

How to use Photoshop Actions and Brushes

Step 1: Download the Actions and Brushes

Download the zip file and store it somewhere on your computer for future reference. You will be installing the actions and brushes in Photoshop, but you should also have the actual preset files somewhere else on your computer as a backup.

Step 2: Import Actions and Brushes

To import an action set or a brush set, you only need to click on the downloaded file and Photoshop will automatically import it.

Step 3: Using the “Dodge Burn – Curves” Action

Open the Actions panel and you will see the imported actions. To use the “Dodge Burn – Curves” action, just click on the action and it will create the set of Adjustment layers in the Layers panel. To dodge, use one of the soft round brushes from the brush set (the only difference between them is a brush size) set to 100% Opacity and 4% Flow. Draw with that brush, with white color on a “Dodge” layer mask. To burn, use the same process on the “Burn” layer mask.

Step 4: Using the “Dodge Burn – 50% Gray Layer” Action

Open the Actions panel and you will see the imported actions. To use the “Dodge Burn – 50% Gray Layer” action, just click on the action and it will create the set of Adjustment layers in the Layers panel. Use one of the soft round brushes from the brush set (the only difference between them is a brush size) set to 100% Opacity and 4% Flow. To dodge, draw with that brush, with white color on a “Dodge” layer. To burn, draw with that brush, with black color on a “Burn” layer.

Step 5: Using the “Soften – Complete Image” Action

Open the Actions panel and you will see the imported actions. To use the “Soften – Complete Image” action, just click on the action and it will create the “Soften” layer in the Layers panel. To set the intensity of the effect, change the opacity of the “Soften” layer.

Step 6: Using the “Sharpen – Complete Image” Action

Open the Actions panel and you will see the imported actions. To use the “Sharpen – Complete Image” action, just click on the action and it will create the “Sharpen” layer in the Layers panel. To set the intensity of the effect, change the opacity of the “Sharpen” layer.

Step 7: Using the “Soften – Masked Areas” Action

Open the Actions panel and you will see the imported actions. To use the “Soften – Masked Areas” action, just click on the action and it will create the “Soften” layer in the Layers panel. To soften some image parts, use one of the soft round brushes from the brush set (the only difference between them is a brush size) set to 100% Opacity and 20% Flow. Draw with that brush, with white color on a “Soften” layer mask.

Step 8: Using the “Sharpen – Masked Areas” Action

Open the Actions panel and you will see the imported actions. To use the “Sharpen – Masked Areas” action, just click on the action and it will create the “Sharpen” layer in the Layers panel. To sharpen some image parts, use one of the soft round brushes from the brush set (the only difference between them is a brush size) set to 100% Opacity and 20% Flow. Draw with that brush, with white color on a “Sharp” layer mask.