

# SKIN RETOUCH for PHOTOSHOP

*By Graphicadi.com*

With this action set you can reach natural retouching results. All the actions are non-destructive and 100% customizable. This retouch action set helps you to do retouching faster and it's there to help you with your work flow.

It's preferred to know the basics of Photoshop such as what is a layer mask and smart filter. The more you know the more you'll get out of this action but I'll try my best to explain things.

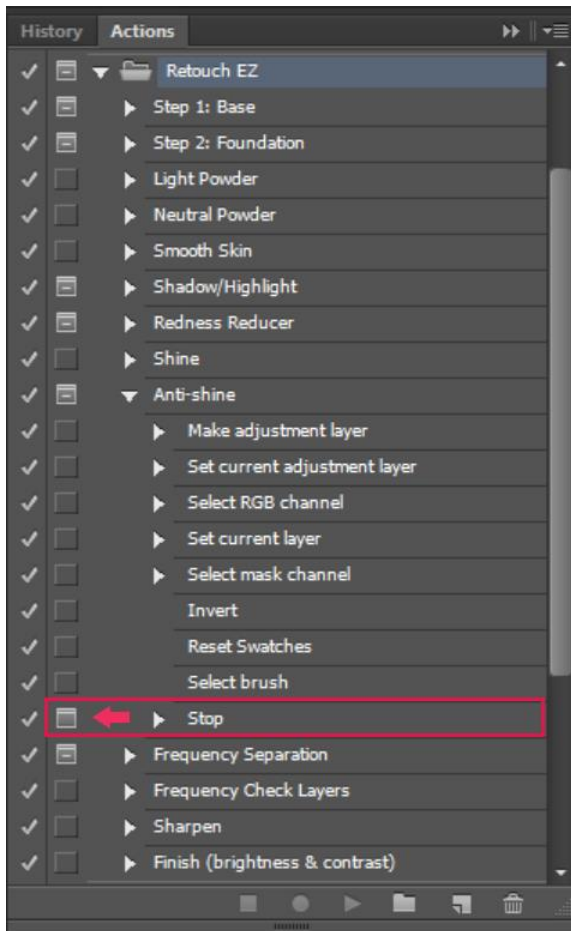
How to install & use Photoshop actions? View this post: <http://www.graphicadi.com/learn-to-install-use-photoshop-actions/>

## THE RETOUCH ACTION SET INCLUDES:

- ✓ Base & Foundation
- ✓ Light Powder
- ✓ Neutral Powder
- ✓ Concealer
- ✓ Shadow & Highlight
- ✓ Redness reducer
- ✓ Shine
- ✓ Anti-shine
- ✓ Teeth Whitener
- ✓ Eyes
- ✓ Texture
- ✓ Sharpen
- ✓ Finish (brightness and contrast)
- ✓ BONUS: Frequency Separation & Check Layers

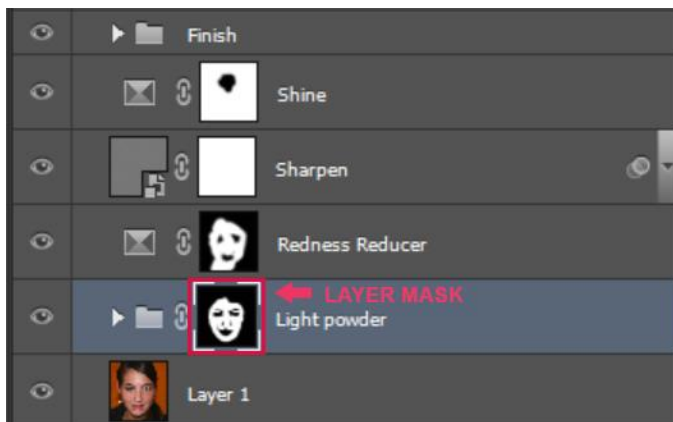
## TURN OFF NOTIFICATIONS

The actions have notifications to guide new users on what to do when running each action. If you are a pro you can turn off the notifications by opening the action group and clicking the box next to the word Stop. Do not click the major switch or it will lose certain setting. Re-install the action if needed.



