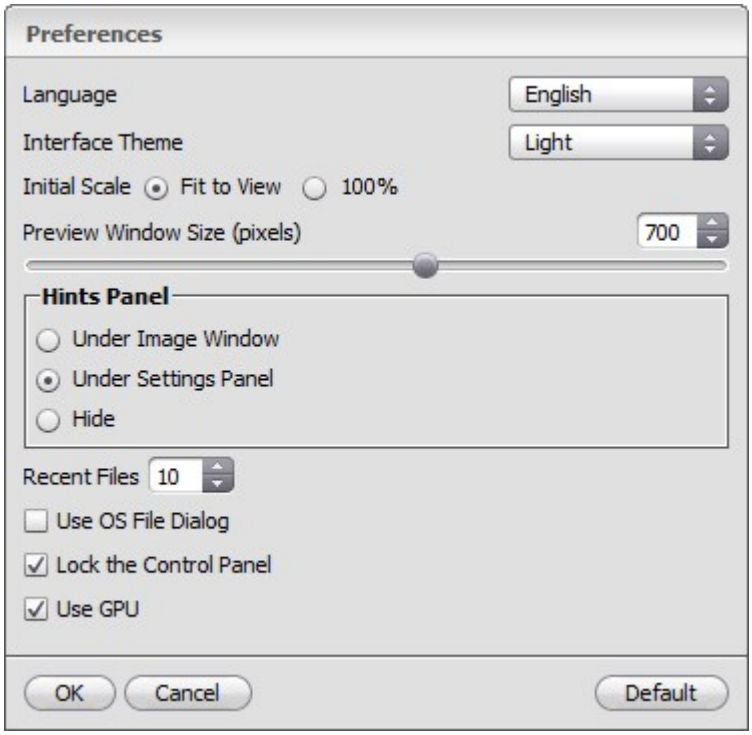


- **Step 12.** Everything is ready, you only have to press **OK**.

  Adobe Photoshop editor will process all photos in the "source-files" folder one by one and save them to the "result-files" folder. While **Photoshop** is busy with the batch processing you can do something useful.

PROGRAM PREFERENCES

Click on  to open the **Preferences** dialog box. It looks like this:



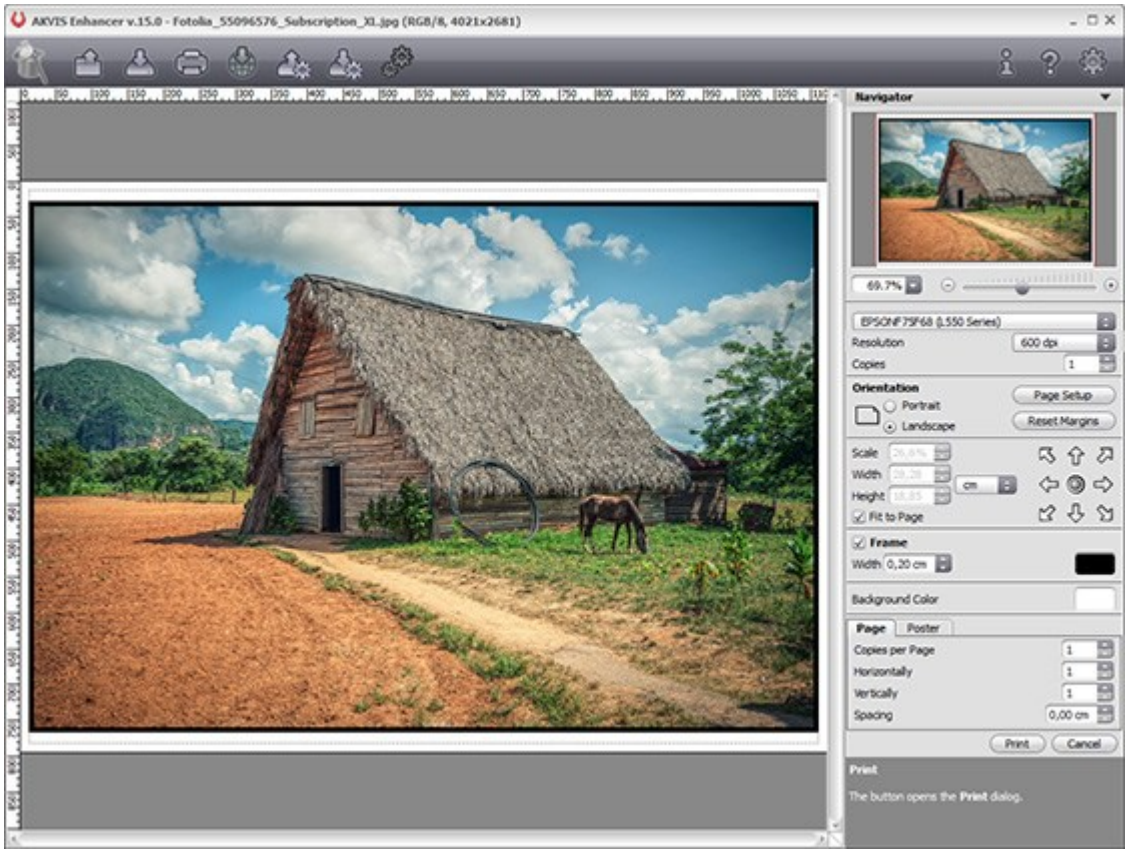
- **Language**. Change the program language by selecting another from the drop-down list.
- **Interface Theme**. Select the style of the program interface: **Light** or **Dark**.
- **Initial Scale**. This parameter defines the way the image is scaled in the main window after loading:
  - **Fit to View**. The scale adjusts so that the image will be completely visible;
  - **100%**. The actual size is used, the image doesn't scale.
- The **Preview Window Size**. Choose the desired value for the size of the **Quick Preview** area in **Prepress** and **Tone Correction** modes: from 300x300 px to 1,000x1,000 px.
- **Hints Panel**. You can choose how the hints will be shown:
  - **Under Image Window**.
  - **Under Settings Panel**.
  - **Hide**.
- **Recent Files** (available only in the standalone version). The number of recent documents. The list of the recent files, sorted by time, become visible by right mouse clicking on . Maximum: 30 files.
- **Use OS File Dialog**. Enable this option if you want to use the System Open/Save Dialog. Otherwise, the AKVIS File Dialog is used.
- **Lock the Control Panel**. It disables the possibility to hide/show the top panel. If the check box is selected the panel is always visible.
- **Use GPU**. The check-box lets you turn on GPU acceleration. If your computer does not support GPU acceleration the check-box will be disabled.

To save changes made in the **Preferences** window press **OK**.

If you need, click on the button **Default** to come back the default settings.

PRINT IMAGES IN AKVIS ENHANCER

In the standalone version of **AKVIS Enhancer** you can print the image.
Press the button to open the **Print** options.



Print Options in AKVIS Enhancer

Adjust the parameters appearing in the Settings Panel:

- Choose a printer from the list of available devices, set the desired resolution, as well as the number of copies to print.
- In the **Orientation** group, set the position of paper: **Portrait** (vertically) or **Landscape** (horizontally).

  Click the **Page Setup** button to open a dialog box to choose the size of the paper and its orientation, as well as the print margins.

  Press the **Reset Margins** button to return the page margins to the default size.
- Change the size of the printed image adjusting the parameters **Scale**, **Width**, **Height** and **Fit to Page**. These parameters have no effect on the image itself, just on the print version. You can change the size of the printed image by entering any value in %, or by entering new values in **Width** and **Height**.

  To adjust the size of the image to the paper size, select **Fit to Page**.

  Move the image on the page with the mouse or align it using the arrow buttons.
- You can activate **Frame** for the image and adjust its width and color.
- Choose the **Background Color** by clicking on the color plate.
- In the **Page** tab, you can adjust printing of the multiple copies of the image on a single sheet.



