

Workshop: Introduction to Actions

(notes by Ron Addison)

If you desire to organize your workflow, create special effects with images and text, or repeat steps you often make, then action should be of interest. Actions are similar to macros in a word processing program. In other words, an action is a recorded series of steps that were taken in Photoshop®. For example an action could place a wood frame around your picture. (See Appendix 1 for descriptions of actions on the "Workshop Disk." That action could be used to place a wood frame around any similar image. This is why actions are so powerful. Adding to this power is the ability of an action to be applied to a folder of files by applying actions as part of a batch process. Because actions are so powerful, you should only apply an action to a copy of your image. Actions often make changes to your file that can't be reversed.

Actions have been available since Photoshop 4 was released. There were ways to "cheat" and use actions in early versions of Elements. In Elements 6 and 7, it became relatively easy to run an action. However, actions may only be written in Photoshop. Elements cannot run every action written in Photoshop. Surprisingly, Elements can run some actions that contain commands that are not available in Elements. This shows that some Photoshop commands are hidden from the user in Elements. When a new version of Elements is released these "unsupported" commands may disappear.

One great feature of actions is that they are "cross-platform." An action recorded on a Mac will run without any changes on a PC. Actions are saved by Photoshop as an ".atn" file. The action palette will help you load an action from the Workshop Disk or one you have downloaded from the internet¹. However, Elements requires you to copy the files on the Disk or downloaded into a special file. This special file varies from version 6 to version 7 and version 8. After moving your actions to the proper location, you must force Elements to reconstruct its database

¹ Actions Central is a good place to download actions.

<http://www.atncentral.com/download.htm>

Adobe cfusion/exchange has 1,000s of actions.

http://www.adobe.com/cfusion/exchange/index.cfm?event=productHome&exc=16&loc=en_us

file. The database file tells Elements what actions, gradients, etc. are available. If the database file is deleted, Elements will rebuild the database when it is started. You can get a cup or two of coffee while the file rebuilds. Detailed instructions are on the Disk in the Elements folder. Look at the pdf file "Installing_..." for your version of Elements. Also, details about how to install actions in Elements can be found at:

<http://graphicssoft.about.com/od/pselements/qt/actions.htm>

The June 2009 issue of *Shutterbug* magazine has a detailed article on actions. On the disk, I have included the action from that issue called Joes.atn in the CS-other folder. This action only runs in Photoshop CS. This action converts a color photograph to black and white and then adds a soft focus.

On the Disk in the Elements folder, I have placed the folder "Copyright for Elements." I recorded this action in Photoshop CS4. The copyright action should be run on an image that only has one layer named background.. The action will place a generic copyright © notice in the lower left hand corner of the image. If you use only Elements and you would like to use this action to place your copyright on an image, please just send me an e-mail including exactly the way you want your name. I will send you the action and the associated files that will run in Elements. If you can use Photoshop, you can load the action into Photoshop. Then use click on the Type Layer and place your name in the action. Appendix 2 has a detailed description of the copyright action.

Files on the WORKSHOP DISK:

- Actions for Elements

All of the actions for Elements listed in Appendix 1

Directions for installing the actions in each version of Elements.

- *CS-PanosFX*

All of the actions for Photoshop listed in Appendix 1

- *CS-Other Actions*

Actions downloaded from the internet.

Many of folders have txt files describing how the action works.

Some have images before and after the action was run.

- *Copyright for Elements*

This action runs in Photoshop.

The action and associated files can be placed in the proper Elements folder.

Then the action will run in Elements 6 or 7.

- *WORKSHOP: Intro to Actions.doc & WORKSHOP: Intro to Actions.pdf*

- *Examples of Photoshop Actions.exe*

This is the ProShow Gold presentation given at the Workshop.

Workshop: Appendix 2

All actions are from PanosFX.com where examples are available

25 MATRIX

Elements 6, 7	Photoshop 6 and higher
<p>Just released as part of the Big Pictures download. The Matrix Collage action put together 25 different photos into one image. Each of the images in the Collage is on a separate layer. Therefore, you can move the photos and/or rotate them.</p>	<p>This action lets you combine 25 images of your choice on a 5x5 matrix. Each photo is placed on its own, individual layer. <i>(A detailed readme.txt file is included in the .zip set)</i>. Load your 25 images and press play. All images must be of the <i>same</i> size. I strongly recommend you copy all images into a new folder and downsize them; the final image will be 25 times bigger than each one of its components! You can load them one by one (the first image you load will be the first in the first row, etc). You can also batch open them (in Windows click on the last image, hold down SHIFT key and click on the first image and them press open).</p>

B&B

Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop 6 and higher
<p>The name B&B derives from the bordering and bending routines used to give the image the particular curved look. Open an image and fire up either the "bbconvex" or the "bbconcave" action.</p>	<p>"B&B set of effects" is a very handy set of actions. It uses a number of techniques to give your images an impressive curled look. Open an image and play one of the many Convex, Concave and Curl actions. Do not play any of the subroutine actions. In addition do not change the filename BBeffects.atn, for the action will halt.</p>

B&B FILMSTRIP

Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop 6 and higher
<p>This is a set of powerful actions that will turn your images into filmstrips and will give them a 3-D look. Open an image and fire up either the convex or the concave action. The zip file contains instructions on how to install and use this action.</p>	<p>B&B filmstrip is a set of powerful actions that will turn your images into filmstrips and will give them a 3-D look. The set includes both convex and concave effects. In version 2.0 I have also included the Reset Shear Filter adjustment action. The latest resolves the</p>

