WORKFLOW ACCELERATOR

BEAUTY RETOUCH v3.0

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

KNOWLEDGE. BUSINESS. INSPIRATION.

RETOUCHING ACADEMY

ART & BUSINESS OF RETOUCHING

2016 update

Thank you for all your support and love for the RA Panels that you have been sharing with us for the past two years! We truly appreciate every **testimonial**, **shoutout**, every **tag** and every **mention** on social media from our Panel users!

It is your love and help spreading the word, that allows us to continue improving the RA panels and making the updates available to you free of charge.

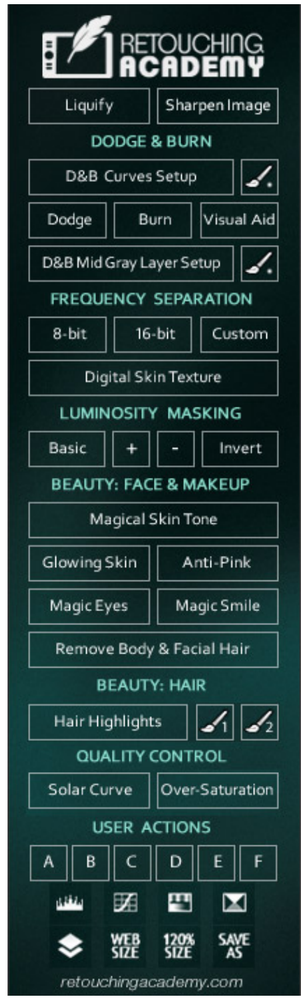
This year the RA Panels update includes not only an addition of a couple of exciting practical features such as User Custom Actions and a newer and simpler Magic Skin Tone script, but also a comlete facelift!

We hope you enjoy the new modern look of the panels, and as always we are looking forward to seeing and sharing your screenshots featuring our panels along with your beautiful work. Use tag #RApanels on any social media where you post your images.

Among other news, we'd like to invite you to follow our new Instagram account, where we share inspirting images from amazing artists from all over the world on a daily basis: www.instagram.com/retouchingacademy

Stay inspired!

> The moment you cheat for the sake of beauty, you know **you are an artist**.
>
> ~ David Hockney



FIRE UP YOUR WORKFLOW!

The Beauty Retouch Workflow Accelerator is a Photoshop extension panel created by a team of Retouching Academy experts to help photographers and retouchers speed up their Beauty, Fashion, & Portrait retouching workflows and increase the quality of the finished product.

Photo & Post-production by Julia Kuzmenko McKim, Model: Aqueela of Osbrink Models, Los Angeles

UNLEASH YOUR RETOUCHING MAGIC POWERS

Our Workflow Accelerator combines basic Beauty retouching scripts with tool and adjustment layer shortcuts that will simplify and accelerate your workflow by automating the tedious and repetitive parts of your routine. Utilizing a few advanced and extremely helpful scripts, this extension panel will also save you hours of work as well as help you achieve accurate, repeatable, top-quality results!

Our panel will allow you to declutter your workspace, close out unnecessary Photoshop panels and have all of your main actions and tool buttons sitting right where you want them, all in one place. That's not to mention that it is a beautiful supermodel of a panel!

MAKE YOUR RETOUCHING FAST & SMART

SAVE TIME, DECLUTTER YOUR WORKSPACE, AND ACHIEVE CONSISTENTLY ACCURATE, REPEATABLE TOP-QUALITY RESULTS.

CONVENIENCE

We know what a hassle it can be digging through Photoshop's submenus and recalling obscure keyboard shortcuts, so we've gathered the most commonly used tools, adjustment layers, and functions for Beauty & Portrait retouching all in one easily accessible place.

SMART SCRIPTS

The central part of the panel is a collection of retouching actions that we've refined over the past few years. They are designed to help you save time setting up the necessary layers and perform advanced calculations to help you achieve top-quality retouching results.

TOP OF THE PANEL

Surveying our users showed that the vast majority did not use the tool buttons, so we moved them to the top of Pixel Juggler (our free panel) to clear up some space for the new features.

