

# PPW tools panel v 4.0

## THE PICTURE POSTCARD WORKFLOW BY DAN MARGULIS

Photoshop Free Utility Extension  
© 2014 Dan Margulis / Giuliana Abbiati

BY DAN MARGULIS

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# 1.0 System Requirements

- 1 **PPW Tools Panel v 4.0** works within Photoshop CS5/CS5.5/CS6/CC/CC2014 on both Mac and PC platforms.



- 2 **PPW4Tools\_CS5-6-CC.zxp** is a universal Installer for Mac/Win; Photoshop CS5.x/CS5.5/CS6/CC

**PPW4Tools\_only\_CC2014.zxp** is the Installer for Mac/Win; Photoshop CC2014

- 3 **PPW Tools Panel v 4.0** replaces only the beta version, if installed, but we recommend you uninstall any previous version before proceeding with the installation.

- 4 **PPW Tools Panel v 4.0** is installed by the following Adobe applications:

**Adobe Extension Manager CS5 for Photoshop CS5**

**Adobe Extension Manager CS5.5 for Photoshop CS5.5**

**Adobe Extension Manager CS6 for Photoshop CS6/CS6.1**

**Adobe Extension Manager CC for Photoshop CC/CC2014**



**AEM 7.2.1.6 or higher is required to make an installation into Photoshop CC2014**

Adobe Extension Manager is an Adobe utility that is part of the standard Photoshop installation. Our installer accesses it automatically.

If for some reason it wasn't installed with Photoshop, you can download this application at:

[http://www.adobe.com/exchange/em\\_download/](http://www.adobe.com/exchange/em_download/)

You can find this application at the following path:

MAC: **/ Applications/Adobe Extension Manager CSx/Adobe Extension Manager CSx**

WIN: **C:\Program Files\Adobe\Adobe Extension Manager CSx\Adobe Extension Manager CSx.exe**



## 2.0 Installation Mac/Win

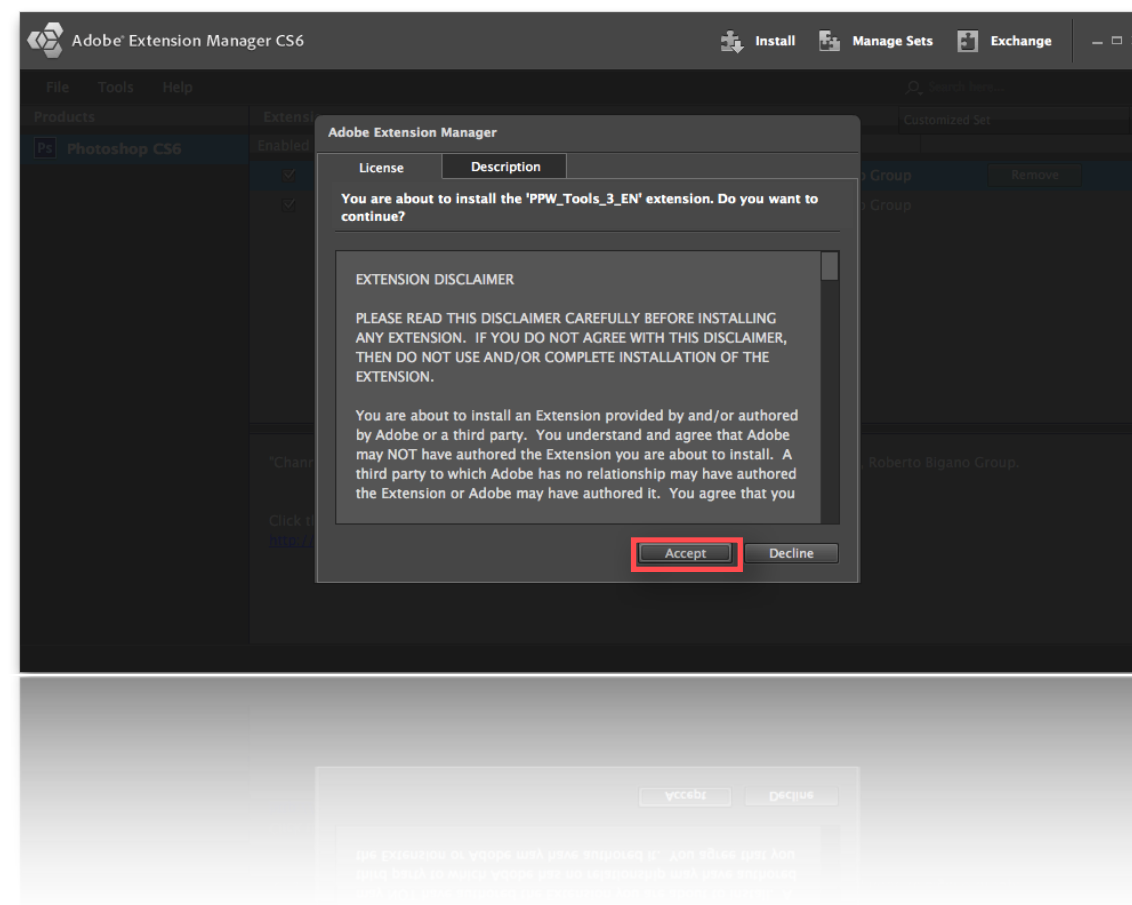
- 1 Quit Photoshop if it is running.
- 2 Double click the "PPW4Tools\_CS5-6-CC.zxp " file:  
or  
Double click the "PPW4Tools\_only CC2014.zxp " file:
- 3 Once Extension Manager is opened, accept installation and confirm all the steps.



PPW4Tools\_CS5-6-CC\_100814 zxp



PPW4Tools only CC2014.zxp

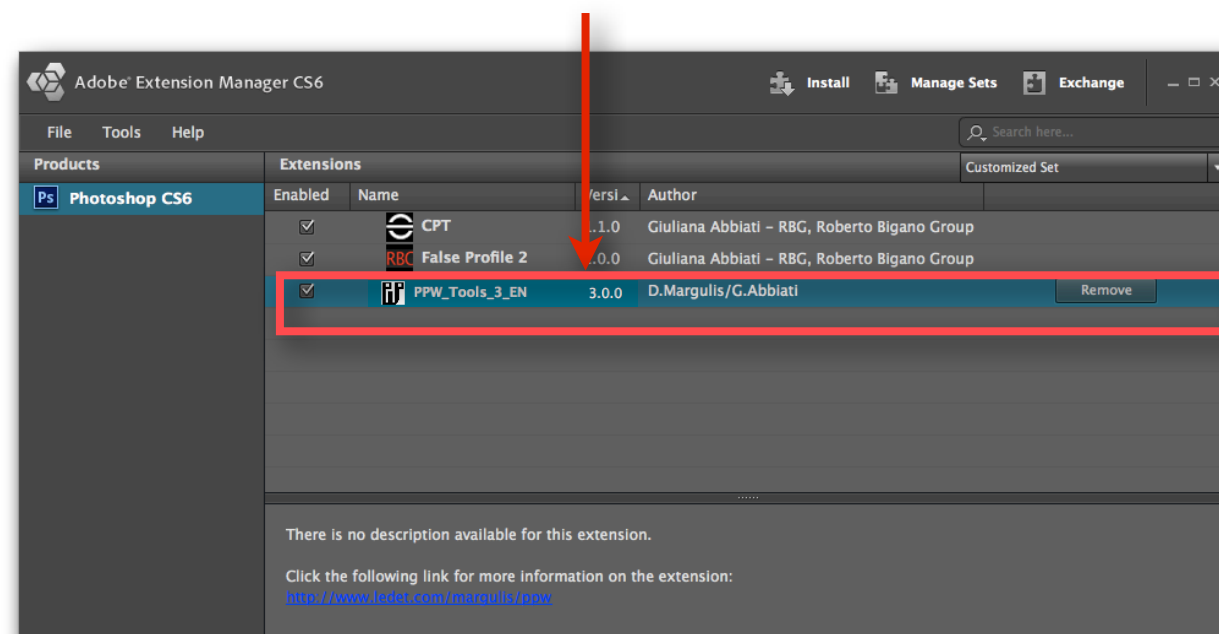


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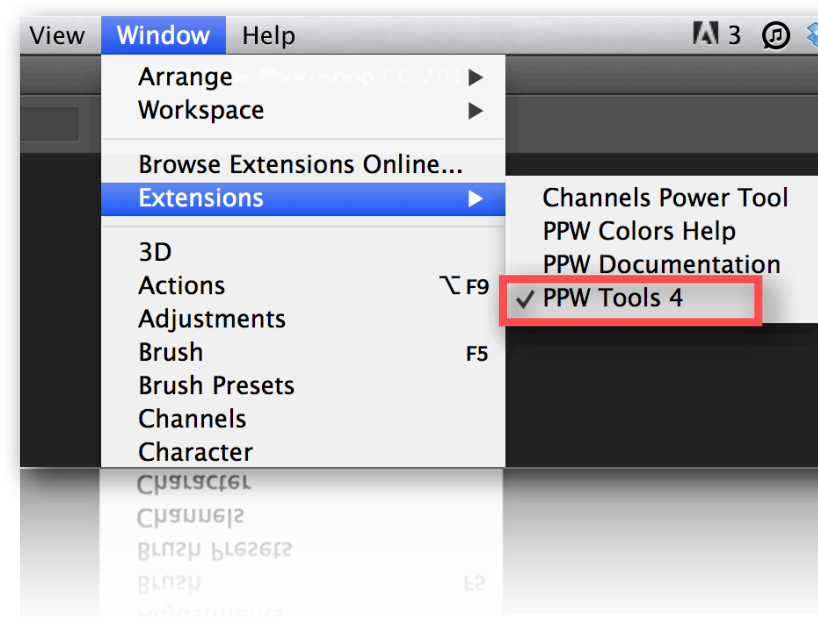


## 2.1 Installation Mac/Win

- 4** The Extension is now installed and listed this way in Adobe Extension Manager. At this point close the application Extension Manager CSx.



- 5** Re-Open Photoshop and open the panel from : Window> Extensions> PPW Tools 4



If you have any problems to open the panel read the Troubleshooting section.

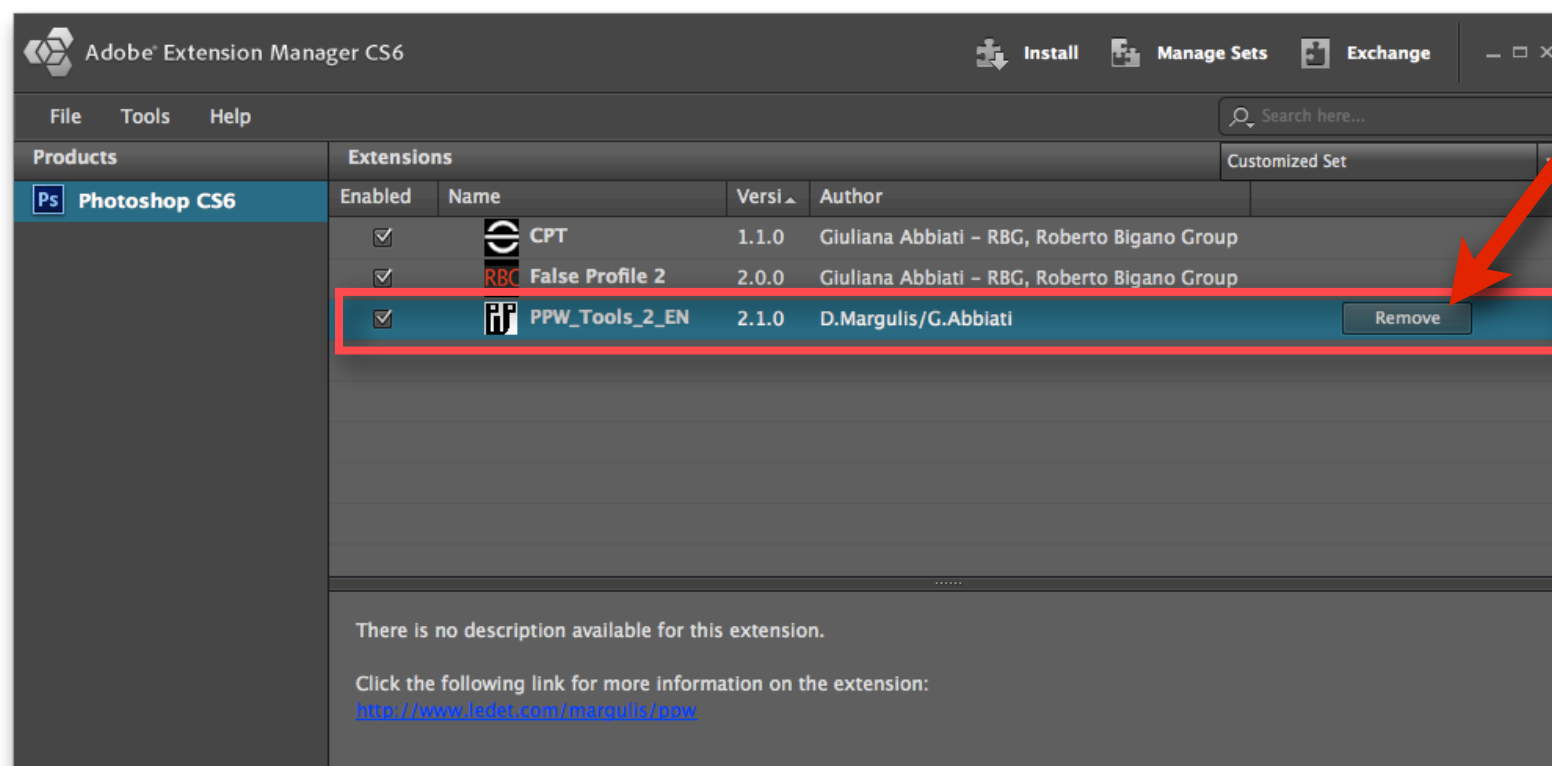


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## 3.0 To Uninstall

- 1 To remove this or previous versions of the panel, select Photoshop CSx in the left column, select the PPW\_Tools\_3\_EN line and press the REMOVE button.



### ATTENTION: WINDOWS VISTA -WINDOWS 7 USERS



To install, update or uninstall the panel you must run Extension Manager application as an administrator. Even if you are logged to your computer as an administrator follow this instruction if something goes wrong: find Adobe Extension Manager CSx application in your Programs folder. Default path is:

**C:\Program Files\Adobe\Adobe Extension Manager CS6\Adobe Extension Manager CS6.exe**

(It may change depending upon your language and whether you have chosen a custom installation path.)

Now right-click on the Adobe Extension Manager CSx.exe application and in the contextual menu choose “Run as administrator” ([see Image in the Troubleshooting section](#)).

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# 4.0 What is installed

The PPW 4 Tools.zxp file installs and loads the following items on your computer:

The Panel



The entire action set



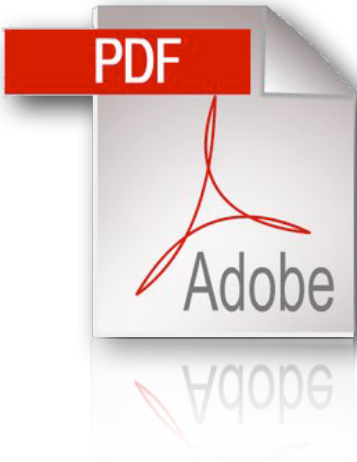
Margulis PPW Actions v4.atn

ICC RGB False Profiles

ICC False CMYK



PDF Documentation



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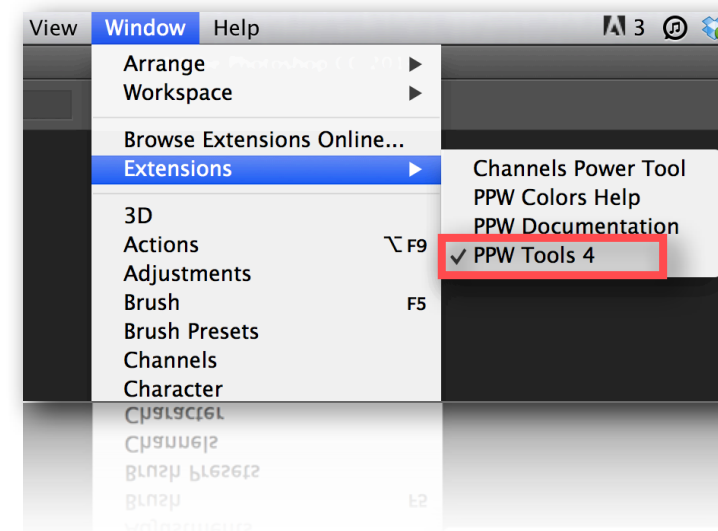
# 4.1 What is installed: panel

## 1 PPW 4 Tools panel works as an extension in Photoshop CS5-CS6-CC-CC2014 versions.

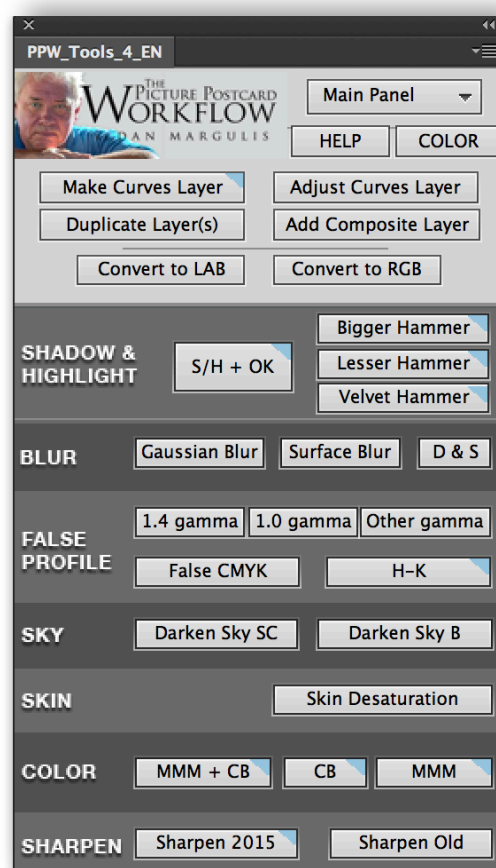
It is based on © 2014 Dan Margulis PPW workflow.

All the actions and commands used in the workflow have a logical order.

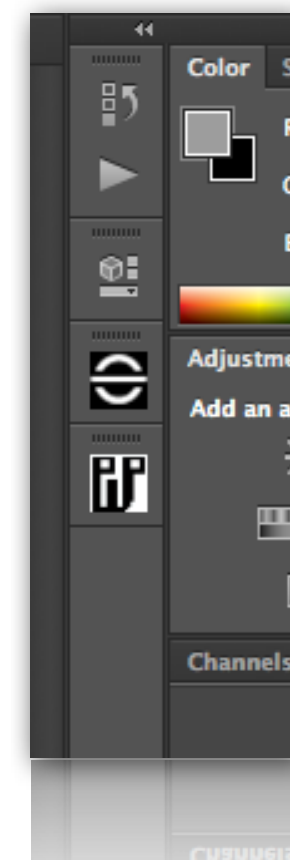
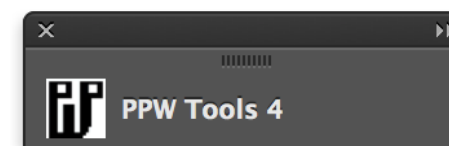
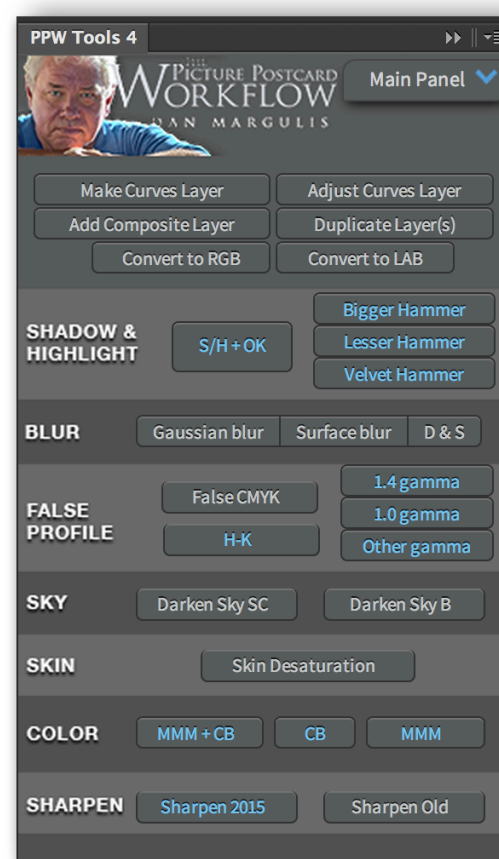
You can open and activate it from: **Window> Extensions> PPW Tools 4**  
As with all Photoshop panels, you can dock and undock it, move the panel into a group, let it float freely, resize, collapse and expand it to icon view.



CS5/6/CC



CC 2014





## 4.2 What is installed: ICC profiles

2 False profiles delivered with the panel are automatically installed in these locations:



### WIN

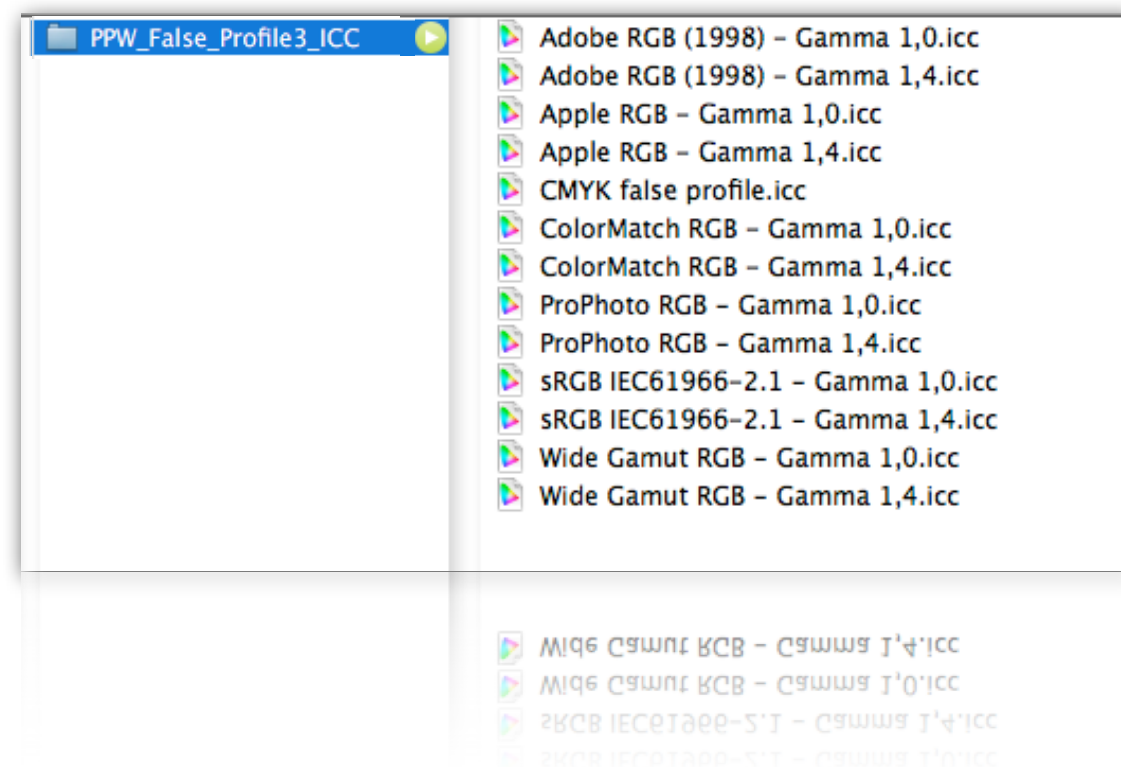
C://Windows/Program/Common Files/Adobe/Color/Profiles/PPW\_False\_Profiles3\_ICC



### MAC

/User\_Home/Library/ColorSync/Profiles/False\_Profiles3\_ICC folder

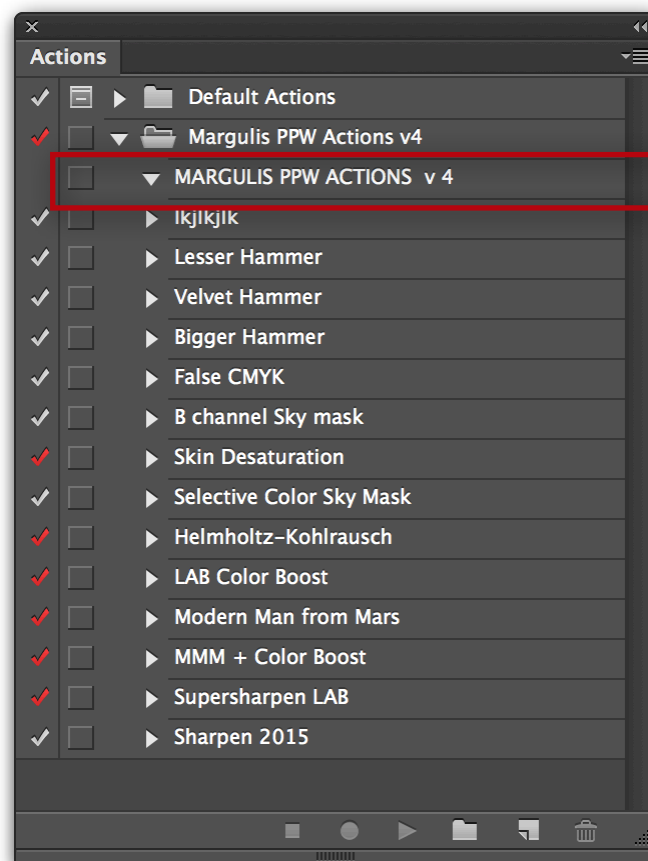
ICC files are used by the scripted buttons (1.4 gamma-1.0 gamma and False CMYK) on the panel, so you don't need to manually create anything for the false profile buttons to work properly. The script senses any embedded profile, so it knows what flavor of false profile to apply.





## 4.3 What is installed: action set

- 3 Actions are delivered and automatically installed as a set named **“Margulis PPW Actions v4”** within the panel. Action set 4 is automatically loaded when opening the panel without any user input.



This inactive and empty action tells you the Action set version release.

### NOTE:

If you accidentally delete the set from the Actions panel, just click the **\*Reset Action Set\*** button in the Preferences section of the panel.

If you accidentally delete a single action from the action set, delete the entire set. Then click **\*Reset Action Set\*** and the full action set will regenerate automatically.





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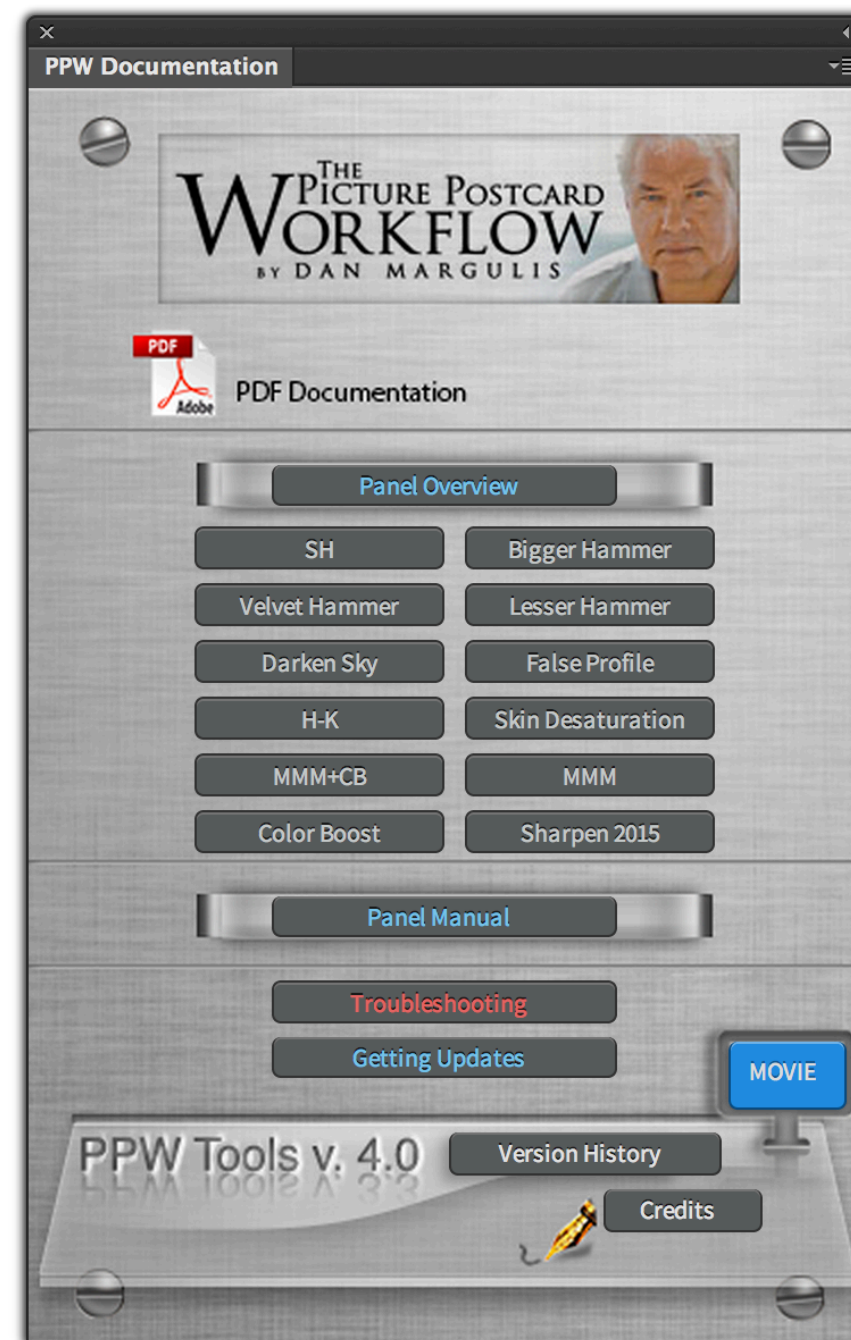


## 4.4 What is installed: documentation

- 4** Documentation is automatically installed within the panel.  
The documentation window is accessed by choosing Help from the main panel.  
The order of the documentation is that in which the actions would be applied in the PPW.