	<p>problem of the angular filmstrip edges. The zip file contains 2 action sets: The BBfilmstrip actions are optimized for images of the 4:3 aspect ratio. The BBFilmstrip35mm actions are optimized for images of the 3:2 format. Detailed instructions are given in the PDF manual that is included in the zip file.</p>
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B&BIG PICTURE	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop 6 and higher
<p>The "B&Big Picture" combines two popular effects: the versatile "Big Picture" action with the eye-catching B&B techniques. At the end your image is turned to a very impressive collage made up by 25 different photos. Each one of these photos has a bordered style and appears to be slightly curved by moisture, casting a beautiful shadow on the canvas. The action is designed for images of landscape orientation! The zip file contains instructions on how to install this effect. The 25 collage photos are actually individual layers that are named in a spreadsheet manner, i.e. A1, A2, etc. You can rotate or move sole layers or even linked layers, to create your own effects.</p>	<p>The <i>B&Big Picture</i> combines two of my popular actions: the versatile "Big Picture" action with the eye-catching B&B techniques. At the end your image is turned to a very impressive collage made up by 25 different photos. Each one of these photos has a bordered style and appears to be slightly curved. The action is designed for landscape orientation photos! Load the action and press play. The 25 photos are actually individual layers that are named using a spreadsheet style, i.e. A1, A2, etc. You can rotate or move individual layers or even linked layers, to create your own effects. Users who have PS7 and higher will be able to apply some interesting perspective effects at the end. <i>The action is very complex and it will take some time to finish playing.</i></p>

BIG BLUE	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop 6 and higher
<p>BIG BLUE creates a relaxing, imaginary marine world and makes your image a part of the scenery. This action is an example of the endless possibilities offered by this wonderful program. <u>A</u>ll you have to do is open an image and run the action. It will create a marine scenery where random clouds reflect on the</p>	<p>BIG BLUE creates an oceanic scenery and makes your image a part of it. Clouds, reflections, waves are some of the decorative features of this complex Photoshop action. <u>A</u>ll you have to do is open an image and run the main action. It will create a sea landscape where random clouds reflect on the surface of</p>

surface of a blue sea. The zip file contains instructions on how to install this effect in your PSE.	a blue sea. You can then play with the color-scheme actions, to change the time of the day and consequently the scenery look.
BIG PICTURE	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop 6 and higher
BIG PICTURE is an action that will make an image look as a collage made up of 25 individual photographs that are slightly untidy. Load a landscape orientation image. Run the action. The zip file contains instructions on how to install this effect. The 25 photos are actually individual layers that are named in a spreadsheet manner, i.e. A1, A2, etc. You can rotate or move sole layers or even linked layers, to create your own effects.	The BIG PICTURE is a Photoshop action that will make an image look as a collage made up of 25 individual photographs that are in a 'slightly untidy manner'. Load an image of <i>landscape</i> orientation. Load the action and press play. The 25 photos are actually individual layers that are named in a spreadsheet manner, i.e. A1, A2, etc. You can rotate or move sole layers or even linked layers, to create your own effects.

THE BIG PICTURE EXTRAS	
	Photoshop 6 and higher
	This is a set of four add-on effects for the BIG PICTURE action. First run the BIG PICTURE action, then try the add-on actions of this set.
B&BIG PLUS	
	Photoshop 6 and higher
	"B&Big PLUS" creates the effect you've seen on the B&Big picture but in this case you have more goodies (3 extra variations with both concave and convex collages, image glows, etc). Load a landscape image, preferably of the 3:2 ratio. Choose among the 3 Concave & Covex effects and press play. If you have PS7 and higher you can try the 5 <i>transformation</i> effects on the action product. Do not play any of the 3 subroutine actions!.
BLACK & WHITE CONVERSION AND IMAGE DESATURATION	
	Photoshop 6 and higher

	<p>More control on B&W conversions and image desaturation. Open an image. Avoid working on lower compression JPGs (I recommend working on 16-bits images). Run the action. A duplicate of the original image will be created. Step 1 Change the blending Mode to taste. Step 2 Check the Mask button. Step 3 Experiment with different Channels. Step 4 Fine tune the Opacity. You will be prompted to change the "Pin Light" blending mode in the <i>Calculations</i> window (the 'Pin Light' blending mode produces a neutral effect similar to Photoshop's grayscale). Deploy the mask options and manipulate the mode of the 3 channels. Try not to pick a channel that increases the overall image noise. In addition, you can fine tune the overall effect by changing the opacity, in the <i>Calculations</i> window. Finally, when the action finishes you can adjust the opacity of the "BW layer" from 100% to 0% to manipulate the degree of desaturation.</p>
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CARVED MARBLE TEXT	
	Photoshop CS2 and higher
	Give your text a kind of carved green marble look. Play the first action only (not the subroutines). Do not change the action <i>file name</i> or the actions will halt. Detailed instructions are given in the process. Use thick fonts @ 300 ppi.

