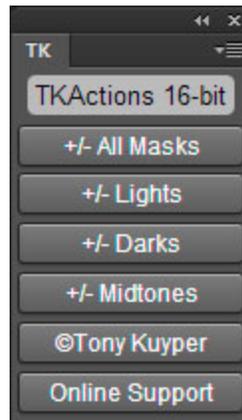


TK-mini Panel

A custom panel for Photoshop

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NEW FEATURES

TK-mini panel is a stepping stone for incorporating 16-bit luminosity masks into the larger, more-inclusive panel. There are several new features being tested in this panel that will eventually find their way into the larger panel.

1. "Action-less" actions. Previous "TK" panels relied on action sets to complete the task assigned to each button. Pressing a button would play an action on Photoshop's regular Actions panel. The mini panel eliminates this reliance on external actions to complete tasks. Instead, the actions have been programmed into the panel itself. When a button is pressed on the mini panel an internal action completes the task. This greatly simplifies installation and keeps Photoshop's Actions panel cleaner.

2. Smart buttons. The buttons on the mini panel contain programmed logic that monitor Photoshop to make sure that the task assigned to the button can actually be completed. If the task is not possible under the current conditions, then the action programmed into the button will not be attempted. For example, most buttons on the panel remain inactive (don't do anything) until an image is open in Photoshop.

3. "Toggle" buttons. The monitoring capability has been extended to include checking for the effect created by initially pushing a button. This allows any button to become a toggle that switches between different actions. The action performed depends on what the button has already done in addition to the current state of things in Photoshop. These toggle buttons have a "+/-" designation in front of their name. For example, the +/- All Masks button creates all the luminosity masks on the Channels panel when it is first pressed and then removes all these masks from the Channels panel the next time it is pressed.

4. 16-bit luminosity workflow. Perhaps the biggest change in this panel is an entirely new method for creating luminosity masks. The original [Luminosity Masks tutorial](#) and previous actions and panels all contained intermediate steps that included 8-bit selections. The mini panel completely changes this. There are no longer 8-bit steps in the 16-bit workflow. All luminosity selections in the mini panel are created directly from a 16-bit image or mask (see [blog post](#)). While selections remain 8-bit (this is hard-wired into Photoshop) the effect of the 16-bit workflow is noticeably smoother masks and selections. Luminosity masks and selections have always provided excellent tonal gradation to blend adjustments and brushstrokes into the image. The new 16-bit workflow not only makes these gradations even smoother, but it also makes them unbreakable. [This blog post](#) has additional details and illustrations.

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- 1.** The actions in the panel are meant to be used in RGB mode. While some of them will work in Lab, Grayscale, and CMYK, the buttons have only been tested in RGB mode. The results in modes other than RGB are not predictable and may lead to error messages.
- 2.** There are two versions of the custom actions panel. One works in Photoshop CS6 and the other in all versions of Photoshop CC. The panel will NOT install nor work in CS4 or earlier versions of Photoshop. While the panel can be installed in Photoshop CS5, there is potentially a bug in the early versions of CS5 that generates black-flecked masks with the new 16-bit workflow. As such, it is recommended to NOT use the panel in CS5, though if you have a later version of CS5, the bug may be fixed and the panel will work. For more information on this bug, read this [Adobe Forum post](#). Installation in CS5 is the same as installation in CS6 (see directions below).
- 3.** The Photoshop CC version of the panel looks slightly different than the Photoshop CS6 version. This is the result of a requirement by Adobe to use different programs to create extension panels for different versions of Photoshop. Both versions have nearly the same layout and mostly work the same.
- 4.** The panel is locked and will not generate scroll bars. It can be docked to panel bars in Photoshop.

INSTALLING THE PANEL

The custom TK-mini panel works in 32- and 64-bit version of Photoshop CS6 and all versions of Photoshop CC. There are different versions of the panel for these applications: one for Photoshop CS6 and another for Photoshop CC (which includes Photoshop CC, CC 2014, CC 2015, and subsequent versions).

Installation in Photoshop CS6

NOTE: Most Photoshop CS6 users are now using the 64-bit version of the applications. As such, the installation instructions are for the 64-bit version of Photoshop CS6. If you are using the 32-bit version of the program (Windows users), you'll simply need to locate the correct folder in your directory in "Program Files (x86)"

1. Close Photoshop.
2. Locate the "TK" folder in the download as follows: Download folder > "Installation-for-Photoshop-CS6" folder > "TK" folder.
3. Copy the "TK" folder to the "Panels" folder of the Photoshop CS6 application. Do NOT open the "TK" folder and copy what's inside the folder. Instead, copy the entire "TK" folder to the "Panels" folder.
For Windows, the path to the "Panels" folder is: "C: > Program Files > Adobe > Adobe Photoshop CS6 (64 Bit) > Plug-Ins > Panels"
For Mac, the pathway to the "Panels" folder is: Macintosh HD > Applications > Adobe Photoshop CS6 > Plug-Ins > Panels.
4. Restart Photoshop
5. Click through the menu commands: Window > Extensions > TK to open the panel in Photoshop.