Open and read  
all the PDF  
documentation  
directly from the panel

Watch the MCWF video tutorials  
online



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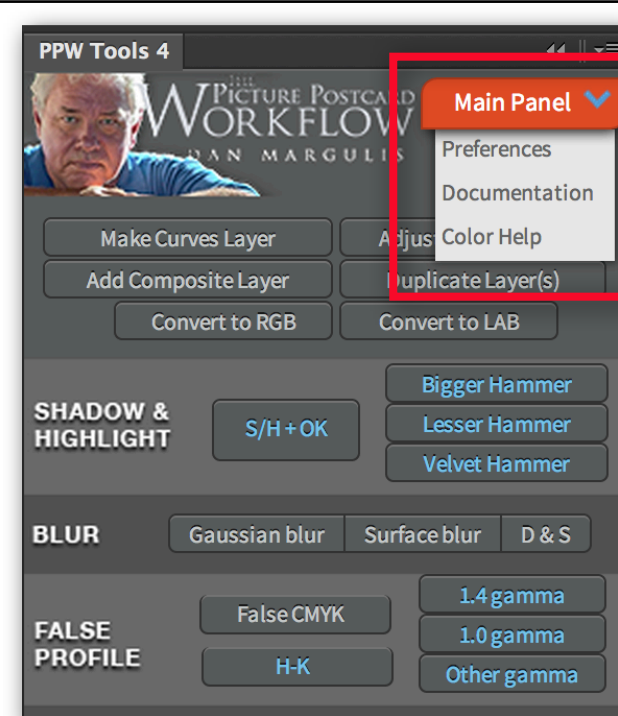
# 5.0 Panel Menu Overview

panel CC 2014

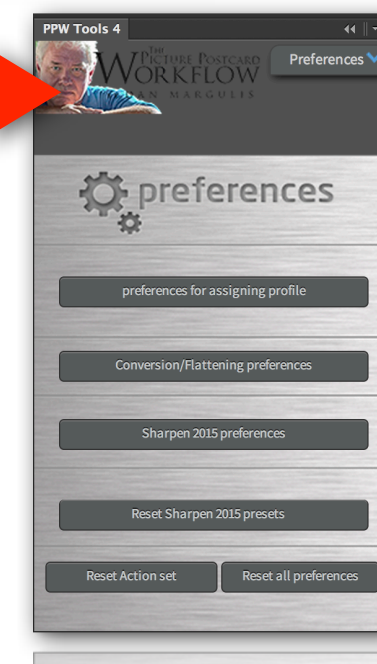
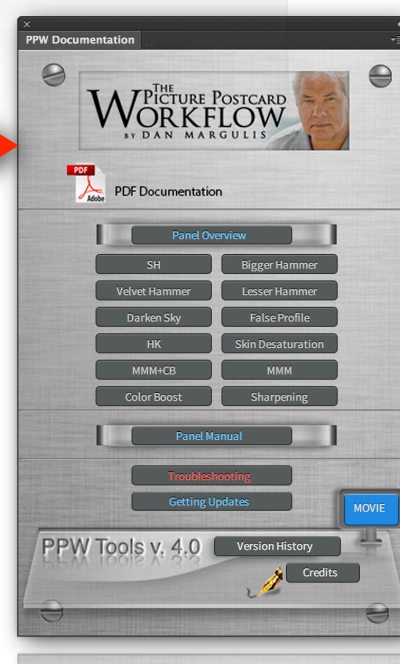
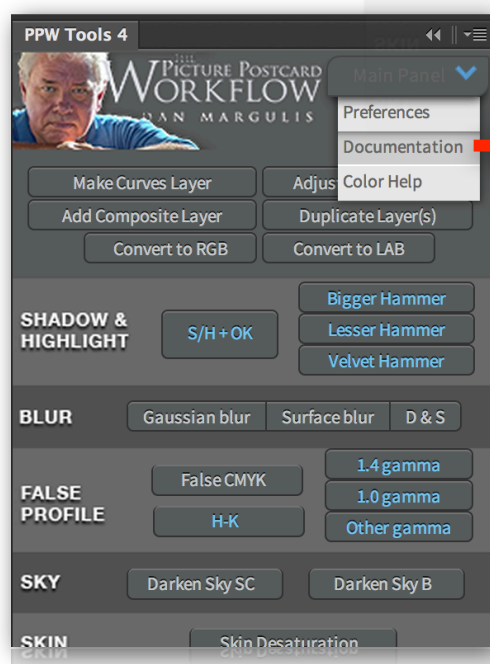


Press the Documentation link to open the  
**Documentation window**

Panel menu



Press the Preferences link to display the  
**Preferences section**





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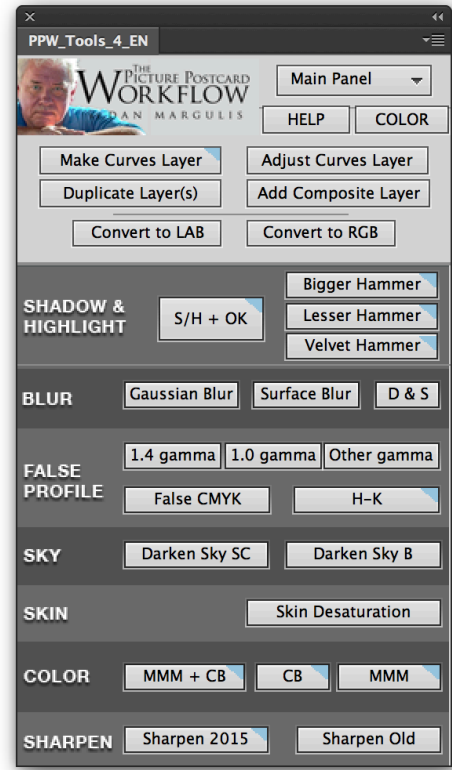
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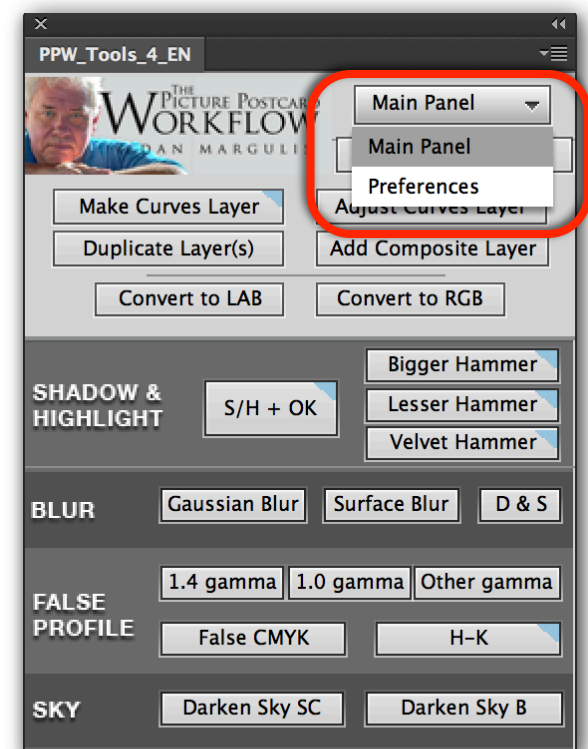


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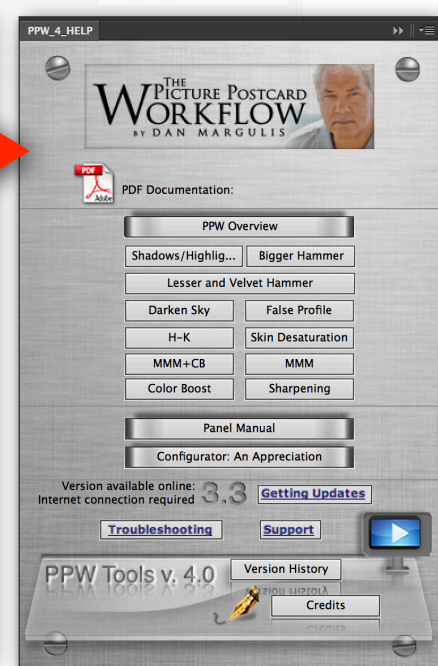
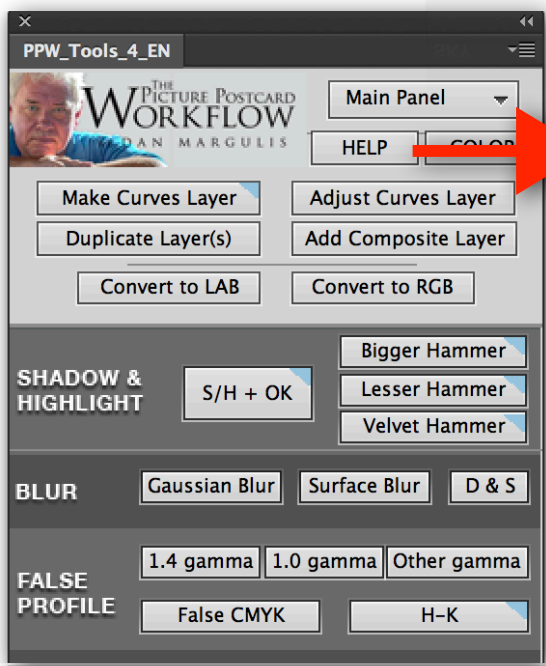
panel CS5 CS6-CC



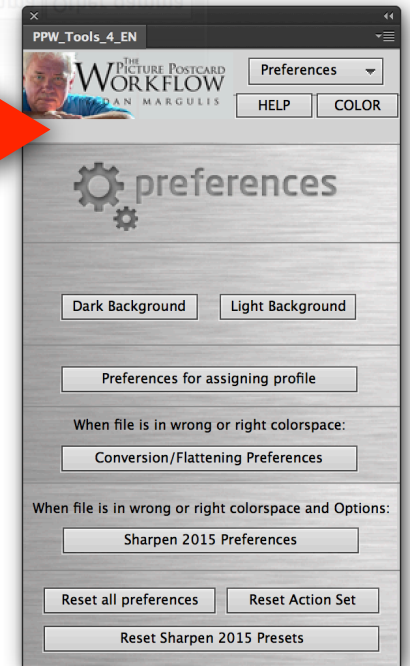
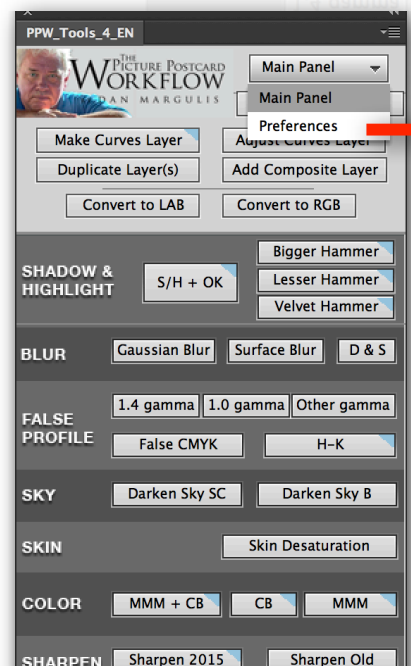
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Press the Help button to open the Documentation window



Press the Preferences link to display the Preferences section



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# 5.2 Panel Menu Overview

Press the COLOR button/link to display the Quick link to a Lab color schematic and to an index of suggested LAB equivalents for the colors of various common objects.

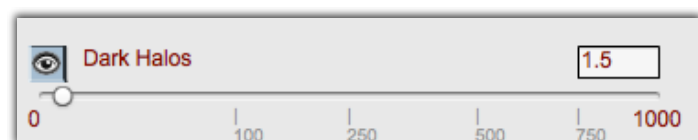
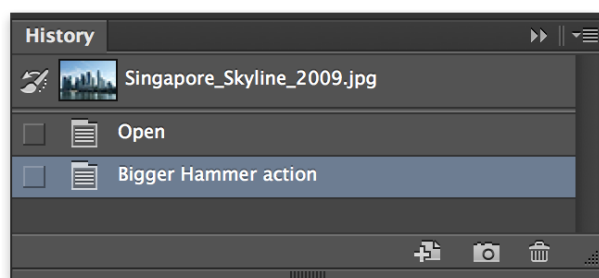
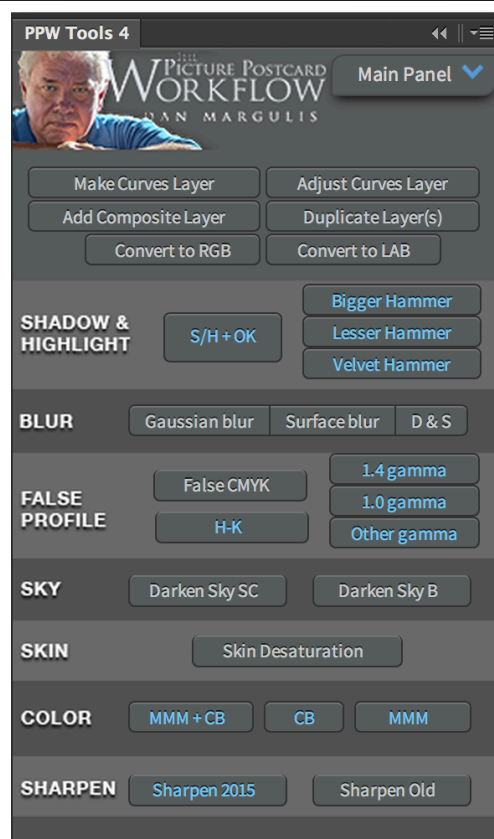
The image displays a collage of screenshots from the PPW Tools 3 and 4 software. The main screenshot shows the 'PPW Tools 3\_EN' window with the 'COLOR' button highlighted in a red box. An arrow points from this button to a 'LAB\_schematic' window showing a color wheel and LAB color values. Another arrow points from the 'Main Panel' dropdown menu to a 'SKIES' window showing a color gradient and LAB color values. Other windows shown include 'NEUTRALS', 'CLOUDS', and 'SKIN'.



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## 6.0 How it Works: panel general rules



All buttons are completely scripted and do not reference anything in the actions set.

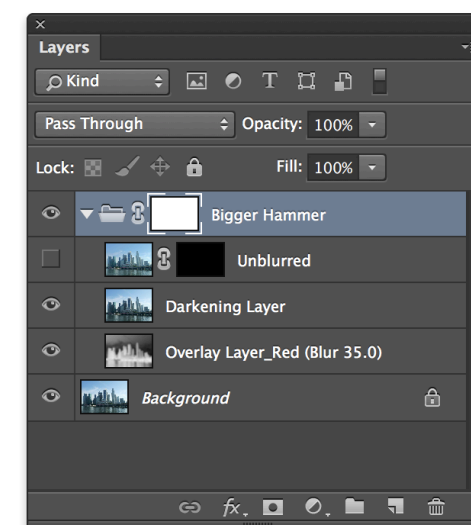
Action set 4 is automatically loaded when opening the panel without user input.

All actions can be applied more than once on the same document without canceling the action.

Some action layers are now grouped and identified by the action's name ( Bigger Hammer/Velvet Hammer/Lesser Hammer/ HK / MMM+CB / MMM / SHARPEN 2013 / SHARPEN OLD )

The action is registered as a single history state and creates a layer with its name.

Many of these actions are complex, some with over 100 individual steps. If run from Photoshop's Actions panel, these steps may completely fill the document's history so that it is impossible to revert to a previous state. However, the PPW panel has been scripted to consider each action as a single state, so that it can be cancelled entirely with a Command-Z (Mac) or Ctrl-Z (Win). The document history is protected.



The value of the Slider for the Gaussian Blur in the BH action (options window) and the value of the sliders for the Unsharp Mask in the SHARPEN 2013 action (options window) are updated to accord with the PS version that is in use.

Preferences follow the Photoshop version used. This means that if you have both CS5 and CS6 installed, you can use different settings for each.

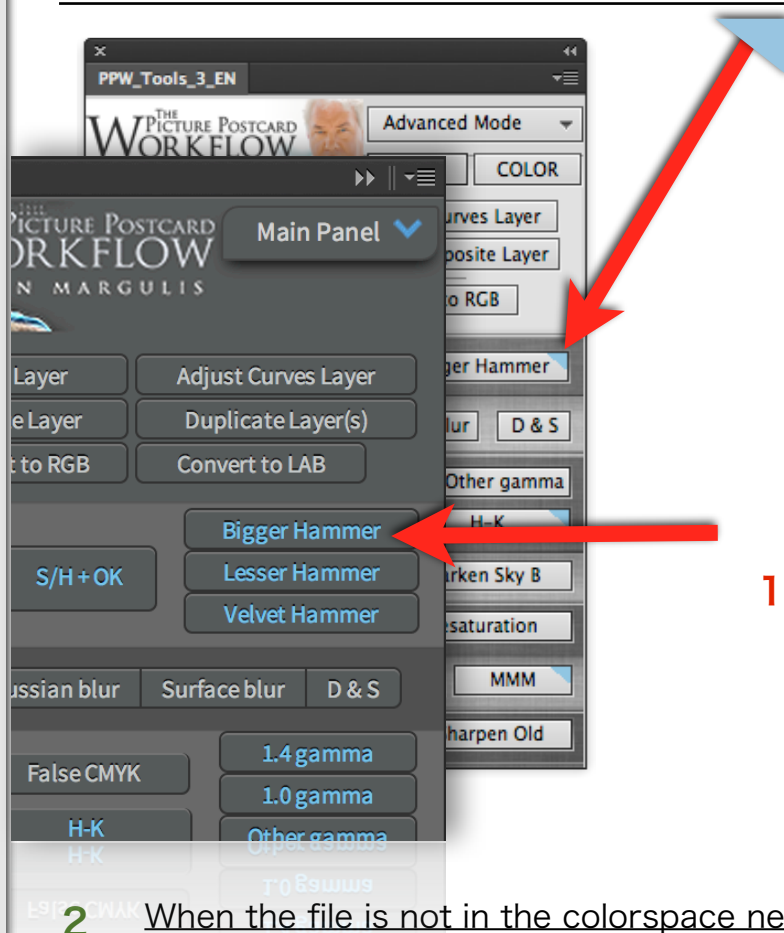
Preferences are stored separately from previous PPW versions.



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## 6.1 How it Works: panel general rules



A blue corner or a blue text indicates that options are available for this button.

To access the options, Option-click (Mac) or Alt-click (Win) the button. The action runs applying its current default settings, then an Options window appears and you can try different settings for the action you are running and apply custom settings to the current image only. Or you can change the action's default behavior so that all subsequent files will be treated that way.

If you just click a button the action runs as \*PPW default\* or with a \*Custom setting\* if saved in the Options window.

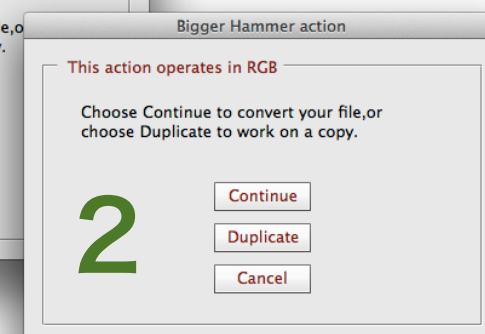
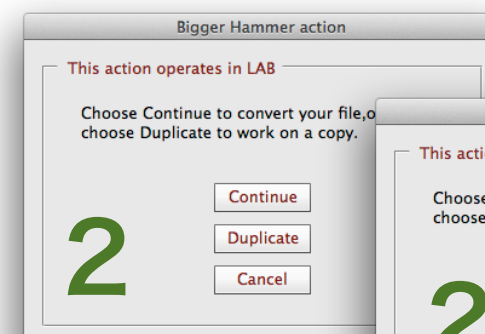
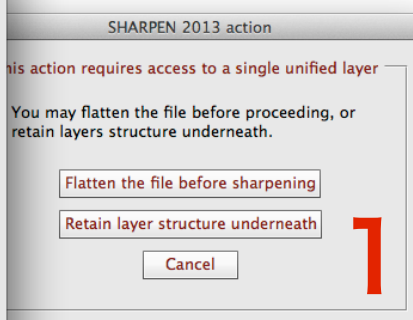
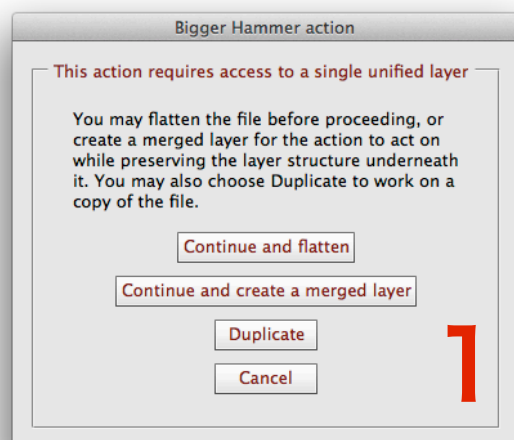
**In both cases :**

- 1 When the file is in the colorspace needed by the action and there is more than one layer a warning dialog opens and lets you decide if to run  
on a duplicate  
on the same document flattened or  
on the same document retaining all the Layers.

(These options can change accordingly with the type of action.)

- 2 When the file is not in the colorspace needed by the action a warning dialog opens and lets you choose to:  
run on the same document (flattening all layers) or  
run on a duplicate.

By default a warning window opens to choose how to proceed but user can set his own rule to run as default. (See Preferences panel section: Rulers for Flattening/ Conversion and Preferences for SHARPEN 2015).



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# 7.0 How it Works: buttons common tools

This section does not contain actions. Instead, it offers one-click access to the Photoshop commands that the PPW uses most frequently.

## Make Curves Layer

Adds and opens an adjustment layer using the traditional Photoshop curves dialog rather than the one introduced in Photoshop CS4. There is no confirmation dialog by default. Option-clicking produces the standard Photoshop confirmation dialog, which allows you to name and set mode for the adjustment layer.

## Adjust Curves Layer

Opens existing curves adjustment layers. Uses the traditional Photoshop curves dialog even if the layer was not created by the PPW panel.

## Duplicate Layer(s)

Duplicates the selected layer and adds a layer mask. It works also when multiple LAYERS and/or GROUPS are selected.

## Add Composite Layer

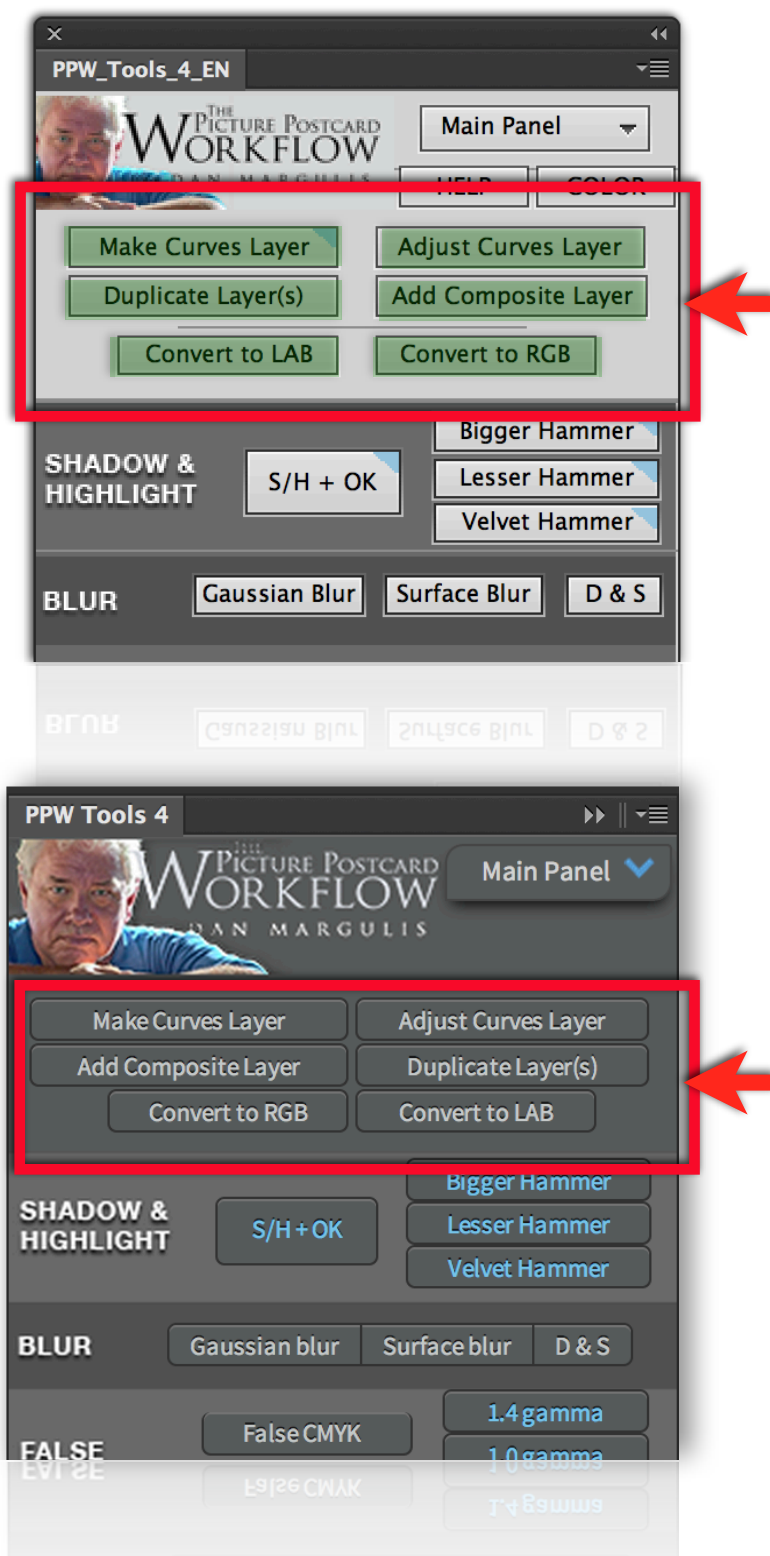
Creates a merged layer at the top of your layer stack, reflecting the entirety of what is beneath. Invisible layers are ignored. It does not matter which layer(s) are active when this button is clicked.

## Convert to LAB

Converts the image to Lab mode.

## Convert to RGB

Converts the file to RGB, using the RGB workspace defined in your Photoshop Color Settings dialog.



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## 7.1 How it Works: buttons blurring tools

### BLURRING default TOOLS:

#### Gaussian Blur

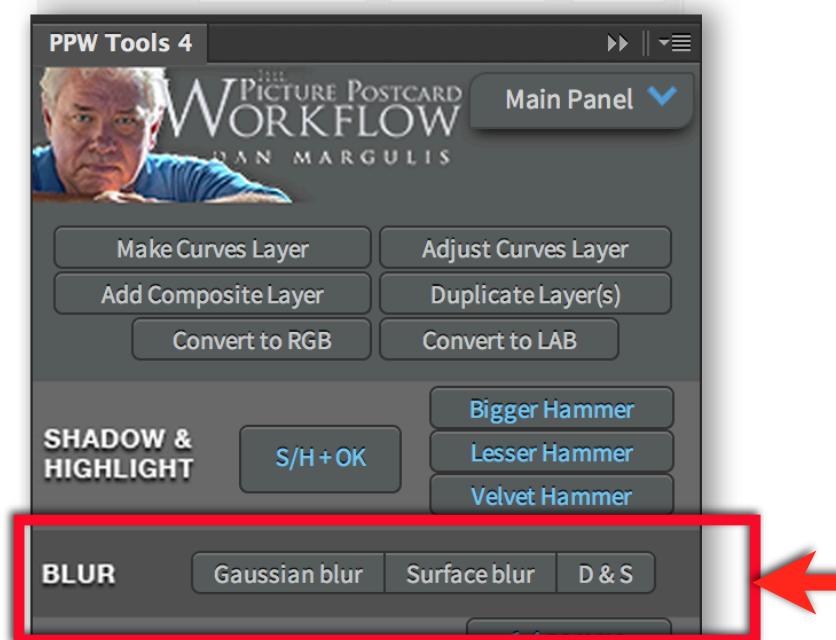
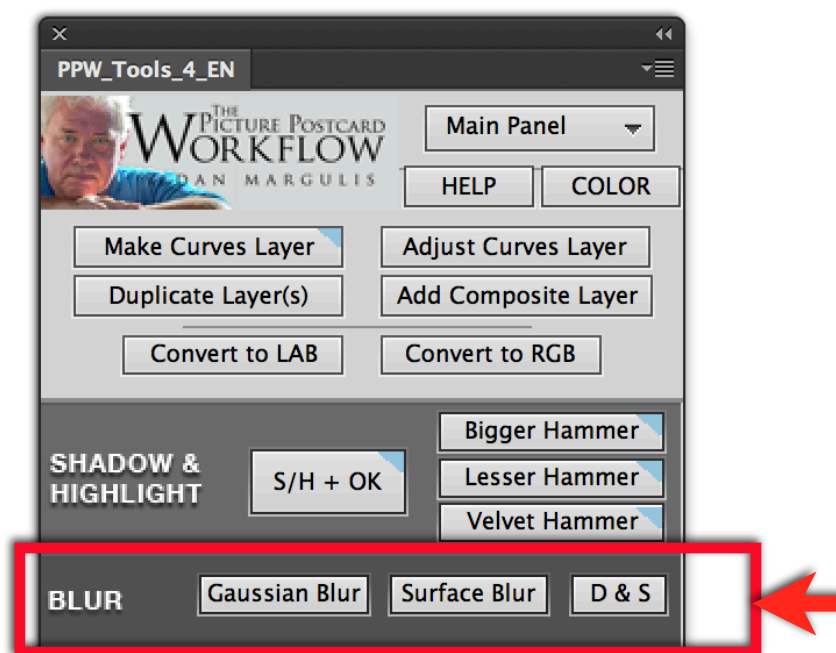
Opens the Gaussian Blur dialog.