## HOW DO LAYER MASKS WORK?

First select the layer mask and then paint with white to retouch and with black to un-retouch. Some layer masks are inverted but it works with the same idea: white to show, black to hide. You can copy a layer mask by holding ALT and dragging the layer mask over another layer mask.



## FAQ

- ✓ When running the base action make sure the image that you want to retouch is selected when running the action.
- ✓ When running the Base action, the action will give you a popup suggesting to flatten the image but you can choose: Don't Flatten.
- ✓ All the retouch actions have the same idea: you paint on the layer mask with soft white brush and go over the areas that you want to retouch/apply retouch to. If you need to undo parts, paint on the layer mask with black. Adjust the opacity of the layer or the brush to reach desired results.
- ✓ If you need help with your retouch actions, I'll be happy to help. Contact me through the marketplace that you purchased the action set from.

You can find more Photoshop action from:

<http://www.graphicadi.com/products/photoshop-actions/>



Here is the before and after results. Just follow the first 3 steps to fix skin issues.

When you want to give your subject a smooth and natural looking skin retouch, follow these steps:

## START WITH A PREPARATION

Always start your retouching with the preparation. Start by cleaning up the skin by using the Spot Healing Brush Tool. Remove the biggest blemishes and problems with this tool. If your subject has major dark under eyes use the Patch Tool to reduce them. If you are new to Photoshop and are not familiar with the basic retouching tools please view this tutorial: <http://www.graphicadi.com/skin-retouching-basics>

## STEP 1 – RUN THE BASE ACTION

If your subject has a lot of freckles or skin problems I recommend running the Base & Foundation actions. So start by running the base action. Select the layer that you want to retouch. The action will ask whether or not you want to flatten the image, you can select 'Do not flatten'. Paint on the layer mask with white and go over the areas that you'll want to smooth. To take a closer look at your mask, press Alt + Click on the layer mask. The skin might look a bit weird at this point but after the next step it'll get better. To undo, paint on the layer mask with black.



Paint on the layer mask with white soft brush. To reverse, paint with black.

## STEP 2 – RUN THE FOUNDATION ACTION

Next run the foundation action and do the same as above, paint on the layer mask with white covering the areas you want retouched. **For best result always run Base before the Foundation action.**

After these 2 steps, the result is most likely quite heavy, **lower the opacity of Base layer and Foundation group.**

All the rest of the actions after the previous steps are optional and you can run them as needed or by themselves. If you need more skin coverage, there are 3 more skin actions + frequency separation retouch method.

## ADDITIONAL SKIN ACTIONS

You can choose from:

- ✓ **NEUTRAL POWDER** – You can use this by itself or as an addition to Base & Foundation. Smooth the skin some more and hide pores. You can adjust the smoothening to how heavy you want by editing the smart filter.
- ✓ **LIGHT POWDER** – Same as Neutral Powder except this action also lightens the skin and smooth the skin tone. You can run light and neutral powder together if you need more coverage.
- ✓ **SMOOTH SKIN** – As the name says this smoothenes the skin and gives skin a flawless look. You can adjust the smoothening to how heavy you want by editing the smart filter.

