PPW Tools and PPW 2025 panel - version history

PPW Tools

Release: 1.0.0
Date: 9 September 2011
Actions Set Name: Margulis PPW Actions

- PPW Tools panel first release
- Supported actions: Shadows/Highlights and OK, Bigger Hammer, False CMYK, Darken Sky B, Darken Sky SC, Skin Desaturation, Helmholtz-Kohlrausch, LAB Color Boost v 2.1, MMM 2.0, MMM + Color Boost, Sharpen 2011 v 1.4 and Supersharpen LAB

Release: 1.0.1
Date: 15 September 2011
Actions Set Name: Margulis PPW Actions

- Corrected some broken Hyperlinks in PDFs
- Bug fixed in MMM + Color Boost and MMM actions that retained the selection

Release: 2.0.0
Date: 21 March 2012
Actions Set Name: Margulis PPW Actions v2

- Actions updated: H-K v 2.0 and Sharpen 2012 v 1.0
- Various bugs solved
- New Options window for Bigger Hammer
- The Darken Sky B action has been completely scripted and now runs in any colorspace and is no longer restricted to RGB
- Added sharpening options and preferences, allowing control of all sharpening layers and configuring a default
- 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. A preference allows turning the warning off and just converting
- A new reset function to restore all panel defaults
- The user can now check from within the panel to see whether an update is available
- As with the previous version, all actions are seen as a single history state, so Command-Z cancels the whole thing. The pre-action state is also accessible in the Photoshop's History palette
- Documentation has been updated where required. As before, the panel contains extensive PDF documentation of every action
- The user can now check from within the panel to see whether an update is available

Release: 2.1.0
Date: 10 May 2012
Actions Set Name: Margulis PPW Actions v2

- Actions updated: MMM v 2.0, MMM + Color Boost
- Fixed issue if there is already an active selection when running the "MMM" action on an LAB file and you decide to continue on a duplicate. Now the selection is retained

Release: 3.0.0
Date: 14 March 2013
Actions Set Name: Margulis PPW Actions v3

- Actions updated: Sharpen 2013, Color Boost, Darken Sky SC and Darken Sky B
- Updated graphic interface
- All actions are scripted and can be applied more than once on the same document without canceling the action
- All actions Layers are now grouped with a layer mask and identified by the action's name (H-K / MMM+ Color Boost / MMM / Sharpen 2013 / Sharpen Old)
- The possible options for a layered file now also work when Option-clicking the button
- Added options on the Sharpen 2013, Bigger Hammer, MMM, Color Boost and MMM + Color Boost Options windows
- Skin Desaturation now creates a layer with the name “Skin Desaturation”. If the file is not in LAB, the user gets the usual choices
- Fixed some problems in Darken Sky SC
- The Darken Sky B now creates a layer with the name “Darken Sky B”
- Numerous improvements on the Preferences options
- Action Set updated to v3, automatically loaded when opening the panel without any user input
- New Sharpen 2013 action and updated Color Boost, Darken Sky SC and Darken Sky B actions
- A new Color menu item on the main panel offers a schematic of the LAB colorspace, as well as recommended LAB values for common items such as greenery, skin, hair, chocolate, and others
- New HELP panel features

Release: 3.3.0
Date: 18 September 2013
Actions Set Name: Margulis PPW Actions v3

- Action updated: Sharpen 2013
- Fixed issue when running the action in the required colorspace and there is only a single layer as Smart Object. Now a warning dialog opens and lets you choose how to proceed
- The preferences of the history panel are no longer changed when running an action in Option Mode (alt-click)
- In the Sharpen 2013 action a new and invisible layer "Unsharpened merged" is added on top to take full advantage of Blend If and other masking possibilities

Release: 4.0.0
Date: 12 October 2014
Actions Set Name: Margulis PPW Actions v4

- Actions updated: Sharpen 2015, Bigger Hammer
- Actions added: Lesser Hammer, Velvet Hammer
- Documentation updated: Bigger Hammer, Lesser Hammer, Velvet Hammer, Sharpen 2015, PPW Overview, PPW Manual, Color Boost
- Changes in Adobe's architecture have forced us to develop two different panels, one for Photoshop CC 2014 based on HTML-5, and another for the earlier versions based on Flash
- Various updates on the panel interface
- Added option to run S/H + OK as a Smart Filter
- MMM options now has a Preview checkbox to toggle between the original image and the proposed result of the action
- Color Boost options are no longer shared between MMM + Color Boost and Color Boost actions. Preferences can be set separately
- In the Bigger Hammer action the “Retain Original Color” and “Emphasize Shadow Enhancement” options can be applied as default when running the action
- Added two more actions: Lesser Hammer and Velvet Hammer. Both have an associated Options window, in which you can specify what should happen for 16-bit files
- For convenience, the PPW panel installs the Bigger Hammer and Sharpen 2015 at the bottom of the Photoshop Filter menu bar
- Also for convenience, the PPW panel installs the MMM + Color Boost and MMM under the File/scripts menu bar
- Sharpen Preferences in the Preferences section of the panel has been modified with new options
- Added a new button in the Preferences section of the panel to reset all presets created in the Sharpening Options window
- Major changes have been made in Sharpen 2015, with the addition of two controls that can restrict sharpening in blues and also in shadows. Furthermore, the user can set a preference “Automatic” to have the panel select the level of sharpening based on pixel count

Release: 4.0.6
Date: 20 July 2015
Actions Set Name: Margulis PPW Actions v4

- Compatibility update for Photoshop CC 2015

Release: 4.0.7
Date: September 2015
Actions Set Name: Margulis PPW Actions 4.3

- Fixed a bug in the installer for Windows
- Fixed bugs in Sharpen 2015 and Bigger Hammer

