KADC Actions for Photoshop

In an effort to help our customers get the most out of our plug-ins, Kodak Austin Development Center is creating Photoshop Actions that will be available as a free download from our web site. The actions provide a variety of benefits from improving plug-in performance on certain types of images to optimizing the plug-ins for unique effects to create more beautiful images. The actions require Photoshop CS or CS 2 and the most current versions of our Professional plug-ins.

The four individual actions in this first set have the following names: AIR Dimensional, GEM Sharp, SHO Spotlighter, and ROC Outland. Each of these four actions uses one of our four professional plug-ins. The **AIR Dimensional action** addresses two issues some customers have experienced with the DIGITAL GEM Airbrush Professional Plug-In: Faces look too flat and things besides faces are over smoothed. The **GEM Sharp action** automates the DIGITAL GEM Professional Plug-In, providing full grain reduction without softening the image. The **SHO Spotlighter action** uses the DIGITAL SHO Professional Plug-In to automatically emphasize areas of interest and de-emphasize background elements, adding more visual impact to subject without any obvious vignette. The **ROC Outland action** improves the performance of the DIGITAL ROC Professional Plug-In on images where one of the color channels contains little or no information, for example underwater or infrared images.

Using the KADC Action Set
To load the KADC actions in Photoshop, open Photoshop and make sure the actions palette is visible. Click on the small arrow button in the top right corner of the actions palette and select "Load Actions". Browse to the location where you saved the ATN file, select the file, and then click "ok". The action will appear in the actions palette. Add the other ATN files in the same way. Make sure that you have the corresponding KADC professional plug-ins installed and available in your filter menu under "Kodak".

Once you've loaded all the actions, open an image file or select a layer and simply select or highlight the action you wish to use. Then click on the play arrow at the bottom of the action palette. The first time the action is played, a copyright notice will be displayed. You may remove the checkmark next to the first step in the action to disable the display of this notice. Although the actions are available for free, the plug-ins that they call require a serial number which you may purchase on-line at the KADC Website (http://www.asf.com/store). The actions will work with the trial versions of the plug-ins. The trial versions will place a watermark on the image, so please be careful when saving your images if the plug-ins aren't registered. A sample image for each action will be included as part of the downloaded file. The actions have been written to work on images with layers with two exceptions: the layers must not have the same name as the layers the action creates and the layer being processed must not have a mask. *Using the actions on layers which already have a mask will cause an error.* The names of the layers each action creates are listed below in the section for that action.

You may modify or copy these actions for your own use, but deleting the copyright notice, distributing the actions, or distributing modified versions of the actions is prohibited. If you would like to share these actions with other people, please direct them to our website. We welcome your feedback. If you have suggestions for improving these actions or ideas for new actions using our plug-ins, please contact us (http://www.asf.com/Comments.aspx).

Using the AIR Dimensional Action

The AIR Dimensional Action adds subtle shadowing detail to areas which may appear too flat after using the DIGITAL GEM Airbrush Professional Plug-In. The action works on skin tone areas, as well as background elements to bring back shadow dimensionality while maintaining the smoothing effects of the plug-in.

Load the image you would like to work with into Photoshop. This action will call the DIGITAL GEM Airbrush Professional Plug-In, so please take a moment to check that DIGITAL GEM Airbrush Professional appears under the Filter->Kodak menu and isn't grayed out. Select the layer to process, then select the "AIR Dimensional" action in the "KADC AIR" set from the action palette and click the play button on the bottom of the palette.

Layers created by the AIR Dimensional Action:
- Original GEMAIR Dimensional
- Untouched GEM AIR Dimensional KADC
- Default GEM AIR Dimensional KADC
- Skin mask GEM AIR Dimensional KADC
- Modeling light GEM AIR Dimensional KADC
- Average GEM AIR Dimensional KADC
- Luma GEM AIR Dimensional KADC

Advanced Photoshop users may want to adjust the action to customize it for their personal taste. One easy customization is to have the DIGITAL GEM Airbrush Pro dialog displayed so you may adjust the settings to something other than the default. See "Using the Actions Palette" in the Photoshop help file for a description of how to do this.

Using the SHO Spotlighter Action

The SHO Spotlighter action emphasizes skin tones, high detail areas, and the center of the image. The outer edges of the image are de-emphasized by applying a subtle vignette that leaves the dark and light areas near the edges untouched. The center or focal point of the image is then emphasized with the DIGITAL SHO Professional Plug-In effect. The "spotlight" layer shows the areas that the action selected to emphasize. The red channel of the spotlight layer is the skin tone mask, the green channel is the vignette mask, and the blue channel is the detail mask. All three masks are combined into the mask of the light layer. Areas that are lighter have more SHO applied than darker areas. The "compare" layer shows the result of the DIGITAL SHO Professional Plug-In without the extra processing done in the action. Clicking the eye by that layer will allow you to compare the result of the action with the result of the plug-in.

