

# MMM Finetuned v3a.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
- August 2020: A minor release, containing two improvements:
  - 1) Fixed a bug that caused an error in some non-English Photoshop versions
  - 2) Removed the extra step that was introduced in the previous version

*Gerald Bakker, August 2020*