Release: 4.0.8
Date: October 2015
Actions Set Name: Margulis PPW Actions 4.3

- Updated installer: removes all previous installed versions
- Also added an Uninstall option
- Fixed bugs in Darken Sky SC, Darken Sky B and H-K
- Updated actions: Sharpen 2015, Darken Sky SC and Color Boost

Release: 4.0.9
Date: January 2016
Actions Set Name: Margulis PPW Actions 4.3

- Some minor bugs fixed in the action set and in Bigger Hammer
- Various minor updates in the interface

Release: 4.1.0
Date: June 2016
Actions Set Name: Margulis PPW Actions 4.3

- Updated installer for Photoshop CC 2015.5

Release: 4.1.1
Date: November 2016
Actions Set Name: Margulis PPW Actions 4.3

- Updated installer for Photoshop CC 2017

Release: 5.0.0
Date: 26 March 2018
Actions Set Name: Margulis PPW Actions v 5.0

- New Variants functionality, permitting easy storage of the current version of a file, useful for those who want to blend multiple versions of an image
- New subpanel Additional Actions; users may now store their own actions, as well as some defaults that we provide, for access within the panel itself
- The PDF documentation within the panel has been updated as needed
- Fixed bugs in Velvet Hammer, Lesser Hammer, False CMYK, Darken Sky SC and H-K
- Two new layers “Restrict Greens” and "Restrict Blues," in Color mode at 45% opacity, are added to the Color Boost, MMM and MMM + Color Boost scripts

- Sharpen 2018: Exclude Blues, Soften Shadows, and Automatic sizing of halos based on image size are now set as defaults

PPW 2025

Release: 0.0.3
Date: 2 March 2025

- A first version emulating the old PPW Tools v.5 panel. Code has been redeveloped from scratch in UXP, making it as future-proof as possible
- A choice was made to use the Photoshop look and feel to make the plugin visually similar to other plugins
- The most obvious omission compared to PPW 5 is the “My Actions for PPW” window at the bottom of the panel. Also no full support of Preferences has been developed yet

Release: 0.1.0
Date: 15 April 2025

- Many bugs have been fixed
- Adjust Curves Layer has been removed from the panel as we have found no way yet to bring up the classic Curves adjustment interface
- The panel dropdown (hamburger) menu now has an option to change the panel font size
- PDF documentation can now be loaded by clicking the question mark in the relevant button
- Color Boost has been replaced by a more advanced incarnation, CB 2025
- Sharpen Old has been removed and Sharpen 2018 has been replaced by Sharpen 2025, which contains a new “Suppress Skin” layer. Presets can now be reliably created and used
- The first of “Additional Actions” has been implemented
- Many code fixes to make a one-step CTRL-Z/CMD-Z possible

Release: 1.2.0
Date: 14 January 2026

- Numerous bugs have been fixed
- A button Other Gamma has been added to allow the user to choose a gamma value to, interactively, try out different settings.
- Related to that, PPW 2025 provides a set of color profiles for the Other Gamma function. When starting Photoshop, an instruction message is given to move the profiles to the correct location. The warning can be suppressed by a preference
- Various preferences have been added for the Variants functionality, including support for where Variant subfolders are stored, what their names should be and to clean up the Variants folders
- Sharpen2025 sliders now use an exponential scale to allow more sensitivity for lower numbers

Release: 1.3.0
Date: 17 May 2026

- Fixed some newly surfaced issues and incompletely implemented actions
- Removed Gamma 1.0 and Gamma 1.4 buttons since these are also available in Other Gamma
- Added a new button Contrast Boost Extra and a new additional action Contrast Boost. Both mimic the effect of KnowHowTransfer's SHAPE plugin which is no longer maintained
- Added a manual for the new actions
- Together with the panel, an initial set of additional actions is delivered into the PS action set “My Actions for PPW 2025” (but only if this set does not exist yet). The actions of this set are shown as buttons in the Additional Actions box. Functionality is similar to how it was in the PPW 5 panel
- The Additional Actions box now resizes with the PPW 2025 panel and implements scrollbars
- Added Sharpen 2025 preferences to the Preferences dropdown menu

Release: 1.3.1
Date: 9 June 2026

- Fixed a number of file access issues on MAC installations
- Changed the choices on the Other Gamma panel (1.4 and 1.7 instead of 1.5 and 1.8)
- Fixed a few minor bugs

Release: 1.3.2
Date: 12 July 2026

- Fixed a number of file access issues on MAC installations
- Reactivated the Color menu item originally introduced in PPW Tools v.3.0.0, offering reference material on the structure of the LAB colorspace
- Fixed a few minor bugs

Release: 1.4.0
Date: 26 November 2026
Actions Set Name: PPW2025 1.4.0 Action Set

- Added a new action H-K Lighten, a counterpart of the existing H-K script
- Implemented a new mechanism to easily manage the list of Additional Actions on the panel, using a fixed set of “standard actions” plus a user-configurable set of “personal actions”
- Created an action set “PPW2025 1.4.0 Action Set” with actions that mimic the panel scripts with default options; the panel automatically installs this

- Moved the Suppress Skin layer of the Sharpen 2025 script above the Hiraloam Lighten and Darken layers
- Implemented the “Automatic” preset on the Sharpen 2025 options window, to automatically adjust halo sizes according to the image pixel size
- Released a new Panel Manual, replacing the old (PPW 5) Panel Manual, the My Actions for PPW and the PPW Overview and Options PDFs
- Revised all PDF documentation to the current state of affairs
- Replaced the existing False Profile PDF by two new documents: Other Gamma and False CMYK
- Added some troubleshooting facilities like extra log and traceback output for cases when obscure bugs are encountered
- Fixed a number of minor bugs
- Removed the menu item Calibrate Command IDs as it was useless