#### Surface Blur

Opens the Surface Blur dialog.

#### D & S

Opens the Dust & Scratches dialog.





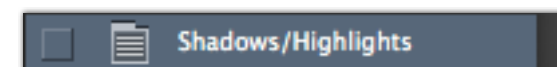


## 7.2 How it Works: buttons S/H + OK



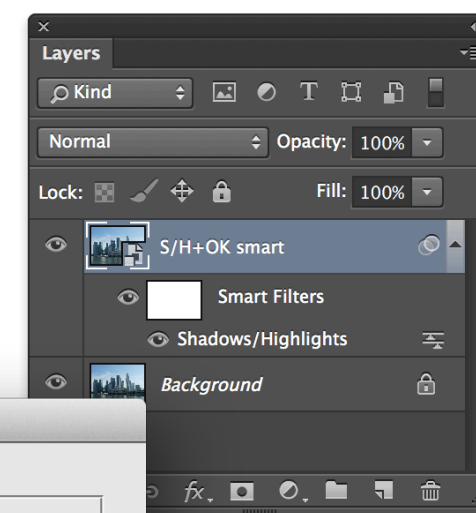
### S/H+OK

Applies the Shadows/Highlights command using the PPW recommended default parameters. The command does not require a specific colorspace, and is registered as a single history state.



**S/H+OK** can be applied \*directly\* to the image data or \*non-destructively\* as a Smart Filter.

As default it is applied in permanent mode.



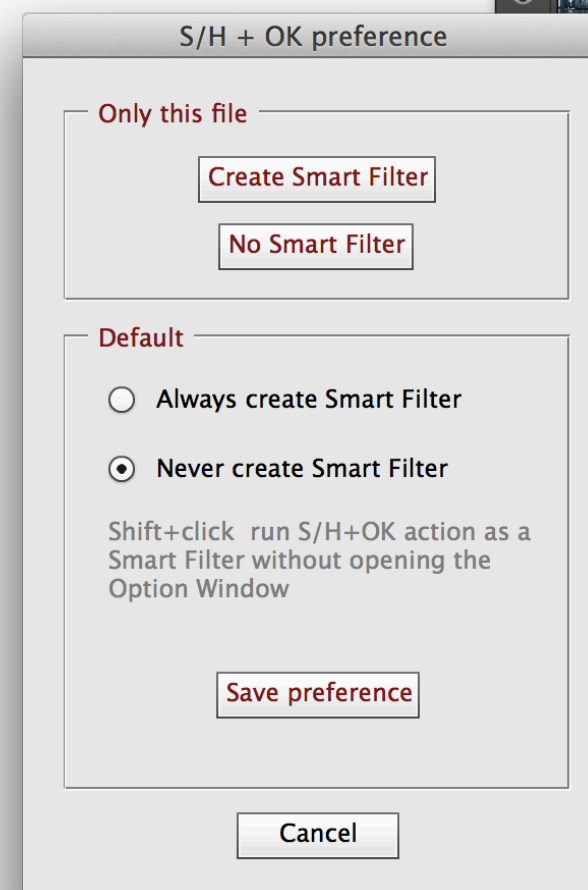
### Alt+clicking

opens the S/H preference window and you can set your preference for the default.

### Shift+clicking

If you set the preference to apply it permanently (by selecting the option "Never create Smart Filter") you can at any time create a Smart Filter **Shift+clicking** the S/H+Ok button.

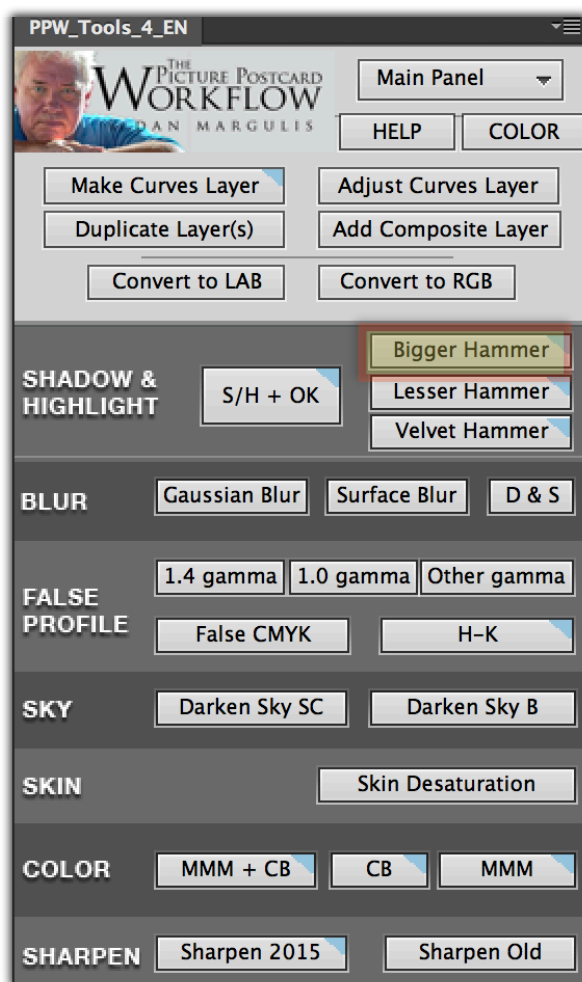
If you set the preference to apply it in a non-destructive way (by selecting the option "Always create Smart Filter") you can at any time apply it in a permanent way **Shift+clicking** the S/H+Ok button.



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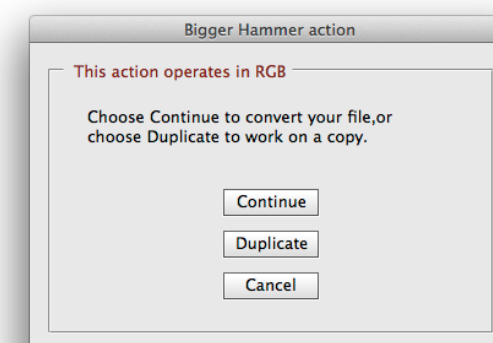
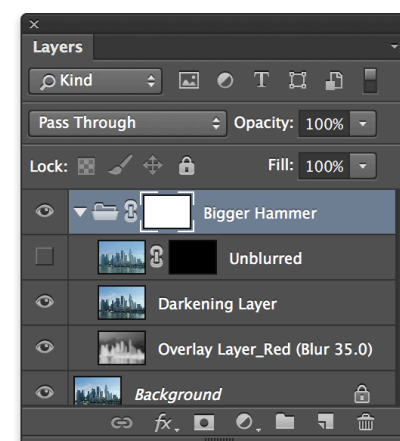
## 7.3 How it Works: buttons Bigger Hammer



### Bigger Hammer

Runs the Bigger Hammer our strong highlight and shadow enhancer. The action requires an RGB file and is registered as a single history state.

The action layers are now grouped and show the action's name.



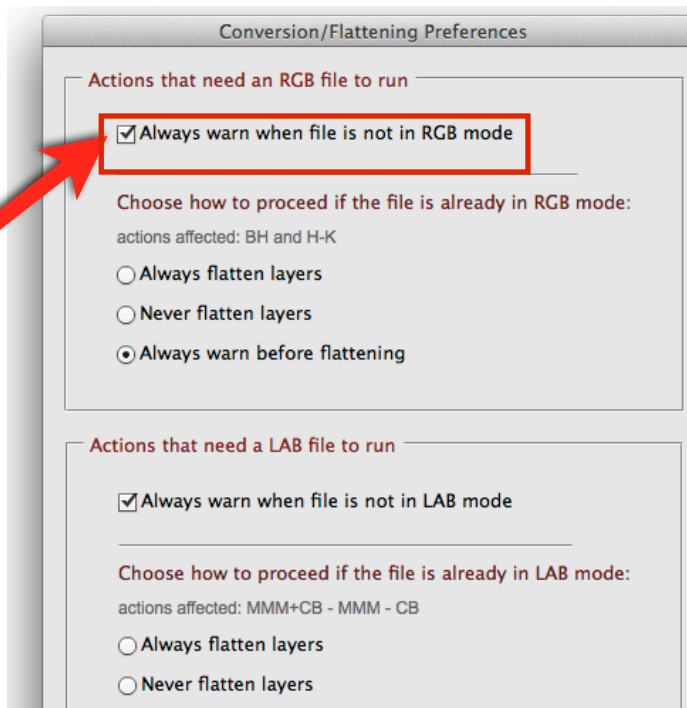
If the document is in the wrong colorspace a \*warning dialog\* opens and lets you choose **\*to continue on the same document** (it will be flattened and converted) or **\*to run on a duplicate**.

The duplicate will take the action name as suffix.

If you have alt+clicked the action then the Options window opens after you have done your choice. (see Bigger Hammer Options window section)

If you do not wish to see this dialog every time, go to the Preferences panel. Choose **Conversion/Flattening Preferences**, and uncheck "Always warn when file is not in RGB mode".

If you do so, this action and any other that requires an RGB file will simply convert any flattened file to RGB without a warning.

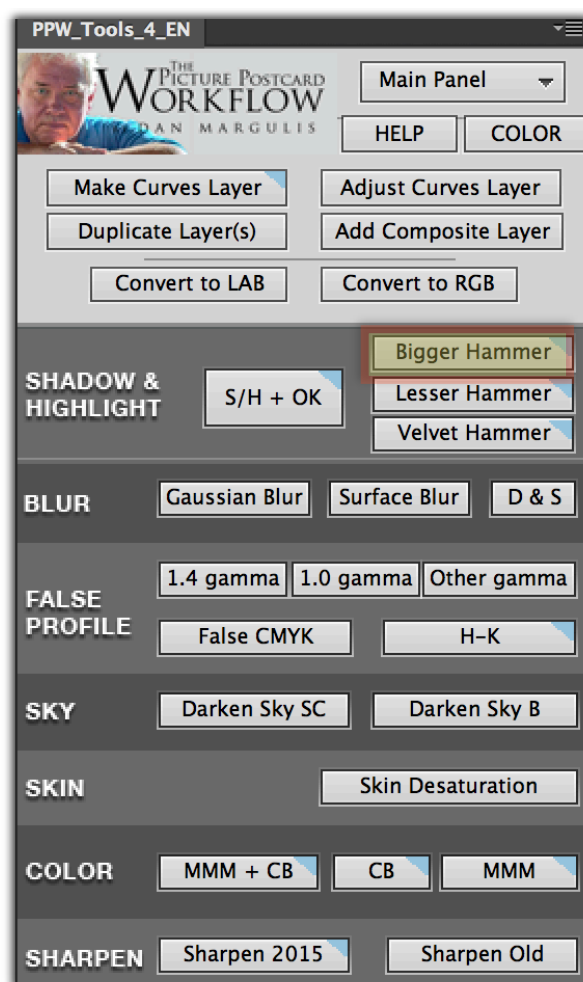




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## 7.4 How it Works: buttons Bigger Hammer



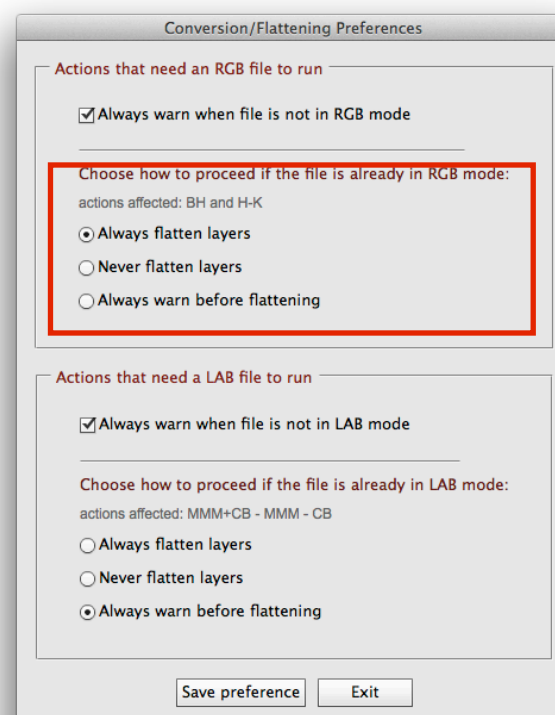
### Bigger Hammer

When the file is in the colorspace needed by the action and there is more than one layer a \*warning dialog\* opens and lets you decide if to \*Continue and flatten\*, \*Continue and create a merged layer\* or \*to run on a duplicate\*. The duplicate will take the action name as suffix.

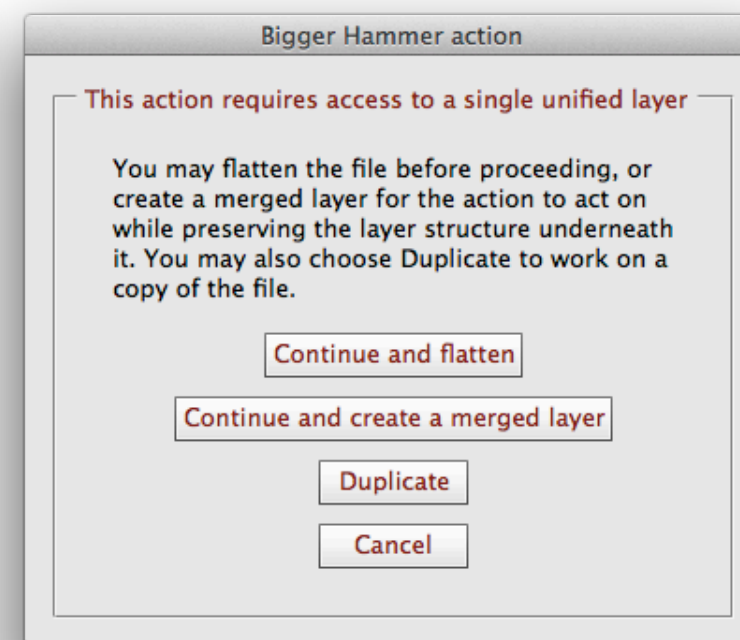
As default all warning dialogs opens but you can set your own preferences in the Preferences section of the panel (**Conversion/Flattening Preferences**).

If you have alt+clicked the action then the Options window opens after you have done your choice. (see Bigger Hammer Options window section)

### Preferences section

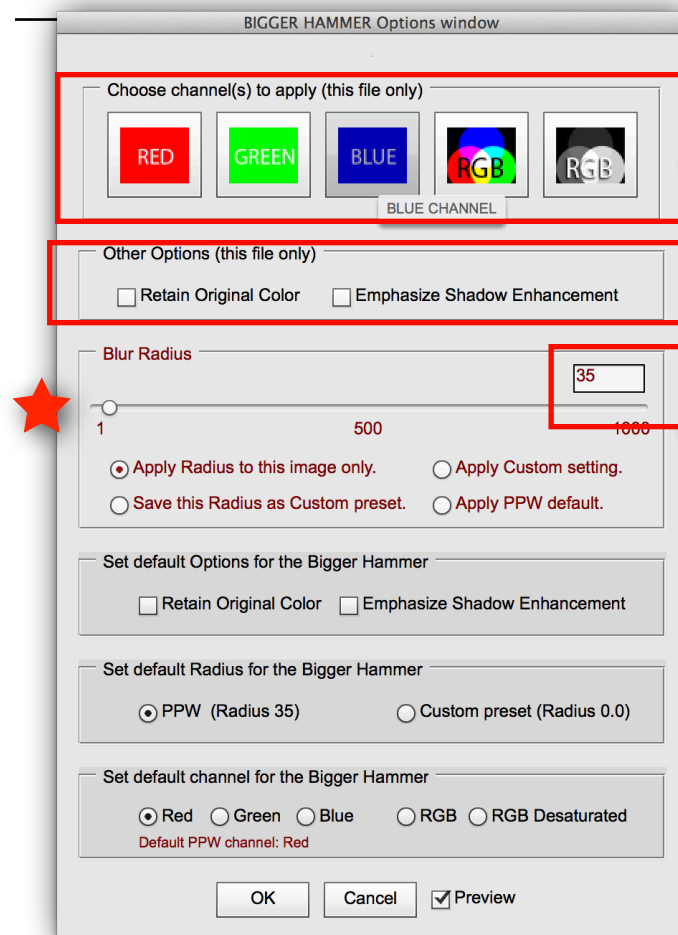


### warning dialog





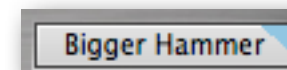
## 7.5 How it Works: buttons Bigger Hammer options



### Bigger Hammer options window

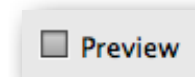
The BH options window gives an interactive preview to let you customize the actions.

Option-click (Mac) or Alt-click (Win) to open the options window after running the action as current default.



When the options window is open and Preview is checked, you can evaluate the impact of using different channels as overlays, also different blur radii.

To toggle back to the original, uncheck **\*Preview**.



You can also have two more options to try:

**\*Retain color** and **\*Emphasize Shadow Enhancement**.

These options are retained when you change the value of the Blur radius.

The PPW default is to use the red channel and a 35-pixel blur radius, but you can alter this default in the options window, and you can also apply custom settings to the current image only.

The slider value (in the text box) is constantly updated as the slider moves and you can edit a precise numeric value too.

The scripts detect which PS version is running (if CS5 the max radius is 250, if CS6 the max radius is 1000).



The **Blur Radius box** lets preview and apply the PPW radius setting or Custom, if a setting has been saved.

#### 1) Apply radius to this image only (default when you open the options window):

You can try a different radius and preview it in real time.

You can try a different channel and preview it in real time.

If you click the OK button the radius and the channel are applied to this image only.

#### 2) Save this radius as custom preset:

Store radius setting as a custom preset.

#### 3) Apply PPW default to this image only:

When this button is checked and you click OK, the PPW default Radius of 35 pixels is restored.

#### 4) Apply custom setting to this image only:

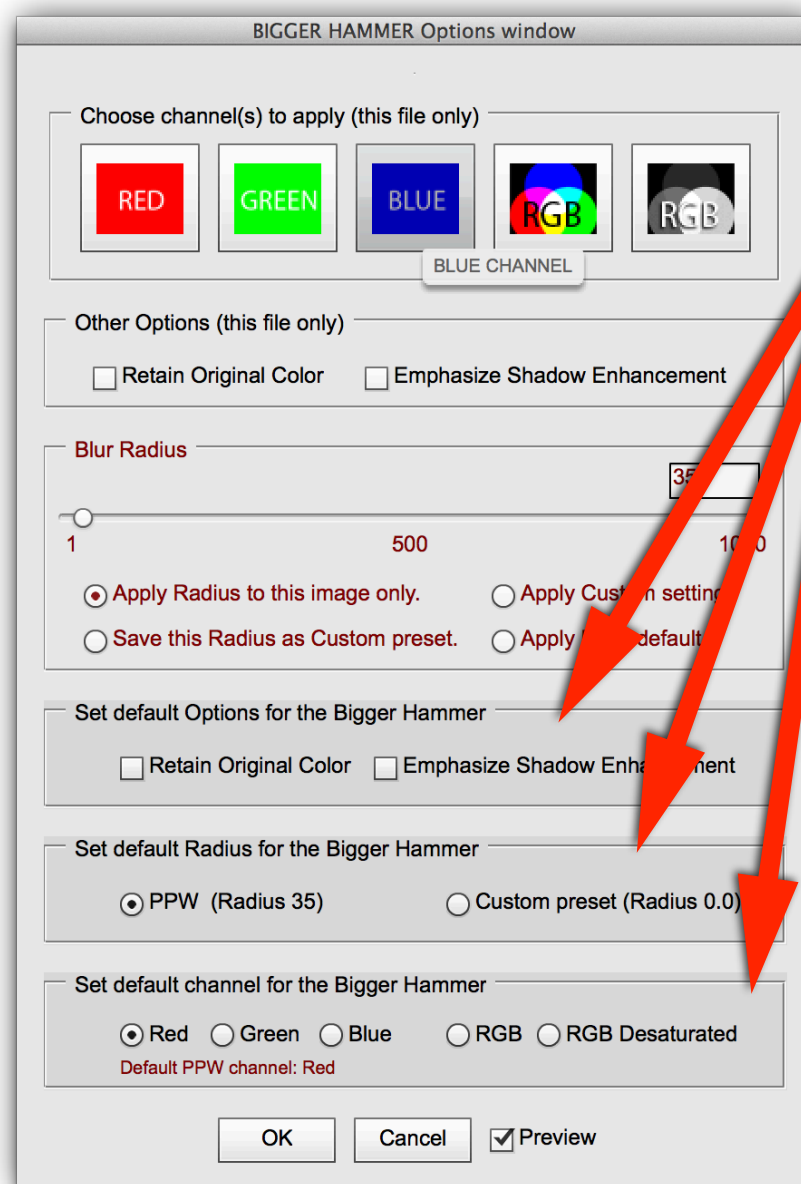
When this button is checked and you click OK, the PPW default Radius of 35 pixels is restored.

The options panel lets you verify the current Bigger Hammer defaults. Whichever channel and Radius are indicated when the panel opens are the current defaults.

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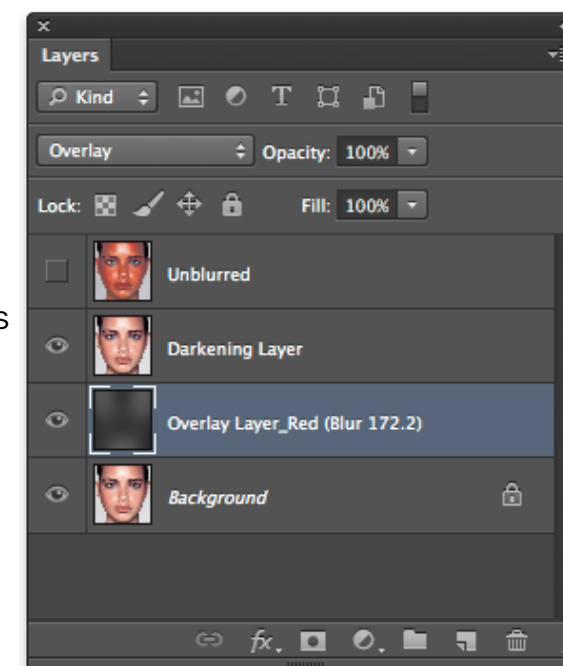
## 7.6 How it Works: buttons Bigger Hammer options



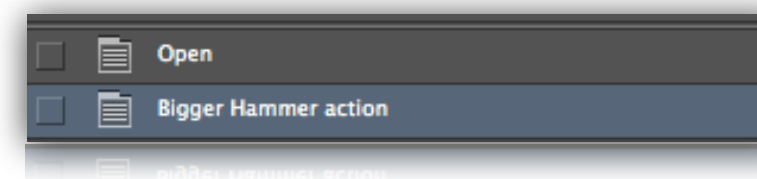
### Bigger Hammer options window

In the **default boxes** you can **set** and **see** which default (radius/ channel/ option) is in use by verifying which radio button is selected and you can change the action's default behavior so that all subsequent files will be treated that way.

The layer name shows always the channel and the blur radius that has been applied.



You can Undo the Bigger Hammer action either by Command-Z (Mac) or by clicking the snapshot "State before Bigger Hammer action." in Photoshop's History panel (Mac/Win).



If you click the **Cancel** button you return to your document without applying the Bigger Hammer action.



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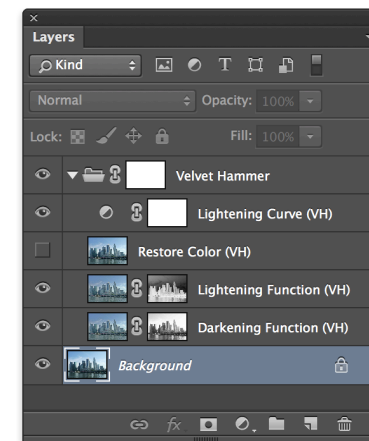
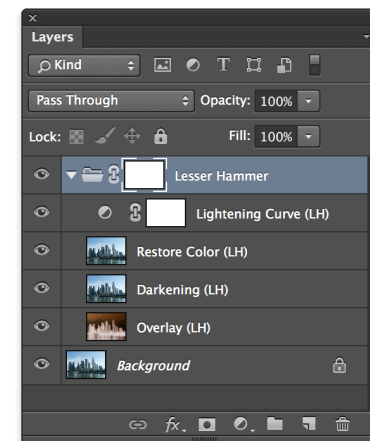
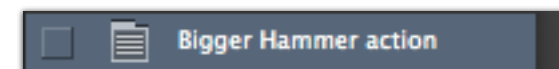
## 7.7 How it Works: buttons Lesser and Velvet Hammer



### Lesser Hammer - Velvet Hammer

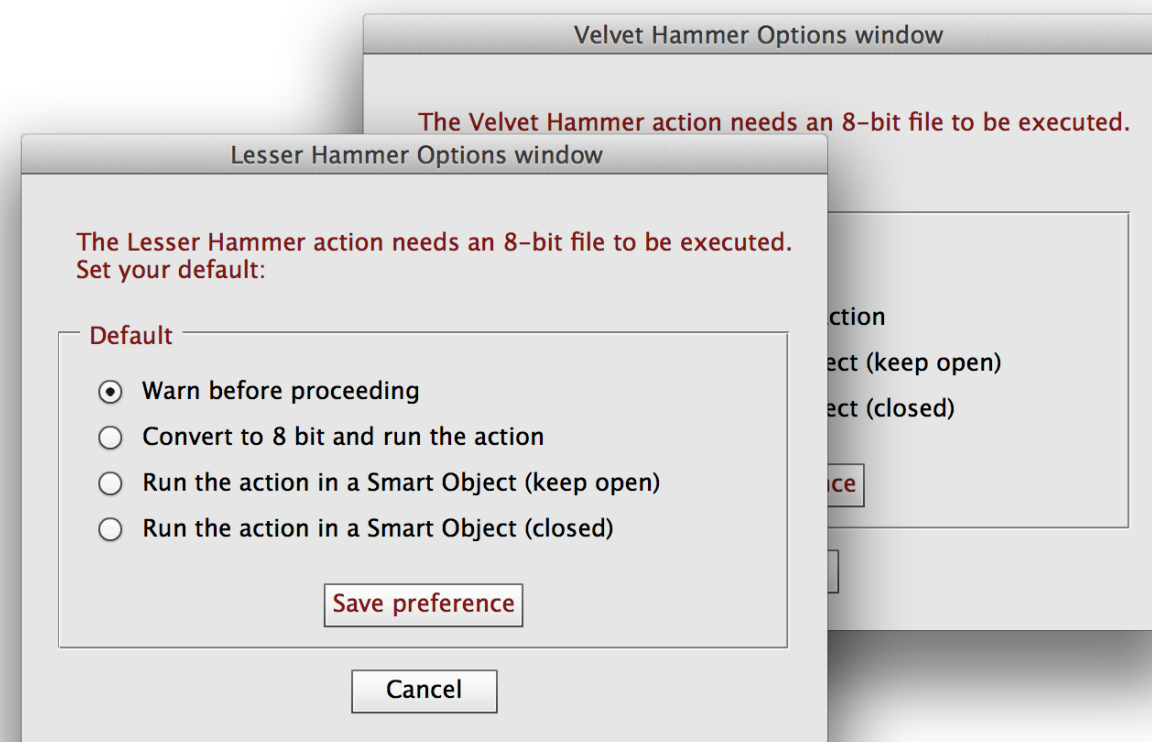
Runs the Lesser Hammer v.1.0 and the Velvet Hammer v.1.0  
Both actions require an 8-bits file and are registered as a single history state.

The action layers are now grouped and show the action's name.



### Alt+clicking

If the document is in 8-bits and you alt+click the action then the Options window opens to set your preference.