Print Page

- **Copies per Page**. It lets you specify the number of copies of the image on one page.
- **Horizontally** and **Vertically**. These parameters indicate the number of rows and columns for the copies of the image on the page.
- **Spacing**. The parameter sets the margins between the copies of the image.

- In the **Poster** tab, it's possible to customize printing of the image on multiple pages for the subsequent junction into a large picture.



- **Pages**. If the check-box is enabled, you can specify the maximum number of the pages in which the image will be divided. The image scale will be adjusted to fit this number of the sheets. If the check-box is disabled, the program will automatically select the optimal number of the pages in accordance with the actual size of the image (scale = 100%).

- **Glue Margins**. If the check-box is enabled, you can adjust the width of the padding for bonding sheets. Margins will be added to the right and to the bottom of each part.
- **Lines of Cut**. Activate the check-box to display the cut marks in the margins.
- **Show Numbers**. With the enabled check-box, a sequence number of each part, by a column and a row, will be printed in the margins.

To print the image with the chosen parameters, press the **Print** button.
To cancel and close the printing options click on **Cancel**.

LIGHTEN A DARK STREET PHOTO

When you take a photo in the street where the lighting is poor, you will notice that the subject of the shoot turns out to be dark and hardly visible. With the **Improve Detail** mode in **AKVIS Enhancer** you can reveal details in shadows.



Original Image



Result

We use the Enhancer plugin in the tutorial, but you can take the standalone edition and use the same parameters to achieve this result.

- **Step 1.** Open the image in your photo editor to work with the Enhancer plugin, for example in Photoshop (or just run the Enhancer program if you use it as a standalone app).



- **Step 2.** To call the Enhancer plugin in **Adobe Photoshop** select the command **Filter -> AKVIS -> Enhancer**; in **Corel Paint Shop Pro** select **Effects -> Plugins -> AKVIS -> Enhancer**.

  Choose **Improve Detail** mode. The image will be processed with the default settings.



- **Step 3.** Taking into account that the photo is underexposed, we need to reveal more details in the dark areas. Increase the **Lightness** parameter and adjust other settings to achieve the desired look.



- **Step 4.** In the plugin, press the button  to apply the result of the photo correction.

CRYSTAL CLEAR

When you look at your photo, you think it's clear, but try processing it with **AKVIS Enhancer** in **Prepress** mode and you'll see what the definition of clarity truly is!

In this tutorial, we'll process a photo of ice cubes. It already looks good, but does not evoke the feeling of seeing ice cubes through a frosty glass.



