

A Classic Revived

Welcome to the initial public release of PPW2025, a resurrection of one of the most powerful and popular image correction tools of the pre-Creative Cloud era—the PPW Panel, based on the teachings of Dan Margulis.

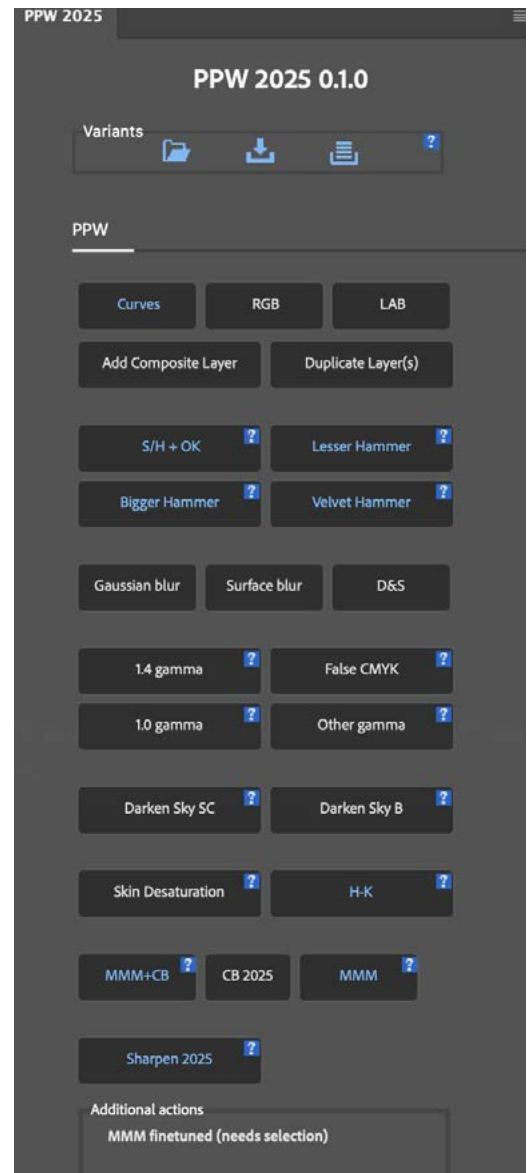
The previous panel went through five major releases, beginning in 2011. New features were added each time, but the updates were also needed because the goalposts were constantly moving as to what types of plug-ins Photoshop would recognize. Once Apple silicon was introduced into Macintosh products, Photoshop would no longer recognize the panel at all, except in Rosetta mode. In 2018, after the release of panel v.5, we regretfully stopped development, because it was clear that the panel would have to be rewritten from scratch to comply with new requirements. By 2022 we no longer supported the product, although many diehard users found workarounds to keep the panel functioning.

The PPW Panel has always been freeware. A dedicated user base worldwide has proven itself willing to develop it without compensation. The original versions were prepared by an Italian team led by Giuliana Abbiati. The new version hails from The Netherlands, programmed by Bart Mellenbergh, with strong support from Gerald Bakker. It has been written from scratch in compliance with Adobe's Unified Extensibility Platform, which means that it should not be obsoleted by future versions of Photoshop.

As always, the panel is designed as a command center for those wishing to incorporate parts or all of Dan's Picture Postcard Workflow. Certain buttons are merely convenient shortcuts for moves that can be made elsewhere. The real power is in the signature scripts of the workflow, particularly those involving color enhancement and sharpening.

Some of this functionality could be duplicated in Photoshop's Actions panel, but executing out of PPW2025 carries a big advantage. The Sharpen 2025 script, for example, automates nearly 200 separate steps. If run as an Action, each would be recorded separately. Running it by mistake would completely overwrite the image history cache, making it impossible to restore an earlier version. If run out of PPW2025, however, the entire procedure is seen as a single step, which can be canceled normally by Command-Z.

