

Two sides.atn - User manual

General purpose

This action is meant to improve an image that roughly consists of rather dark and rather light areas, and not much in-between. The action simply lightens darks and darkens lights, to bring them closer together and provide a more natural look. The Picture Postcard Workflow (PPW) suggests a procedure called “False Profile” which I find somewhat cumbersome. The “Two sides” action is a simpler way that nevertheless gives equivalent results.

Layer structure

The action creates a group “Bring two halves together” consisting of two layers. From bottom to top these are:

- *Lighten dark areas* - a curves layer that lightens considerably; the mask targets dark image areas
- *Darken light areas* - a curves layer that darkens considerably; the mask targets light image areas

Compatibility

The action runs in all (not too old) versions of Photoshop.

Limitations, drawbacks and pitfalls

- The action discards any active selection.
- The action is supposed to run in RGB. In LAB, the action runs without error but has no effect. In CMYK, it runs and works okay but gives a slightly darker result than in RGB because of the presence of the Black channel.

Gerald Bakker, August 2017