



EasyS Plus Sharpening Toolkit V3.0 (PC & Mac)

Advanced sharpening solution by Digital Outback Photo

As we now know sharpening is needed for digital images and there are many good ones to choose from. In 2004 we introduced our first own sharpening tool EasyS Plus that many people love for high resolution photographs.

EasyS Plus Sharpening Toolkit V3.0 is based on the same technology used in EasyS Plus but uses a very powerful new script (script written by Bernard Frangoulis).

EasyS Plus Sharpening Toolkit now improves on EasyS and even EasyS Sharpening Toolkit:

- File size only limited by Photoshop
- Fast operation
- Flexible tuning
- Flexible Presets

Sharpening by the numbers

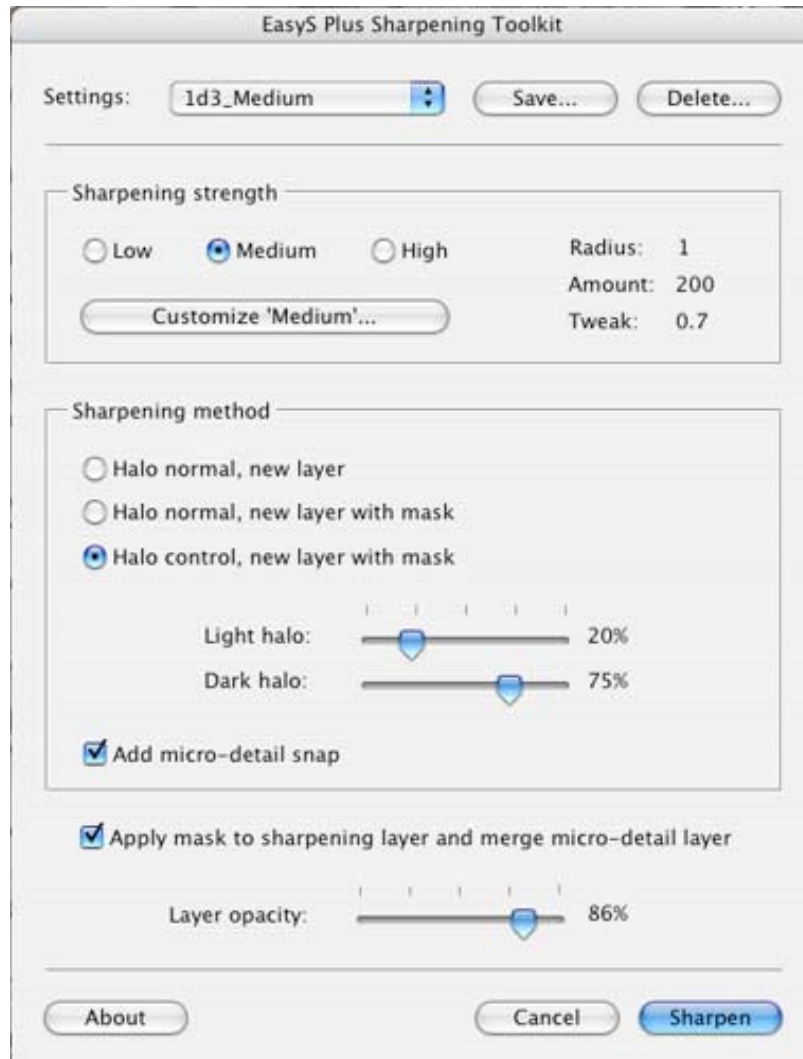
The EasyS Sharpening Toolkit does not support an interactive user interface with sharpening preview. This sounds limiting, right? But actually we work for a very long time with sharpening actions and create sharpened layers that we then tweak via opacity changes. Also if you use additional techniques like edge masking and/or halo tweaking then what you see in the (sometimes even small) sharpening window is not what you will get.

EasyS Plus Sharpening Toolkit

EasyS Plus Sharpening Toolkit consists of two parts:

- EasyS Plus Sharpening script
- EasyS Plus Sharpening Engine (a Photoshop automation plugin used by the script)