The complexity of the sharpening routine exemplifies how the panel caters both to the beginner and the most sophisticated power user. It's perfectly reasonable to apply the script without modification, and simply reduce its opacity if the sharpen seems excessive. But an expert can modify each individual step with great accuracy.



This is why the panel has on-board PDF documentation of all its functions, amounting to hundreds of pages. To activate each, click the question-mark icon by the appropriate button.

At present, these PDFs are those attached to the 2018 panel version, so they aren't always accurate, and they don't address innovations such as the use of AI. Some panel features have been dropped because better solutions now exist. Also, our objective was not to go back in time and produce something that was great ten years ago. Instead, we want to add more power. For one thing, we don't have to try to simplify things for the limited capabilities of ancient computers. So the actions now listed as Sharpen 2025 and Color Boost 2025 are significantly improved. As we correct whatever bugs are found in this release, we hope to add more such tweaks.

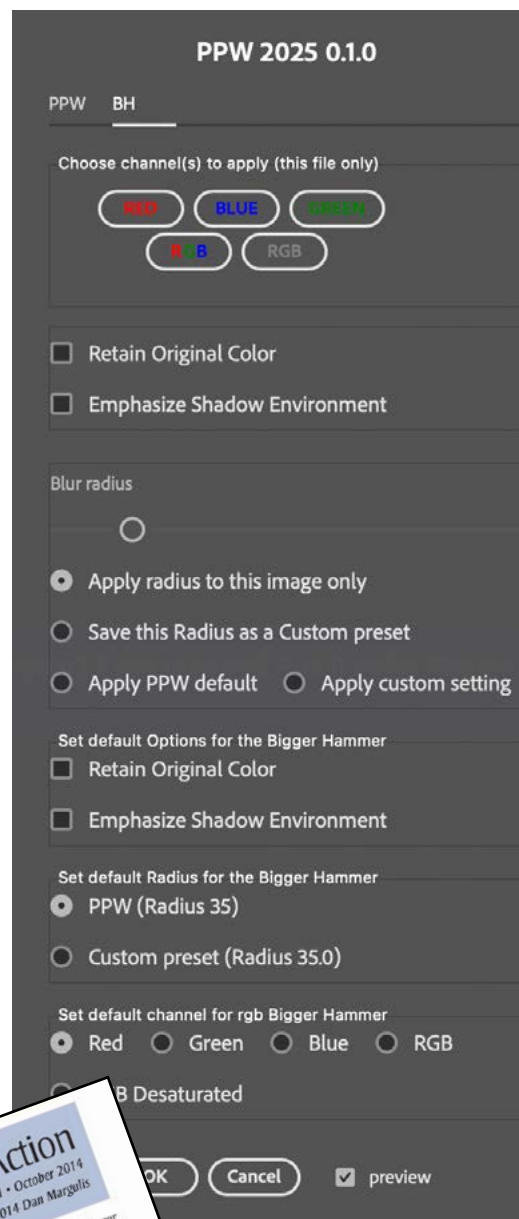
Installation is easy, provided your Creative Cloud assets are up-to-date. The file you have downloaded in this package has the suffix .ccx. Double-click, and it installs in Photoshop without further ado, provided your settings permit it. Thereafter it can be accessed through Photoshop's Plugins menu bar item.

Enclosed in this package, in addition to this file and the installer itself, is a PDF outlining the current function of each button and options associated with them. Also, a PDF outlining the Picture Postcard Workflow itself. The definitive discussion of PPW is found in Dan's 2013 *Modern Photoshop Color Workflow*.

Remember that this is our first release. Although it has been tested by various users, bugs are likely. Please report any that you find to <https://geraldbakker.nl/home/contact.html>. Discussion of the PPW2025 panel is welcomed in our colorthery forum, <https://groups.io/g/colorthery>

We hope you'll find the panel worthwhile.

—Dan Margulis



PPW2025 caters to both beginners and power users. This action, Bigger Hammer, can be applied effectively with a single click. However, if motivated, a user can access an extensive options menu (above) and a 13-page PDF explaining how it all comes together.