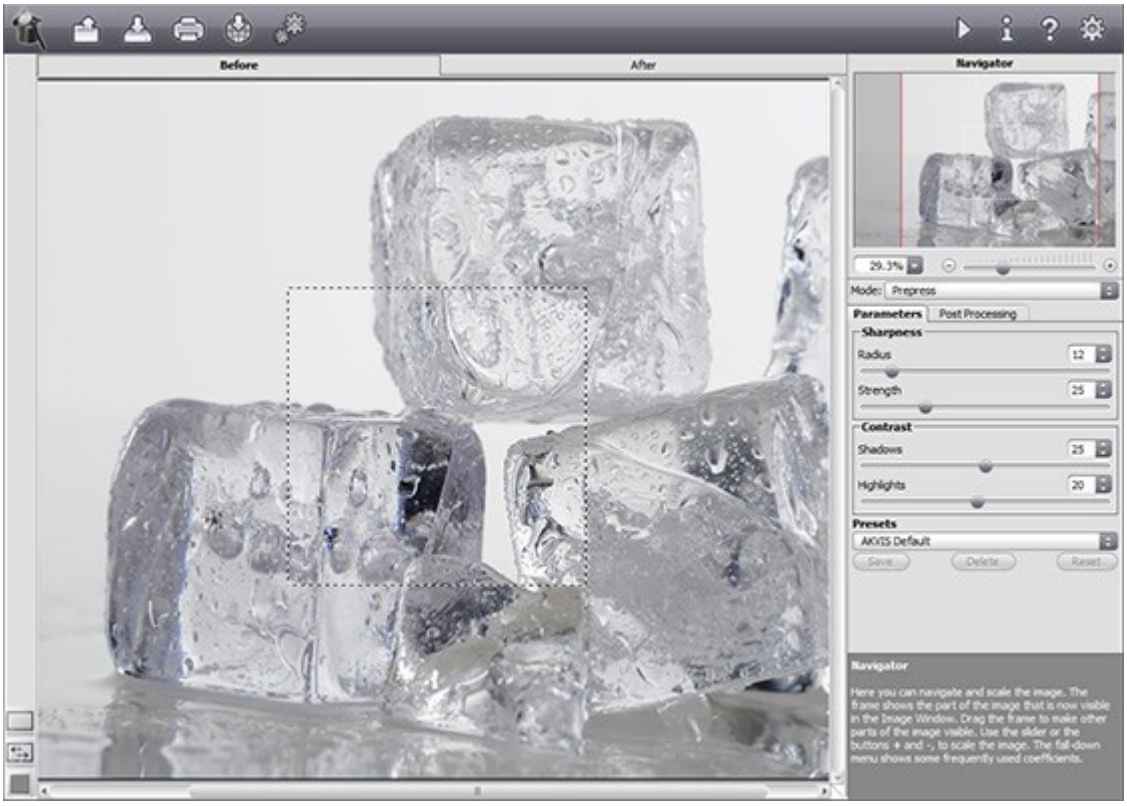
Original Image



Result

Click on the image to see a larger version in a new window

- **Step 1.** Open the image to be processed in **AKVIS Enhancer**. Choose **Prepress** from the list of modes.



- **Step 2.** The **Preview** area shows the result of the image processed with the default settings. The image looks clearer, but the settings should be adjusted further to achieve a better result. Change the settings to match those in the image below.



- **Step 3.** All that's left to do is to click on ▷ to apply the settings to the entire image.

  The details in the resulting image are clearer as can be seen in the small droplets of water on the ice cubes. The ice cubes look so natural that you could almost reach out and touch them!



Final Result
Click on the image to see a larger version in a new window

FRESH STRAWBERRIES

The **Tone Correction** mode in **AKVIS Enhancer** is useful when you want to increase or decrease the brightness of a particular color in an image.

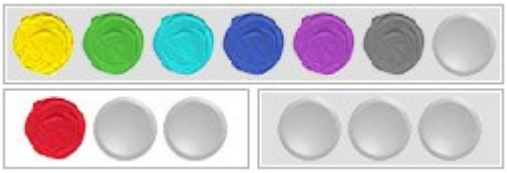
We'll demonstrate this with a photo of strawberries.



Open the image.



First let's try to enhance the color of the berries. Do this by dragging the ***red*** color from the initial color set into one of the empty sets.

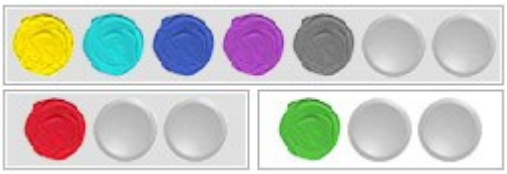


The selected color set will be highlighted in white. Let's adjust the settings for this color set.

Increase **Highlights** to 70, and **Radius** to 45. This results in rich, dark berries. The color of the leaves has not changed.



Now let's make the color of leaves darker. Drag the ***green*** color into another free color set.



For the set with ***green***, increase **Highlights** to 90.

Press ▷ to apply the settings to the entire image. The leaves appear darker and richer and overall the picture looks more natural.



In this way, strengthening or weakening specific colors in an image can lead to different and quite pleasant results.

AKVIS PROGRAMS

AKVIS AirBrush — Airbrushing Techniques on Your Photos

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS AirBrush automatically transforms a photograph into a work of art which looks like made with a special airbrush tool that sprays paints or inks. The software works as an artistic filter creating stylish colorful airbrush designs from images using chosen settings of photo-to-painting conversion. More...