Installation for Photoshop CC starts on next page

Installation in Photoshop CC

Installing the TK mini panel requires copying the "TK" folder in the download to the proper location on your hard drive. Here is how to do it.

- 1. Quit Photoshop.** For Mac users that means right-clicking the tray icon for Photoshop and selecting "Quit" from the pop-up menu.
- 2. Locate the "TK" folder in the download as follows: Download folder > "Installation-for-Photoshop-CC" folder > "TK" folder.**
- 3. Find (or create) the correct destination folder on your hard drive.** The correct destination varies with your version of Photoshop CC.

For Photoshop CC 2014/2015 the path to the destination folder is:

Windows: C:\Program Files (x86)\Common Files\Adobe\CEP\extensions

Mac: Macintosh HD/Library/Application Support/Adobe/CEP/extensions

The "CEP" and "extensions" folders might be missing from the path listed above if they have not previously been required by Photoshop. If they are not present, make them.

- a) Create a "CEP" folder in the "Adobe" folder, and
- b) Create an "extensions" folder in the "CEP" folder.

It's very important to get this path correct, including the uppercase and lowercase letters. You can copy and paste the folder names from above if need be, but do NOT include the quotation marks. Once the correct path has been found or created, move onto Step 4.

For Photoshop CC the path to the destination folder is:

Windows:

C:\Program Files (x86)\Common Files\Adobe\CEPServiceManager4\extensions

Mac:

Macintosh HD/Library/Application Support/Adobe/CEPServiceManager4/extensions

- 4. Copy the "TK" folder from the download folder to the correct "extensions" destination folder.** Do not open the "TK" folder and copy the contents. Copy the entire "TK" folder to the "extensions" folder.
- 5. Open Photoshop and click through the menu item Window > Extensions > TK to open the panel.**

USING THE THE PANEL



There are only six buttons on the mini panel, so it's pretty easy to use.

+/- All Masks—The first click puts all the Lights, Darks, and Midtones luminosity masks on the Channels panel. The second click removes them.

+/- Lights—The first click puts the Lights luminosity masks on the Channels panel. The second click removes them.

+/- Darks—The first click puts the Darks luminosity masks on the Channels panel. The second click removes them.

+/- Midtones—The first click puts the Midtone luminosity masks on the Channels panel. The second click removes them.

©Tony Kuyper—Opens a window with copyright information

Online Support—Opens a browser window in the computer's default browser to a webpage on my website. There are links there for additional information about luminosity masks and how to use them.

The 16-bit luminosity masks placed on the Channels panel are only the starting point for using them. These masks can be loaded as selections or incorporated into layer masks on adjustment layers to target the adjustments to specific tonal ranges. Exposure-blending, luminosity painting, mask painting, and adjustments targeted to specific tones are some of the many ways to use luminosity masks. The [tutorials section](#) on my website has several ideas for getting started.

TROUBLESHOOTING

The panel has been tested on Mac and Windows. Because of the necessity to support previous versions of Photoshop, there is now a Flash-based version of the panel for Photoshop CS6 and an HTML5-based version for Photoshop CC. Both versions have the same layout and buttons and both produce the same results. While they look slightly different, they do exactly the same thing.

There are occasionally unexpected problems when using the panel. A couple of the most common problems and possible solutions are listed starting on the next page. If you have other problems, please [contact me](#) and I'll try to help.