CRACKED WALL PAINTINGS	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop 6 and higher
Once upon a time someone painted a beautiful painting on a wall. Time passed. Everything decayed, and together with everything, decayed the painting. The <i>Cracked Wall Paintings</i> is a set of 2 actions that reproduce the look of a cracked, painted wall facade. Run the main action first. You will be given detailed instructions while the action runs. When the main action finishes playing, you can try the 'peel off' extra effect.	Once upon a time someone painted a beautiful painting on a wall. Time passed. Everything decayed, and together with everything, decayed the painting. The <i>Cracked Wall Paintings</i> is a set of Photoshop actions that reproduce the look of a cracked, painted wall facade. <u>Open</u> an image and run the main action . Then try the extra actions in order to add extra aging effects. Before starting, run the README1st action and print the instructions.

DECK	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop 6 and higher
The DECK action lets you recreate a popular framing effect within seconds. Your image appears to be on top of a stack of photos. The set contains 4 actions. Two of them are optimized for <i>landscape</i> layout images of 4:3 ratio while the other two are optimized for <i>portrait</i> images. Each one of these pairs contains 2 different effects. Load an image and run any of the four DECK actions.	The DECK is a Photoshop action that lets you recreate a popular framing effect within seconds. Your image appears to be on top of a stack of photos. I named this action after the look of the cards of a deck. The zip file contains 2 different sets of actions optimized for portrait and landscape layout images respectively. The steps you have to take are the same for both sets: 1. Open an image 2. Run one of the "Plain photo" or the "Bordered Photo" actions 3. When the action finishes playing run any of the 3 effect actions to change the look of the subjacent photos. As

	with all my actions, all layers are left intact at the end.
DISCRETE	
	Photoshop 6 and higher
	The 'Discrete' actions give you another interesting tool to make your images visually more appealing. What is also interesting about this set is that the actions make use of smart filters. Therefore CS3 users will be able to readjust the amount of blur on the shadow, when the action finishes. The actions give you the option to modify a number of different visual elements to preference. The action has two versions. Run one of the two actions. You will be asked to open an image in the process.
EDGE EFFECTS	
	Photoshop 6 and higher
	8 actions that create a variety of edge effects. For more details read the tutorial on this site. A PDF manual is included in the set.
EMBOSSSED LABELS	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop CS and higher
These actions simulate realistically the popular look of an embossed label tape. Just type in your text and let Elements punch the letters on the tape. You can choose from three tape colors (R-G-B). You have to have an existing image open prior to running this effect. The action won't manipulate this image; it will create a new document from scratch.	These actions simulate realistically the popular look of an embossed label tape. Just type in your text and let Photoshop punch the letters on the tape. You can choose from three tape colors (R-G-B). Just play one of the RED / GREEN/ BLUE actions.
EMPHASIS	
	Photoshop 6 and higher
	This set contains two effects: The WHITE BORDER effect faints the photo and emphasizes a rectangular area (whose boundaries are defined by you) by turning it into a color photo with a white border. The

	HEART effect emphasizes the center of your image by making it appearing within a beveled heart. The area outside the heart is faded and given a red hue. Ideal for romantic compositions! Open an image and play one of the two actions of the set.
FAN	
Elements 4, 5, 6, and 7	Photoshop 7 and higher
The zip file contains 4 different folders that contain the necessary files for PSE 4, 5, 6, 7, respectively.	This is a complex Photoshop action that will create a hand-held fan using one of your images. Make sure you run the action on images of landscape orientation. The action creates 20 slats and adds a number of decorative elements, making use of semi-transparent layers. In addition to the main effect, the action creates another two interesting perspectives. The action will ask you to open an image of landscape orientation. The rest is done automatically.
GREEK RODAX FRAME	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop 6 and higher
The action will decorate your images with a golden frame inspired by ancient Greek art. The inner frame depicts a "meander" pattern while the outer frame is made up by "Rodax" flowers. Both motifs were widely used in ancient Greek pottery and sculpture. Open an image and run the action. The actions are optimized for landscape orientation images. By default the frame style is optimized for large images (however you are given the option to scale up/down the effects).	This action will frame your image with a beautiful motif that was widely used in ancient Greek art, the <i>Rodax</i> . Load an image of <i>landscape</i> orientation. Load the action set (it will take a few seconds). Play one of the first 2 core actions (they create large / small rodax frames). Then you can play the other 5 actions to make the effect more impressive. These 5 actions include the "golden" frame, the "Greek blue" frame and 3 B/W versions.
HIGH PASS SHARPENING	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop 6 and higher
Sharpening photos using Elements' high-pass filter and layer blending is a great method: It is easy, customizable and more important it is	Sharpening photos using Photoshop's high-pass filter and layer blending is a great method: It is easy, customizable and more important, it is