The SHO Spotlighter action also warms areas that it emphasizes and cools areas that it is deemphasizing. If you wish to turn off either of these effects, delete the "warm" or "cool" level adjustment layers. You will have to merge the layers manually instead of continuing the action in this case, because the action specifically selects those layers when merging so that the action will run without affecting any existing layers in the image.

Load the image you would like to work with into Photoshop. This action will call the DIGITAL SHO Professional Plug-in, so please take a moment to check that DIGITAL SHO Professional appears under the Filter->Kodak menu, and isn't grayed out. Select the layer to process, then select the "SHO Spotlighter" action in the "KADC SHO" set from the action palette and click the play button on the bottom of the palette.

Layers created by the SHO Spotlighter Action:
- Original SHO Spotlighter KADC
- Dark SHO Spotlighter KADC
- Spotlight SHO Spotlighter KADC
- Average SHO Spotlighter KADC
- Luma SHO Spotlighter KADC
- Light SHO Spotlighter KADC
- Compare SHO Spotlighter KADC
- Warm SHO Spotlighter KADC
- Cool SHO Spotlighter KADC

Advanced Photoshop users may want to customize the action for their own types of images. If the default effect for DIGITAL SHO is too strong or too weak, turn on the display of the dialog for DIGITAL SHO Professional step so that you may adjust the settings. See "Using the Actions Palette" in the Photoshop help file for a description of how to do this.

Using the GEM Sharp Action

The GEM Sharp action focuses on preserving image detail and sharpness while reducing noise and grain. It automatically ensures that the resulting image has preserved every bit of detail that the original had while minimizing the noise and grain. This is a great method of using the plug-in without worrying about excessive softening. There are two actions in this set GEM Sharp 8 bpp, for 8 bit images, and GEM Sharp 16 bpp, for 16 bit images. Some of the calculations done in the action should be performed in 16 bit space to prevent quantization errors. The only difference between these two actions is that GEM Sharp 8 bpp converts the image to 16 bit mode before performing the calculations, and then converts the image back to 8 bit mode.

Load the image you would like to work with into Photoshop. This action will call the DIGITAL GEM Professional Plug-In, so please take a moment to check that DIGITAL GEM Professional appears under the Filter->Kodak menu, and isn't grayed out. Select the layer to process, then select the "GEM Sharp" action in the "KADC GEM" set from the action palette and click the play button on the bottom of the palette.

Layers created by the GEM Sharp Action:
- Original GEM Sharp
- Coarse GEM Sharp KADC
- Fine GEM Sharp KADC
- Catchlight GEM Sharp KADC
- GEM Sharp KADC
- LAC GEM Sharp KADC

Advanced Photoshop users may want to customize the action for their own types of images. If the default effect for DIGITAL GEM is too strong or too weak, turn on the display of the dialog for DIGITAL GEM Professional step so that you may adjust the settings. See "Using the Actions Palette" in the Photoshop help file for a description of how to do this.

Using the ROC Outland Action

The ROC Outland action is for the images which the standard DIGITAL ROC Professional Plug-In has trouble with or seems to damage. If you've had images where the professional plug-in didn't meet the challenge, give this action a try.

Load the image you would like to work with into Photoshop. This action will call the DIGITAL ROC Professional Plug-In, so please take a moment to check that DIGITAL ROC Professional appears under the Filter->Kodak menu, and isn't grayed out. There are two ROC Outland actions, one is intended for images that were scanned from film, and the other works better on digital camera images. The only difference between these two actions is that one calls the plug-in with the "Film" mode set, and the other calls the plug-in with the "Digital" mode set. Select the layer to process, then select either the "ROC Outland Film" or "ROC Outland Digital" action in the "KADC ROC" set from the action palette and click the play button on the bottom of the palette.

Layers created by the ROC Outland Action:
- Original ROC Outland KADC
- Ditch Control ROC Outland KADC
- Gentrified ROC Outland KADC
- Estimated ROC Outland KADC
- .1 ROC Outland KADC
- Lift1 ROC Outland KADC
- ROC Outland KADC
- Lift2 ROC Outland KADC
- 10.0 ROC Outland KADC

Advanced Photoshop users may want to customize the action for their own types of images. If the default effect for DIGITAL ROC is too strong or too weak, turn on the display of the dialog for DIGITAL ROC Professional step so that you may adjust the settings. See "Using the Actions Palette" in the Photoshop help file for a description of how to do this.