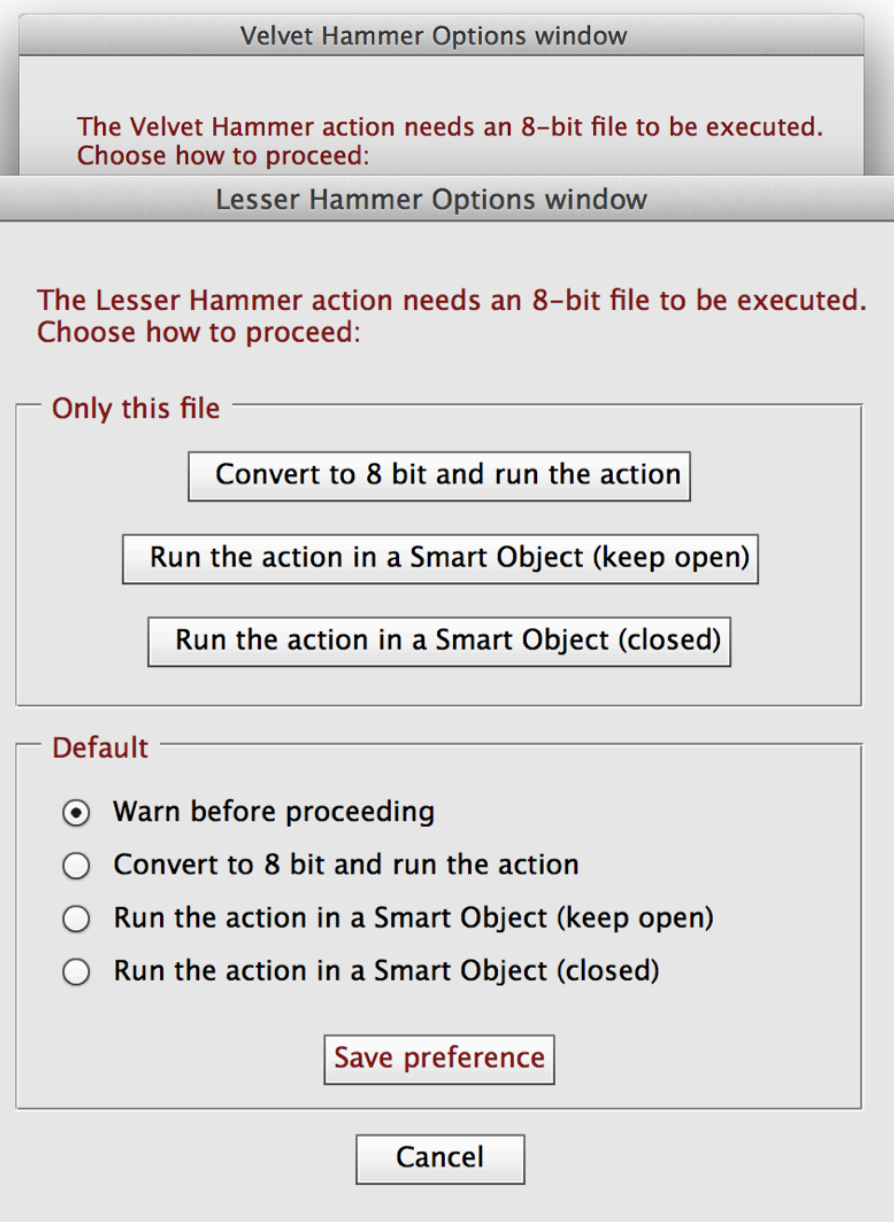
## 7.8 How it Works: buttons Lesser and Velvet Hammer



### Lesser Hammer - Velvet Hammer

if the document is not in 8-bits a \*warning dialog\* opens and lets you choose :  
to set your preference for the default or to run the action in a different way just for the file that is opened.

As default the warning dialog always opens.



### Option for “only this file”:

#### Convert to 8 bit and run the action

#### Run the action in a Smart Object (Keep open)

Run the action in a Smart object) and leave it opened and active.  
The original file remains in 16 bits.

#### Run the action in a Smart Object (closed)

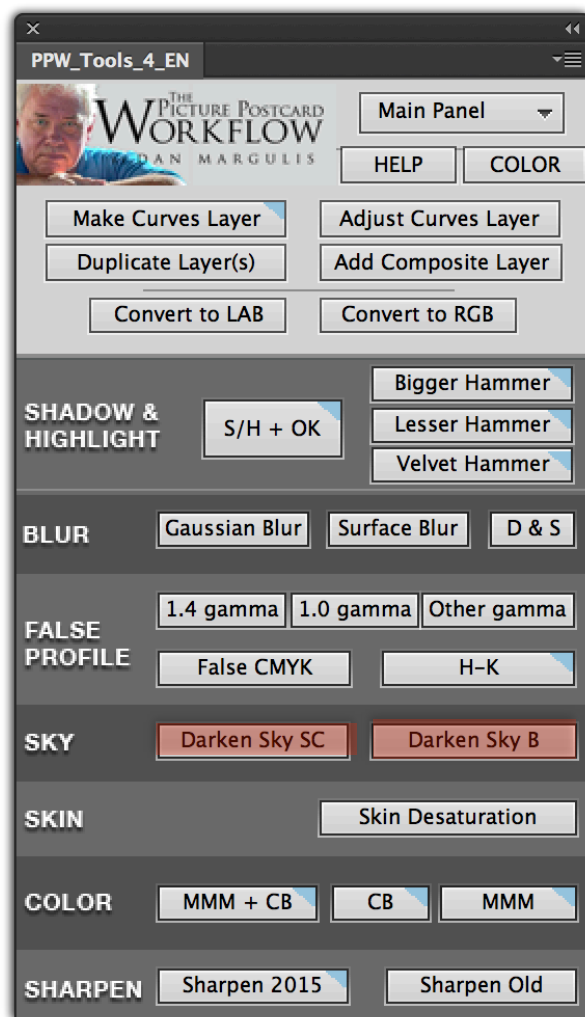
Run the action in a Smart object) and the close it.  
The original file remains in 16 bits.



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## 7.9 How it Works: buttons sky actions



### Darken Sky SC

Runs the Selective Color Sky Mask action.  
The action requires an RGB file and is registered as a single history state and creates a layer with this name : Sky Boost

If the document is not RGB you can choose to **continue on the original** or **on a duplicate** of the file.  
The duplicate will take the action name as suffix.

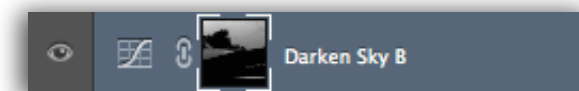
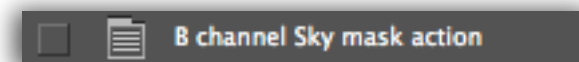
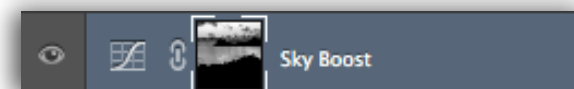
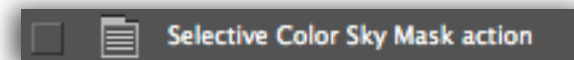
To change this default behavior, go to the Preferences panel and uncheck "Always warn when file is not in RGB mode." in the Conversion/Flattening Preferences window.  
If you do so, this action and any other that requires an RGB file will simply convert any flattened file to RGB without a warning.

The action can run several times on the same document and even if the selected layer is empty.

### Darken Sky B

Runs the B channel Sky Mask action.  
The action is registered as a single history state and creates a layer with this name : Darken Sky B

The action never flattens the file and can run several times on the same document even if the selected layer is empty.





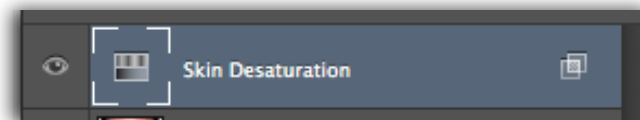
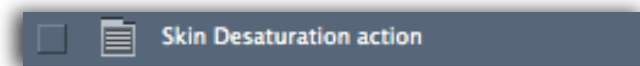
## 7.10 How it Works: buttons Skin Desaturation



### Skin Desaturation

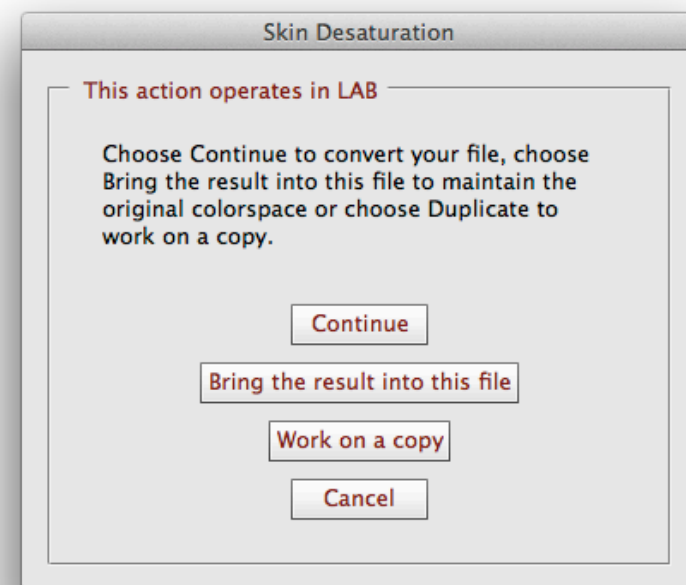
Runs the Skin Desaturation action.

The action requires an LAB file and is registered as a single history state and creates a layer with this name : Skin Desaturation



If the file is not in Lab mode user can choose **to continue** (the file is flattened) **to bring the result into the working document** or **to run on a duplicate** (flattened)

If you run it on a duplicate the file will take the action name as suffix.



To change this default behavior, go the the Preferences panel and uncheck "Always warn when file is not in LAB mode." in the **Conversion/Flattening Preferences window**. If you do so, this action and any other that requires an LAB file will simply convert any flattened file to RGB without a warning.



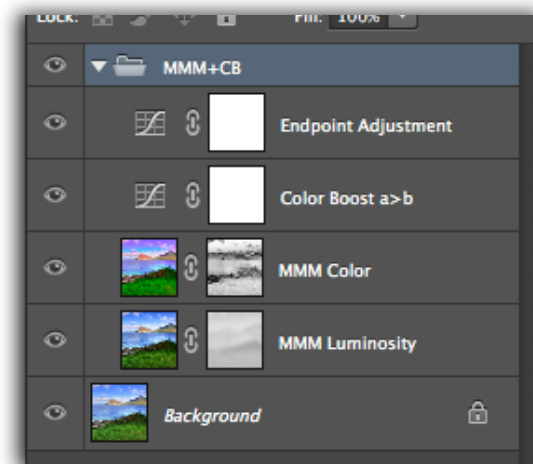
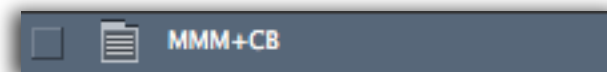
## 7.11 How it Works: buttons MMM + CB



### MMM + CB

Runs the MMM + Color Boost action. The action requires an LAB file and is registered as a single history state.

The action layers are now grouped and show the action's name.



If the document is not LAB you can choose to **continue on the original** or **on a duplicate of the file**. The duplicate will take the action name as suffix.

To change this default behavior, go to the Preferences panel (**Conversion/Flattening Preferences**) and uncheck "Always open Options window when file is not in LAB mode." If you do so, this action and any other that requires an LAB file will simply convert any flattened file to LAB without a warning.

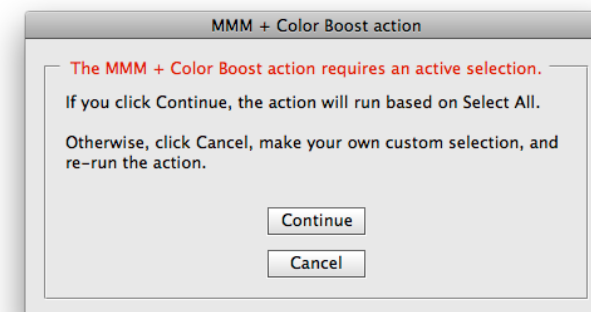
When the file is in the colorspace needed by the action and there is more than one layer a \*warning dialog\* opens and lets you decide if to run **\*on a duplicate\***, **\*on the same document flattened\*** or **\*on the same document retaining all the layers..\***

As default all warning dialogs opens but you can set your own preferences in the Preferences section of the panel (**Conversion/Flattening Preferences**).

Because the action requires an active selection if it is not found an option window opens and asks you what to do.

If you click Continue, the action will proceed with the entire image selected (Select All).

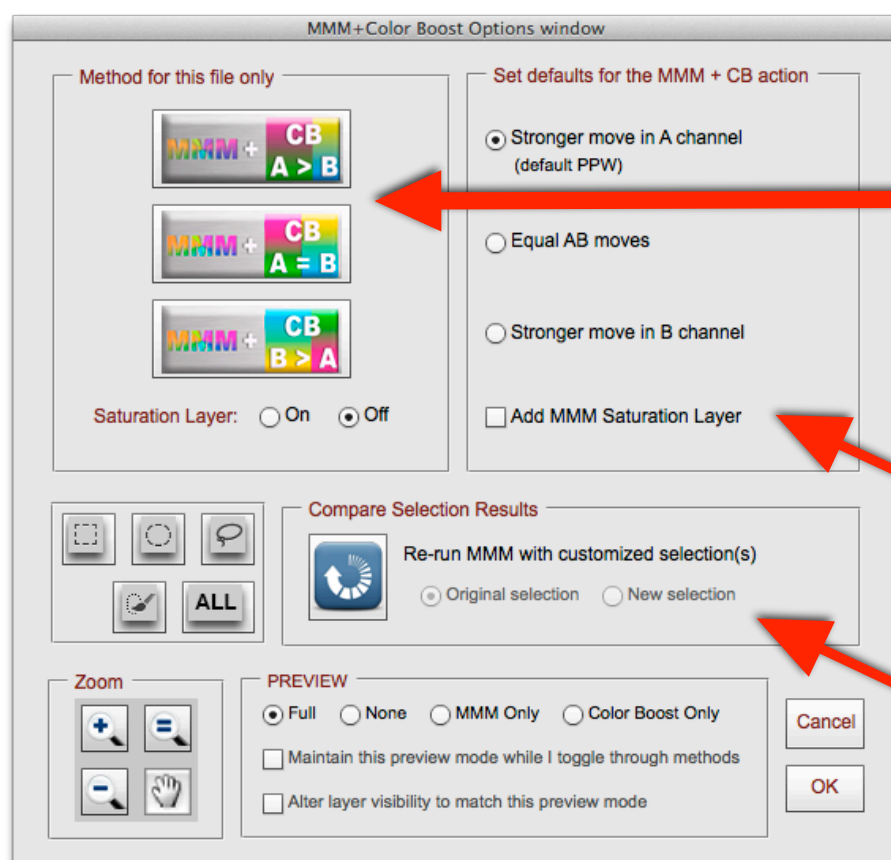
If you click Cancel, the action stops. You can now make an appropriate selection and re-run the action.







## 7.12 How it Works: buttons MMM+CB Options



### MMM+CB Options window

Option-click (Mac) or Alt-click (Win) opens the options window after running the action as current default.

#### Method for this file only

Preview one of the three different curve modes either as a one-shot deal or permanently: **\*Stronger move in A channel (default)**, **\*Equal AB moves**, **\*Stronger move in B channel**.

You can also add and preview an MMM Saturation Layer.

#### Set defaults for the MMM+CB action

Here you can change the default for the CB curve and the MMM Saturation Layer when running the MMM+CB process.

The current default is not shared by the CB action.

#### Compare Selection Result

A fully interactive preview lets you run a customized selection as many times as you want and compare it with the original one. You can choose one of the five selection tool icons to make your own custom selection. That allows better choices when you wish to create color variation.

### Preview

Four preview options (Full, None; MMM only, Color Boost only). User can maintain the preview mode while toggling through the different methods and when re-running the MMM just flagging the checkbox:

**\*Allows to maintain the preview mode and apply it to all layers when the action is confirmed.**

or can choose to automatically return to full preview each time a change is made unchecking it.

**\*Alter layer visibility to match this preview mode:** Maintain the layer visibility decided in the preview when the action is confirmed

### Zoom

You can zoom and move around the image by pressing one of the 4 zoom icons or using the default PS keyboard shortcut: Cmd+Space bar (zoom in) / Alt+ Cmd+Space bar (zoom out) / Space bar to access the hand tool.

If you click the **Cancel** button you return to your document without applying the MMM+CB action.



## 7.13 How it Works: buttons CB and CB Options

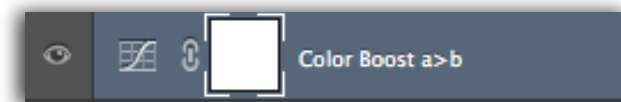
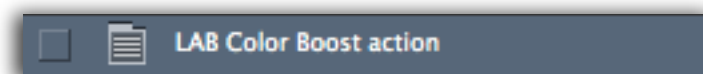


### CB

Runs the LAB Color Boost action.

The action requires an LAB file and is registered as a single history state.

The layer name shows always the kind of Curve that has been applied.



If the document is not LAB you can choose to continue on the original or on a duplicate of the file. The duplicate will take the action name as suffix.

To change this default behavior, go the the Preferences panel and uncheck "Always warn when file is not in LAB mode." in the **Conversion/Flattening Preferences window**.

If you do so, this action and any other that requires an LAB file will simply convert any flattened file to RGB without a warning.

The action can run several times on the same document.

### CB Options window

Option-click (Mac) or Alt-click (Win) opens the options window after running the action with its current default.

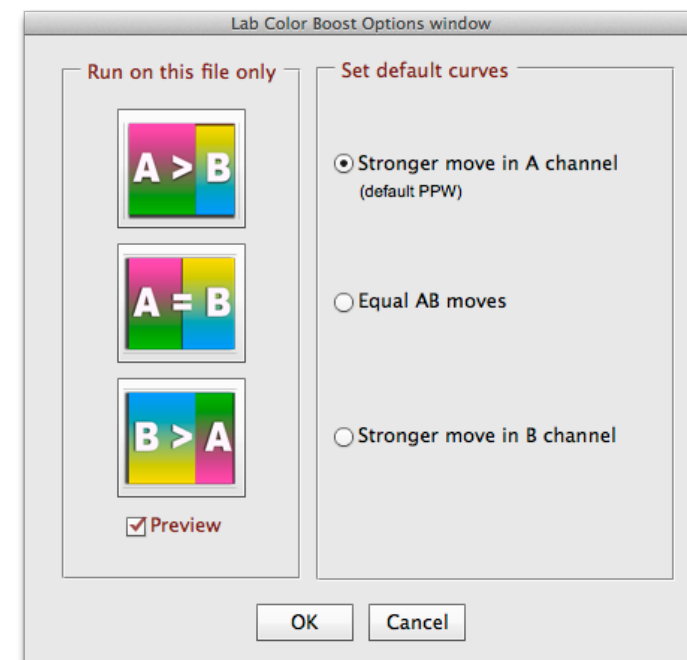
Allows changes to the defaults, either as a one-shot deal or permanently.

There is now a fully interactive preview: three kinds of curves to choose from for the Color Boost Action:

\*Stronger move in A channel (default),

\*Equal AB moves.

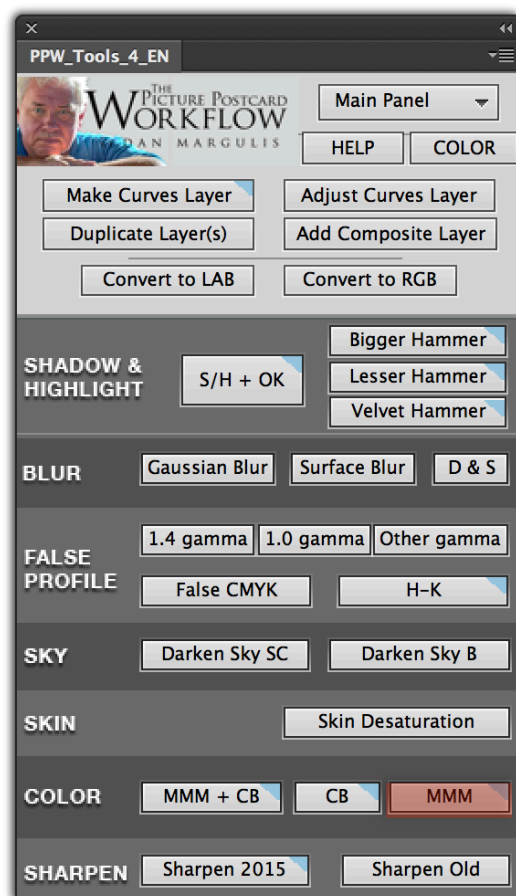
\*Stronger move in B channel.



The current default is not shared by the MMM+CB action.



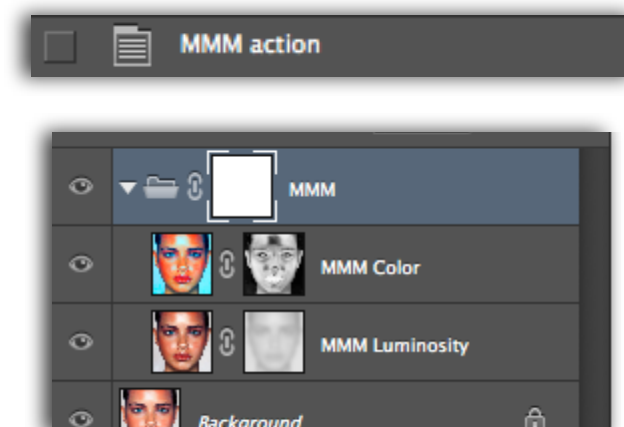
## 7.14 How it Works: buttons MMM



### MMM

Runs the Modern Man from Mars action.  
The action requires an LAB file and is registered as a single history state.

The action layers are now grouped and show the action's name.



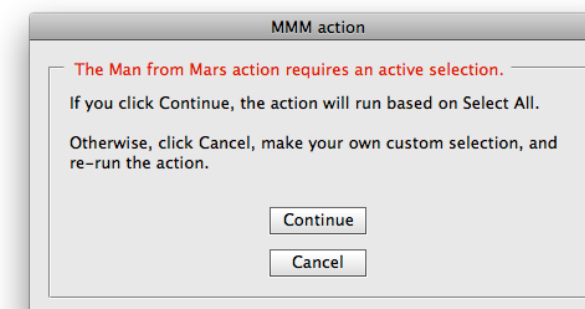
If the document is not LAB you can choose **to continue on the original** or **on a duplicate of the file**. The duplicate will take the action name as suffix.

To change this default behavior, go the the Preferences panel and uncheck "Always warn when file is not in LAB mode." in the **Conversion/Flattening Preferences window**. If you do so, this action and any other that requires an LAB file will simply convert any flattened file to RGB without a warning.

When the file is in LAB you can decide to run it **on a duplicate**, **on the same document flattened** or **on the same document retaining all the Layers**.

By default an options window opens to choose how to proceed but you can always decide which default behavior best suits your need setting your own rule in the Preferences panel section: Rules for Flattening/Conversion.

The action requires an active selection. If one is not found, an Options window opens.  
If you click Continue, the action will proceed with the entire image selected (Select All).  
If you click Cancel, the action stops. You may now make an appropriate selection and re-run the action.

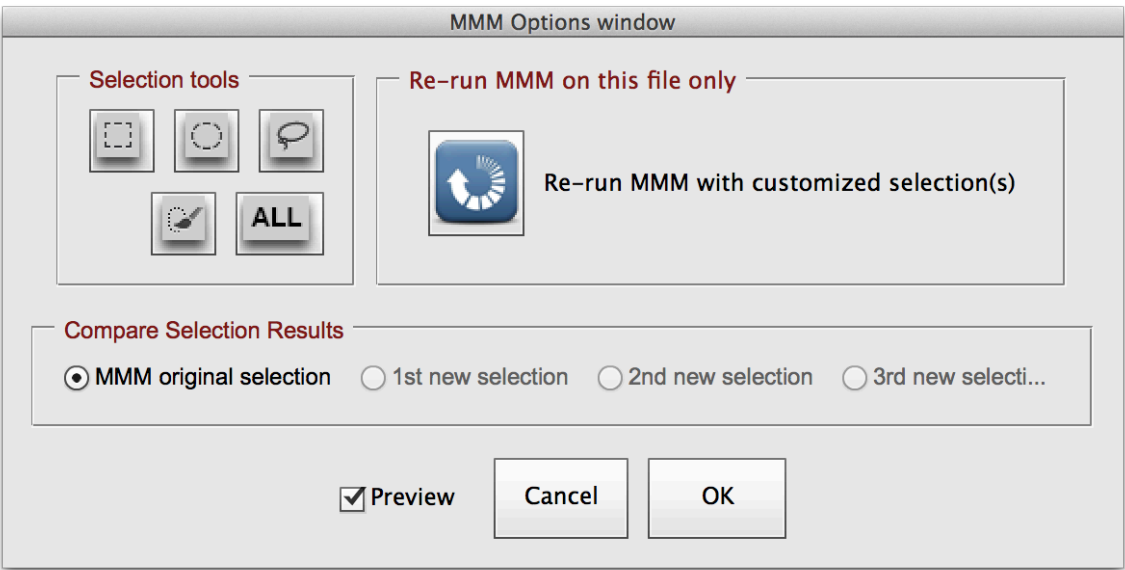


# 7.15 How it Works: buttons MMM Options window



## MMM Options window

Option-click (Mac) or Alt-click (Win) opens the options window after running the action with its current defaults.



## Selection tools

You can choose one of the Selection tools icons to make your own preferred kind of selection before pressing the Re-run button.

## Re-run MMM on this file only - Compare Selection result

Allows to run and memorize four customized selections, toggling between any of them to see how they are affecting the image and compare each with one another.

The action can work with any selection method--noncontiguous selections, feathered ones.

## Preview checkbox

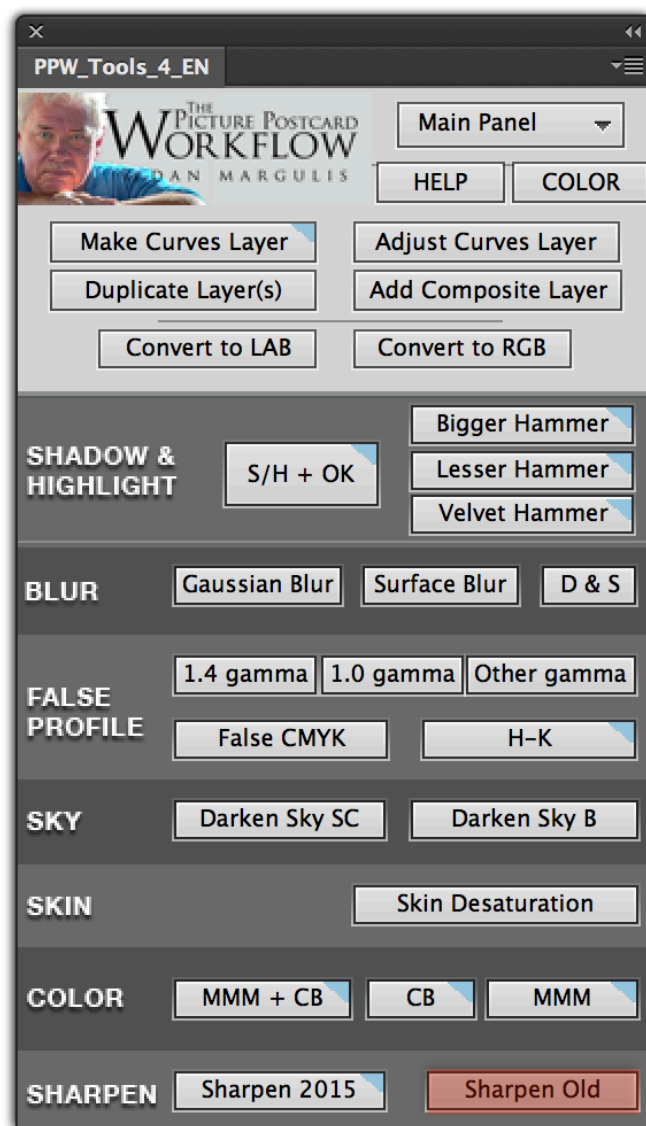
Toggle the preview from the original image and the result of the action.



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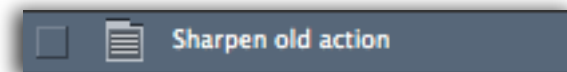


## 7.16 How it Works: buttons Sharpen Old



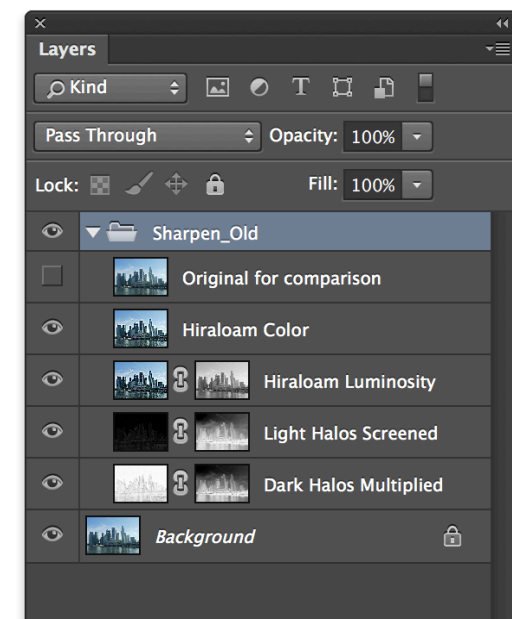
### Sharpen Old

Runs the Supersharpen LAB v.101610 action.  
The action is registered as a single history state.