<p>fully reversible. This action does the trick in seconds. Open an image and double click the action. At the end adjust the opacity of the "Sharpening layer" to manipulate the strength of the effect.</p>	<p>fully reversible. This action does the trick in seconds. Open an image and press play. At the end adjust the opacity of the "Sharpening layer" to manipulate the strength of the effect.</p>
<p>MEANDER FRAME</p>	
	<p>Photoshop 6 and higher</p>
	<p>this action will decorate your image with a classic ancient Greek motif, the <i>meander</i>. The meander is thought to represent the course of the river Meandros in Asia minor; it had a deep symbolization for ancient Greeks, representing the course of our life. Open an landscape orientation image and press play. The frame styles are optimized for large images but you can tweak them to preference.</p>
<p>MOIVE FILM</p>	
<p>Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</p>	<p>Photoshop 6 and higher</p>
<p>This combines 4 landscape layout images to create a movie-camera filmstrip. On the left film edge the script creates the sound waveforms stripe. The actions are optimized for <i>landscape</i> layout images of 4:3 ratio. Load an image and run the MAIN EFFECT action first. Then run any of the "To change look" actions to change the film look.</p>	<p>This combines 4 landscape layout images to create a movie-camera filmstrip. On the left film edge the action creates the sound waveform stripe. The action gives you the option to type your own text on the right film edge. Finally you can choose from four different filmstrip variations. Please run the MAIN ACTION first. Then run any of the "Alternative look" actions to change the film look. Finally run the "Add text" action to type your text on the right film edge.</p>
<p>OUT OF BOUNDS PLUS</p>	
<p>Elements 5, 6, 7</p>	<p>Photoshop CS2 and higher</p>
<p>The OoB+ (Out of Bounds plus) is an advanced tool which simplifies the steps needed to create the impressive and popular OoB effects. The action is very flexible; at the beginning it lets you define the area of the photo and its shape; it then lets you define the</p>	<p>The OoB+ (Out of Bounds plus) is an advanced tool which simplifies the steps needed to create the impressive and popular OoB effects. The action is very flexible; at the beginning it lets you define the area of the photo and its shape; it then lets you define the</p>

<p>size of the white border; in the next step you define the out-of-bounds areas. The action makes use of layer masks and this allows you to edit the final effect at the end. There is a new version on the Workshop Disk in the Elements folder. Action is titled PanosFX_OoB_PSE.</p>	<p>size of the white border; in the next steps you define the out-of-bounds areas and you add the shadow effects. The action makes use of layer masks and this allows you to edit the final effect at a later stage. (VIDEO TUTORIAL) There is a new version on the Workshop Disk in the CS-PanosFX folder. Action is titled PanosFX_OoB.</p>
<p>3D OUT OF BOUNDS</p>	
	<p>Photoshop 6 and higher</p>
	<p>This action gives you the necessary tools to create an effect which can be extremely useful to those who want to emphasize a part of the photo, such as a product etc. Overall, it creates a polaroid type of frame, where an object appears to pop out of the photo.</p> <p>Bear in mind that this is not a press play-and-go procedure; you will need to apply your selection-making skills using the appropriate Photoshop tools. Remember: Start with the right photo (it should depict one object with clear lines, that dominates the picture); try it on a train, truck or even an aircraft photo for a start!</p>
<p>PAGE CURLS</p>	
<p>Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</p>	<p>Photoshop 6 and higher</p>
<p>This action lets you create your own impressive and highly customizable page curl on any image corner.</p>	<p>This action lets you create your own impressive and highly customizable page curl on any image corner.</p>
<p>PAPER CUBE MAP</p>	
<p>Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</p>	<p>Photoshop 6 and higher</p>
<p>This action lets you print up to 5 photos on a cube. You have to have an existing image open prior to running this effect. The action won't manipulate this image; it will create a new</p>	<p>This action lets you print up to 5 photos on a cube. You can print images of you beloved people (your spouse, kids, grandkids, friends). There are 2 actions in the set. The first</p>

<p>document from scratch. There are 2 actions in the set. The first creates a cube that has the same photo printed on each side. The second action prints 5 images (one on each side - the cube base is blank). Once you run the actions, a cube map will be created. Print it on a photo paper. Cut precisely along the edges. Fold firmly the cube sides, then the wings. Finally apply some glue on the wings and stick, or use a double-sided mount tape.</p>	<p>creates a cube that has the same photo printed on each side. The second action prints 5 images (one on each side - the cube base is blank). Once you run the actions, a cube map will be created. Print it on a photo paper. Pick up a scissors. Cut precisely along the edges. Fold firmly the cube sides, then the wings. Finally apply some glue on the wings and stick, or use a double-sided mount tape. Crop the images to 747px x 747px @ 300ppi, save them and run the actions.</p>
PHOTOALBUM	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop 6 and higher
<p>This action will create a picture book from scratch and will place your photo on its front page. The action creates a number of items, such as binding rings, tape holders, multiple pages. Press play and have fun!!! The action is optimized for images of landscape orientation.</p>	<p>This action will create a picture book and will place your photo on its front page. Open a landscape image and press play. In <i>rare cases</i> Photoshop's <i>Share</i> filter behaves abnormally and you may get an angular curve or experience execution errors. In this case please run the <i>Reset Share Filter</i> action which is included.</p>
PHOTRIS	
	Photoshop 6 and higher
	<p>Photris will give your image a tiled look. Similarly to Puzzle Effects, in Photris each piece is an individual layer. This is very handy to those who want to move pieces or groups of pieces in order to create their own effects. In order to identify and select the respective piece-layer you will have to right-click on it. Load an image of <i>landscape</i> orientation. Load the action set and run the core action. Then run one of the 4 effect actions to change the look of the pieces.</p>
PLASMA TV	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop CS and higher
<p>Plasma TV is a set of 3 actions that create an impressive and complex framing effect. At</p>	<p>The Plasma TV action places your image in a Plasma TV screen. A number of elements such</p>

the end of the action your image will appear on a Plasma TV screen. A number of elements such as speakers, buttons, etc. are added to enhance the overall impression. The final product consists of a considerable number of layers that are left intact for you to manipulate. Open an image and run the Plasma TV action first. Then run one of the speakers actions. The actions are optimized for landscape images.

as speakers, buttons, etc. are added to enhance the overall impression. The final product consists of a considerable number of layers that are left intact for you to manipulate. The actions are optimized for landscape images of 3:2 and 4:3 aspect ratio. I have included a detailed PDF manual that explains the way the action works. Additionally, a number of instruction stops will guide you through while the action is running.

