

1-Click Actions—Beginner’s Guide

Installing your actions

Copy the atn files from the archive you downloaded to your actions folder (usually Program files/adobe/adobe photoshop cs2/presets/Photoshop actions).

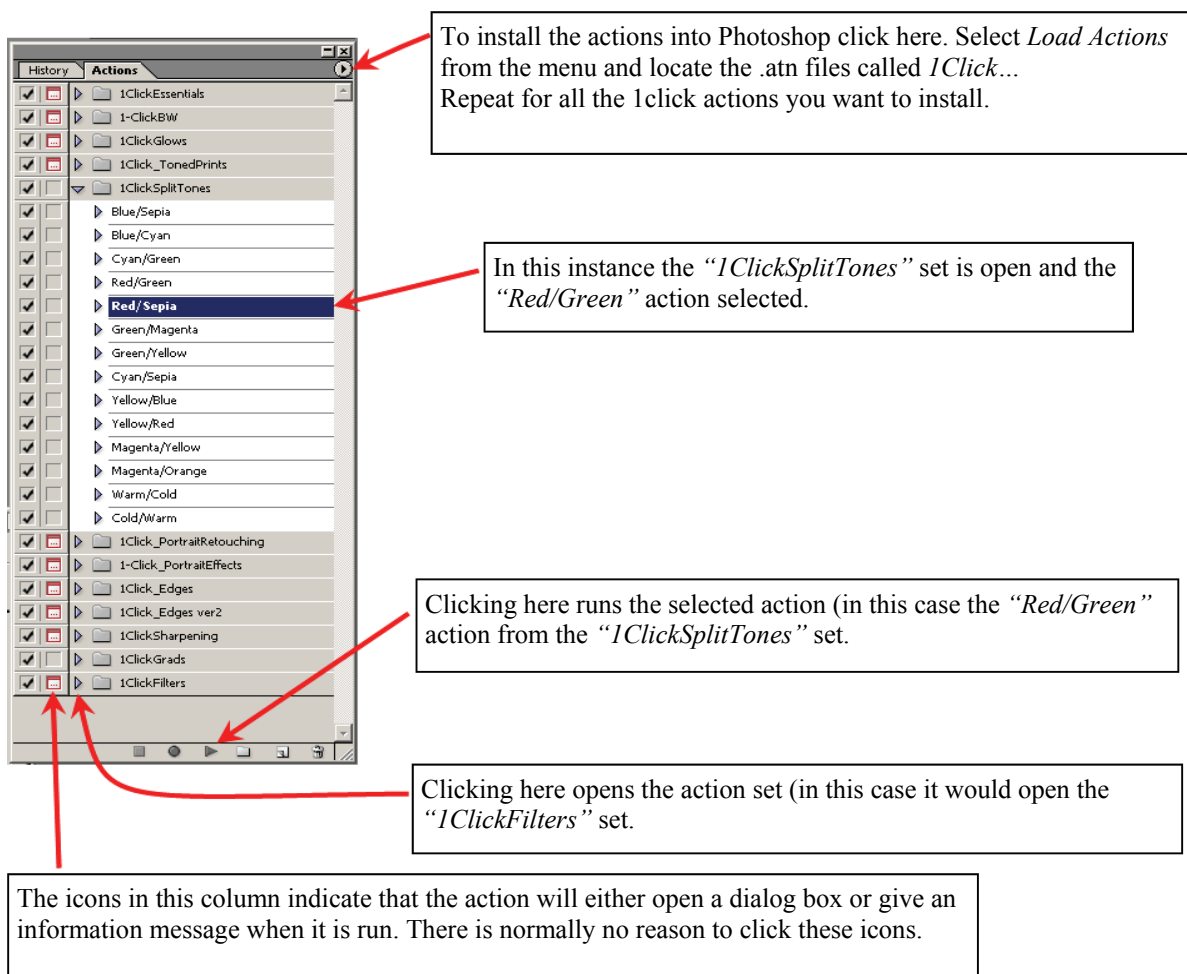
You must do this first step before you can load the actions.

To view the action palette once in Photoshop press Alt-F9 or select Window then Actions from the Photoshop menu. This opens the window shown in the user guide. Initially there might be no actions shown or possibly a few actions that come with Photoshop.

Once the action palette is open click on the right facing arrow at the top of the palette as shown in the guide. From the menu that appears select “Load actions” and then navigate to the folder where you placed the actions and open the file called “1ClickEssentials.atn” – this should now appear in the palette ready for use. Repeat this step for the rest of the 1click files.