AKVIS ArtSuite — Frames and Effects for Your Photos

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS ArtSuite is an impressive collection of versatile frames and effects for photos. ArtSuite contains many templates and texture samples that can be used to create a virtually limitless variety of options for generating frames.
Decorate a photo to give it an original and festive look! More...



AKVIS ArtWork — Versatile Collection of Painting Techniques

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS ArtWork is photo to painting software designed to imitate different painting techniques - *Oil*, *Watercolor*, *Gouache*, *Comics*, *Pen & Ink*, *Linocut*, *Pastel*.
ArtWork helps you to create a piece of art out of any digital photo! More...



AKVIS Chameleon — Photo Collage Creation

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS Chameleon is a fun to use tool for photo collage creation. It makes the process easy and entertaining. The tool is very easy to handle as it does not require precise selection of objects. Using the software you can quickly create your own photo collages. More...



AKVIS Charcoal — Charcoal & Chalk Drawings

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS Charcoal is a creative tool for conversion of photos into charcoal and chalk drawings. Using the program you can make professional-looking expressive black and white images. Playing with colors and options you can achieve outstanding artistic effects, such as sanguine and others. More...



AKVIS Coloriage — Add Color to Black and White Photos

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS Coloriage allows colorizing B&W photos and replacing colors in color photos. Just indicate the desired colors by the stroke of the brush; the program does the rest of the work: recognizes the object's border and tailors the new color to the grayscale tones of the initial picture. More...





AKVIS Decorator — Resurface and Recolor

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS Decorator lets you change the surface of an object in a realistic manner. The program puts on a texture keeping the volume of an object, following its folds and creases. The new pattern looks absolutely natural and makes you see things differently. Recoloring is also made easy. More...



AKVIS Draw — Hand-made Pencil Drawing Effect

(Windows | Mac OS X)

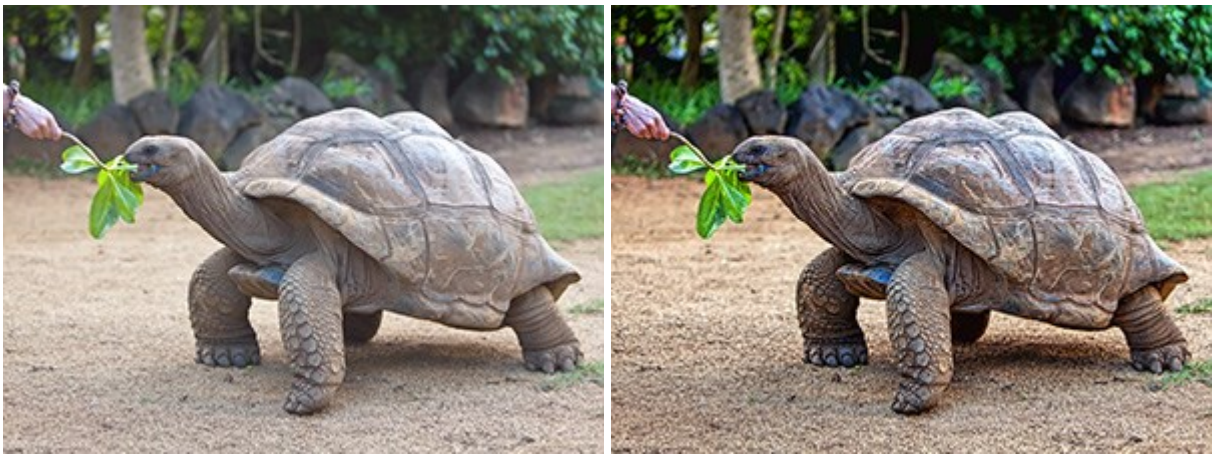
AKVIS Draw converts your photo into a hand made pencil drawing. The software creates realistic looking line art illustrations, produces both B&W and color drawings.
Add a hand-drawn look to your pictures! More...



AKVIS Enhancer — Bring Detail To Your Pictures

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS Enhancer is image enhancement software that detects detail in underexposed, overexposed and mid tone areas of a photo with uneven exposure. Enhancer improves every part of the image! The software works in three modes: *Improve Detail*, *Prepress*, and *Tone Correction*. The program offers a fast method to fix a dark photo, add contrast and brightness to a picture, it lets you improve color and adjust tones. More...