PUZZLE EFFECTS

Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

This is a set of 18 actions that create jigsaw puzzle effects. There are 6 main actions that create jigsaws with 4, 6, 20, 30, 56 and 100 pieces respectively.
Each one of these actions comes in three versions, that create thin, normal and thick pieces edges. The actions are optimized for *landscape* orientation images, of the popular 4:3 aspect ratio. With small images use the *thin edges* actions. With normal or large images use the *normal edges* or the *thick edges* actions respectively.

Photoshop 6 and higher

The free version contains 2 jigsaw actions that create 6 and 20 pieces. The actions are optimized for landscape layout images. On portrait images simply rotate by 90 degrees first. Then play any of the 6 puzzle actions. You may want to read the [two tutorials](#) which present some very useful tips about the puzzle actions.

RAINY DAY

Elements 5, 6, and 7

It is a cloudy day, the sky is moody. The rain started falling. You can hear the raindrops tapping and see them rolling down your clouded window glass. RAINY DAY is a set of actions that will make your images look as if they are seen through the window while it rains. The set contains two actions (PART1 and PART2). *Rainy Day Part1* should be applied first. It will create the raindrops. *Rainy Day Part2* is optional. It lets you apply a condensed steam effect. The actions will work with images of any size. However keep in mind that they are optimized for images around 3 Megapixels. I've added a couple of instruction stops that help you tailor the effect to fit (slightly) smaller or bigger images. You will produce more interesting results if you try the actions on a moody landscape picture.

Photoshop CS and higher

It is a cloudy day, the sky is moody. The rain started falling. You can hear the raindrops tapping and see them rolling down your clouded window glass.
The RAINY DAY is a set of Photoshop actions that will make your images look as if they are seen through the window while it rains. I suggest you run the README action at first. Open an image before running the actions. The actions will work with images of any size. However keep in mind that they are optimized for LARGE photos (> 3 Megapixels). You will produce more interesting results if you try the actions on pictures of cloudy, moody landscapes. Run the MAIN ACTION first. You will be guided by instruction stops, while the action is running. These stops let you also control the various filters that are applied. Apart from the main action there are two extra actions that let you add a layer of

	smaller drops and a layer of condensed vapour.
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RULE OF THIRDS CROPPING	
Elements 6 & 7	Photoshop CS and higher
<p>Just Released--- Rule of Thirds Cropping for Photoshop® Elements.</p> <p>On your disk is also a Rule of Thirds from Shutterfreaks.com which works for any version of Elements before version 7. (SFRuleOfThirdsxxx)</p>	<p>While Photoshop's crop tool is very flexible, things may become tricky when you want to crop and at the same time apply the rule of thirds. Here is a tool designed to make your life easier. It allows you to <i>crop</i> and even <i>crop & straighten</i> in accordance to this aesthetic rule. Open an image in Photoshop. Load and run the action. Use your mouse to <i>move / rotate / resize</i> the yellow grid layer, which represents the cropping area. Double click to confirm and the action will do the rest. Please refer to the PDF document inside the zip file to read some useful tips.</p>
RUBIK'S CUBE	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop CS and higher
<p>This action will use one of your images to create an impressive cube. The final cube dimensions are fixed (842 x 910 pixels). Crop an image to square dimensions, save it and run the action.</p>	<p>This action will use one of your images to create an impressive cube. The final cube dimensions are fixed (842 x 910 pixels). Crop an image to square dimensions, save it and run the action.</p>
SCROLL	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop 7 and higher
<p>This action creates a beautiful scroll from scratch. You have to have an existing image open prior to running this effect. The action won't manipulate this image; it will create a new document from scratch</p>	<p>This action creates a beautiful scroll from scratch. Load the action and press play. Photoshop will do the rest.</p>
SNOW GLOBE	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop 6 and higher
<p>SNOW GLOBE creates a complex composition that comprises of many different parts: at first your image is decorated with a wooden frame. Then it is placed inside a snow globe. A number of different elements, such as two</p>	<p>SNOW GLOBE creates a complex composition that comprises of many different parts: at first your image is decorated with a wooden frame. Then it is placed inside a snow globe. A number of different elements, such as two</p>

snow layers, large snowflakes, ice, reflections, and many more are added to complete the scenery! The action is strictly designed for images of landscape orientation.	snow layers, large snowflakes, ice, reflections, and many more are added to complete the scenery! The action is strictly designed for images of landscape orientation.
SNOWED TEXT	
	Photoshop 6 and higher
	This action will cover your text with snow and its edges with frost. You can customize the amounts of frost and snow. Follow very carefully the instructions that are given while the action is running. Change the color overlay and texture, and you will get a dusted cookie look, instead!
SNOW WHITE TEXT	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop CS and higher
The " <i>Snow White Text</i> " is a funny Elements action that will add snow and ice on your text. The final document is quite large in size. If you use the maximum text length the final document's width will be 10 inches @ 300 ppi. You have to have an existing image open prior to running this effect. The action won't manipulate this image; it will create a new document from scratch.	The " <i>Snow White Text</i> " is a funny Photoshop action that will add snow and ice on your text. The final document is quite large in size. If you use the maximum text length the final document's width will be 10 inches @ 300 ppi. The fully customized action output allows you to create a few different effects. You can manipulate the text color etc. at the end, since all layers are left intact.