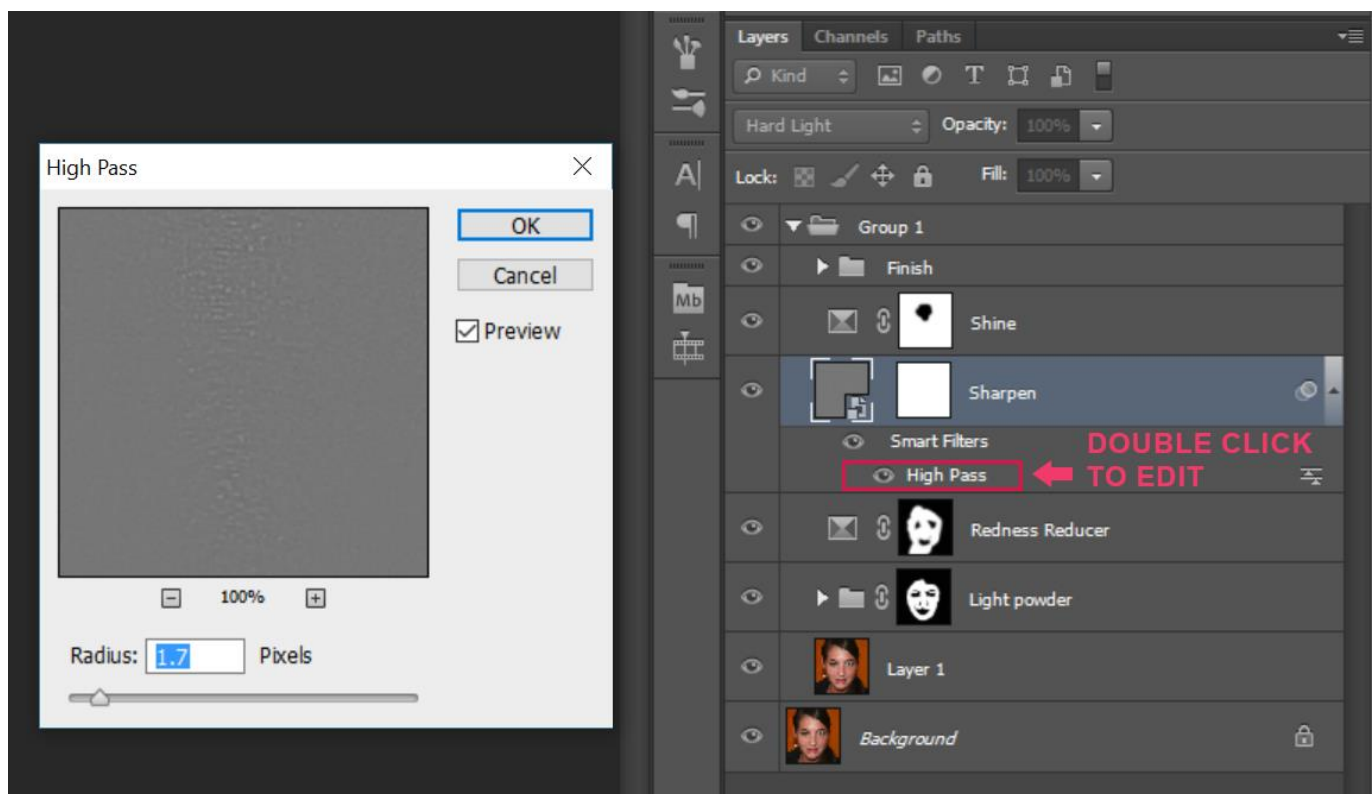


## SHADOWS & HIGHLIGHTS

The shadow and highlight are 100% non-destructive and editable. The action creates 2 layers Shadow and Highlight. Choose a soft white brush with low opacity (around 10%) and once again paint on the layer mask. To undo shadow or highlight paint with black on the layer mask.