SKIN RETOUCHING

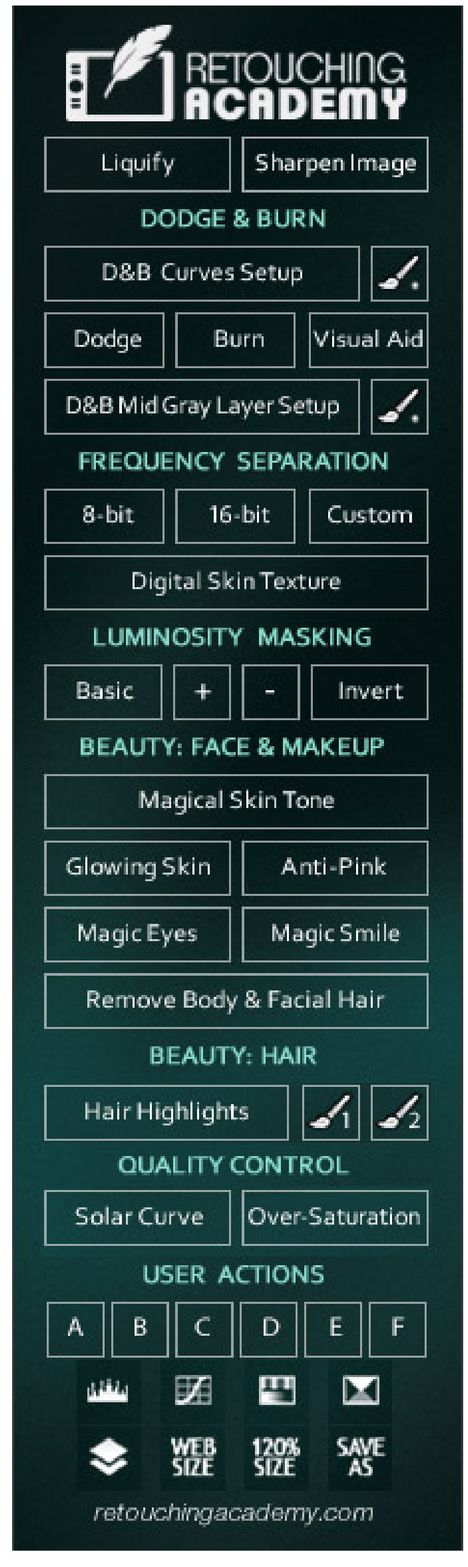
The key skin retouching techniques in beauty photography - Dodge & Burn and Frequency Separation - aren't easy to master, but this section of the panel can help you simplify and quicken their setups. If you're not sure how these techniques work, we've included a helpful video tutorial. Understanding these techniques thoroughly is the first step toward mastering them!

FACE & MAKEUP RETOUCHING

After the skin is cleaned up, it's time to beautify the rest of the face: add vitality to the eyes, brighten up the smile, remove facial hair, and even out skin tones with the Magical Skin Tone script. We have update it, and it's simpler and more effective now!

CUSTOM ACTIONS, QUALITY CONTROL & MORE

Now you can even add your Custom Actions to the panel! Check out the instructions on how to set them up further in this manual. And before you finish your retouch and submit it to your client, make sure to use these handy Quality Control procedures; they're great for catching issues tough to identify any other way. Plus, if you're like us and use the same handful of Adjustment layers in your workflow frequently, we've thrown in a few quick-access buttons at the bottom of the panel just for you.



■ Adobe® Photoshop® CS6, CC2014, CC2015, Mac & Win

BEAUTY RETOUCH: INSTALLATION GUIDE FOR CC2015

MAC & WIN

- If you are updating your panel, please begin by **uninstalling** the previous version: uninstall the old panel;
- Download and install ZPXInstaller®, an open source Adobe® extension installer, from ZXPINSTALLER.COM and launch it;
- Drag and drop the **BEAUTY_RETOUCH_v3.zxp** file into ZPXInstaller®;
- Launch Adobe® Photoshop® CC2015 and open Beauty Retouch v3.0 panel via **Window > Extensions**;
- Make sure to activate **Custom Actions**, **Brushes** and **Tool Presets** with these additional installation instructions;
- The **Pixel Juggler v2.0** can be installed using the same exact steps.

WATCH VIDEO TUTORIAL

FOR CS6 & CC2014

MAC & WIN

- If you are updating your panel, please begin by **uninstalling** the previous version via the Adobe® Extension Manager or manually;
- Once the previous versions of the panels are uninstalled, launch the Adobe® Extension Manager **AS ADMINISTRATOR** and click the **Install** button at the top of the application window, navigate to the Beauty Retouch panel installation file **BEAUTY_RETOUCH_v3.zxp** via the **Install** window and select it;
- Click **Install** in the security certificate notification dialog box and in the Publisher verification dialog box (in CS6 and Windows); accept the Extension Manager Disclaimer regarding installation of a third party extension;
- Launch (or restart) Photoshop® and open the panel from **Window > Extensions** menu;
- Make sure to activate **Custom Actions**, **Brushes** and **Tool Presets** with these additional installation instructions;
- The **Pixel Juggler v2.0** can be installed using the same exact steps.