SPIRAL BIND	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop 6 and higher
In the zip file you will find 14 actions and their PSD thumbnails. There are 7 actions optimized for landscape orientation photos and 7 actions that are optimized for portrait orientation ones. Each action creates a fixed width image. For example the 400 pixels landscape action should be run on a small image whose width is around 400 pixels. The action will first resize the image width to 400 pixels and will then	These actions make the creation of a spiral binding effect a very easy task! In the zip file you will find two sets of actions: one set is optimized for landscape orientation photos and one set is optimized for portrait orientation ones. So, depending on the orientation of your original image, load the proper actions and press play! Each set contains 8 actions: The

<p>create the effect. Another example: Let's say you have a photo whose size is 2272x1704 pixels. You should run the 2500 pixels-landscape orientation action with this image.</p>	<p>first 7 actions resize the original image to a preset size before running the effect. These actions were created for those who find it difficult to scale the spiral style effects, when the action finishes. <i>Find the action whose name is closer to the width of your original image and press play!</i> The last action does not resize the original photo. It merely lets you tailor the style effect details to optimize the effect to the size of your image.</p>
<p>SPRING PETALS</p>	
	<p>Photoshop CS2 and higher</p>
	<p>The SPRING PETALS is a set of four framing actions, inspired by the flowers and colors of springtime. Overall there are four different effects. The actions will work with images of any size and orientation. The result is optimum when the actions are played on a square image (its width is equal to its height). <i>You can press C to select the crop tool and then drag with your mouse while holding the SHIFT key down. This trick allows you to crop a square image area.</i></p>
<p>SPROCKET FEED</p>	
	<p>Photoshop 6 and higher</p>
	<p>This action will frame your image with a distinctive sprocket holes type of frame. The action is optimized for landscape images. Open an image and run the action. You can adjust the border layer style to your liking.</p>
<p>STAMP</p>	
<p>Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</p>	<p>Photoshop CS2 and higher</p>
<p>The Stamp action will turn your image into a nice stamp. Press play and have fun!!! Open an image and run the action. The action is optimized for images of landscape orientation.</p>	<p>This set of Photoshop actions will turn your photos into great postage stamps. The free version includes 2 different postmarks (date is customizable).</p>

SYNTHESIS	
Elements 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Photoshop 6 and higher
<p>This action creates a classic photocollage effect. You can put together up to 18 individual photos to create a larger image synthesis. Each one of these 'photos' is actually a part of your original image. The actions are strictly designed for landscape layout images of the popular 4:3 ratio format. If you want to create a collage of LESS than 18 photos you should wait for the action to finish first and then discard the extra layers-photos.</p>	<p>This action creates a classic photocollage effect. You can put together up to 18 individual photos to create a larger image synthesis. Each one of these 'photos' is actually a part of your original image. The actions are strictly designed for landscape layout images of the popular 4:3 ratio format. Please run the Readme1st action at first. The 'Fully Customized' action gives you full control over the look of the final product (i.e. the size of the photos, their position on the canvas, the rotation, the border thickness and more). The "Preset layout" action creates a predefined layout.</p>
TILE EFFECTS	
	Photoshop 6 and higher
	<p>Give your images an alternative, tiled look with this set of actions. The set will work best with medium and large size images. Best results are achieved with square images. There are 6 effects: 100 Tiles, 25 Tiles, Quadrants, Tetris, Sigma, Bricks. Enjoy! Open an image and play any of the set's 6 actions.</p>
VIDEO WALL	
	Photoshop 6 and higher
	<p>This action will make your image appear within a 16 monitors video wall. A number of extra touches such as speakers, reflections, buttons, screen scanlines add to realism. The actions are written in such a way that allows you to have a great degree of control over the look of the final product. Run the "SCANLINES pattern" action first. Then open an image and run the "VIDEOWALL by Panos" action. Don't forget to select the <u>scanline</u> pattern when you</p>

	are prompted to do so. The default settings are optimum for 1280x960pixels. I have included an action that allows you to upscale / downscale the style effects at the end, with larger or smaller images.
WRISTWATCH	
Elements 5, 6, and 7	Photoshop CS and higher
This complex effect creates a beautiful wristwatch from scratch! The set contains two actions: The first action creates the wristwatch and the second lets you add a photo on the watch face. You can freely rotate the 3 hands. You can also change the 2 logos on the watch face. The second action lets you add a photo to the watch face. And, what is also important, all layers are left intact for you, to experiment with and bring the effect closer to preference.	This complex effect creates a beautiful wristwatch from scratch! The set contains two actions: The first action creates the wristwatch and the second lets you add a photo on the watch face. Run the <i>Create the watch</i> action first. The action gives you great control on a number of features. You can freely rotate the 3 clock hands to preference. You can also change the 2 logos on the watch face. And, what is also important, all layers are left intact for you, to experiment with and bring the effect closer to preference.
WEAVE IT!	
	Photoshop CS2 and higher
	This little action lets you apply the classic weave effect on your images. Actually, there is much more in it than the weaving effect! By customizing the weaving size and texture you can create endless combinations. You must play the pattern generator action first. Then load an image and play the weaving action. Carefully follow the instructions given in the process.

