

Akvis Enhancer

By Larry Hrusovsky, lhrusovsky@mac.com

Akvis develops software for digital image processing and digital photo restoration. Akvis Enhancer is a digital image processing plugin for Adobe Photoshop, Photoshop Elements or Graphic Converter. If you have an image that is over or under exposed, Enhancer will recover lost image details and make image colors more vibrant.

The main interface for Akvis Enhancer has four adjustable sliders. One slider is for “Shadows”, used to recover lost details in unde-rexposed areas of image; another, “Highlights”, reveals details in light areas of image; “Level of Detail”, defines amount of details detected; and “Lightness”, an adjustment that makea the overall image darker or lighter.

I found the default starting point for each slider a good starting place to tweak an image. After a couple of minor adjustments, images are transformed from under or over exposed and lacking punch to images that looked good and have vivid colors.



Before



After

One caveat I found trying to recover detail in an image two stops underexposed, the finished image had excessive digital noise. This is not a fault of Akvis Enhancer, it's tough to make an image acceptable when the initial image was poorly exposed.

Akvis Enhancer is a plugin worthy of its \$69.00 retail price.

Minimum system requirements: PowerPC G3, 256 MB RAM, 15 MB free space, OS X 10.3.9

Recommended system requirements: PowerPC G5, 2 GB RAM, 2 GB free space, OS X 10.4.6

Akvis is compatible with Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Photoshop Elements and Graphic Converter X.

<http://akvis.com/en/enhancer/index.php>

The NCMUG would like to acknowledge and thank Akvis for their generous donation of a license for Akvis Enhancer. A license for Enhancer will be part of our January raffle.