When all the files have been loaded (11 in total if all volumes have been purchased) they can be used on images.

There should now be 11 action sets showing on the palette. Clicking on the small arrow next to the set opens the set to show the actions inside. Open an image and then click on one of the actions to highlight it, then click on the right pointing arrow at the bottom of the palette to run it.



The screenshot shows the Photoshop Actions palette. The 'History' tab is selected on the left. The 'Actions' tab is active on the right. The '1ClickEssentials' set is expanded, showing a list of color actions. The 'Red/Green' action is selected. The '1ClickFilters' set is also visible at the bottom. Red arrows point from text boxes to specific UI elements: the top right arrow icon, the 'Red/Green' action, the bottom right play button, and the icons in the left column.

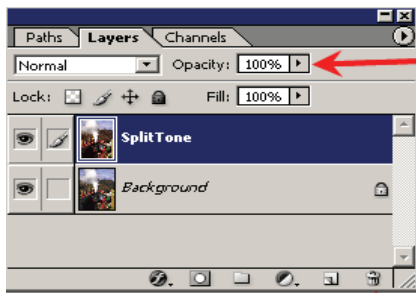
To install the actions into Photoshop click here. Select *Load Actions* from the menu and locate the .atn files called *1Click...* Repeat for all the 1click actions you want to install.

In this instance the “*1ClickSplitTones*” set is open and the “*Red/Green*” action selected.

Clicking here runs the selected action (in this case the “*Red/Green*” action from the “*1ClickSplitTones*” set).

Clicking here opens the action set (in this case it would open the “*1ClickFilters*” set).

The icons in this column indicate that the action will either open a dialog box or give an information message when it is run. There is normally no reason to click these icons.



Many actions create “*adjustment layers*” which can be used to vary the intensity of the effect. By click here you can change the opacity of the layer thereby changing the strength of the effect.

You may run an action and be unhappy with the result. To return to the original image you can drag the top layer(s) to this “*trashcan icon*”. Some actions create a new image rather than adding an adjustment layer to the original. Either way the actions never save their changes to your original without you explicitly saving your file. Feel free to experiment knowing that no harm can be done.



Some actions allow you to “paint on” the effect using the Photoshop brush tool. Click this icon to select the brush.

You will use this tool on the “Dodge&Burn” actions and also the Portrait Retouching tools. This way there is no need to make complex selections of the image.

You will normally require Black or White brushes when using the actions. By pressing “D” you can restore the default colours, “X” switches between black and white (ie swaps the foreground and background colours).

By using the “[and]” keys you can quickly change the size of the brush.



This control allows you to change the size and properties of your brush. Most often you will probably use a soft brush with the actions.

This control allows you to change the strength of the brush as you are working rather than changing the opacity of entire layer.

As an example when using the sharpening actions you might require the eyes in a portrait sharper than the mouth. To do this you could set the brush at 80% for the when painting over the eyes and 25% when sharpening the mouth.

Things to be aware of

- ◆ Most actions work on both 8 and 16 bit images but some Photoshop functions are 8-bit only. If the action gives an error check that it is an 8-bit image. (Image-Mode-8bit RGB).
- ◆ The actions usually create the result as an adjustment layer or some will create a duplicate image first so that your original is untouched. None of the actions save the file for you so remember to save the file if you are happy with the result or close without saving if you do not like the result.
- ◆ The actions expect an image in RGB mode and may not work correctly with images in LAB or CMYL colour spaces.
- ◆ One or two actions expect to be the only image open before they are run. A dialog box will warn you if this is the case. If this happens close all other open images and run the action again.
- ◆ Some actions require the image to a single layer (ie flattened) before they can work reliably. If the action behaves oddly or gives unexpected results then flatten the image first. Many actions will however work on the top layer of a layered image so please feel free to experiment.
- ◆ If Photoshop appears to have hung whilst an action is running you should be aware that some actions (for example the “Victorian” action) take a few minutes to run depending on the size of the image and the speed of your computer.
- ◆ All actions work with Photoshop CS and CS2 but several do not work with version 7 or earlier.

Often you will find that combining actions can give excellent results, for example you could increase colour saturation with the FujiSlide action before running one of the sunset actions. If so it is sometimes wise to flatten the image before running the second action.

This document © 1ClickActions 2006

<http://www.1clickactions.com>