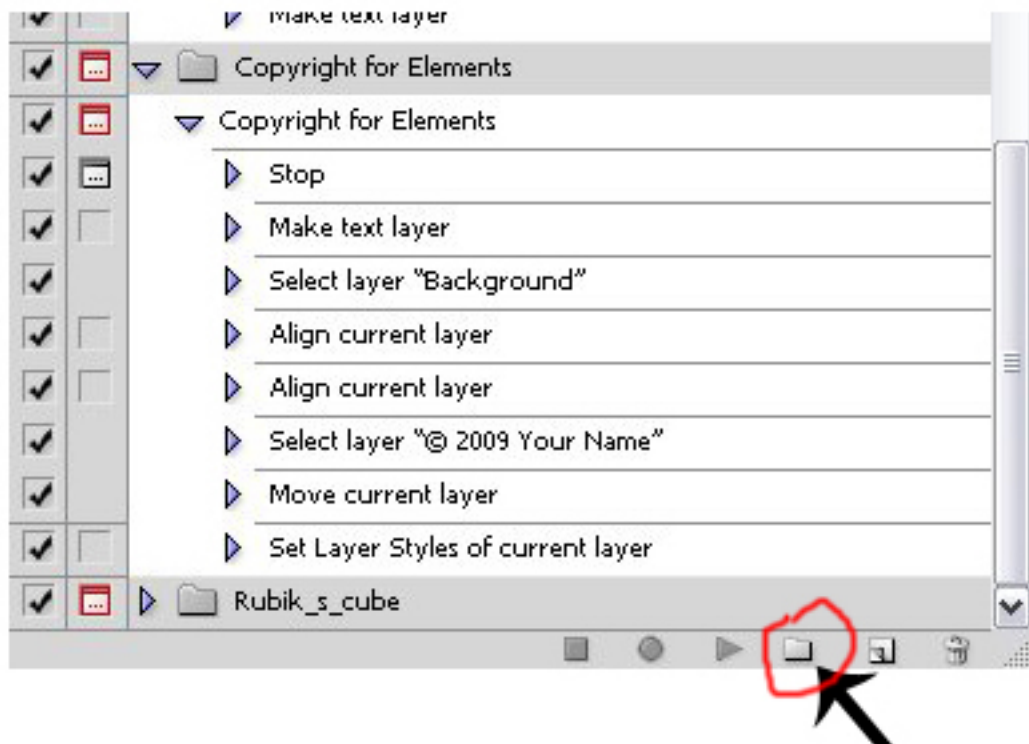
There are additional free actions for Photoshop on the Workshop Disk in the CS-Other folder. These were downloaded from the Web. While I have not written out description of these actions, many contain text files describing the action and/or images before and after the action was run.

The action "Copyright for Elements" was inspired by Tim Grey's answer to the following question:

"Recently I looked at a book of photographs all shot by the same photographer and noticed that every image had a copyright notice on the bottom right-hand corner of the photographs. Is there a way to batch process a copyright notice onto all your own photographs? Doing each one by hand is very tedious and time consuming."

I have rewritten Mr. Grey's answer to show the recording in short steps. Tim Grey has made a youtube video to answer this question. Please take time to view the video. Also read the note at the end of this article on how to join Mr. Grey's answers to questions.
www.youtube.com/timgreyvideos.

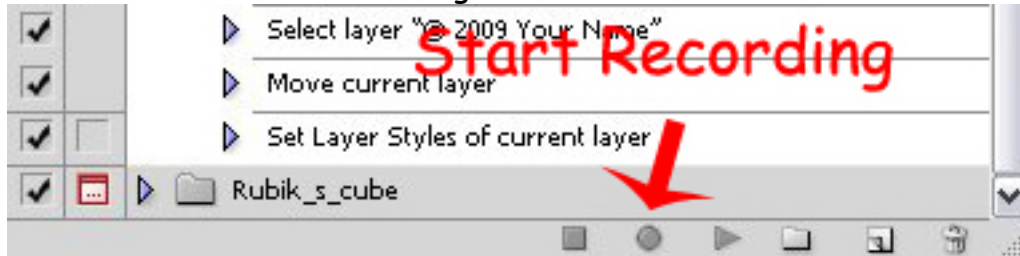
1. The first step is to create an action that performs the necessary tasks.
 - 1.1. go to the Actions panel (choose Window > Actions if it isn't visible)
 - 1.2. select or add a set (folder) to contain the action (in Photoshop action must be a member of a set).



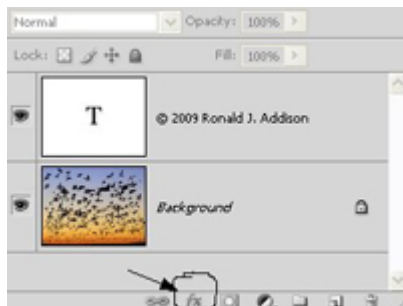
- 1.3. click the "Create a New Action" button (the blank sheet of paper icon) at the bottom of the Actions panel to bring up the New Action dialog box.



