

MMM Finetuned v3.atn - User manual

General purpose

This action needs a (so-called “advisory”) selection; it will then try to enhance both luminosity and color variation in the selected plus similar image areas. Non-similar areas are left alone. MMM Finetuned is very effective in enhancing image areas with limited variation like greenery. It can be run multiple times, each from a different selection. The action is a variation of the MMM action of the Picture Postcard Workflow (PPW) panel, the difference being that the original affects other, non-similar image areas as well, sometimes causing unwanted color shifts.

Like in the original MMM, neutrals are protected from hue shifts, but not from luminosity shifts.

Layer structure

The action creates a group “MMM Finetuned v2” consisting of two layers. From bottom to top these are:

- *MMM Fine Contrast* - the contrast part of the action. The mask limits the effect to image areas that are similar to the advisory selection
- *MMM Fine Color* - the color part of the action. The mask limits the effect to image areas that are similar to the advisory selection and not neutral

Compatibility

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

Limitations, drawbacks and pitfalls

- The action does not work when it is started without a selection active. Also, it does not work when the full image is selected. For those cases, the default MMM action from the PPW panel can be run instead.
- The action works in LAB. At start, it will try to convert to LAB if necessary.
- The action may evoke color noise. Also, it may cause halos, often where the sky touches anything that is affected by the action.

History

- August 2017: Original version
- October 2018: A small improvement that reduces the risk for color haloing
- December 2019: Two improvements:
 - 1) A different mechanism to select “similar areas”, especially giving better results when smooth areas are included
 - 2) An extra step to reduce the color noise that sometimes occurs

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