## SHARPENING

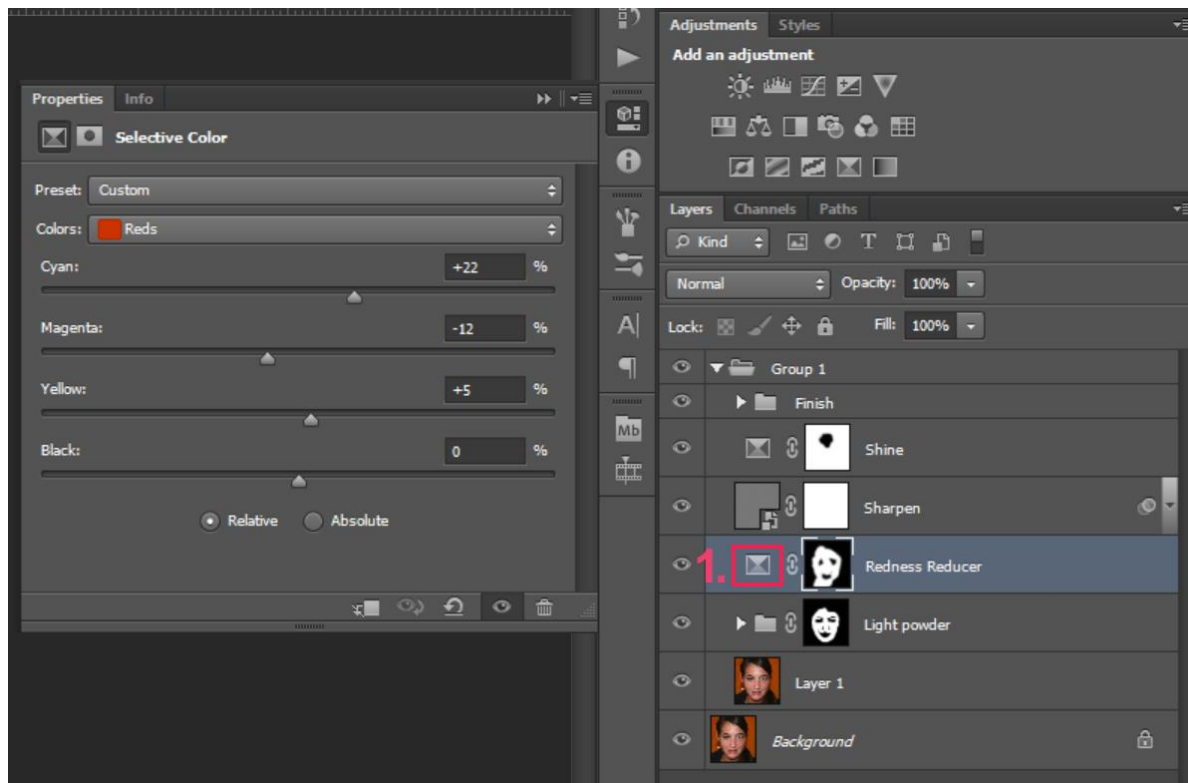
Choose sharpening to give your image a nice sharp finish. Uses smart filters, fully adjustable. To edit the smart filters click the arrow down and then double click the smart filter that you want to edit.



## REDNESS REDUCER

If your subject has a red skin or red spots on their skin run this action. If the result is too strong adjust the adjustment layer setting. To edit the adjustment layer double click on the adjustment layer icon (1.) and choose Reds under the colors option. Adjust the setting to your liking. You can adjust the shine and anti-shine adjustment layer the same way except edit the White channel. (View image below)