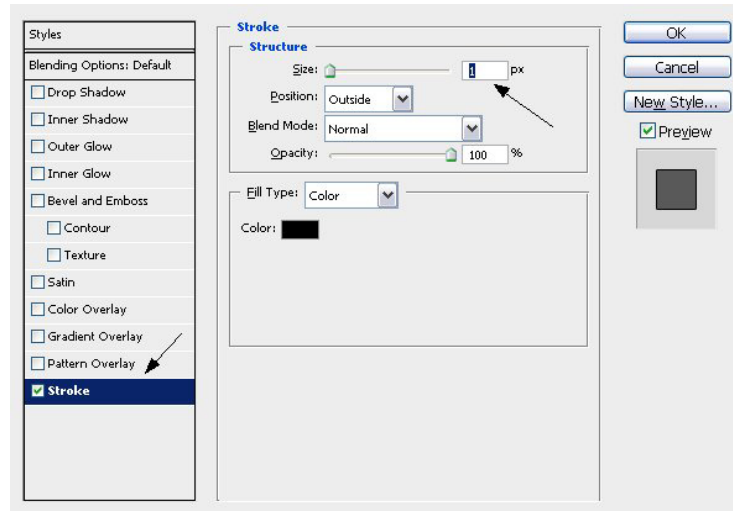
- 1.4. Type a meaningful name for the action, and
- 1.5. click Record to start recording the action.



- 1.6. Open a sample image to use as the basis of creating the action
- 1.7. choose the Type tool, set the appropriate attributes on the Options bar (font, text color, etc)
- 1.8. click in the image
- 1.9. type the desired text. (NOTE: the copyright symbol is created by holding down the Alt key and typing 0169 on the numeric keypad. On a laptop, you may not have a numeric keypad. There are at least two alternatives. One press and hold down the Alt and Fn keys and type the little blue numbers on the m, j, o, and 9 keys in that order. Or if that does not work go to Start>All Programs>Accessories>System Tools>Character Map. Select the copyright symbol © (sixth row-fourth column) and copy (Ctrl-C) and paste (Ctrl-V) the symbol to the desired location
2. Position the text any place on the image.
 - 2.1. choose the Move tool.

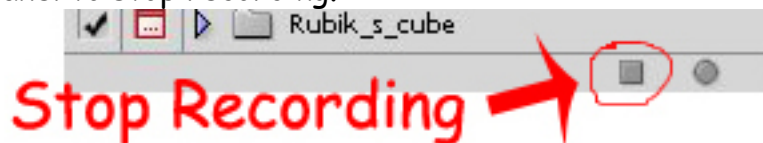


- 2.2. At this point you might also want to click the "fx" button at the bottom of the Layers panel and choose Stroke (or another layer style) to add a style that will help ensure the text is legible against a variety of different



backgrounds.

- 2.3. Then, with the type layer active on the Layers panel, hold the Shift key and click the Background image layer so both are selected.
- 2.4. On the Options bar (with the Move tool still active) click the rightmost of the three vertical alignment buttons to align the text to the bottom of the image
- 2.5. and then click the rightmost of the three horizontal alignment buttons to align the text to the right of the image.
- 2.6. To move the text so it isn't all the way against the edge of the image,
 - 2.6.1. hold the Shift key and press the up arrow button on the keyboard to nudge the text layer away from the bottom.
 - 2.6.2. hold the Shift key and press the left arrow button to nudge the text layer away from the right edge.
3. Save the Action
 - 3.1. Choose File > Save As and save a copy of the image in the desired format for the action.
 - 3.2. Click the Stop button (the square icon) at the bottom of the Actions panel to stop recording.



(At this point your action is ready to apply to other images.)

4. Batch Processing
 - 4.1. To apply the action in batch, choose File > Automate > Batch from the menu.

- 4.2. Make sure the desired action (and set) is selected from the popup at the top of the Batch dialog box.
- 4.3. Set the Source popup to Folder, and click Choose to select the folder containing the images you want to process with the action.
- 4.4. Turn on the Override Action "Open" Commands checkbox so the images in the specified folder will be processed rather than only the image included in the File > Open step in the action. You can turn on the Include All Subfolders checkbox if you want all images in all folders contained within the designated folder to be processed.
- 4.5. Be sure to turn on both of the "Suppress" checkboxes so the action can run without interruption.
- 4.6. Set the Destination popup to Folder, and click Choose to select (or add) a folder where you want the processed images placed.
- 4.7. Turn on the Override Action "Save As" Commands checkbox so the settings in the Save As step for your action will be used as the settings, but the individual files being processed will be saved individually. You can change the File Naming settings if you'd like the processed images to have different names as well.
- 4.8. Click OK and the images will all be processed in batch and saved in the destination folder you specified.

Mr. Grey noted, "This is just one example of the power of actions, mostly focused on the specific issue of being able to deal with positioning text accurately even when processing images with different pixel dimensions and aspect ratios. There is, of course, much more you can do with actions to work incredibly efficiently in situations where the same basic tasks need to be applied to a series of images."

Again, you can view this answer as a Video Answer by visiting Mr. Grey's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/timgreyvideos.