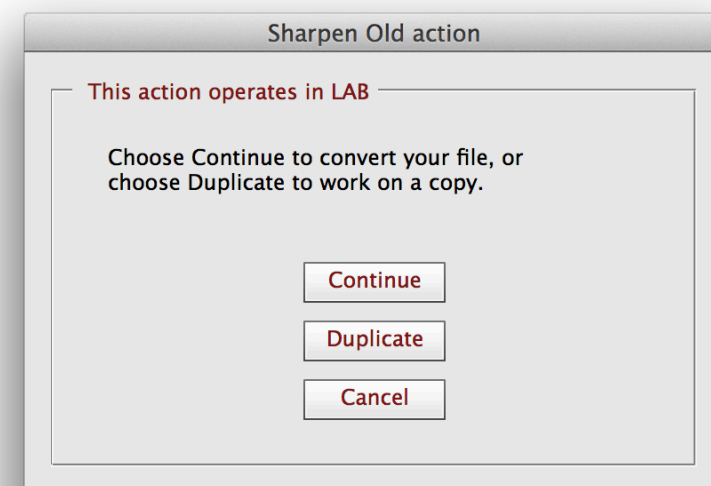


When the file is not in the colorspace needed by the action a warning dialog opens and lets you decide how to proceed.

If you choose the option to duplicate the action runs on a duplicate and converts the file if it is not in LAB mode and then copies the result into the original document grouped in a layerset.



If you choose to Continue the file is Converted and flattened.



The action can be run more than one time on the same file.

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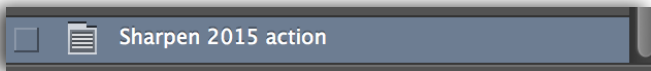


# 7.17 How it Works: buttons Sharpen 2015

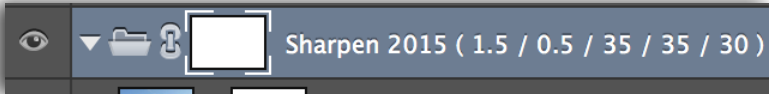


## Sharpen 2015

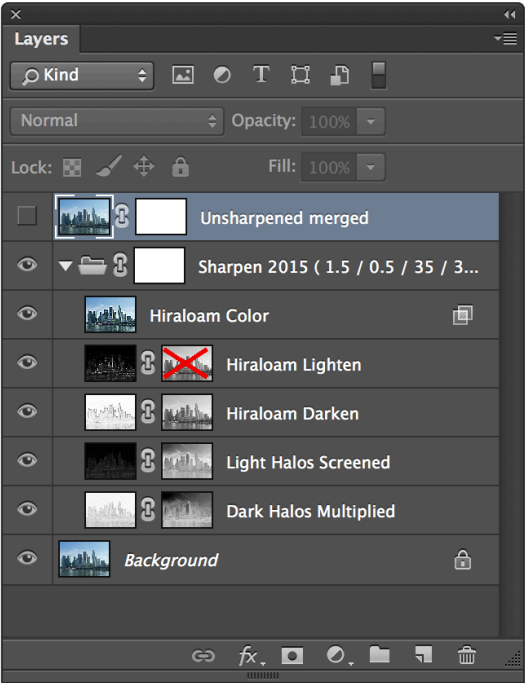
Runs the Sharpen 2015 action.  
The action requires an LAB file and is registered as a single history state.



The action layers are grouped and show the action's name and the radius settings applied.

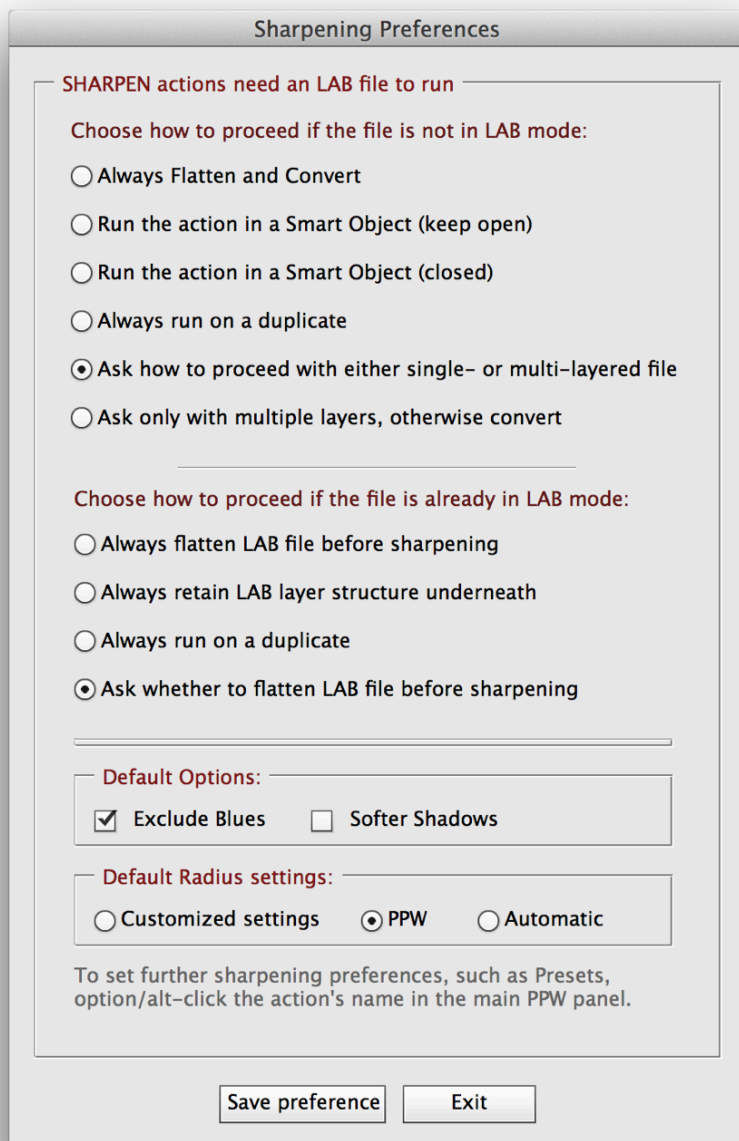


A hidden Unsharpened merged layer, with a blank layer mask, is created above the group.



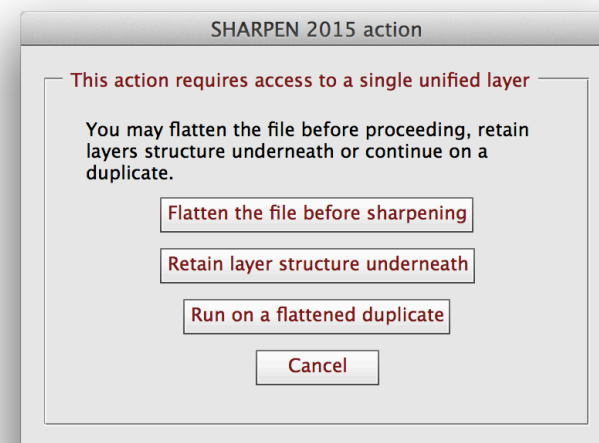


## 7.18 How it Works: buttons Sharpen 2015



### Sharpen 2015

By default, if you attempt to run the Sharpen 2015 on a layered file, whether RGB or LAB, you will get a query as to whether you wish to flatten. New options have been added for those who do not wish to waste time answering, and also for those who want maximum flexibility.

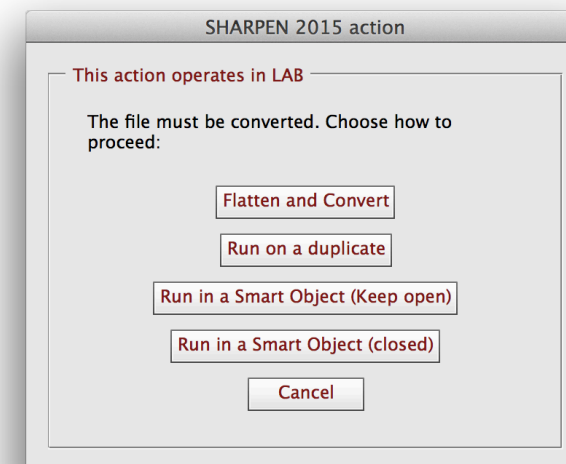


The preferences are divided into whether the file is or is not currently in LAB, which is what the action needs. For either or both, you can make the default behavior to flatten and proceed, no questions asked.

If currently in LAB, you can elect to retain the current layer structure and add the sharpening layers on top.

For either or both, you can elect to always run the action on a duplicate file.

If currently outside of LAB, you can choose to run the action in a Smart Object, and you can elect to have the Smart Object remain open, or to close it by default.

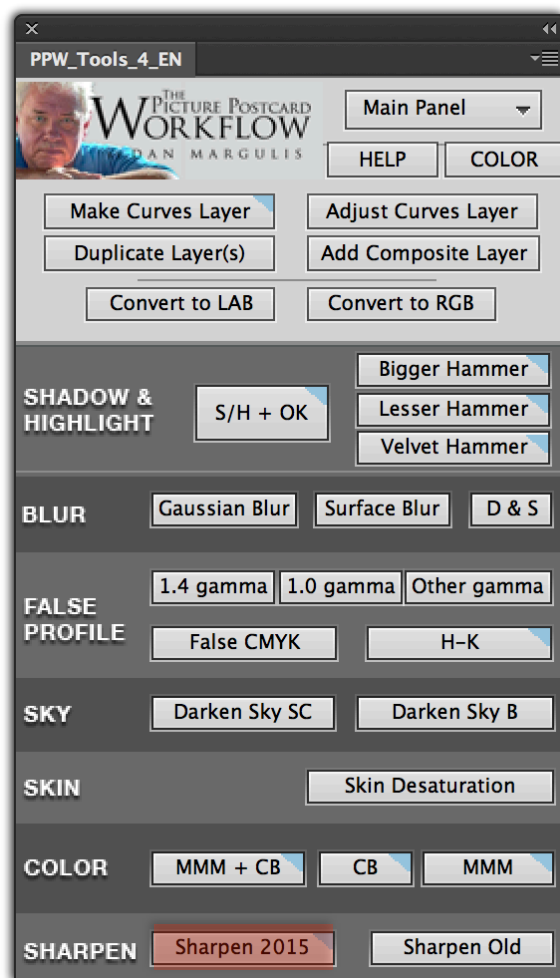


Go to the Sharpening Preferences page for more details.





## 7.19 How it Works: buttons Sharpen 2015



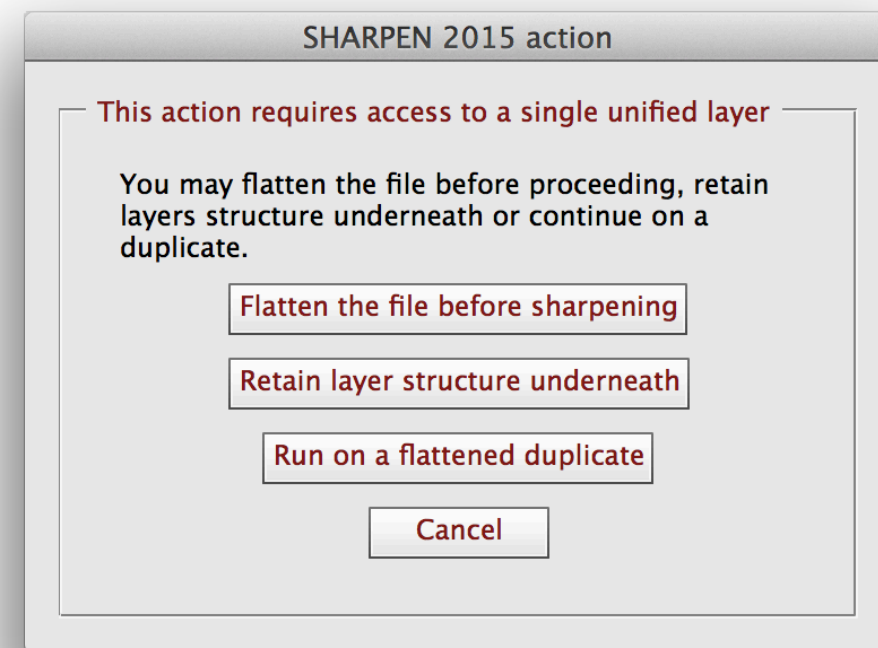
### Sharpen 2015

When the file is in the colorspace needed by the action and there is more than one layer a warning dialog opens and lets you decide whether to::

Flatten the file before sharpening

Retain layer structure underneath

Run on a flattened duplicate



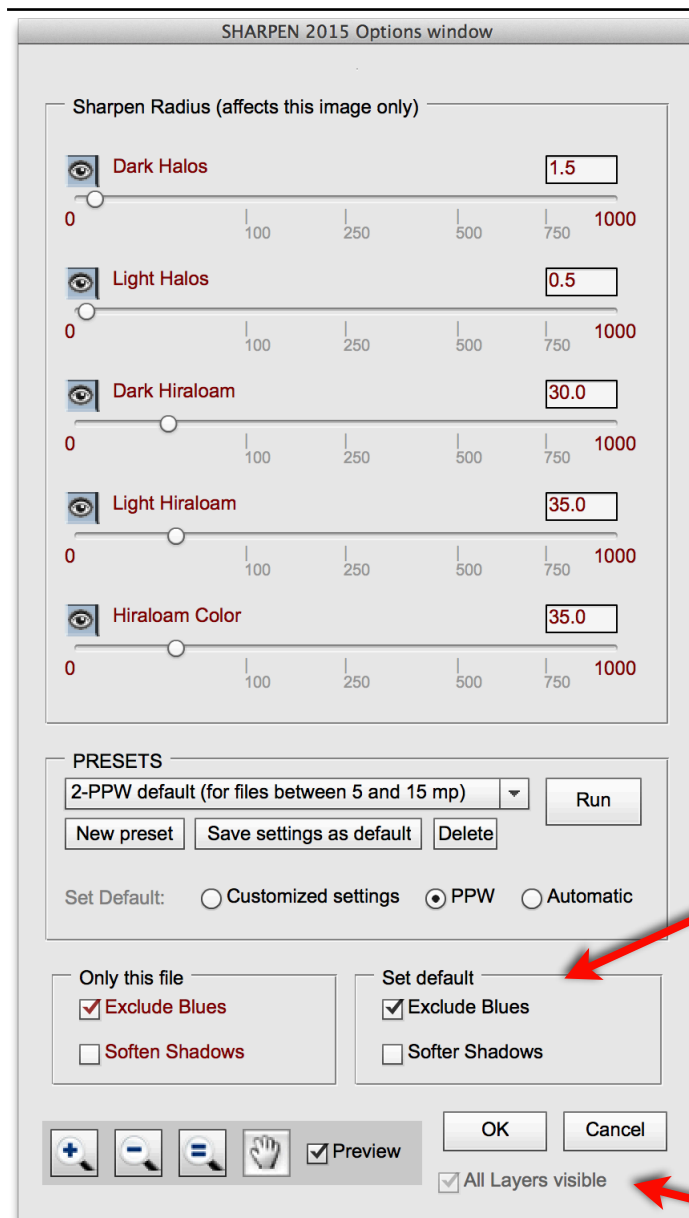
By default an warning window opens to choose how to proceed but user can set his own rule to run as default in the **Preferences panel section: Sharpening Preferences.** For more details go to the Sharpening Preferences section.

Choose how to proceed if the file is already in LAB mode:

- ☐ Always flatten LAB file before sharpening
- ☐ Always retain LAB layer structure underneath
- ☐ Always run on a duplicate
- ☒ Ask whether to flatten LAB file before sharpening



## 7.20 How it Works: buttons Sharpen options window



### Sharpen 2015 options window

Option-click (Mac) or Alt-click (Win) to open the options window after running the action runs with its current default settings.

The Options window gives an interactive preview to let you customize the actions.

You can now change any or all of the five sharpening Radii in this action, either case-by-case or as a permanent default.

### Preview

Lets you see the original image as it was before running the action.

As default the preview is active, that means that every time you change a value, both moving the slider or inserting a precise value in the text field, the options run to give you a preview of the result (you don't need to click the Run button that serves only to apply a preset).

When the box is unchecked you can change more than one parameter and the preview updates just when you flag it.

The options window also lets you toggle layer(s) off so that if you perceive the image as oversharpened, you can find out where the problem is occurring.



### OPTIONS: Exclude Blues - Soften Shadows

Either or both can be added case-by-case, or set by preference to appear automatically. They can be also registered in a preset.

If chosen as default, they appear as new layers above the others but still within the overall sharpening group.

The checked box in the "Set default" section shows your current default settings.

### All Layers Visible

The visibility you have set is applied to the layer(s) when you confirm the action clicking the OK button. You can make all layers visible at once flagging the **\*All Layers visible** checkbox

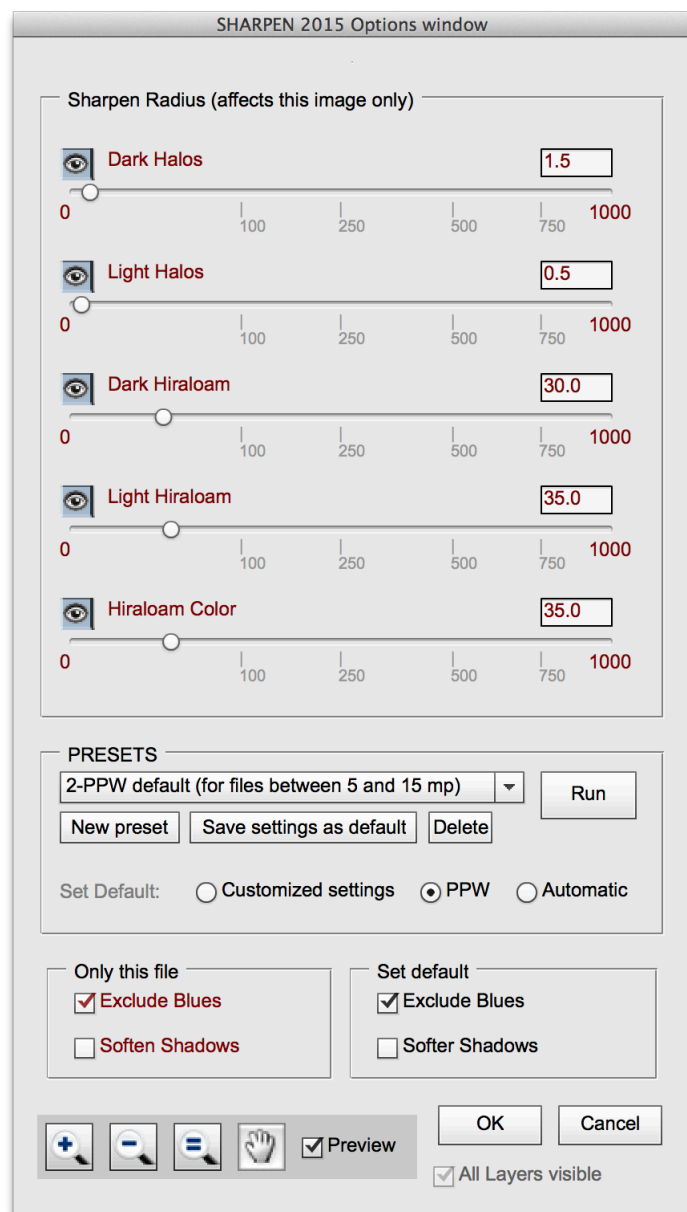
### Zoom

You can zoom and move around the image by pressing one of the three zoom icons or using the default PS keyboard shortcut: Cmd+Space bar (zoom in) / Alt+ Cmd+Space bar (zoom out) / Space bar to access the hand tool.

If you click the **Cancel** button you return to your document without applying the Sharpen 2015 action.



## 7.21 How it Works: buttons Sharpen options window



### Sharpen 2015 options window

#### Presets section

Since each category of image might need its own settings, the new panel supports saving of unlimited presets. A preset can, in addition to the halo widths, contain the settings for whether to use the new Exclude Blues and/or Softer Shadows options. Once a preset has been saved, it can be made the default, or applied case-by-case.

The panel provides four basic presets. They are labeled **Weak**, **PPW Default**, **Strong**, and **Extra Strong**. As a general rule, smaller files argue for a lighter setting and larger ones for stronger.

#### Apply a preset:

Select a preset from the dropdown menu, verify the new settings that will be applied and then click the **Run** Button.

#### Create new preset:

Disable the preview, make changes to one or more of the five sharpening Radii and then click the “New preset” button to save the preset. When the preview is activated the result will be applied to the image. The preset register also the options selected for “Only this file”

#### Save settings as default:

to promote one preset to be your default when running the action with customized settings, select it from the dropdown menu and then click the “Save settings as default”.

Remember that the custom setting is used only if the “Customized settings” checkbox is active for the default.

#### Delete a preset:

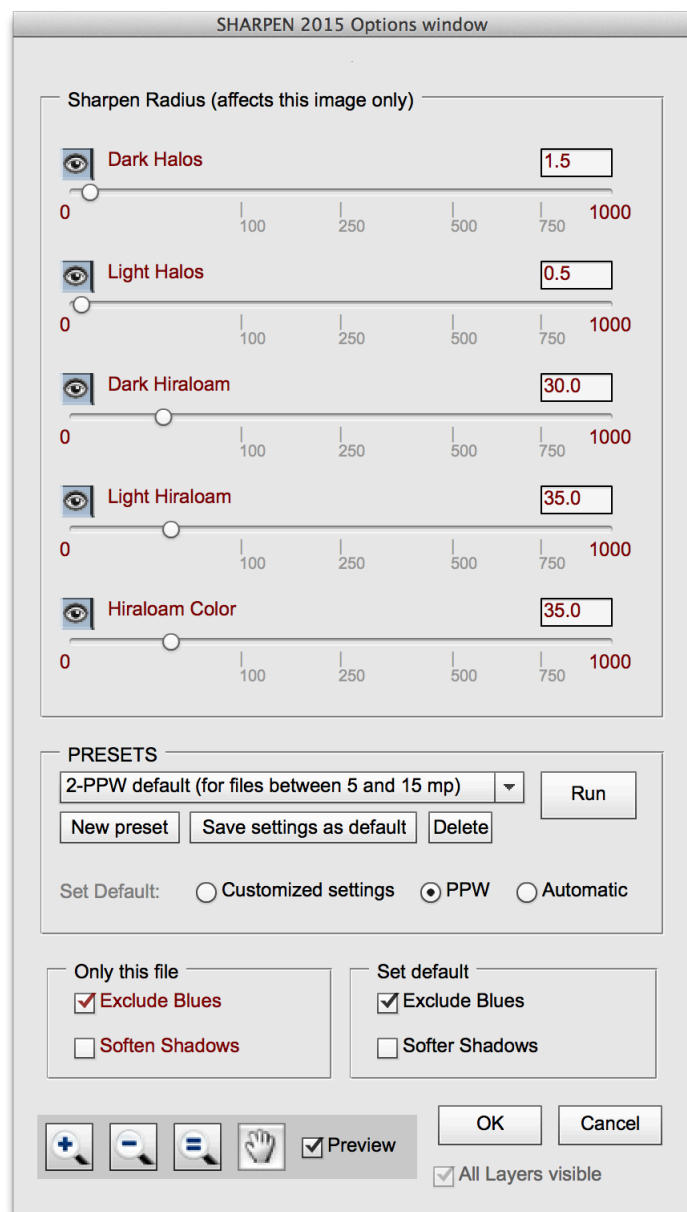
Select a preset from the dropdown menu and then click the “Delete” button. You can’t delete a preset that is installed by default.

If you click the **Cancel** button you return to your document without applying the Sharpen 2015 action.





## 7.22 How it Works: buttons Sharpen options window



### Sharpen 2015 options window

#### Set Default (radius settings) section

You can set your default radius settings when running the Sharpen 2015 action.

#### Customized settings:

You can promote one of your preset, one of the basic preset that are preinstalled or you can make changes to the radius settings without saving them and then clicking “Save settings as default”.

Options both registered in a preset or selected in the section “Only this file” when saving the default, are applied when running the default settings even if they are not set as default.

#### PPW settings:

Apply the PPW settings.

#### Automatic settings:

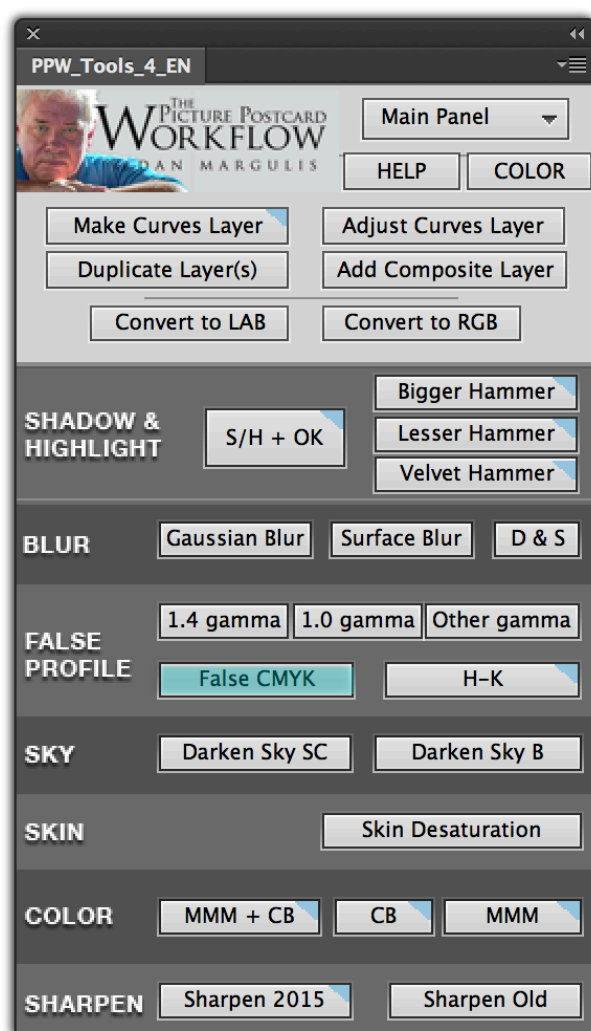
Apply one of the four basic presets **Weak**, **PPW Default**, **Strong**, and **Extra Strong** depending on the size of the file

The checked box in the “Set default” section shows your current default settings.

If you click the **Cancel** button you return to your document without applying the Sharpen 2015 action.

## 7.23 How it Works: False CMYK

The panel installer automatically loads all needed RGB and CMYK false profiles into the appropriate folder. The specific location is described in the "[What Is Installed](#)" section.

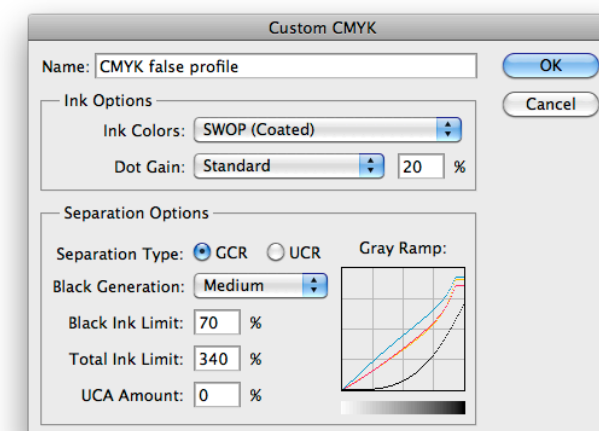


### False CMYK

The False CMYK action converts your document into a type of CMYK, using the GCR parameters shown here.



CMYK false profile.icc

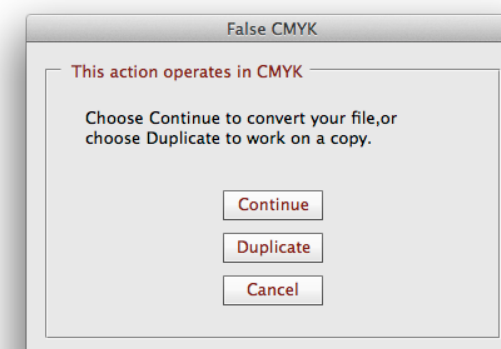


The action is registered as a single history state.

The False CMYK action runs in any colorspace and converts your document.

If the document is in the wrong colorspace a \*warning dialog\* opens and lets you choose **\*to continue on the same document** (it will be flattened and converted) or **\*to run on a duplicate**.

The duplicate will take the action name as suffix.



The False CMYK action is completely scripted and does not reference anything in the actions set.

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## 7.24 How it Works: H-K

### H-K

The H-K action does not rely on an ICC profile. It is considered in the false profile section, however, because it generates an alpha channel that can be seen as a variant of black.

The action requires an RGB file and is registered as a single history state.

The action layers are now grouped and show the action's name.

If the document is not RGB you can choose to continue on the original or on a duplicate of the file. The duplicate will take the action name as suffix.