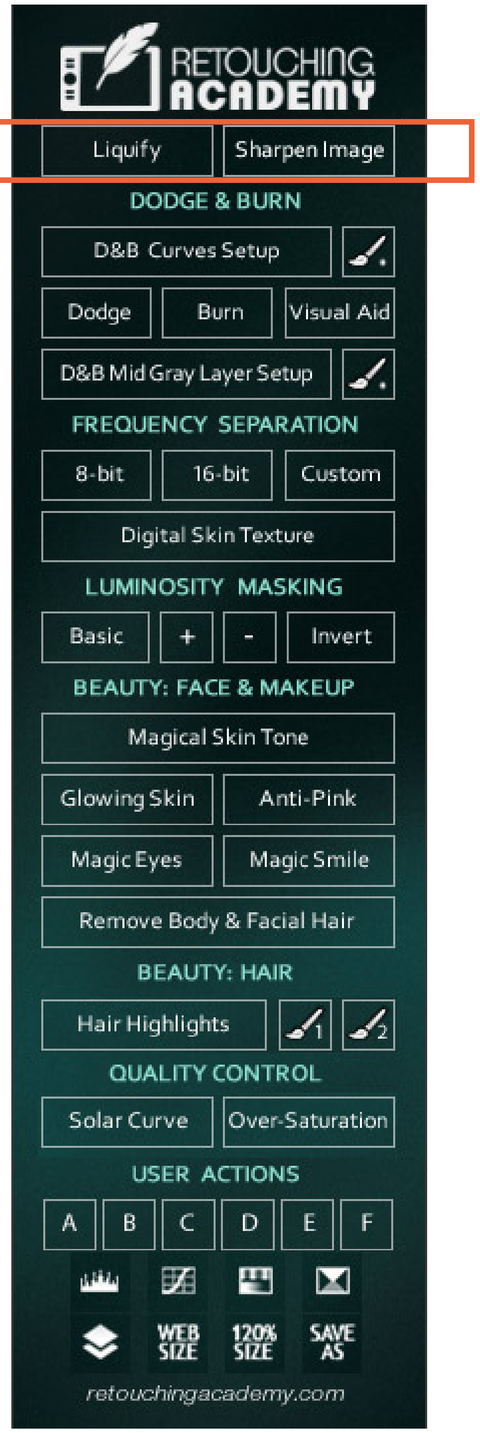
WATCH VIDEO TUTORIAL

DESCRIPTION & FUNCTIONALITY

Overview

THE STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE BEGINS FROM PAGE 14

TOP OF THE PANEL



LIQUIFY & SHARPEN IMAGE

The **Liquify** button functions exactly like the original Liquify tool.

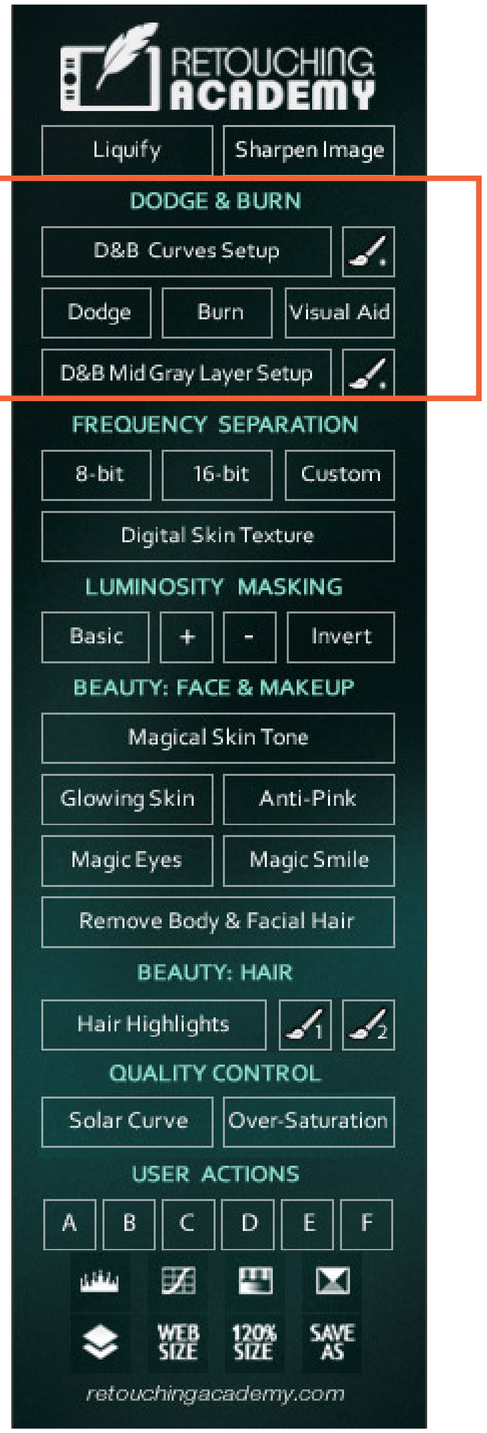
The **Sharpen Image** button will add a sharpening layer at the top of your layer stack. You will want to adjust the Opacity of this layer according to your preferences and the particular image you're retouching.
If you only want to sharpen some parts of the image, invert the layer mask color to black via Command (CTRL) + I, then unmask just the areas you want to sharpen.

Note, that by default, the shape transformation tools, such as Liquify filter, don't work when called for from an empty layer, a layer mask, a group, or a layer with turned-off visibility.