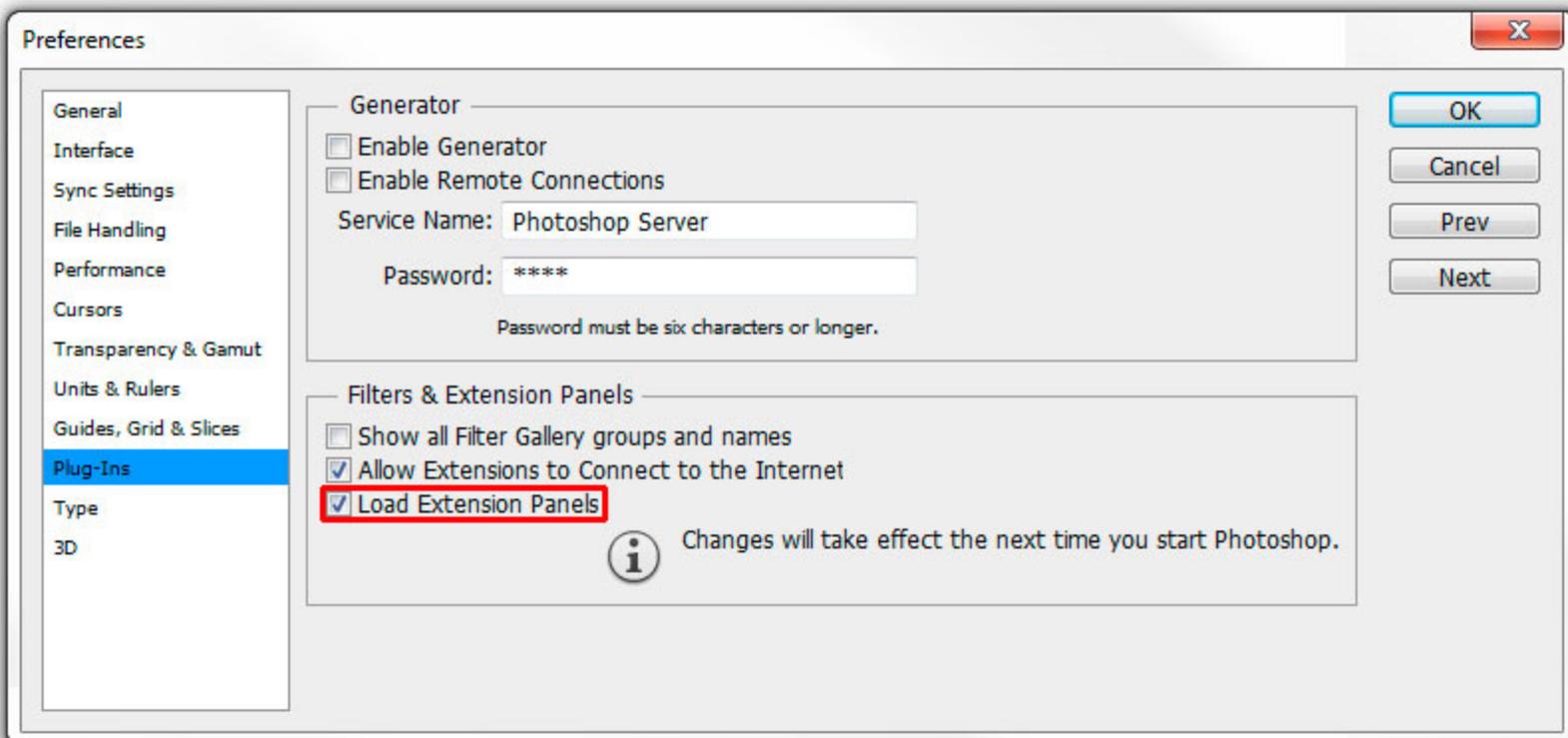
1. The panel has been installed but it doesn't show up in Photoshop.

There are a few possibilities to consider here.

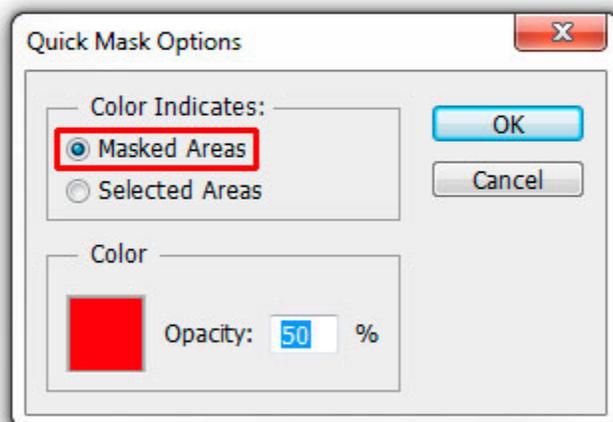
a) Make sure to click through the menu command Window > Extensions > TK to actually open the panel in Photoshop. Installation is not enough to actually open the panel in Photoshop. The menu command is needed. Once the panel is open it will stay open and can be docked to a panel bar.

b) For Windows users using Photoshop CS6, there are actually two versions of Photoshop installed on the computer, a 32-bit version and a 64-bit version. If the "TK" folders has been copied to the "Panels" folder of your application but doesn't show up under Window > Extensions, it often means you are running the other version of Photoshop. Check the menu command Help > About Photoshop. It will tell you if you are running the 32- or 64-bit version of the program. Make sure you copy the "TK" folder to the "Panels" folder of the version of Photoshop (32-bit or 62-bit) that you are running.

c) There is a preference setting that needs to be checked in order for extension panels to be loaded. The check box "Load Extensions Panel" under the "Plug-Ins" preferences needs to be checked (red box, image below).



2. The masks generate by the panel are inverted (the "Lights" masks are negatives and the "Dark" masks are positives).



This is not a problem caused by the panel. If you create a selection using one of the Photoshop's other selection tools and then save the selection as a mask, it will also be inverted. So this is a Photoshop problem. There are two possible solutions.

a) Double-click the Edit in Quick Mask Mode button (rectangle with a circle inside) near the bottom of the Tools panel. From the pop-up window, make sure the radio button for "Masked Areas" is selected. If the "Selected Areas" radio button is selected, masks will be inverted.

b) If the first solution doesn't work, it's possible the Photoshop "Preferences" file is corrupted and needs to be reset. An online video to help do this can be found [here](#).

I hope the panel is useful to you and that it helps you achieve your artistic goals in Photoshop. Please feel free to [contact me](#) if you have any questions, problems, or suggestions.