AKVIS Frames — Decorate Your Photos with Frames

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS Frames is free software designed for working with the AKVIS frame packs. Using the program it's easy to decorate your photos with exclusive picture frames! More...



AKVIS HDRFactory — High Dynamic Range Images: Brighter than Reality!

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS HDRFactory lets you create an HDR (High Dynamic Range) image from a series of shots or from one single photo. The program can also be used for photo correction.
HDRFactory brings life and color to your photos! More...



AKVIS LightShop — Light and Star Effects

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS LightShop lets you create an infinite number of astounding light effects! The program offers advanced lighting techniques for adding stars and glow effects to images. A light effect draws attention and brighten up any photo. Add a little magic to your pictures! More...



AKVIS Magnifier — Change Image Size without Quality Loss

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS Magnifier helps to resize images without loss in quality. Whether creating poster-size images, adding resolution for printing an enlargement, or reducing image size, Magnifier will make your prints look sharper and better defined. More...



AKVIS MakeUp — Retouch Your Portrait Photos!

(Windows | Mac OS X)

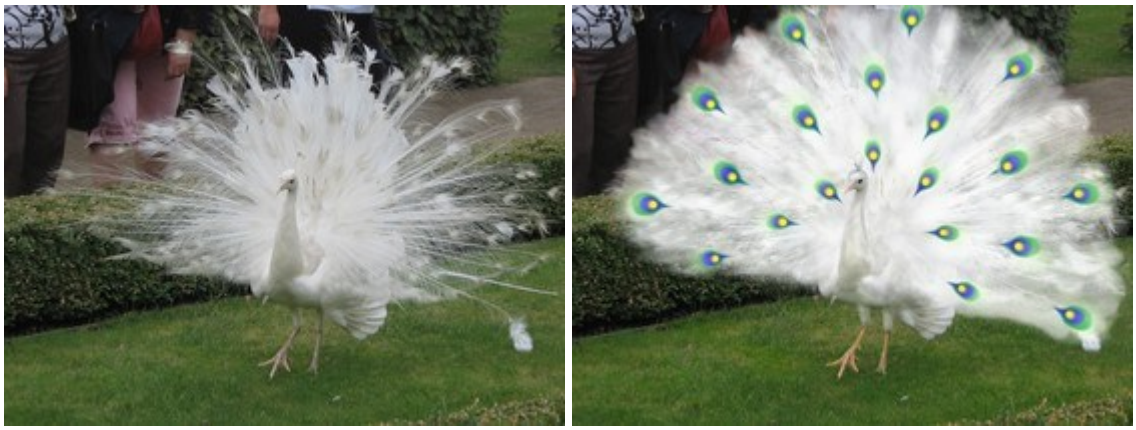
AKVIS MakeUp improves portraits and adds glamour to photos, giving them a professional look. The software retouches small defects on a skin, making it radiant, beautiful, pure and even, as you can see on artistic images. More...



AKVIS MultiBrush — Image Editing & Drawing Tools

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS MultiBrush is rich in features and easy to use image editing software. It is an all-in-one photo enhancement and retouching solution. The software lets you edit a portrait, restore an old image, paint funny details on a photo or create an image from scratch. The program offers two sets of tools — *Standard* and *Artistic Brushes*. More...



AKVIS NatureArt — Bring Nature to Your Photos

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS NatureArt is an excellent tool for imitating the magnificence of natural phenomena on your photos. Add dramatic nature effects to your photo, change the weather on it! With NatureArt you can become a wizard! More...