RETOUCHING ACADEMY OPEN EDUCATION

Be sure to check out our free educational materials on the Retouching academy website:
retouchingacademy.com/open-education

SKIN RETOUCHING: DODGE & BURN



D&B CURVES SETUP + D&B BRUSHES

This button will add Curves Adjustment layers with black layer masks for Dodging & Burning so you can begin to perform the technique in a heartbeat.

The two D&B brushes, designed based on the built-in settings of this Dodge & Burn setup, will allow you to achieve the best quality results when working on the Dodge & Burn layers.

The upper D&B Brush button is set to 100% Opacity and 1% Flow, and its size is only 10px, so it should be perfect for local skin retouching on full images (portrait, fashion, beauty) shot on most modern digital cameras.

The lower D&B Brush button has exactly the same settings, but its size is 300px, so pick it up when you need to work on a larger area with a larger brush.

The second row of the Dodge & Burn section of the panel is similar Dodge & Burn buttons - they will simply set up either Dodge, or Burn, or the Visual Aid layers. Use them when you need to add any of those layers to the initial full D&B Curves Setup separately.

D&B VIA MIDGRAY LAYER SETUP

This button is for those who prefer performing the Dodge & Burn technique via the 50% MidGray layers. There's no right or wrong method, provided you're comfortable with the process and know what you're trying to achieve.

WATCH VIDEO TUTORIAL

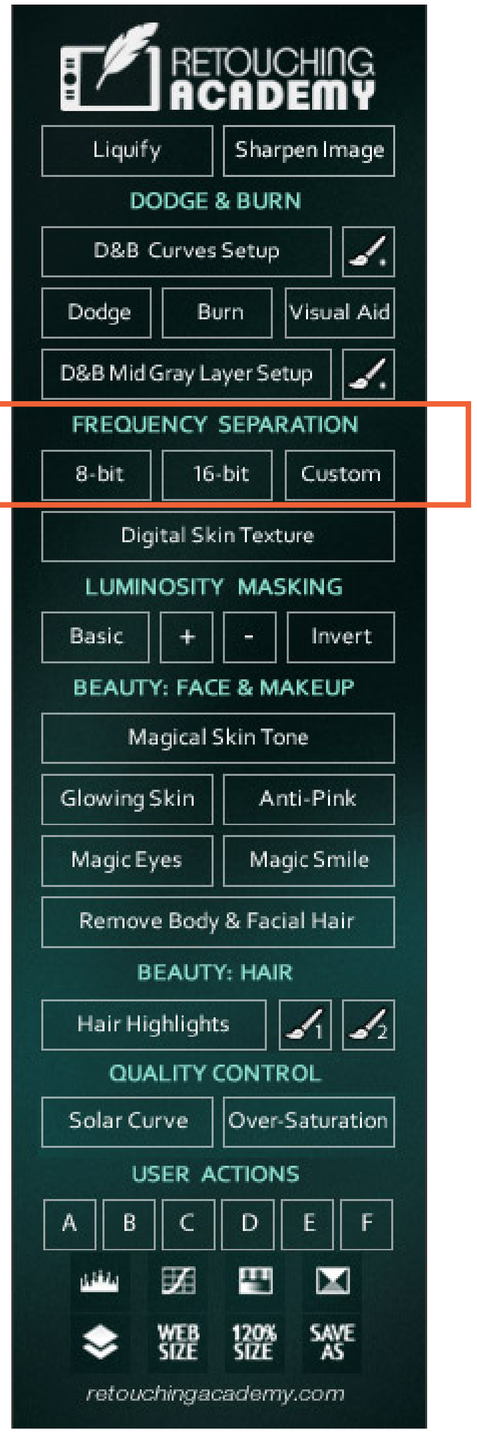
Watch the original video tutorial for using D&B scripts, as well as the new video on the updated version of the panel.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

If you are unsure which brush setting you should adjust when performing D&B, check out the following Retouching Academy article: Mastering Brushes for Dodge & Burn Work.

If you are new to the Dodge & Burn technique, make sure to read the following articles:
The Ultimate Guide to the Dodge & Burn Technique Parts 1-3 by Julia Kuzmenko McKim.

SKIN RETOUCHING: FREQUENCY SEPARATION



FREQUENCY SEPARATION

Frequency Separation (FS) is a tricky technique. It's very powerful when used correctly, but it can also ruin your image if you slap it on without understanding how it works or the logic behind it.

It you're new to the Frequency Separation technique, be sure to read the following article: The Ultimate Guide To The Frequency Separation Technique.

In the 3.0 version of the panel you will find three scripts that will set up all the necessary layers for your Frequency Separation work in any way you prefer - via Apply Image for 8- and 16-bit images, or via High Pass (Custom button).

Even though there are some pre-set radius values in this script, if you are serious about your retouching results you must understand how FS works and select the correct values based on the image at hand.

You can only achieve accurate results when you customize your settings depending on the image you are retouching.

