

Bring Out Colors.atn - User manual

General purpose

This is an action group consisting of four actions. The general purpose of these actions is to desaturate near-neutrals, while making colorful elements even more brilliant. The desired effect is to accentuate colors without giving the whole image an overly saturated look.

The actions can be invoked at any time, from a layered or non-layered Photoshop file. Two of the four actions create a smart object on top of the layer stack and do the work in there. The other two actions start with converting the current image to the LAB color mode - this will trigger a warning if the file contains multiple layers. Two of the actions only create a layer that desaturates less colorful pixels; users are supposed to add their own preferred color boost procedure.

- *Bring out (Smart Object)* does the full procedure, in a smart object
- *Bring out (Convert LAB)* does the full procedure, after a conversion to LAB
- *Just desaturate (Smart Object)* only does the desaturation part, in a smart object
- *Just desaturate (Convert LAB)* only does the desaturation part, after a conversion to LAB

Layer structure

The *Bring out* actions create two layers. From bottom to top they are called *Selectively desaturate* and *Resaturate*. The *Just desaturate* actions only create the former of these layers. For the actions that work in a smart object, the name of this smart object is *Bring out colors*.

Compatibility

The action runs on any (not too old) Photoshop version.

Limitations, drawbacks and pitfalls

- The Blend If settings of the *Selectively desaturate* layer determine which colors are neutralized and which are left alone. The distinction as chosen by the action may be suboptimal for any given image, and the user is encouraged to fine-tune the slider positions for better results.

History

- September 2023: Original version

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