

Digiscoping Digital Darkroom 101

Basic Techniques: Using a Photoshop Action

General Example: All

Lesson Developed: All

Work Flow Summary

Step 1> How to Load a Photoshop Action

Step 2> Action in Detail

Step 3> Action in Brief

Step 1: How to Load a Photoshop Action

Most of our Digiscoping Digital Darkroom tutorials come with a companion file that contains Adobe Creative Suites automation tools. This gives you the exact commands we use in an automated form. Thus, you get productive fast. To use the Photoshop actions,

- download the file into any folder on your system. It does not have to be in a Photoshop sub-directory.
 - Open Photoshop and open the actions palette (under Windows on tool bar).
 - Click the small triangle in the upper right hand corner of the Actions palette to access the fly-out menu.
 - Choose Load Actions, navigate to the file folder in which you save the .atn file, and select LOAD.
- Note: Drag and drop is also available into the Action Palette.

Step 2: Action In Detail

Our focus in Digiscoping Digital Darkroom is workflow which actions play a major role. Actions allow you to turn an everyday photograph into artwork. The automation of steps allow you to accomplish in a single click what previously took hours or days by hand. We have no intention on re-doing the excellent tutorials already available on other web site. Our goal is to make it simple by providing the “best of breed” links to the overwhelming amount of information on the web. You’ll find a very good “Tutorial On Actions” (<http://user.fundy.net/morris/photoshop21.shtml>) at the GFX site by Trevor Morris. This tutorial walks you through the whole process with simple and clear explanations. For a comprehensive tutorial about Photoshop Actions, read “Photoshop Actions - The Mother Of All Tutorials” by Danny Raphael of Action Central” (<http://www.atncentral.com/tutorials.htm>). This is a Photoshop Actions Tutorial like none other, addressing action topics in a tutorial easily labeled an e-book. The index is very easy to find the topic of interest.

Step 3. Action In Brief

In our tutorials, specially developed for digiscoping, we will include Action details that are relevant to that tutorial. Or, a way to learn actions a small dose at a time.

Disclaimer

These articles intentionally do not tell you how to use specific software in depth. For example, Photoshop with detail screen shots are not provided. In order to make composition images, you would need to know how to use your own software product, top to bottom. Our “how to” guide is focused on using several commands in a sequence. or workflow. Each product comes with a reference material to guide you in using the actual individual commands. With the overall general concept you can proceed in learning your specific tools. Also, every animal picture is different. One way to learn is by experimenting. With some basic ideas and a willingness to spend the time and energy required, I believe you will be able to make advanced compositions and the quality of art you are hoping to achieve.