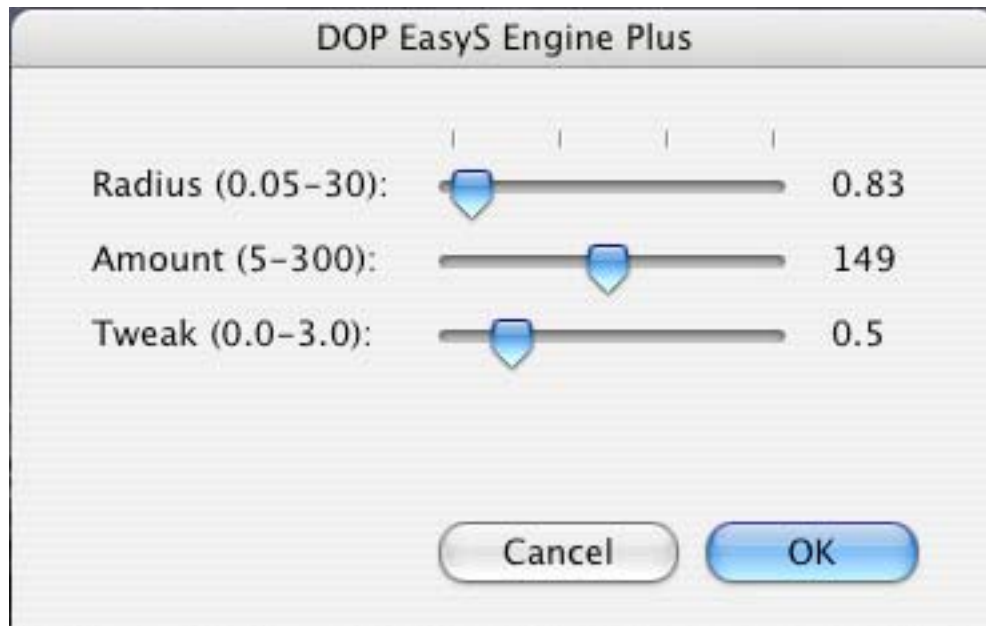
New: EasyS Plus Sharpening Script



EasyS Plus Sharpening UI

The actions come in 4 sections:

- Preset management (see below)
- Sharpening Strength Low, Normal and High) (all can be customized)



Customizing the EasyS Plus sharpening strength

- Sharpening Methods
- Flattening and Layer Opacity

Sharpening Strength

There are three levels that can be used. You can set your own values for these levels. On top of all of this you can even create an own preset for different cameras or situations (e.g. Printing, Web,..)

Sharpening Methods

1. Create a new sharpening layer and use the defined strength
2. Same as #1 but an edge mask is used to avoid sharpening noise
3. Like #2 but the user can define how much of light and dark halos are show in the image (you can set this via the halo control sliders)
4. Enable "Add Micro-detail snap" to show extra fine details

Flattening and Layer Opacity

- You can apply the edge mask to the sharpening layer and also flatten the "micro-detail snap" layer. This allows to add new layer masks to the sharpening layer.
- Select the opacity of the sharpening layer. This way you can tune the final sharpness up and down using the layer's opacity.

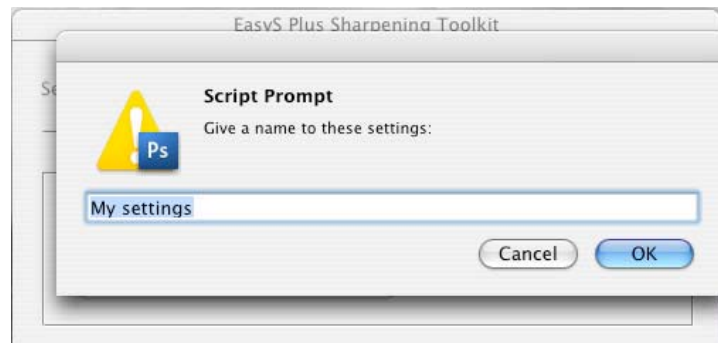
Creating and using Presets

The most powerful feature presented in Version 3 is the new preset management. You will realize that the sharpening parameters depend on:

- Camera type
- ISO
- Image type (fine details or not)

But for the same camera, ISO and image type the sharpening parameters will almost be all identical for many photos. Now in version 3 you can save and recall these settings very easily.

Saving a preset



Save a Preset

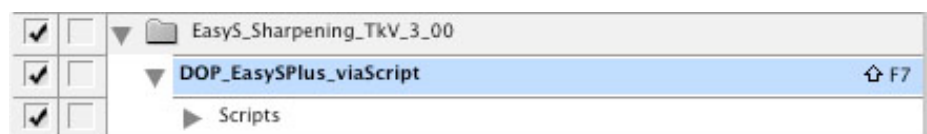
Click “Save” and enter a name for your preset. From then on you can recall all these personal presets:



Recall a Preset

How to call the script via a keyboard shortcut?

We deliver a simple action that calls the script at Shift+F7. You can change the keyboard shortcut using the Photoshop actions palette.



What about the old actions?

We continue to ship the old actions. They can be very useful if you want to use the sharpening in batch mode. But otherwise we think using the new script is way more productive and elegant.

Note on light/dark halo levels

What does sharpening actually do? It adds the impression of more sharpness by increasing the contrast at edges. This means some of the pixel will get lighter and some darker.

Note on sharpening and halos: We actually follow the philosophy that artifacts that don't show up at 100% cannot be visible in print. We know you can sharper stronger than that for most inkjet printers. But does it look natural? Try to avoid over sharpening and concentrate on the content message. Halos you see on screen may show up on print and best you try to minimize them at nearly any cost.

We allow you to control how strong you want to have the lighter pixels and the darker. We always find the lighter pixels to be more an issue than the darker ones.

For some images you may want to use only the dark halos and set the halo light to 0%.

Default opacity

We most of the time use slightly too strong sharpening then control the real sharpening by tuning the opacity of the layer. **Summary**

With EasyS Plus Sharpening Toolkit V 3.0 we provide a sharpening solution that is very flexible and for the demanding photographer.

Best you try yourself on your own images. We provide a full working demo version that is only limited by the image size of 2000x2000 pixels. Try before you buy.

You can [order the EasyS Plus Sharpening Toolkit here](#).