To change this default behavior, go to the Preferences panel and uncheck "Always warn when file is not in RGB mode." in the Conversion/Flattening Preferences window.

If you do so, this action and any other that requires an RGB file will simply convert any flattened file to RGB without a warning.

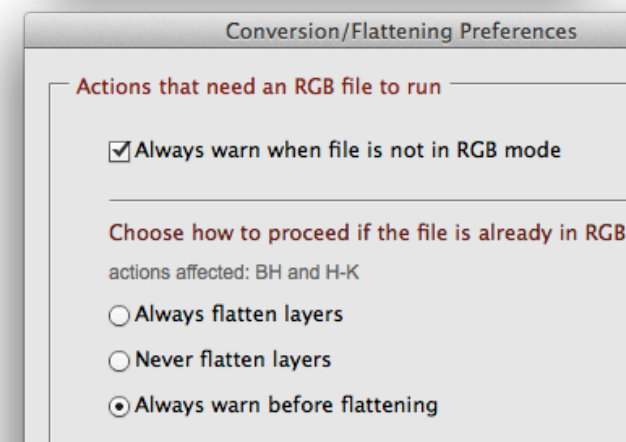
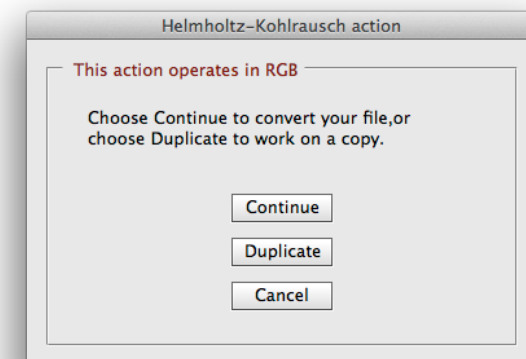
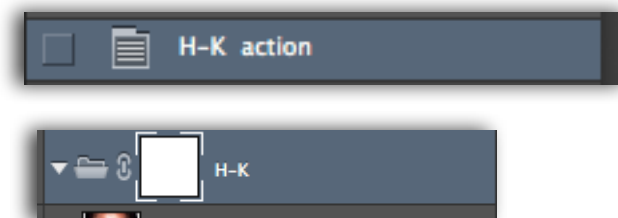
When the file is layered and in the colorspace needed by the action you can decide to run it:

on a duplicate

on the same document flattened or

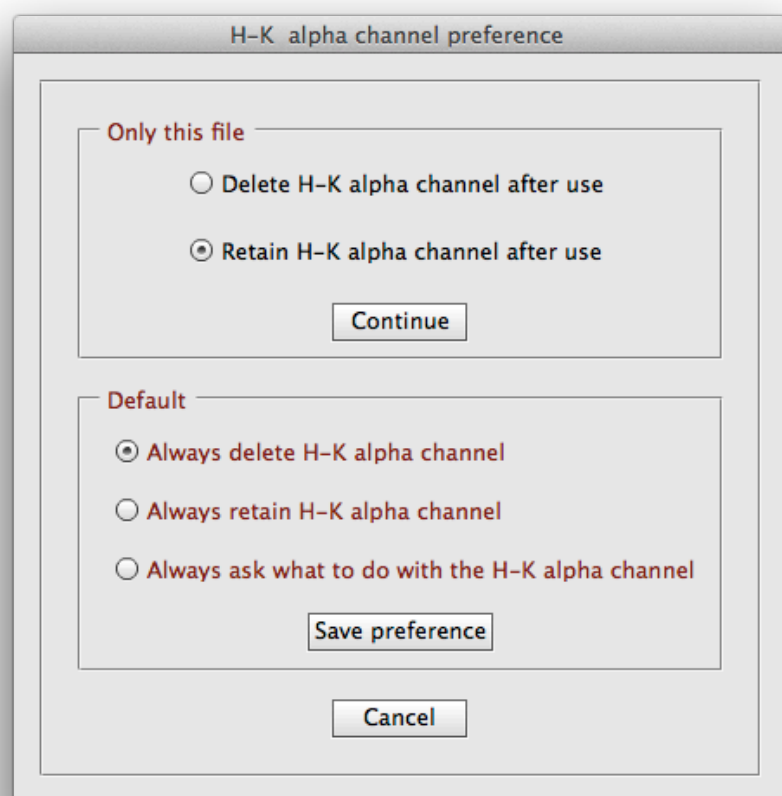
on the same document retaining all the Layers.

As default the warning dialog opens but you can set your own preferences in the Preferences section of the panel.(**Conversion/Flattening Preferences.**)



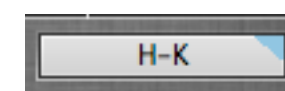


# 7.25 How it Works: H-K options window



## H-K options window

Option-click (Mac) or Alt-click (Win) to open the options window after running the action with its current default.



Default upon installation is for the ersatz black channel to be discarded after the action uses it. Keeping it increases file size and prevents you from saving the file as a JPEG until you delete it manually. On the other hand, the channel itself can be useful for various purposes. You therefore can change the default, or override it on a case-by-case basis.

The H-K Options window offers several options.

- 1) To override your current defaults for this file only, choose the appropriate radio button in the top box and click Continue.
- 2) You can do the same thing and avoid the Options window by Shift-clicking the H-K button. Shift-clicking retains the H-K alpha channel if your default setting is to delete, and deletes it if your default setting is to retain.
- 3) To change your current default behavior, choose the appropriate radio button in the bottom box and click Save preference. If you do this, it will become the standard behavior when you click the H-K action. You can always override it for a single file by opening the Options window.
- 4) If you choose Always ask what to do, each time the H-K button is clicked a dialog appears asking whether to retain or discard.

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## 7.26 How it Works: 1.4 gamma - 1.0 gamma

RGB False profiles buttons are completely scripted and they work in a conditional way assigning a 1.4 or 1.0 gamma value- see next pages.

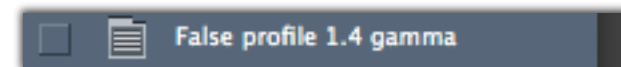
### 1.4 gamma

Assigns false profile at 1.4 gamma, using the color primaries of the embedded profile unless the user has specified otherwise, and adds a curves adjustment layer in Multiply mode.

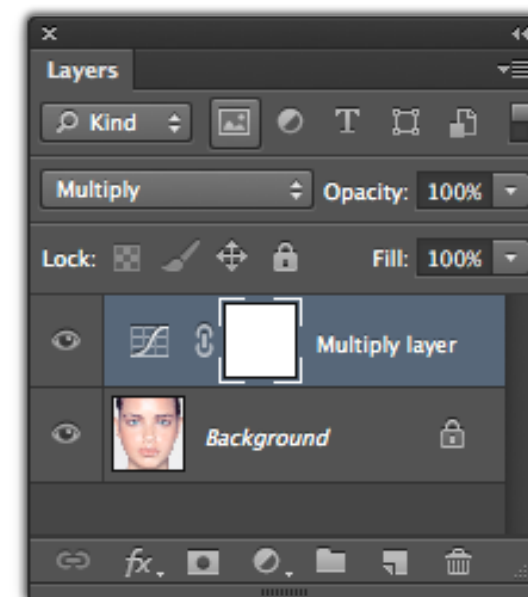
### 1.0 gamma

Assigns false profile at 1.0 gamma, using the color primaries of the embedded profile unless the user has specified otherwise, and adds a curves adjustment layer in Multiply mode.

The assignment process is registered as a single history state with a reference to the gamma value applied.



By default a layer mask in Multiply mode is added after the false profile assignment. You can disable the automatic multiply layer in the Preferences menu (**Preferences for assigning profile**). If the multiply layer is allowed, Photoshop adds a layer mask by default.



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# 8.0 How it Works: false profile



When an RGB false profile is assigned, the button recognizes your document's colorspace if it has an embedded ICC profile. It automatically assigns the primary values of that workspace at the gamma value you have chosen. Treatment of untagged RGB files is governed by a user preference, see Section 7.5.

For example, if your document has an embedded sRGB tag, and you invoke the 1.4 gamma action, the document will be assigned a false profile that uses sRGB primary values but a 1.4 gamma. The same holds for all default Photoshop workspaces:

Document Color space	1.4 gamma button
Adobe RGB	➡ Adobe RGB false profile at 1.4 gamma
sRGB	➡ sRGB false profile at 1.4 gamma
Prophoto RGB	➡ Prophoto RGB false profile at 1.4 gamma
Apple RGB	➡ Apple RGB false profile at 1.4 gamma
ColorMatch RGB	➡ ColorMatch RGB false profile at 1.4 gamma
Wide Gamut RGB	➡ Wide Gamut RGB false profile at 1.4 gamma

The same statement applies for 1.0 gamma button.



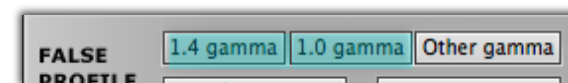
Two false profiles are installed for each of the six RGB definitions shown above.

This behavior saves time by avoiding manual creation of false profiles. You can also try to assign the two different gamma values to see which works better for your image. You can switch between them as many times as you like.





## 8.1 How it Works: false profile

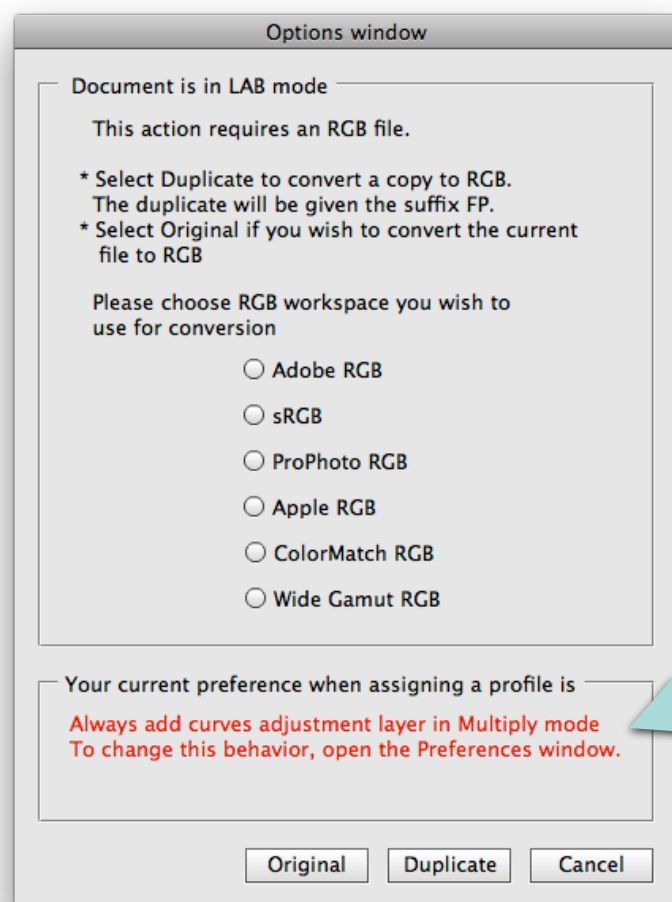


### LAB and CMYK DOCUMENTS

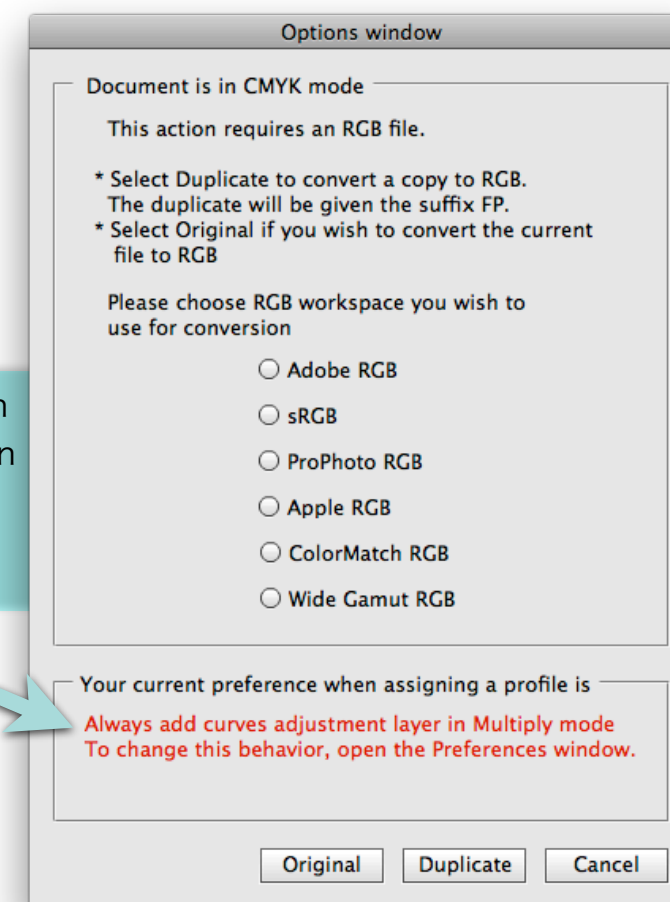
If you try to assign a RGB FP ( False profile) to a LAB or CMYK document, an options window opens. You can decide to cancel the operation, or you can choose an RGB variant for the assignment of the false profile.

You also have the option of converting the current file or continuing with a duplicate file.  
If you choose to work on a duplicate it will be created adding the suffix “FP” to its name.

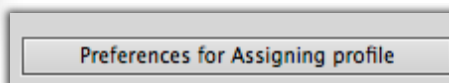
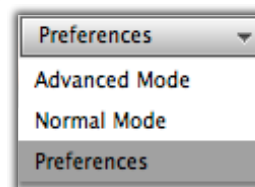
When document is in Lab mode this window opens



When document is in CMYK mode this window opens

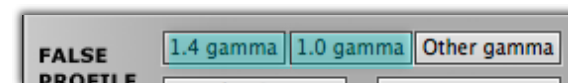


In this window section you can verify which options have been set as preferences see “[Preferences section](#)”





## 8.2 How it Works: false profile



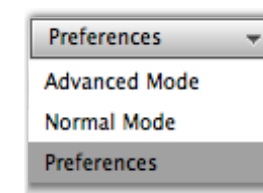
### UNTAGGED and RGB GENERIC PROFILE DOCUMENTS

If your document is Untagged (no profile embedded) or has a generic RGB profile, you are asked for your preferred workspace (which depends on your image and on your personal workflow).

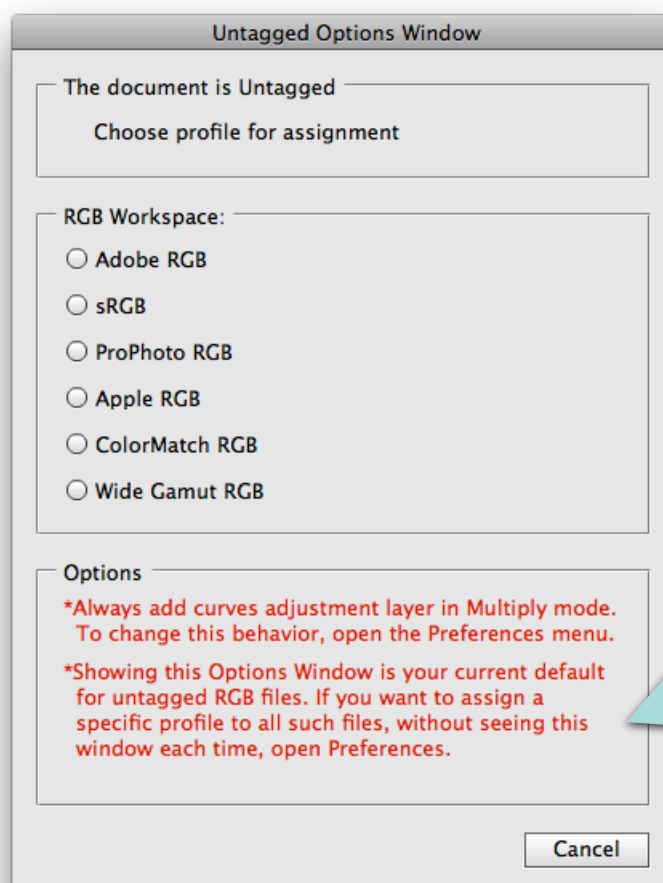
If you decide to continue after selecting the workspace the assignment process runs and the window is closed.

The option window opens by default every time you run the false profile (1.4 or 1.0) and your document is untagged or has an RGB generic profile.

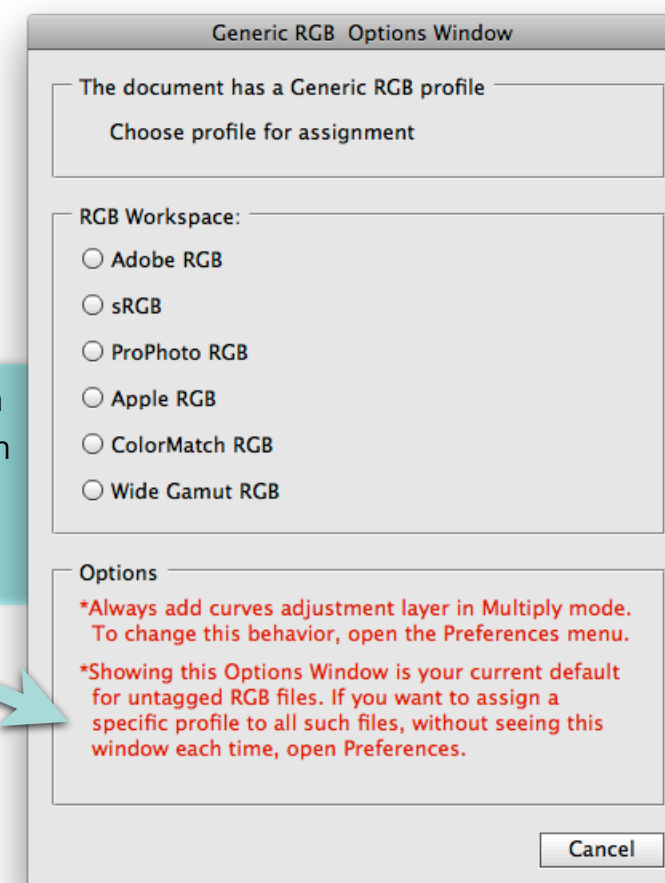
You can change this behavior and automatically assign a pre-selected workspace without opening the options window every time in the “preferences for Assigning profile” under the Preferences menu.



### Untagged Options window



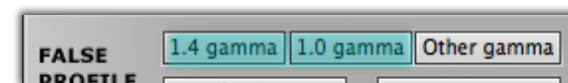
### Generic RGB Options window



Preferences for Assigning profile

In this window section you can verify which options have been set as preferences. see “[Preferences section](#)”

## 8.3 How it Works: false profile

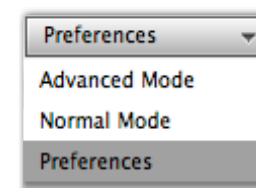
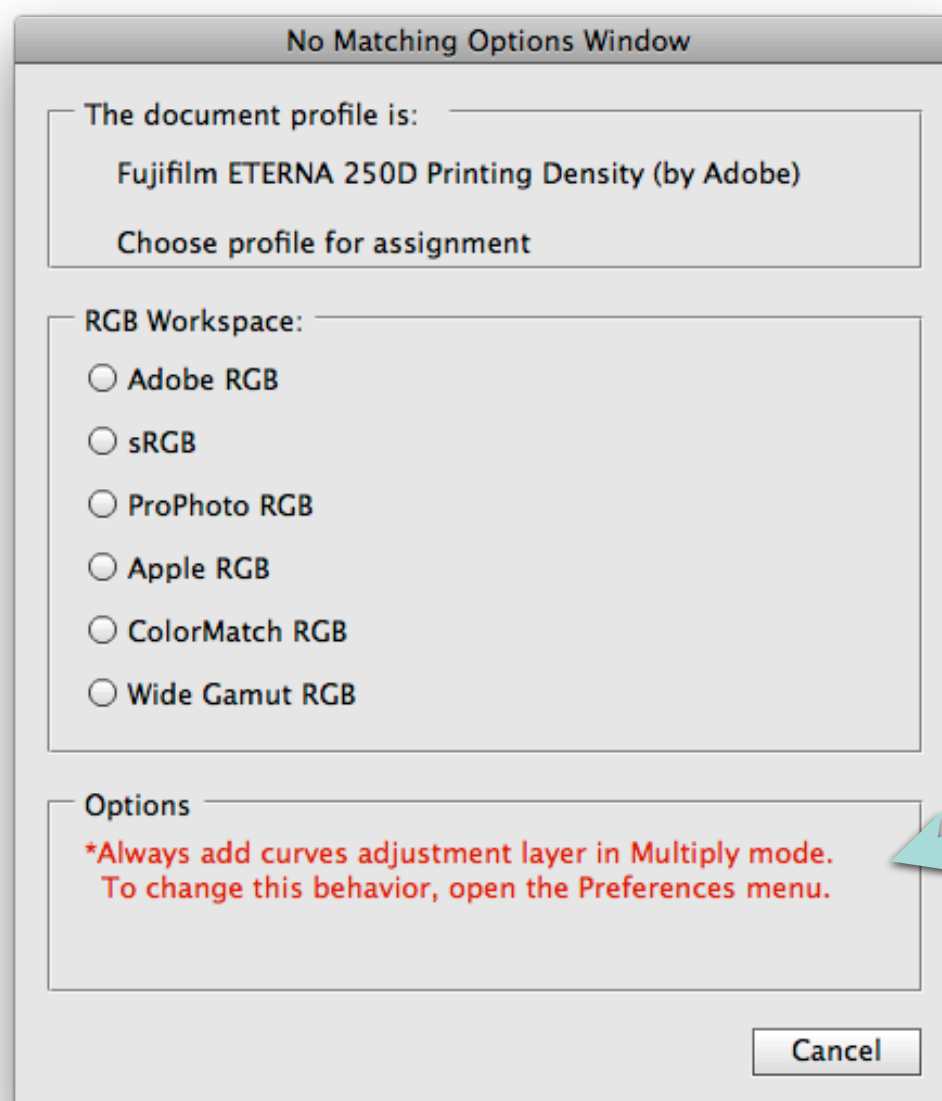


### DOCUMENTS WITH PROFILE MISMATCH

If the document has an embedded profile that specifies an RGB definition other than the six we support, an Options window opens. You must select the RGB workspace.

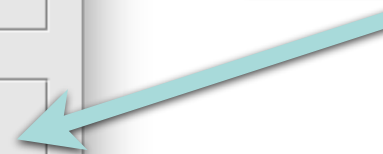
If you decide to continue after selecting the workspace the assignment process runs and the window is closed.

### Untagged Options window



Preferences for Assigning profile

In this window section you can verify which options have been set as preferences see “ [Preferences section](#)”

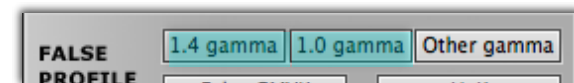




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## 8.4 How it Works: false profile



### GRAYSCALE DOCUMENTS or MISSING ICC PROFILE

If Your document is a Grayscale, an alert opens:



If this same alert appears when attempting to apply a false profile to an RGB file, it means that for some reason the profile is missing in the system. You can check by attempting to Edit: Assign Profile manually. If the needed profile is not present, re-run the PPW tools 4 installer.

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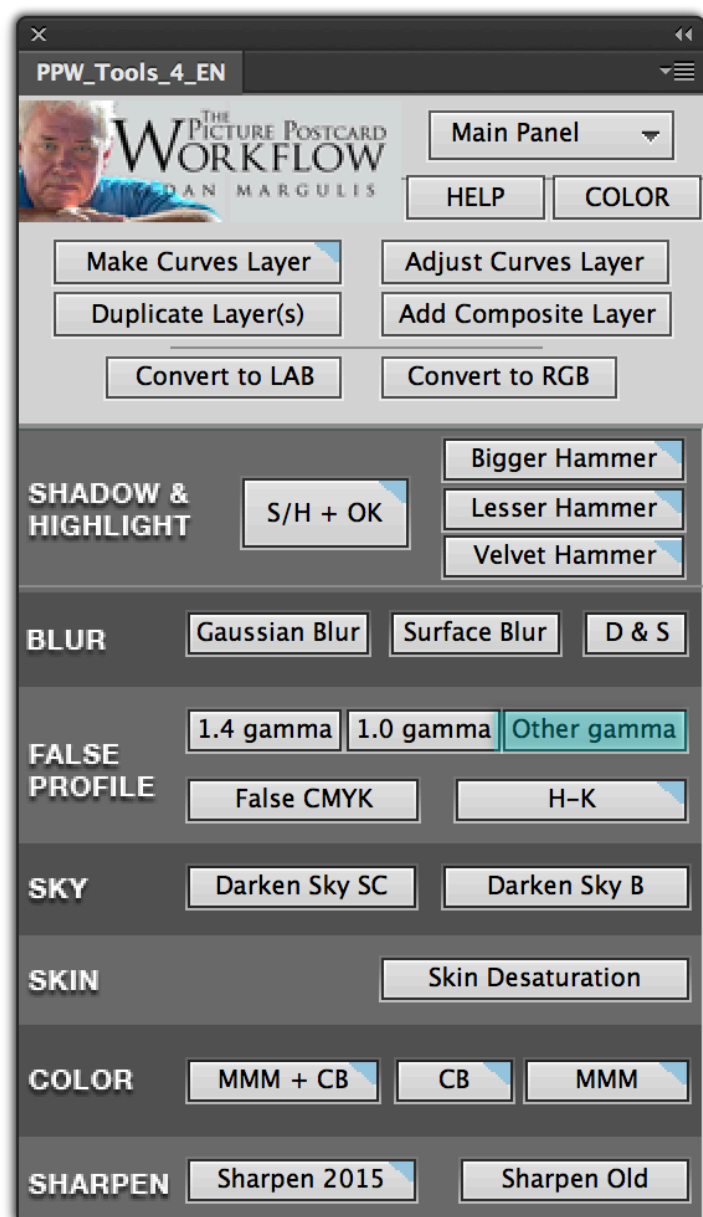
## 8.5 How it Works: false profile other gamma

This free add-on extension (must be downloaded separately, see next page) allows you to choose among eight more gamma values.

If the add-on has been installed, when you click the "Other gamma" button a sub-panel opens. It can even be docked to the PPW panel if you prefer. Or it can be opened as a standalone panel under Photoshop's Window: Extensions.

The button's behavior is the same as for the buttons (1.0 gamma - 1.4 gamma) PPW panel and shares the same preferences.

The RGB False profile assignment is a flexible and optimized tool to work with in an easy way.



You can switch among different gammas to find the one that is best for your image.



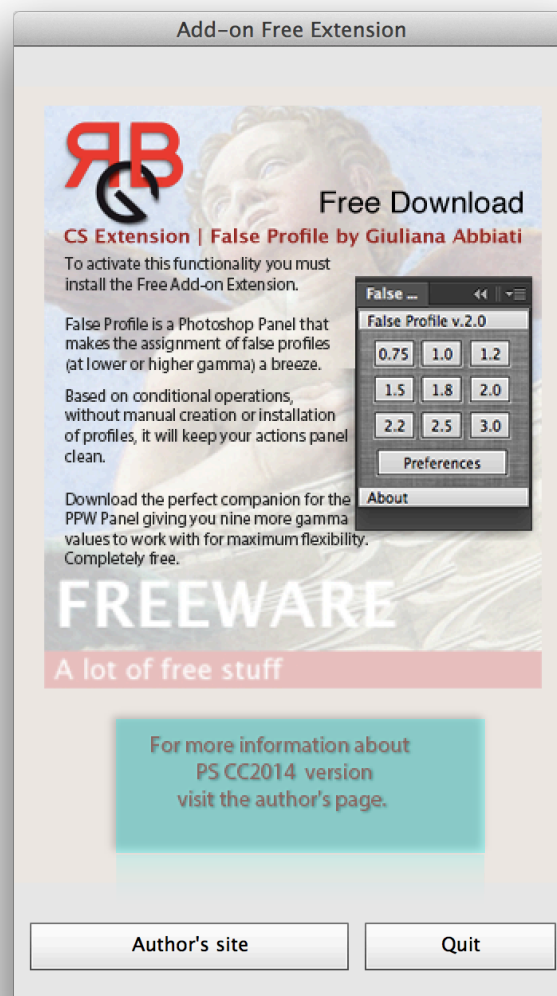
docked

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## 8.6 How it Works: false profile other gamma download

If this add-on extension is not installed on your computer, when you click the “Other gamma” buttons a dialog window opens.