When correcting skin tones under the Low Frequency layer, work on the new empty layer(s) rather than the Low Frequency layer itself. This will allow you to adjust the intensity of your corrections by lowering opacity and/or adding layer masks. You can also add more empty layers, and/or use various blending modes when working on those layers between the texture (High Frequency) and tones (Low Frequency) layers.

WATCH VIDEO TUTORIAL

PRO TIP:
Keep in mind, that pixel color and luminosity shifts may occur when you use the Frequency Separation technique on images of smaller sizes.

SKIN RETOUCHING: AFTER DB & FS

DIGITAL SKIN TEXTURE

Sometimes after the initial skin work you may find some parts of the skin missing some texture if, for example, you had to remove a set of prominent blemishes or a scar and could not avoid losing good skin texture.

Sometimes the subject's skin surface has so many skin problems that by the time you've fixed most of them, the skin texture may end up missing some of the "healthy" texture.

If you ever run into this issue, don't worry, we've got you covered!

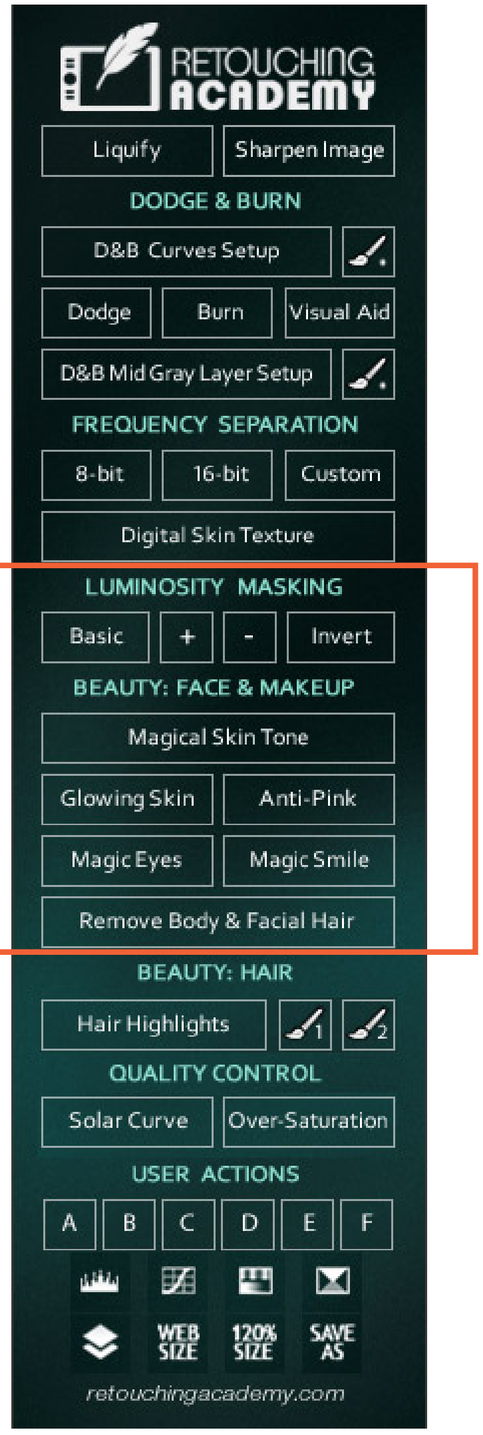
The Digital Skin Texture button will create a layer that contains false texture and hide it under a black layer mask. All you need to do is gently uncover the areas where the skin is lacking texture.

You may need to adjust the size of the texture layer under the mask if it's too small for the image you're retouching as well as the Opacity of the digital skin texture layer altogether.

Check out our video tutorial to learn other ways to leverage this technique.

Photo & Post-production by Julia Kuzmenko McKim for Go Pro: Studio Beauty video training for photographers. Model: Dani of Aston Models, Makeup: Stella Kae, Hair: Savannah Calderon

LUMINOSITY MASKING & BEAUTY: FACE & MAKEUP



LUMINOSITY MASKING SET

These buttons are a super quick and easy way to make luminosity-based selections, adjust and invert them for your retouching purposes. Luminosity masking is great for precise color corrections and especially color grading.

Check out our video tutorial where Julia Kuzmenko explains how she works with our Luminosity Masking scripts.

MAGICAL SKIN TONE

This is a truly magical button, and even though we have replaced the old script with a new, much simpler one, we managed to keep its magic :)

Sometimes retouching skin isn't all about fixing uneven texture or the values of the skin tones, it's often about simple color inconsistencies of the skin tones across the face or body.

Of course, there are a variety of color correction tools and techniques that can be combined to help unify skin tones, but this one simple script that we created for our own work can potentially replace all of them. Plus, save you a ton of time along the way.

And it's even easier to use now in Beauty Retouch v3.0!

GLOWING SKIN & ANTI-PINK

These scripts will help you quickly color-correct pinkish skin tones and add some glow to the face. Remember that each image you work on is unique, so be sure to adjust the opacity settings appropriately for the layers these scripts create.

