



Extensis Corporation
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PhotoTools Features Highlights

OVERVIEW

Extensis Corporation continues to dedicate itself to the everyday productivity needs of the professional publishing and graphic arts markets. As the leading developer of application-enhancement software for these industries, the Portland, Oregon-based Extensis Corporation continues to serve its customers' needs with the release of PhotoTools, a collection of eight Adobe Photoshop plug-ins that fulfill many of Photoshop users' most requested features. PhotoTools' PhotoText module, for example, offers users the ability to create and format text directly in Photoshop, while the product's PhotoEffects suite of special effects modules lets users instantly and easily apply high-quality graphic and typographic effects such as drop shadow, bevel, glow and emboss. First announced at Macworld in August 1996, PhotoTools offers Photoshop users a versatile and affordable collection of plug-in tools and effects—reaffirming Extensis Corporation's dedication to providing powerful software enhancements at a low price to a wide range of professional designers, photographers and artists.

FEATURES

Adobe Photoshop is a powerful program in itself. All eight plug-ins offered in the PhotoTools collection are aimed at helping Photoshop 3.0 and 4.0 users make the most of the program by eliminating extra steps and automating everyday effects. And in the case of PhotoTools' PhotoText module, Photoshop users gain functionality they simply can't get anywhere else. The first release of this new low-cost plug-in collection includes the following features:

PhotoShadow

The ultimate drop shadow-creation tool, PhotoShadow provides flat images with a three-dimensional, raised appearance—quickly and easily. Users can save shadow styles and apply them again later to another image without opening the dialog. PhotoShadow includes a resizable preview with zoom in/out controls, the ability to create a shadow of an image's silhouette or just its edges, control over the shadow's blur and opacity, interactive placement of shadows using the mouse and unlimited shadow color choices.

PhotoBevel

PhotoTools' PhotoBevel lets users create high-quality inner and outer bevels, giving the selected portion of an image a raised appearance by applying highlights and shadows. Users can control the bevel's shape (including double, slope, round and flat bevels), softness, highlight and shadow intensity, and light direction, as well as make use of resizable previews with zoom in/out controls, save and reapply bevel effects, and choose from unlimited colors.

PhotoGlow

Automatically create a solid stroke or radiating glow around any image using PhotoTools' Photo Glow feature. Users can control the glow's width, radiance and opacity, as well as

choose from an unlimited variety of colors. PhotoGlow also lets users make use of resizable previews with zoom in/out controls and save and reapply glow effects without opening the PhotoGlow dialog.

PhotoEmboss

This unique embossing tool gives Photoshop users the ability to automatically create cutout, relief, emboss and recess effects in one step. Users can control the contrast, softness, highlight, shadow, light direction and color of the emboss effect with PhotoEmboss. As with PhotoShadow, PhotoBevel and PhotoGlow, PhotoEmboss also offers users resizable previews with zoom in/out controls, the ability to save and reapply emboss effects without opening a dialog and the ability to choose from an unlimited number of colors.

PhotoText

This full-featured text creation and formatting tool lets users manipulate and position text directly on the background image within Adobe Photoshop. PhotoText lets users place text, apply color, character-level styles and anti-aliasing and adjust leading, font size, tracking, kerning, character width and alignment. With WYSIWYG editing, users can immediately see the results of their PhotoText specifications. Such features have never before been made available to Photoshop users! PhotoText alone is worth the price of the PhotoTools collection.

PhotoBars

PhotoTools' PhotoBars feature lets users access all Photoshop menu commands and files, folders and applications on their hard drive in one click of the mouse using preconfigured, customizable toolbars that can be displayed or hidden. Users no longer have to hunt through numerous dialog boxes, menus and submenus or remember keyboard commands to execute their most frequently used Photoshop functions; they can even make use of a pop-down button to instantly access images within folders on their hard drive. What's more, PhotoBars' SmartBar feature automatically builds menu command buttons or a custom toolbar by watching which commands are accessed the most, then adding them to the toolbar.

IntelliHance Lite

This lite version of the best-selling intelligent image enhancement tool from Extensis, IntelliHance Lite, is a filter that improves the way digital images appear in print or on-screen by intelligently analyzing each image. Users can automatically optimize image saturation, sharpness, contrast, brightness and despeckle controls with one mouse-click, as well as customize how the image is enhanced using the IntelliHance preferences dialog box.

PhotoTips

Even power users will benefit from PhotoTools' Tip of the Day from Deke McClelland, author of The Macworld Photoshop 3 Bible and host of the cable television series "Digital Gurus." Offering more than 200 Photoshop 3.0 and 4.0 tips and techniques, PhotoTips is presented in a scrollable on-screen dialog box from within Photoshop and can be searched by keyword.

CONCLUSION

Although many other plug-ins for Adobe Photoshop offer users a variety of unique effects, PhotoTools from Extensis provides useful, everyday features that improve productivity, and in the case of PhotoText, offer functionality that simply can't be found elsewhere. In a world of whiz-bang special effects plug-ins, PhotoTools stands out as an indispensable tool for every Photoshop user.