

Clarity Power.atn - User manual

General purpose

This is a complex action that tries to emulate Camera Raw's and Lightroom's Clarity adjustment. It's a powerful effect, roughly comparable to ACR's Clarity in the 50-75 range. The approach is to apply multiple limited effects: various ways of local detail strengthening, a bit of tone-mapping and an increase of midtone contrast. The user is supposed to adjust the group opacity to taste, or fine-tune each of the group layers.

Layer structure

The action creates a group "Clarity Power" consisting of five layers. From bottom to top these are:

- *Small radius detail* - exaggerating small detail on a very local scale
- *Medium radius detail* - idem on a medium scale
- *High radius detail* - idem on a higher scale, comparable to a high-radius, low-amount sharpening
- *Tone-mapping* - lightening dark image areas and darkening light image areas
- *Midtone contrast* - adding some extra contrast in the midtones

All layers have opacities that can be adjusted in both directions. More likely however, one layer may cause an unwanted effect and can then be switched off without harming the overall effect too much.

Compatibility

The action works in any Photoshop version, except maybe the very oldest ones.

Limitations, drawbacks and pitfalls

- The action works in RGB and LAB, although results may slightly differ between the two color spaces.
- Beware of increased noise and halo accentuation.

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