MAGIC EYES & MAGIC SMILE

Retouching eyes and teeth has never been simpler and faster. Check out our video tutorials to learn how to use these handy scripts.

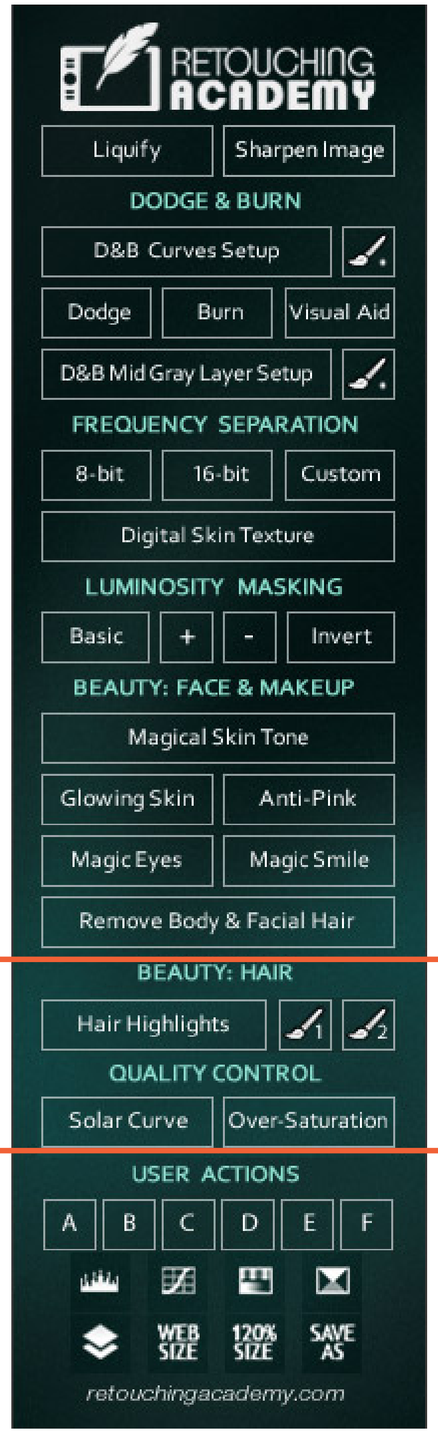
REMOVE BODY & FACIAL HAIR

This script is very helpful when unwanted body and/or facial hair is visible in the image. It takes some practice to apply correctly, so watch the video tutorial to understand the logic behind it before you take it out for a spin.

HELPFUL TIP:
Apply scripts for different problematic areas independently.

WATCH VIDEO TUTORIAL

HAIR HIGHLIGHTS & QUALITY CONTROL



HAIR HIGHLIGHTS

This set of buttons is very straight forward - add the Hair Highlights layer, then pick up one of the brushes (brush 1 - 50px, brush 2 - 100px) and paint over the existing highlights to enhance them.

- - -

Before submitting your retouched image to your client or a magazine, make sure to double-check a couple of things:

SOLAR CURVE

This script will create a visual aid layer, which will help you find any flyaway hairs, dust spots, and other unwanted artifacts on the background. This quality control procedure is especially important if your image is destined for print.

Often, what isn't visible on the screen can show up when the image is printed - an oversight that could damage your professional reputation.

Be sure to apply the Solar Curve script to inspect the background of every single image you retouch.

