
JEFF ASCOUGH ACTIONS II

The actions can be broken down into two sections. Tools and enhancements. The tool actions are designed to increase productivity and give one click access to my most common used features of Photoshop. The enhancements are designed to improve the image. The actions are usually left in layers so that you can control different aspect of that action to suit your own pictures.

Enhancements

Stormy Monday - A controllable vignette. Use the lasso tool to make a selection before running the action.

Darkroom Dodge & Burn - This allows you to darken and lighten an image just by hitting the X key. The effect strength is controlled by your choice of brush and the opacity of the effect layer.

Jeff's Main Squeeze - My most used b/w conversion.

Lazy B&W - A quick and dirty conversion. Excellent as a starting point for proofing or for images taken under good lighting conditions.

The Master Plan - Some photographers have asked for a decent b&w batch action. Something that would give great results over 100's of proof images. So here it is!! It converts the image to b/w and adds a vignette automatically.

Varitone B&W - Gives total control over the tonal range and density of the image. Use the Hue slider to vary the b/w similar to using coloured filters when shooting b/w film.

Silk Stocking - I love the look and feel of a b/w print that has been softened at the printing stage. The shadows bleed into the highlights creating a lovely effect. This is my digital version of that softening.

The Fast & the Furious - Mimics the look of ultra fast b/w film. Most actions that mimic this effect tend to apply a grain screen to the whole image. This action selectively applies the grain depending on the tonal range of the image, creating a more realistic film-like effect.

Warm it Up and **Iceman** - Two subtle toning actions that mimic b/w images printed on warm and cool paper.

Delta Blues and **Brown Sugar** - As above but stronger in application, creating a sepia or blue tone effect.

Let's Hear Some Noise - Grain effect which works on the tones of the image giving a more film-like look. B/W images only!!

Let's Hear Some Noise Louder - As above but stronger.

Fire it Up, Hot, Too Hot to Handle, Third Degree Burns - Most colour boost/contrast

actions tend to block up the shadows. These have been designed to leave the deep shadow and extreme highlight areas untouched. I use Fire it Up to enhance all my colour images. The other actions in this series are progressively stronger in effect.

Dream - An inverted soft focus effect. Great for details.

Dodge and Burn for Colour - Used to darken and lighten colour images without increasing saturation.

Botox Baby - A soft focus effect that can be painted on to the image and controlled by layers and brush sizes. Great for softening skin on the mature bride!!

Highlight Paramedic - Brings the highlight detail back in things like veils, dresses, windows etc

Highlight Paramedic Selective - As above but with the ability to paint in the highlights that you want.

Tools

Curves Colour - Adds a curves layer which can be used on colour images without increasing saturation. Ideal for lightening or darkening an image, or adding contrast.

Punch it Up and Punch it Up high iso - A great method of boosting contrast by using the Opacity slider. Useful for quick contrast boosts

Snap it Up - Single click contrast boost without affecting saturation.

Muddy Waters - Single click contrast drop without affecting saturation.

Brighten Mids - Controllable lightening of the image without losing density in the extreme highlight and shadow areas.

Darken Mids - As above but this allows controllable darkening.

Pin Sharp - My main sharpening action.

Big Picture Sharpening - Great for larger prints.

www.sharpen - My main sharpening for all my web based images. Decreases jpeg artifacting compared to normal sharpening methods.

Feather - Great for feathering a selection. Quicker and easier than messing about with the PS menu.

Flatten image - Does exactly what it says. I use this all the time.

Curves, Levels, Colour adjustment layers - Single click access to give an

adjustment layer which is immediately editable.

Back to 8 - Some of my actions convert the image to 16 bit while running the action. This brings them back to 8 bit if required.

Loading the Actions

- 1) Drag the .atn file into your Photoshop Actions folder, or double click the .atn file to load straight into Photoshop.
- 2) Go to your actions palette, hit the little triangle at the top of the palette and then click load actions. Find the .atn file. Click ok and the actions will be loaded.
- 3) If you wish to remove the instructions that are built into some of the actions, expand the action in the palette, highlight the 'Stop' command, and delete it.
- 4) Some of the actions require Photoshop CS2 to work correctly.

Keep up to date with examples and tips at www.jeffascough.biz