1. Click on the adjustment layer icon to edit the adjustment layer

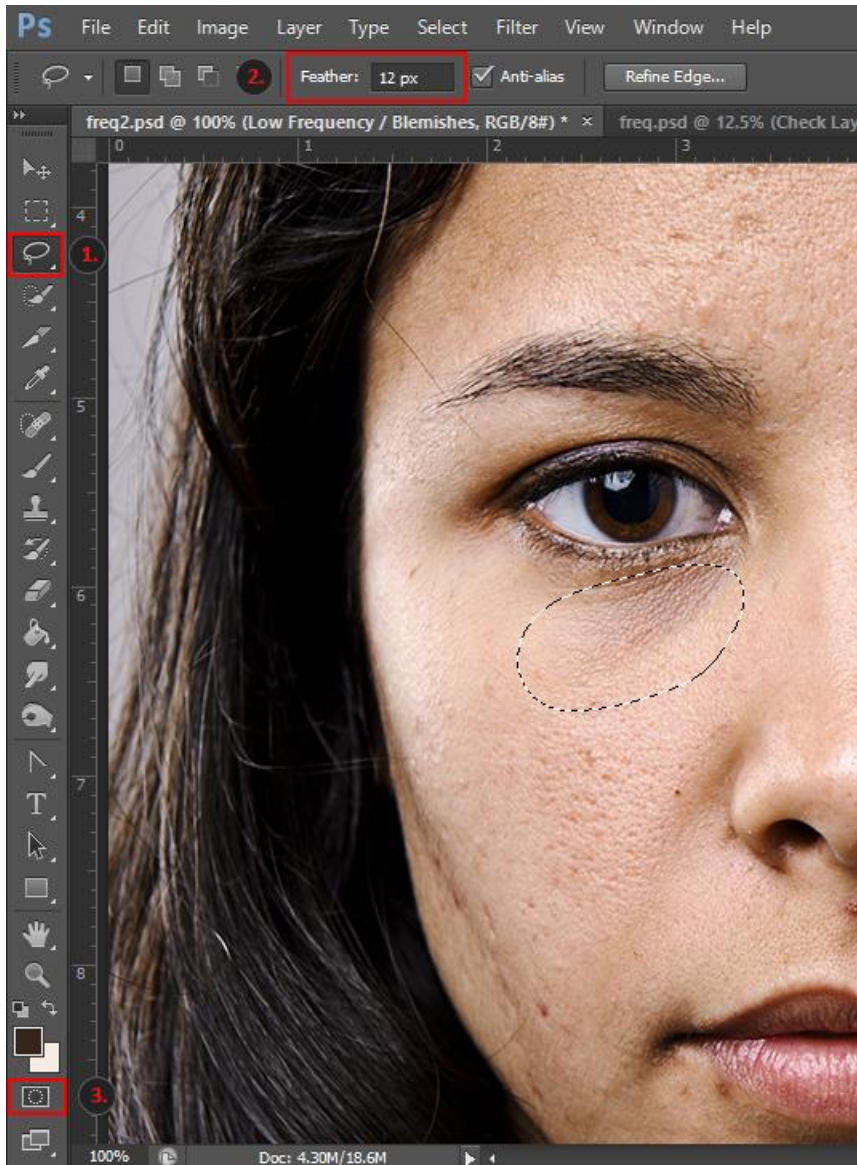
### \*\*\* BONUS ACTIONS \*\*\*

#### FREQUENCY SEPARATION

You can use the frequency separation action as an addition or by itself to retouch the entire skin. You can run it before or after using for example the Light Powder action.

The frequency separation action will create 3 layers:

**Low Frequency / Blemishes:** On this layer you can hide skin blemishes and smooth skin tones. To edit skin choose the Lasso Tool (1) and circle areas where you want to even out the tone. Feather (2) your selection to ensure a smooth transition. You can use the quick mask (3) tool to help you see the feathering. Then add motion blur (Filter -> Blur -> Motion Blur). Adjust the motion blur angle and distance to best suit the selection. Use CTRL + H to hide the selection and this way have a better view when setting the motion blur. Don't forget to deselect the selection CTRL+ D when moving to edit the texture. You can also use Gaussian blur. If you're going to do a lot of retouching with this method it's best to create a shortcut for motion and Gaussian blur. You can do this by going to Edit -> Keyboard Shortcuts.



**High Frequency / Texture:** On this layer you can get rid of all texture issues such as skin imperfections: pimples, pores and lines as well as stray hair. Pick the Clone Stamp Tool, make sure it's set to Sample: Current Layer. Use your clone stamp tool as usual (alt + click to define a source point). You don't need to worry about skin tones with this method, the clone stamp tool will just clone the texture not tone.

**Low Frequency / Blemishes (copy):** This is an additional layer and you can use it to smoothen the skin tone and blemishes. Select the layer mask and paint with soft white brush. You can adjust the smoothness by double clicking on the surface blur smart filter.



## CHECK LAYERS

Check layers are meant to be used with the frequency separation action, this is optional but it can help you with the retouch process. Once you've run the action you will find 2 options in the check layer group: High / Texture and Low / Blemishes. Toggle **High / Texture** group visible when you are working on the **High Frequency / Texture** layer and toggle on the **Low / Blemishes** layer when you are working on the **Low Frequency / Blemishes** layer. If the Low / Blemishes layer is too dark or light you can adjust the redness on the channel mixer adjustment layer to fix this.



I hope you enjoy this action set. If you need help with your retouch action I'll be happy to help. Just contact me through the marketplace that you purchased the action.

**Don't forget to rate the product!**



**Thank you!**