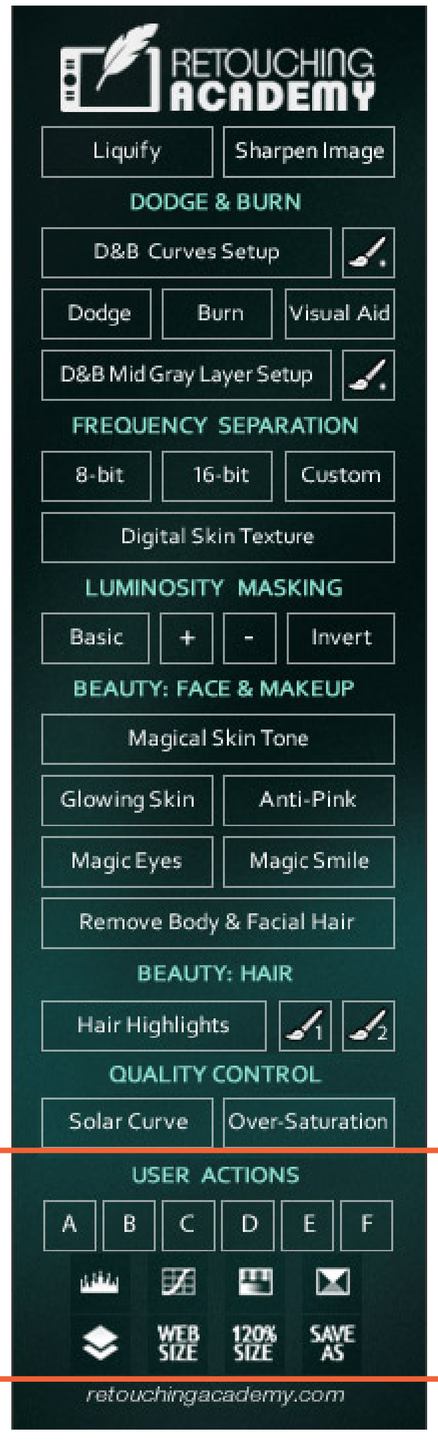
OVER-SATURATION

This is another necessary Quality Control procedure that we recommend for every image you plan to print. A few common areas in portraits and beauty images, such as the hairline, ears (when backlit), etc., tend to get over-saturated and should be toned down slightly in general, and even more so if your image will be printed.

PRO TIP:

If drastic changes are required, your best bet may be to infuse complimentary colors into over-saturated areas rather than applying desaturation, so it's always important to understand the limits of a given technique.

USER ACTIONS + BOTTOM OF THE PANEL



CUSTOM USER ACTIONS

We are very happy to add this new row into the Beauty Retouch v3.0 panel!

This means that if there were any custom actions that you created yourself and were using besides of what was available on our panel, you can now link up to 6 of them to the panel, and trigger your custom actions with the buttons from A to F.

THE KEY ADJUSTMENT LAYERS

Four key Adjustment layers have proven to be our go-to color and exposure correction tools: Levels, Curves, Hue/Saturation, and Selective Color. We believe these layers are so fundamental to your retouching workflow that we have given them a special place in the panel.

These buttons work exactly like the original Adjustment layers they represent.

STAMP LAYERS

The first button in the bottom row is one that performs the Stamp layers function (keyboard shortcut SHIFT + OPTION + Command (CTRL) + E). Note that this button, just like the original function, will not work if a layer with turned-off visibility is selected.

Be sure to select a visible layer or a group at the top of the PSD stack before clicking the Stamp Layers button.

ENLARGING & SAVING

The last few buttons on the panel are: **Web Size** (= Save for Web), **120% Size** and **Save As.**

The **120% Size** button increases the size of the image by adding 20% at a time.

If you need to enlarge your image further, just click the button a few times.

Keep in mind that when you increase the size of an image, you risk degrading its quality by essentially asking Photoshop to add new pixels. Photoshop does this by using color and values of neighboring pixels to calculate the color and values of the new pixels it creates. Photoshop generates the best results when it increases the image size by no more than 20% at a time, hence, the 120% enlargement button.

STEP-BY-STEP

Guide

TOP OF THE PANEL

LIQUIFY - this button functions exactly like the original tool it represents. Note, by default, the Liquify Tool won't work when called for from an empty layer, a layer mask, a group, or a layer with turned-off visibility.

SHARPEN IMAGE - click to sharpen the entire image. Adjust opacity of the added sharpening layer. Can be used to sharpen just specific details of the image as well: just invert the layer mask to black and uncover the parts of the image that you would like to sharpen.

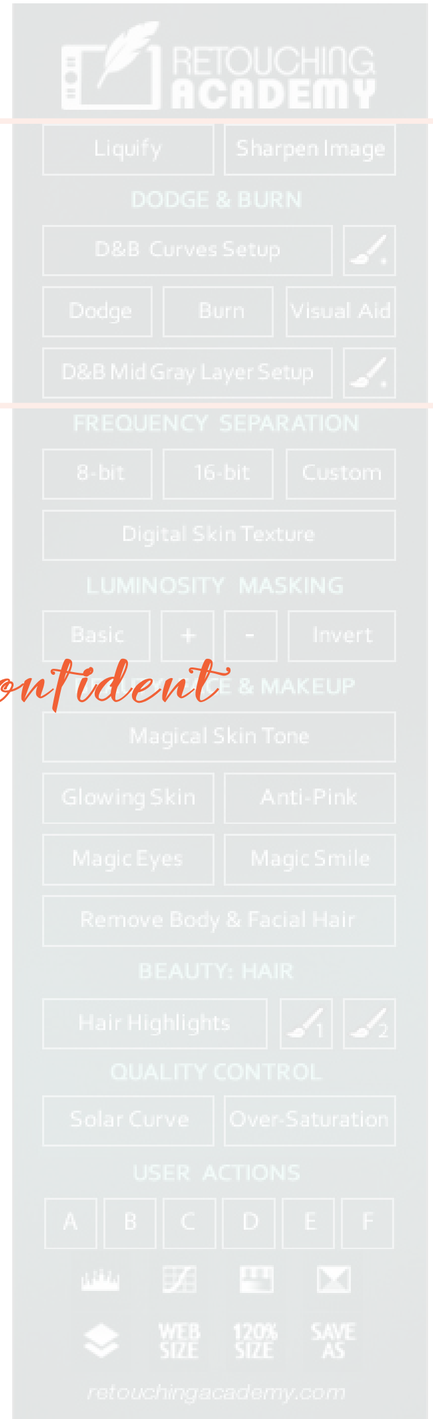
SKIN RETOUCHING: DODGE & BURN

D&B CURVES SETUP - click to add the Curves Adjustment layers for D&B along with the Visual Aid group. Paint with the D&B Brushes to uncover the areas you would like to brighten (Dodge) and darken (Burn) on the layer masks of the respective layers.