AKVIS Neon — Glowing Drawings from Photos

(Windows | Mac OS X)

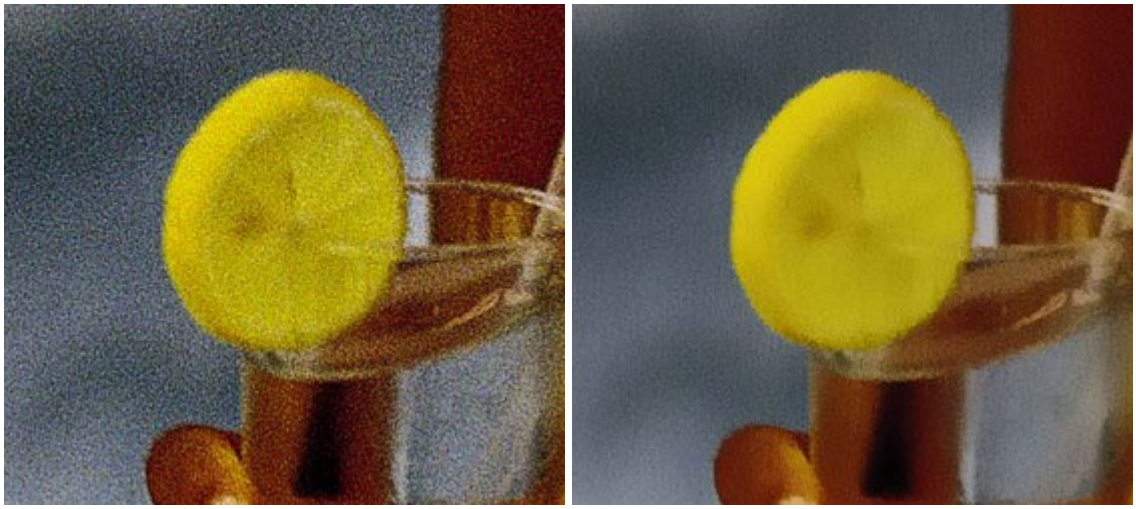
AKVIS Neon lets you create amazing glowing lines effects. The software transforms a photo into a neon image that looks like drawn with luminescent ink. More...



AKVIS Noise Buster — Digital Noise Reduction

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS Noise Buster is software for noise suppression on digital and scanned images. Digital noise can be seen as artifacts and random red and blue pixels that compromise the smoothness of a photo. The program is efficient against both color and luminance noise. More...



AKVIS OilPaint — Oil Painting Effect

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS OilPaint turns your photos into oil paintings. The mysterious production of a painting happens right before your eyes. The unique algorithm authentically reproduces the technique of the real brush. With this cutting-edge software you can become a painter! More...



AKVIS Pastel — Turn Photos into Pastel Paintings

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS Pastel turns your photos into pastel paintings. The program converts your photo into a lifelike digital art imitating one of the most popular artistic techniques. AKVIS Pastel is a powerful tool to unleash your creativity! More...



AKVIS Points — Apply Pointillism Effect to Your Photos

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS Points lets you transform your photos into paintings using one of the most exciting artistic techniques - pointillism. With the software you can easily create gorgeous works of art in a pointillist manner. Discover the world of bright colors! More...



AKVIS Refocus — Focus Improvement & Blur Effects

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS Refocus improves sharpness of out of focus images. The program can process the entire photo or bring into focus only the selected part to make the subject stand out against the background. It's also possible to add bokeh and lens blur effects to your photos.
The software works in three modes: *Refocus*, *Tilt-Shift*, and *Iris Blur*. More...



AKVIS Retoucher — Image Restoration Software

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS Retoucher is an efficient program for photo restoration and photo retouching. The software removes dust, scratches, stains, and other defects that appear on damaged photos. It intelligently reconstructs the missing parts of the photo using the information of the surrounding areas. More...



AKVIS Sketch — Convert a Photo to a Pencil Sketch

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS Sketch converts digital photos to amazing pencil sketches and watercolor drawings.
Now you do not need to handle a pencil to feel like an artist. All you need to create your original work of art is good taste and AKVIS Sketch. More...



AKVIS SmartMask — Save Time on Complex Selections!

(Windows | Mac OS X)

AKVIS SmartMask is an efficient selection tool that saves time and is fun to use. Selection has never been so simple! The software considerably increases your productivity. You will be freed from boring work and will have more room for creativity and realization of your ideas. More...