**This Add-on extension**

**False Profile V 2.0**

**is a**

**FREE download**

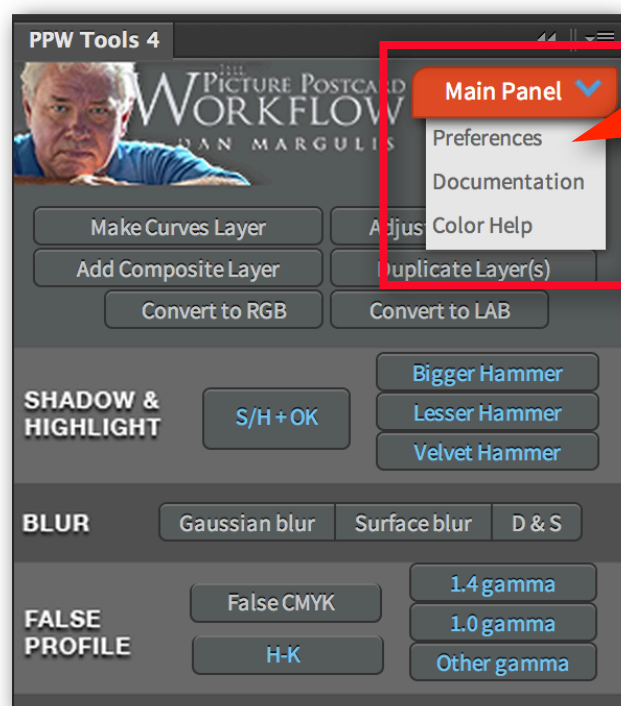
Visit the Author's site for more details  
on the download



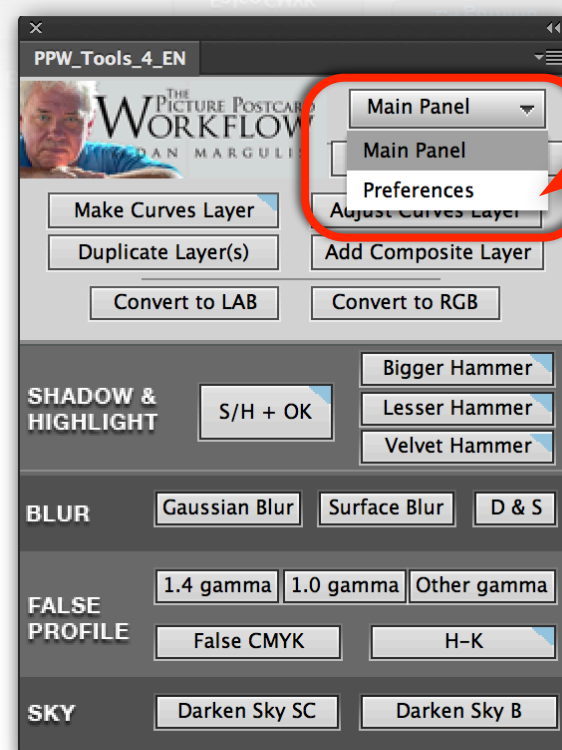
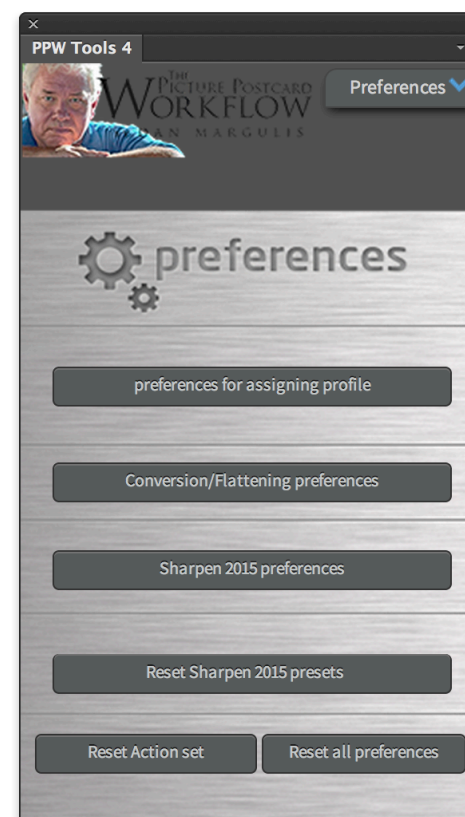
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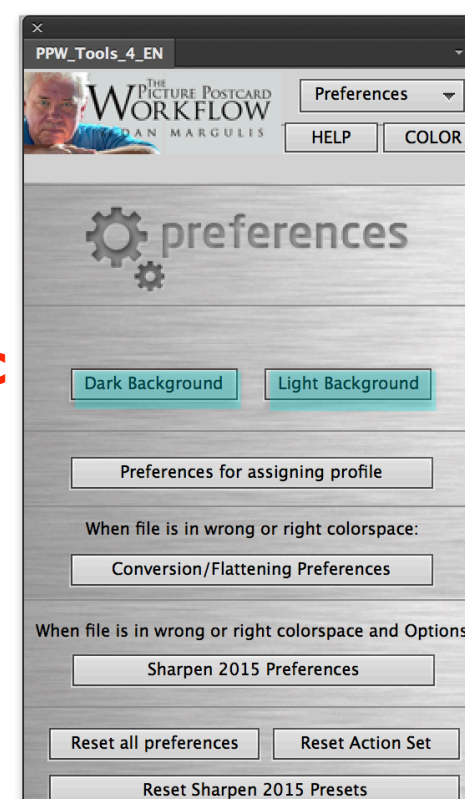
## 9.0 How it Works: preferences menu overview



CC2014



CS5-CS6-CC



All buttons in the preferences section are the same for all Photoshop versions.

the sole exception is for the panel installed in Photoshop CS5-CS6-CC that contains two more buttons allowing you to change the color of the panel according to the Photoshop's interface.

In version CC2014 the color changes automatically.

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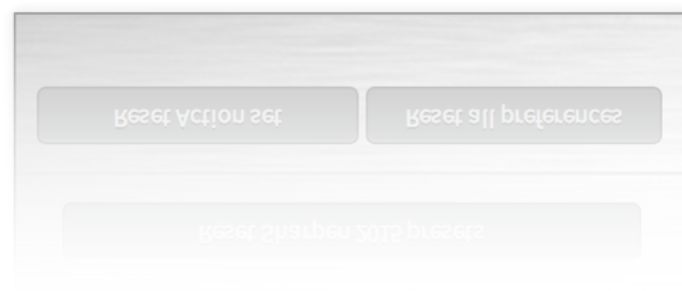
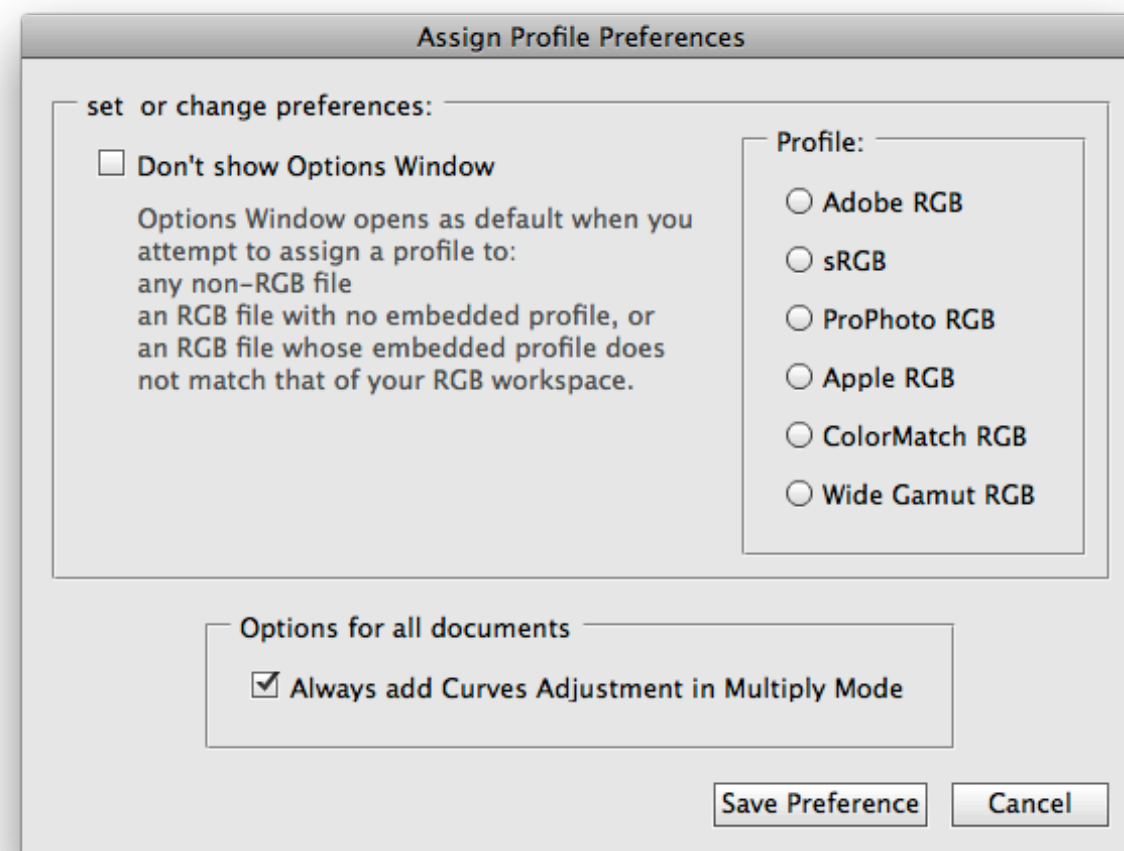


# 9.1 How it Works: preferences menu

## Preferences for Assigning profile



From here you can decide how to proceed as default when you assign a false profile.



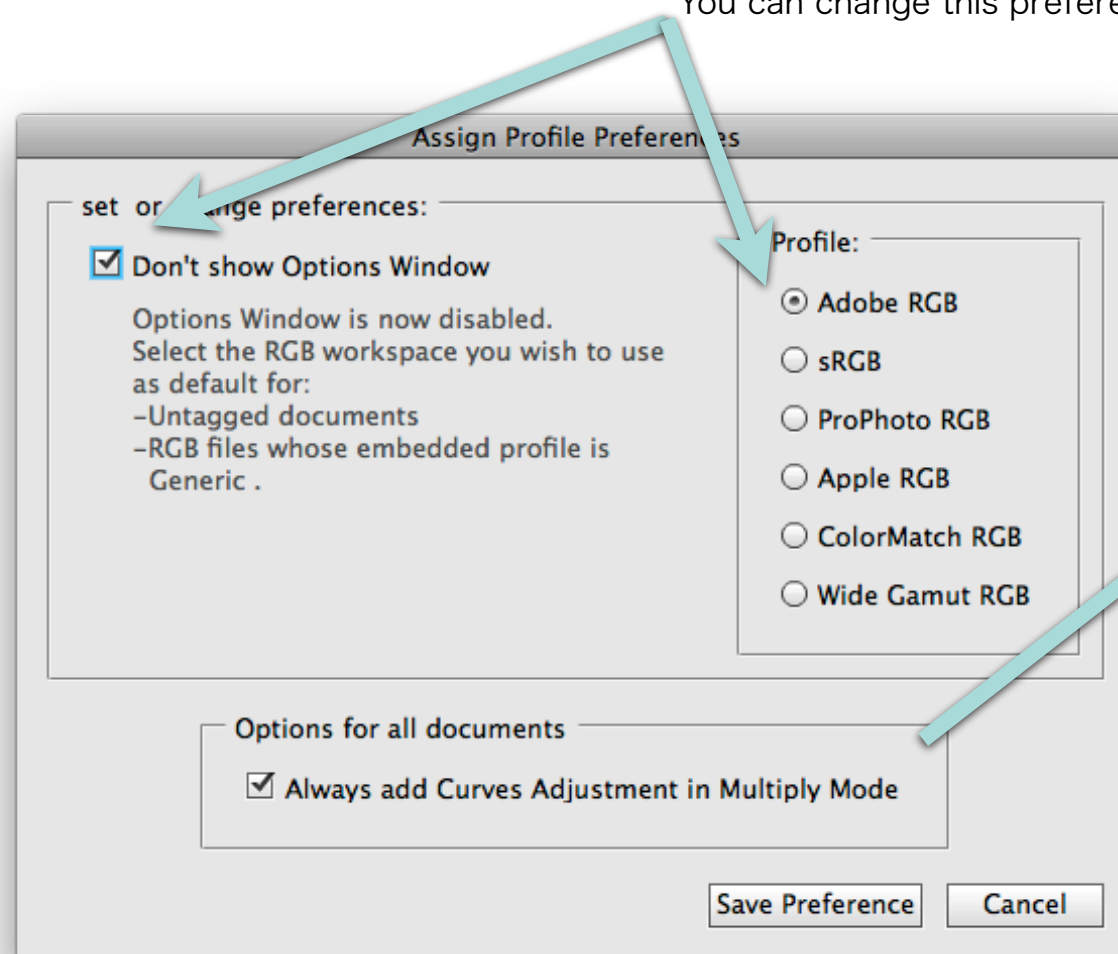


## 9.2 How it Works: preferences menu

### Preferences for Assigning profile

**LAB-CMYK-NO MATCHING PROFILE:** Options Window always opens.

**UNTAGGED and RGB Generic Profile** You can decide whether the Options Window always opens, or you can select a preferred workspace and enable the “Don’t show Options Window”. In this case the assignment is done automatically without being asked for. You can change this preference whenever you want.



### Always add Curves Adjustment in Multiply mode

This is a wide preference that is applied to all document types.

It is enabled by default when you install the panel.

Only one curves adjustment layer will be added to any document. This means you can switch to different gamma values without adding adjustment layers every time.

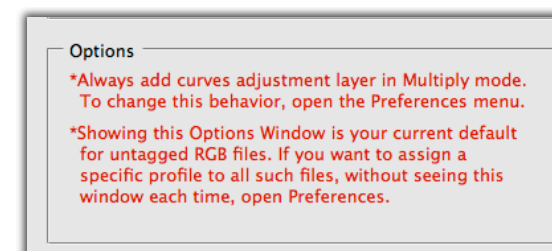
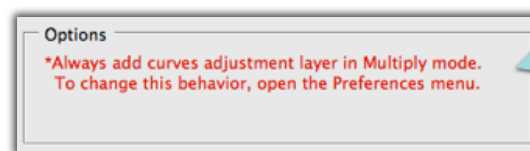
### Save preferences

Store the preferences that will be applied to your documents.

### Cancel

Reverts to your previously saved preference.

When the Options Window opens, you always see your current preference.





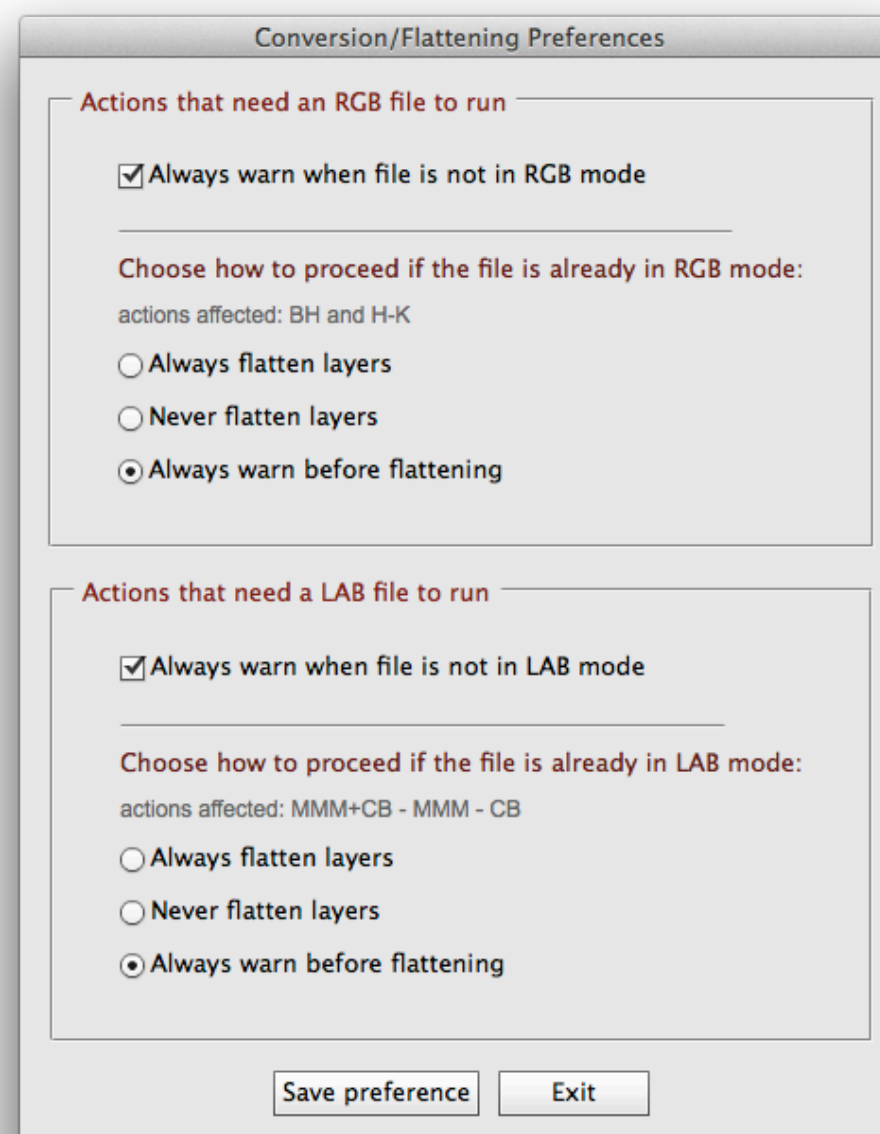
## 9.3 How it Works: preferences menu

### Conversion/flattening preferences

For actions that require a certain colorspace to run, by default you will get a warning if you are in the wrong colorspace. This warning will offer you the option of continuing with the conversion, making a duplicate copy and continuing with that, or cancelling.

Unchecking the preference allows to turn the warning off and just converting.

From here you can also decide how to proceed as default when the file is in the colorspace needed by the action and there is more than one layer.



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## 9.4 How it Works: preferences menu

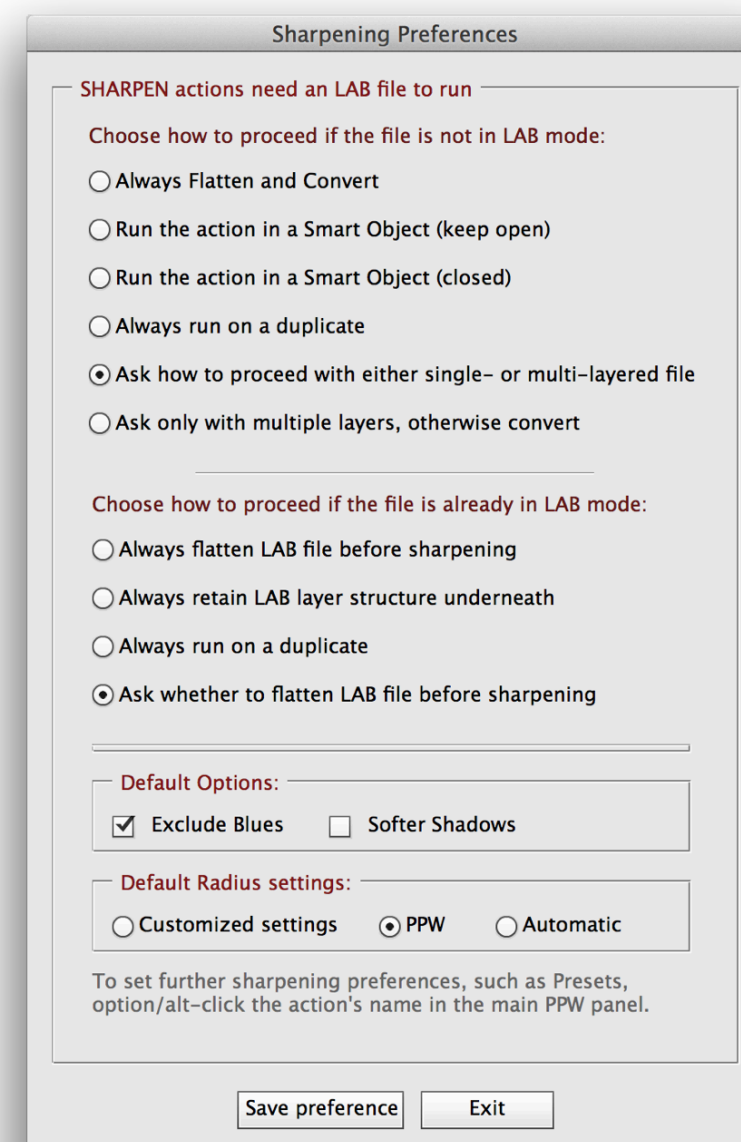
### Sharpen 2015 preferences

From here you can decide how to proceed as default for the Sharpen 2015 action.

You can decide how to proceed as default when the file is in the colorspace needed by the action or when it is in the right mode

You can decide which options must be applied as default.

You can decide which radius settings must be used both when running the action in the automatic way or when the options Window is opened alt clicking.



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## 9.5 How it Works: preferences menu

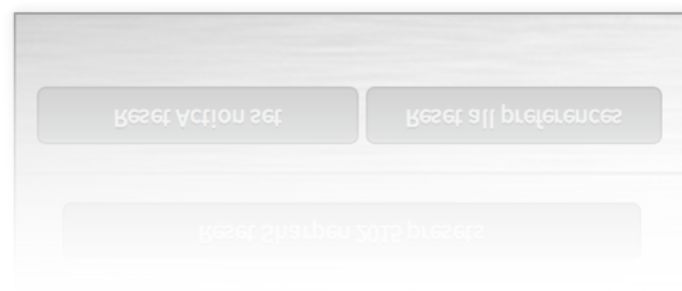
**Reset Sharpen 2015 presets**



You can restore all the custom presets you have created in the Options windows for Sharpen 2015

This action doesn't delete default presets and default preferences.

Before proceeding, a warning dialog appears asking to confirm.





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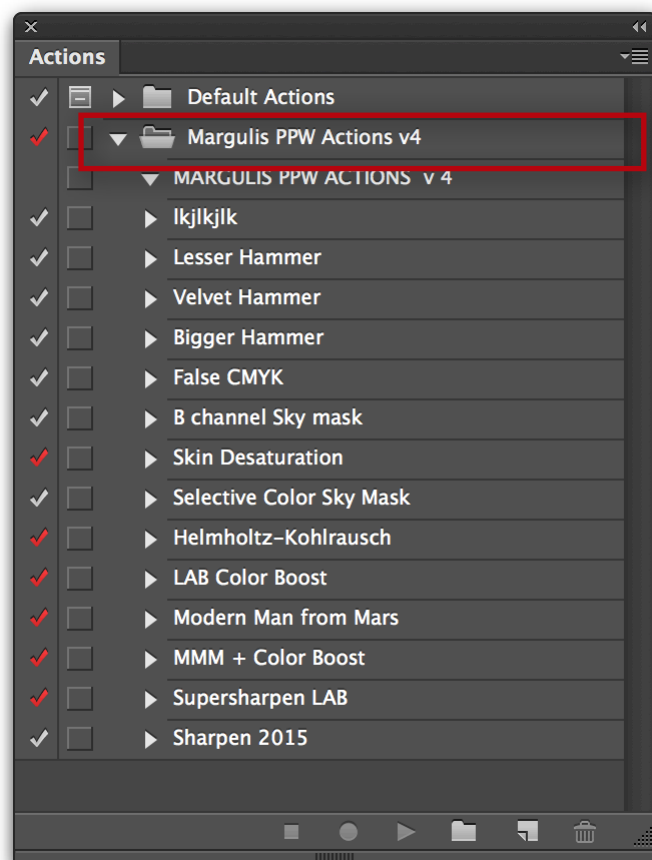


## 9.6 How it Works: preferences menu

**Reset Action set- Restore PPW preferences**

Click the “Reset Action Set” to delete and reload a new default Action Set

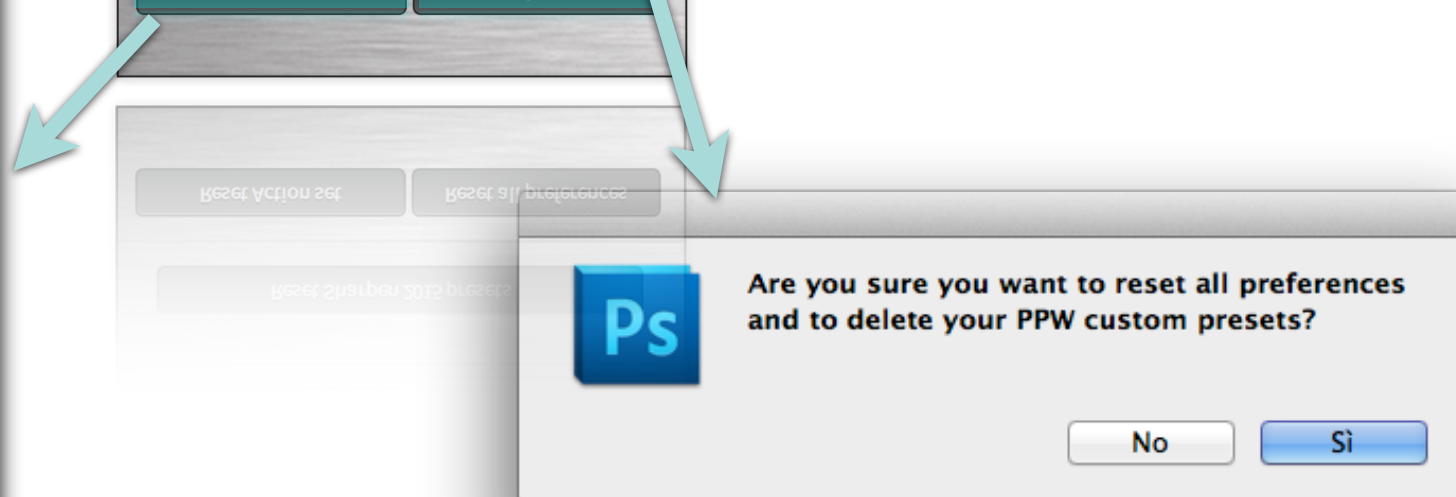
A warning dialog appears.



You can restore all the default PPW preferences.

This action also deletes also any custom default you have created.

Before proceeding, a warning dialog appears asking to confirm.



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# 10.0 How it Works: Colors - reference

Press the Color button to open the Color reference panel to Lab and Known colors

CS5-CS6-CC



CC2014





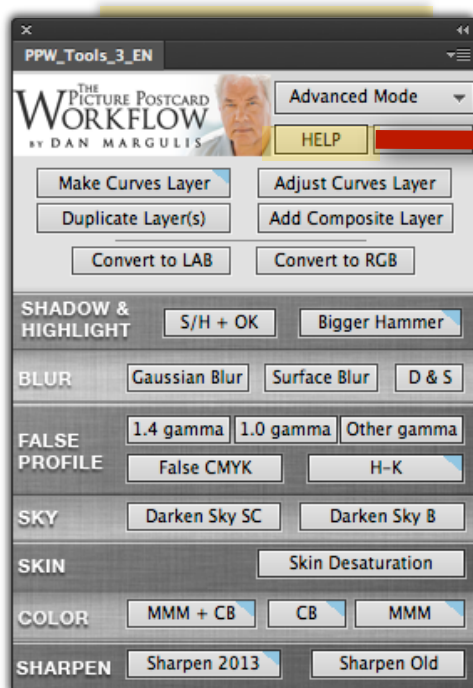
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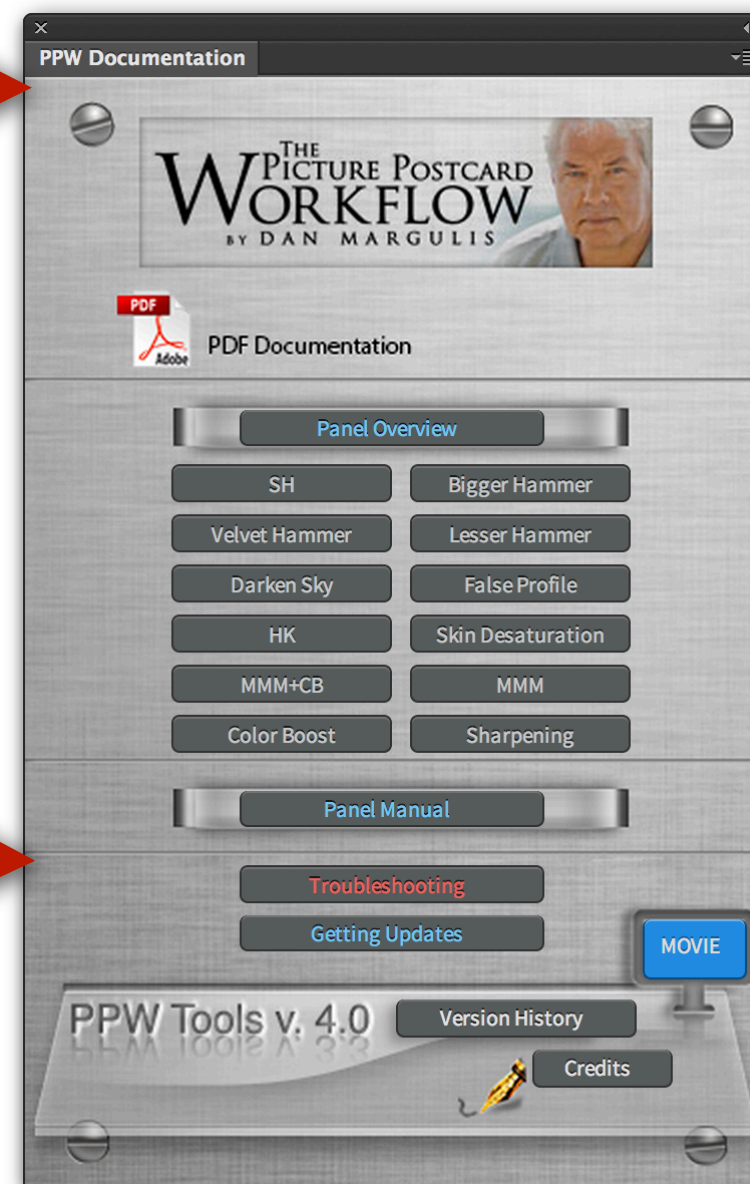
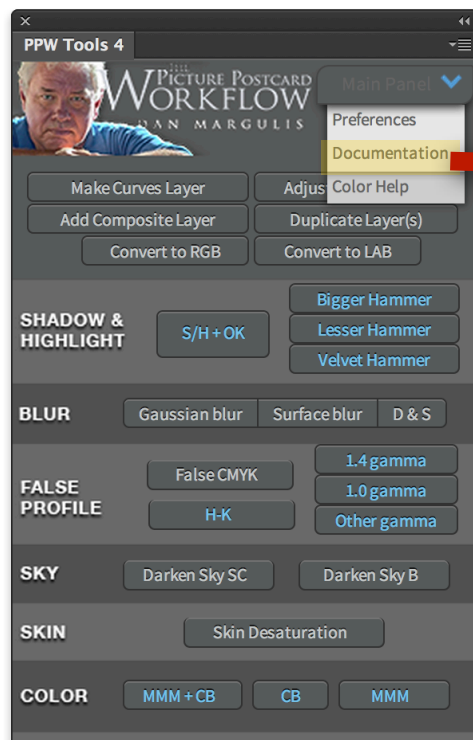
# 11.0 How it Works: help button

Press the Help/ Documentation button to open the Documentation panel.