Remember to:

- Adjust darkness and contrast of the Curves Adjustment layer inside the Visual Aid group to better see the values of problematic skin patches that you need to target.
- Toggle the visibility of the Visual Aid group every 3-5 minutes to refresh your vision and see your image in color as you proceed to dodge and burn.
- Zoom out often to avoid over-retouching.
- Delete the Visual Aid group after you're [illegible]
- Don't try to retouch the entire picture within just [illegible], then add another set of Dodge or Burn, or both, and move on t[illegible] yourself to have a little room for mistakes, especially when you are still learning to master this technique.

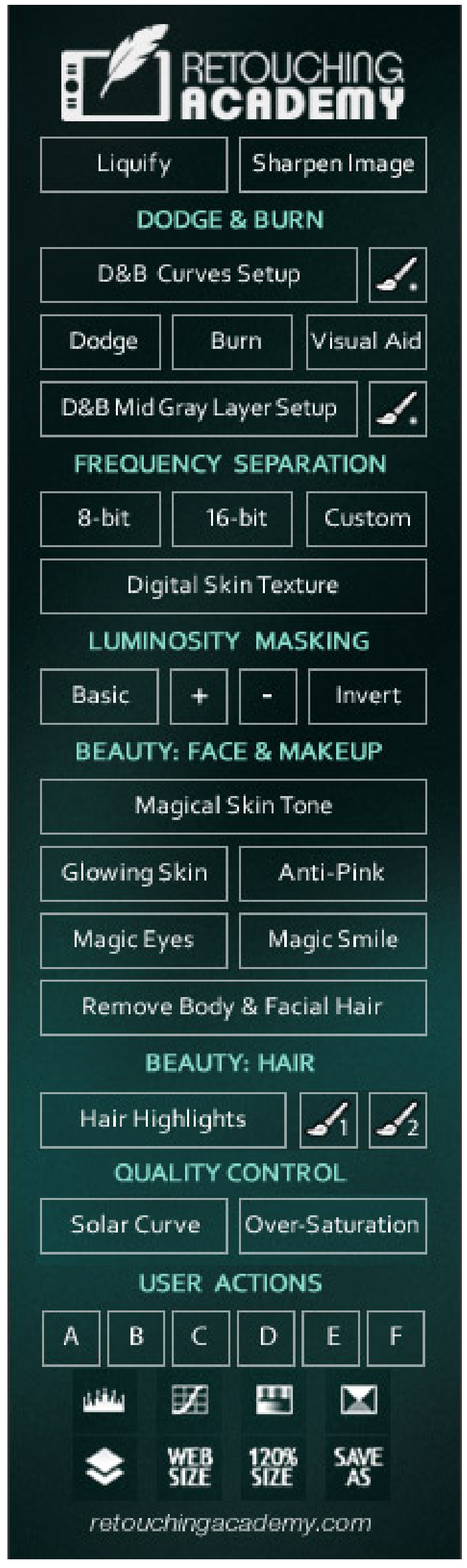
Be sure to activate our brush presets. Our D&B Brushes are both set up to 100% Opacity & 1% Flow, and only differ in size - 10px for the upper D&B button and 100px for the lower D&B button.



THIS IS THE END OF THE USER MANUAL PREVIEW

We hope that you liked what you saw and we're confident you will love working with our panels!

PURCHASE THE BEAUTY RETOUCH PANEL
WITH **$20 DISCOUNT** HERE:
https://retouchingacademylab.com/rapanels/



PANEL CREATORS

faster, smarter, better

JULIA KUZMENKO

Julia is a Los Angeles-based internationally published Beauty & Fashion photographer, retoucher and educator. International College of Professional Photography (Australia) graduate, Retouching Academy founder, and Fstoppers writer.

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LILY MIKITYUK

Lily is a professional retoucher with a Bachelor of Arts degree and 10 years in the industry, based in Ukraine and specializing in creative retouching (fashion, beauty & product). Lily also develops Photoshop panels for photographers and retouchers.

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2016

RETOUCHING ACADEMY

ART & BUSINESS OF RETOUCHING

FUTURE UPDATES

We've made every attepmt to ensure our panel works across all platforms and in localized Photoshop versions. But, unfortunately, it is next to impossible to predict and avoid all potential errors and bugs, so please bear with us and if you run into any problems that are not yet covered on our FAQ page, send us a message at

panels@retouchingacademy.com or submit a ticket to our developers team

describing the problem you have encountered and in what circumstances the error happened.

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