CS5-CS6-CC



CC2014



Access to more information:

PDFs

PPW Documentation

Troubleshooting

An internet connection is required.

Getting Updates:

An internet connection is required. The button opens your default browser and you will be linked to the official Dan Margulis site:

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

for updates, information and resources on the PPW Workflow.

Version History

To track features and bug fixes of the different PPW tools releases.

Credits

Panel & Documentation Credits.(see last page)

Movie

Internet connection required. the buttons open the browser window and link to the video tutorials on the PPW Workflow.



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# 11.1 How it Works: help button PDFs

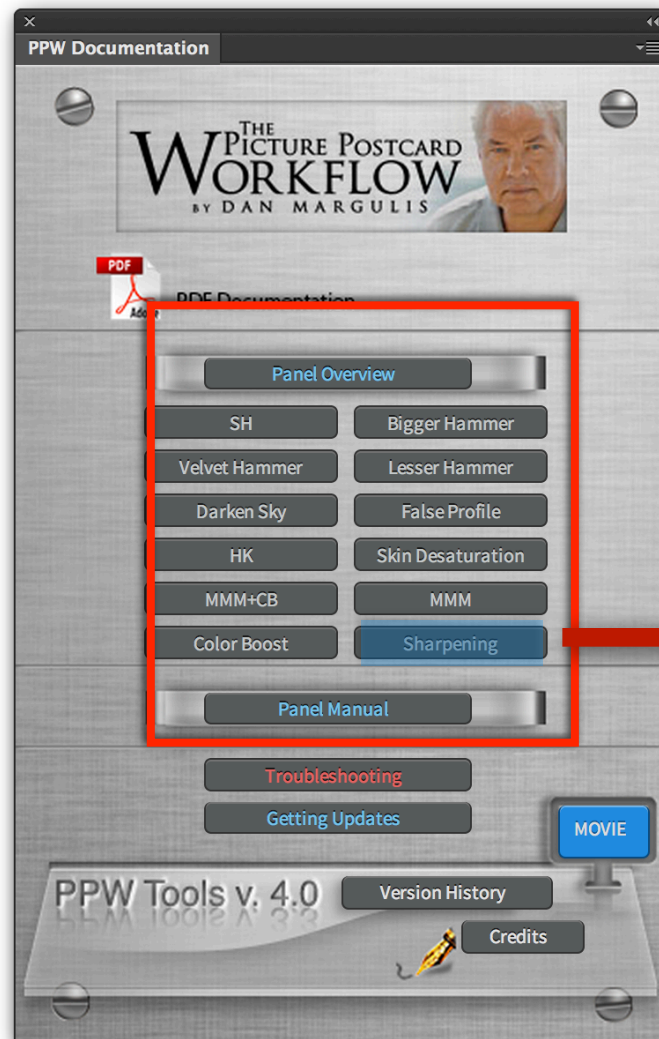
Extensive PDF documentation is available within the PPW panel. To access it, click the Help button.

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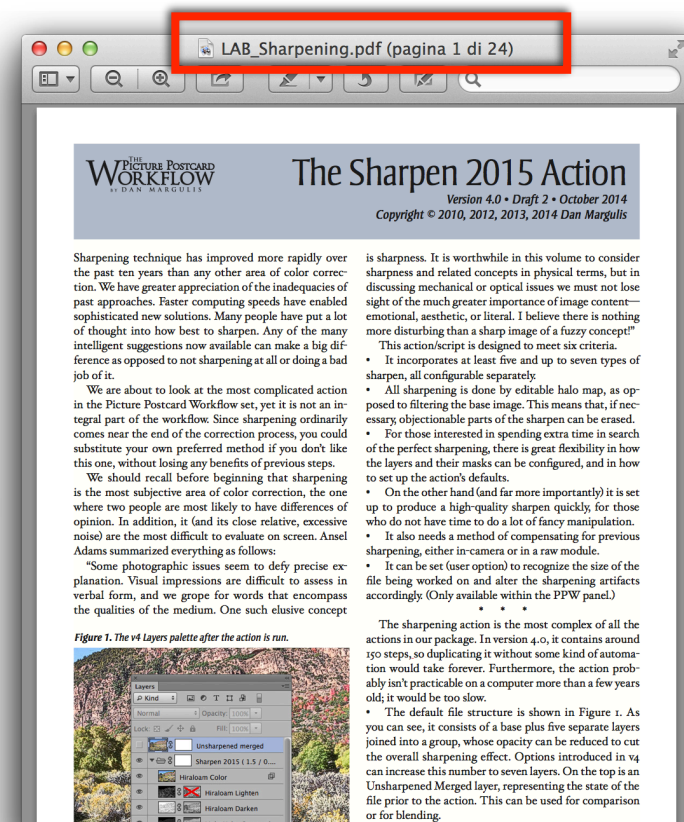
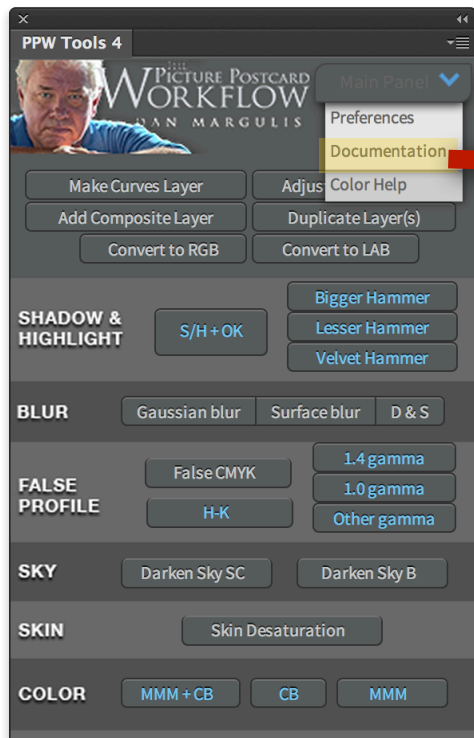
PDF

Press the Help/Documentation button to open Documentation window



Click to open the PDF of your choice.

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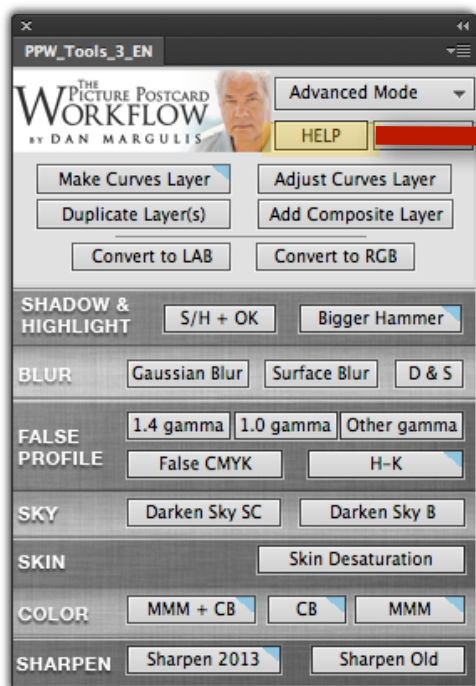
# 11.2 Updates

You can check if a newer version is available by clicking the Getting Updates button (internet connection is required)

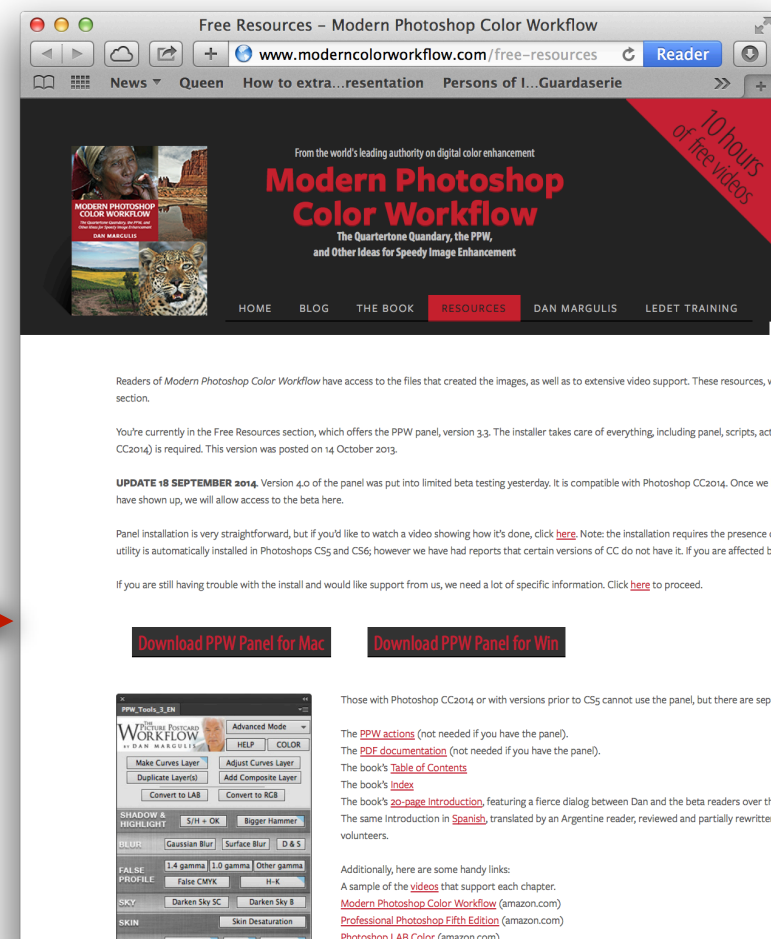
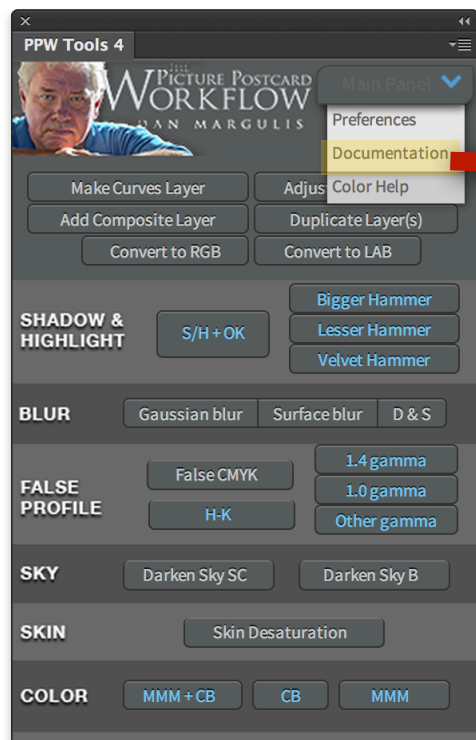
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Your default browser opens and you will be linked to the official Dan Margulis site:

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



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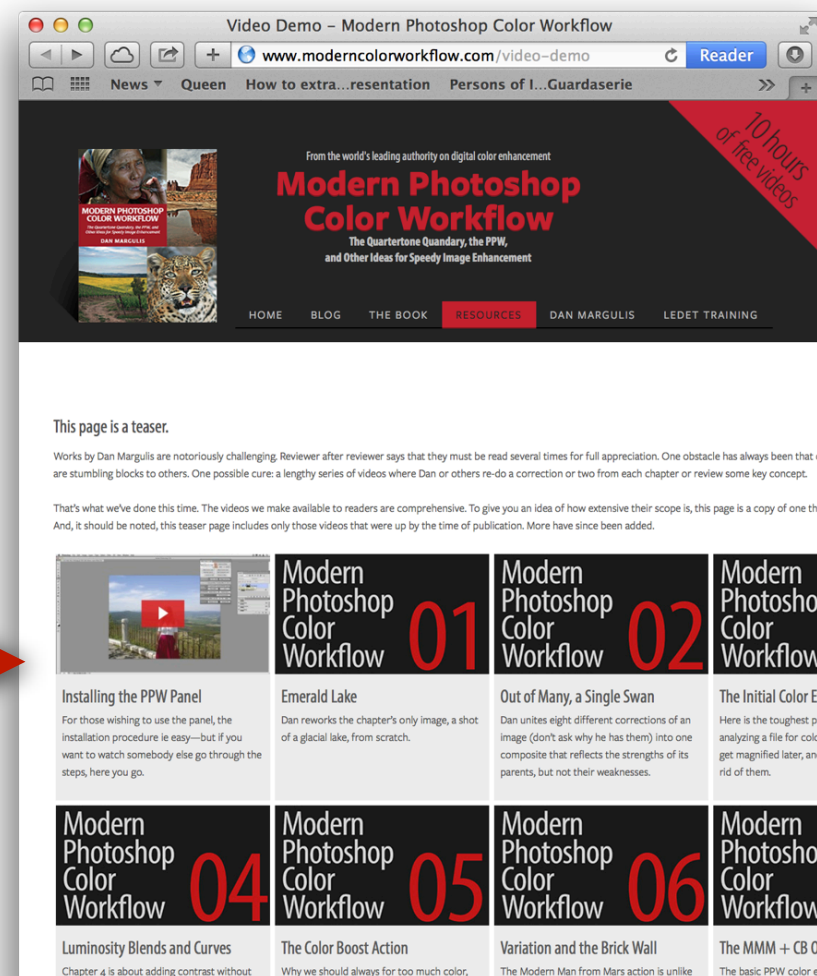
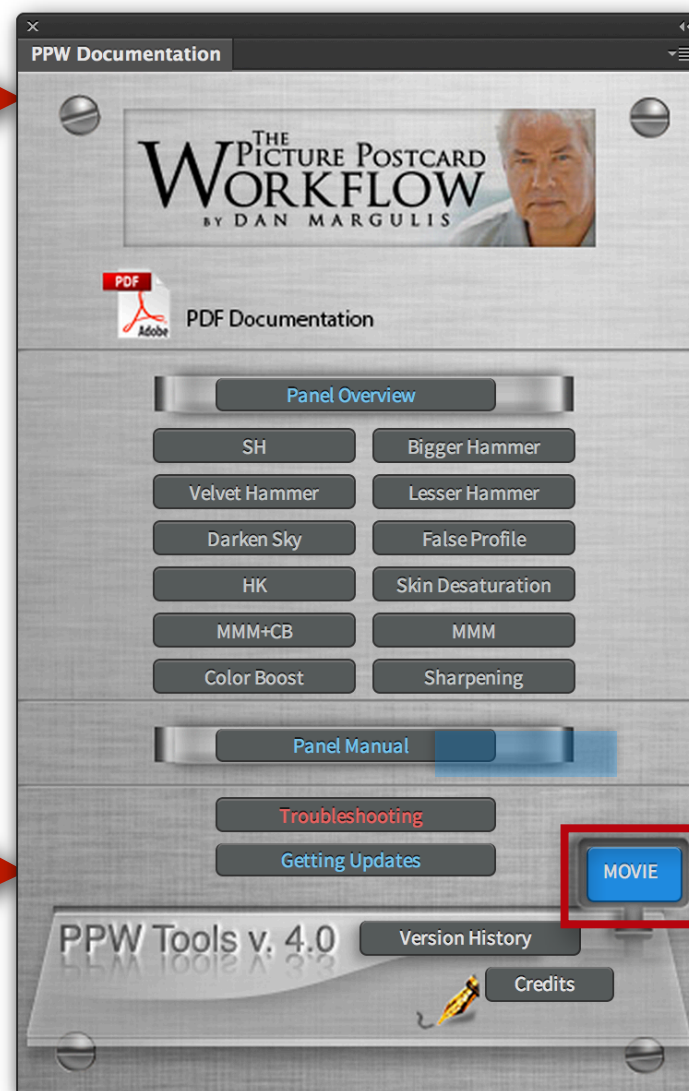
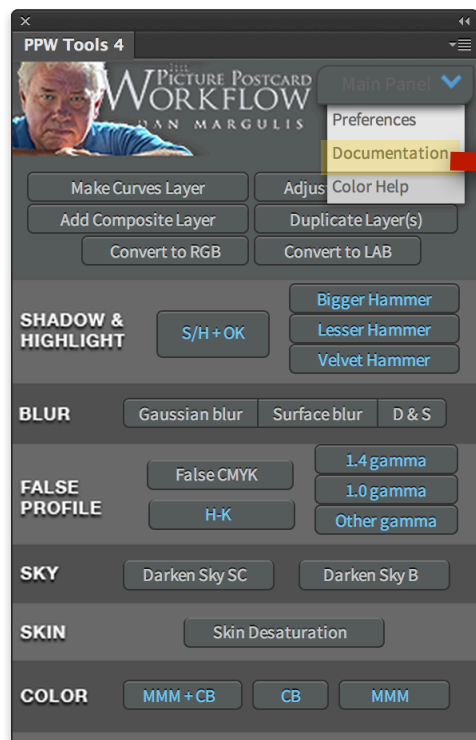
## 11.3 Tutorials

Clicking the Movie icon opens the web page where you can access to the video tutorials on the PPW Workflow. Registration may be required.

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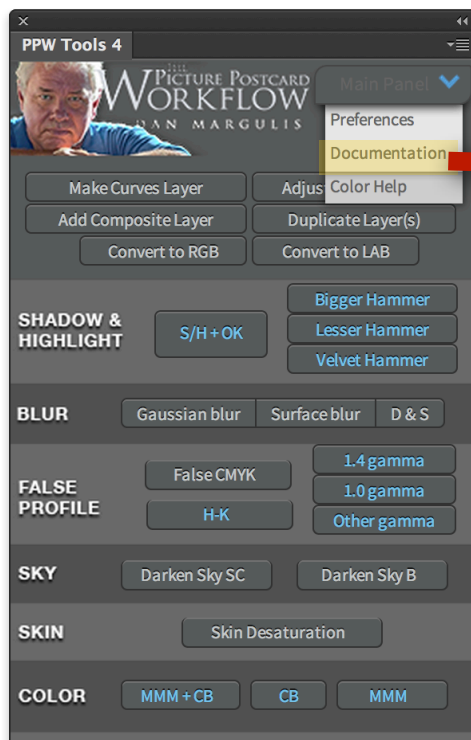
# 11.4 Support - troubleshooting (online)

If you have any issue with the panel you can click the Support button.  
Your default browser opens and you will be linked to the official support page.

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## Troubleshooting PPW Panel Installation

The PPW panel installer has been believed bug-free since its inception. In the first years trouble could develop if a user attempted to install the wrong panel, as there had to be separate panels for each supported version of Photoshop. Now, however, the installer detects the Photoshop version and installs the correct variant. **NOTE: The PPW panel is not currently compatible with Photoshop CC 2014.** Until such time as a new version is released, Photoshop CC 2014 users can still download the actions and documentation [here](#), but the panel itself cannot be installed.

The few installation difficulties that remain have always been traced to misconfiguration of Adobe Extension Manager. Sometimes it is missing entirely (in which case it is a free download from Adobe); sometimes the wrong version of AEM is being opened (you cannot install a CC panel from a CS6 Extension Manager, for example); sometimes there are local permissions issues that prevent you from using AEM to load extensions at all.



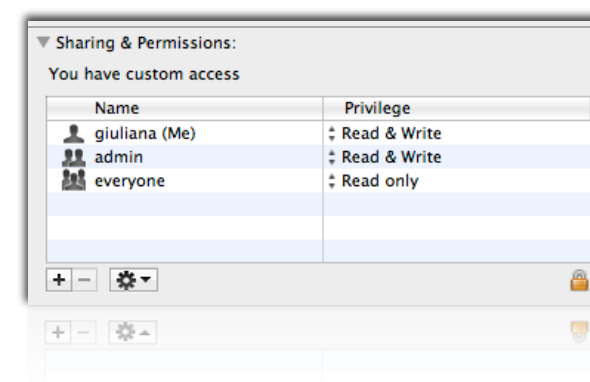
# 12.0 Troubleshooting

The most common problems when installing whichever extension are permission related issues.

## MAC-permissions

On a Mac this rarely happens, because if you are logged as an administrator you have access to all Adobe folders and Applications.

If it does happen, verify with the keyboard shortcut Cmd-I whether the Adobe folders have as owner the Admin group or your own account. If not click the lock at the bottom left and add name, group with the right permissions.



## WINDOWS-permissions

On Win even if you are logged as administrator you must give your permission to Adobe Extension Manager to install items.

If you don't see the panel in the extension menu after installation you must run Extension Manager program as an administrator and re.run the installer

Even if you are logged to your computer as an administrator follow this instruction:

Find Adobe Extension Manager CSx in your Programs folder. Default path is:

**C:\Program Files\Adobe\Adobe Extension Manager CSx\Adobe Extension Manager CSx.exe**

(it may change depending on your language and whether you have chosen a custom installation path).

Now right-click on the Adobe Extension Manager CS6.exe application and in the contextual menu choose:

“Run as administrator” [\(see Image in the next page.](#)

## MAC + WIN

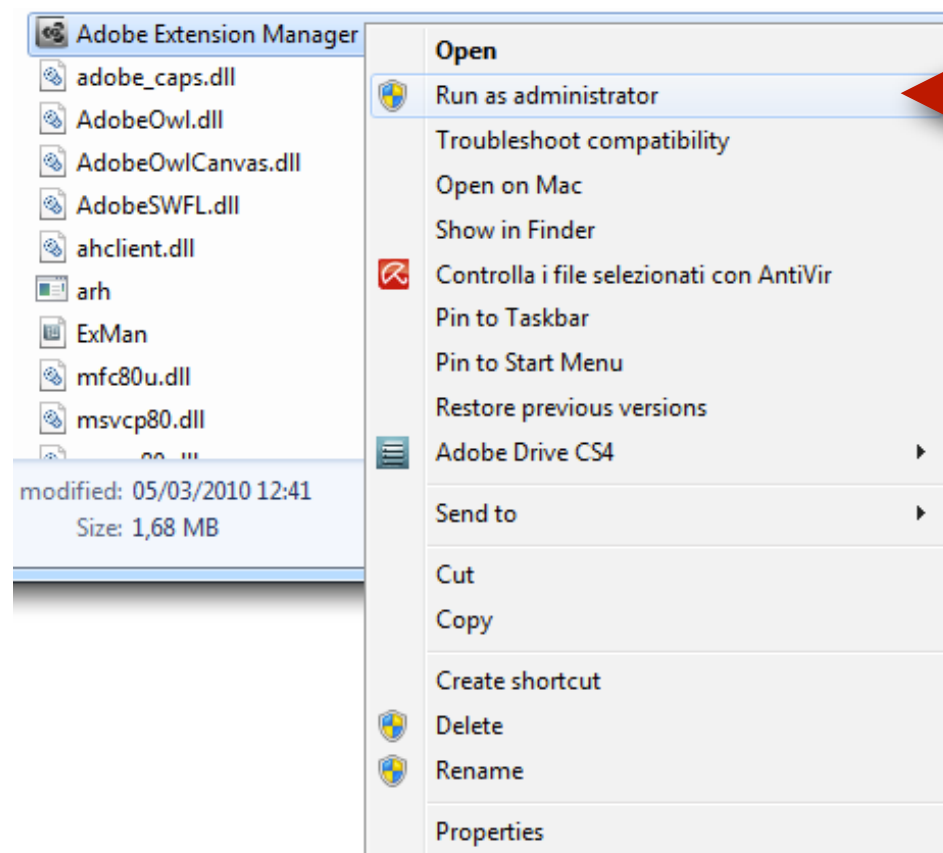
Always verify you are running the correct version of Adobe Extension Manager as indicated in the “installation” section.



# 12.1 Attention Windows Users

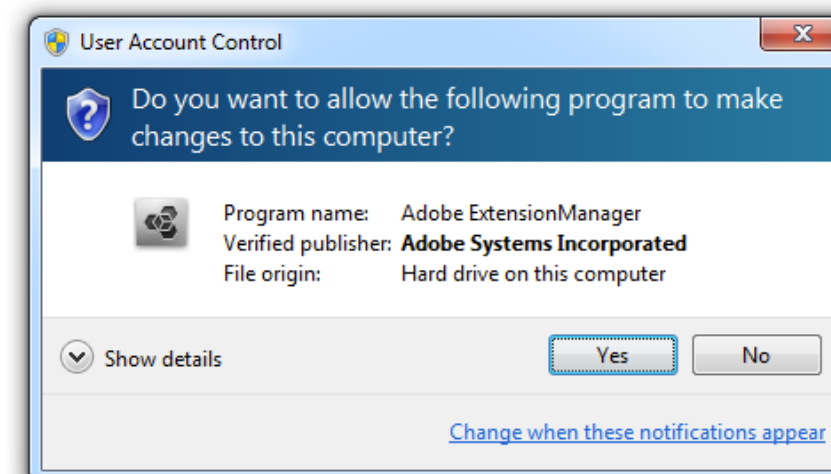
To Install, Upgrade and Uninstall you need always to locate Adobe Extension Manager in your Application Folder.

**Photoshop CS6:** Right-click the Adobe Extension Manager CS6 program icon and choose:



## Run as administrator

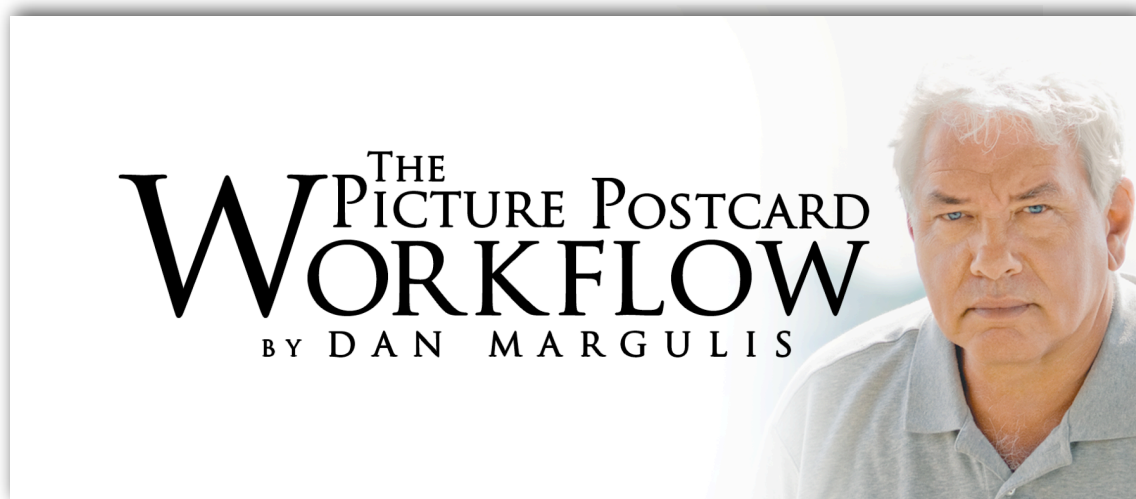
Enter your administrator password if requested, or click Yes to open Adobe Extension Manager



**Do it even if you're already logged in as an administrator!**



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Win only
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# PPW tools panel v 4.0

## Panel:

Dan Margulis

Giuliana Abbiati

## Actions:

Dan Margulis

## Scripts:

Giuliana Abbiati

## Supervision:

Alessandro Bernardi

Marco Olivotto

## Documentation:

PPW Overview:	D.Margulis
Configurator:	G.Abbiati
Panel manual:	G.Abbiati
Shadows/Highlights:	A.Bernardi
Bigger Hammer:	D.Margulis
Velvet/LesserHammer:	D.Margulis
Darken Sky:	A.Bernardi
False Profile:	M.Olivotto
H-K:	D.Margulis
Skin Desaturation:	D.Margulis
MMM+CB	D.Margulis
Modern Man From Mars:	D.Margulis
Color Boost:	D.Margulis
Sharpening:	D.Margulis