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## Product Reviews » Sharpness Editor

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### Sharpness Editor

#### Review by Dave Huss

*Unique photo-sharpening plug-in*

PSU RATING: ★★★★★

Jan Esmann, a painter from Demark, created and continually improves an outstanding collection of 20 filters called Power Retouche. This collection includes the recently updated Sharpness Editor plug-in, which claims to be the best photo-sharpening software available.

The plug-in offers four photo-sharpening methods: Gentle Unsharp Mask, Sharpness Editor, Enhanced Unsharp Mask, and Smart Sharpen (for portraits and JPEGs). The filter includes anti-aliasing and a unique soft threshold plus control that enables you to target focus, sharpening, or even blurring to specific colors, to a range determined by brightness, or edges only. The result is the ability to apply a degree of sharpening that can bring out details without the dreaded Unsharp Mask halos on edges or unwanted blowouts. This tool can be used to sharpen an out-of-focus image, but it can't take a fuzzy image and make it sharp and crisp.



Part of the Sharpness Editor's flexibility comes from a steep learning curve in the form of a complicated dialog—it's not a filter where you install it and then click a single button to achieve some photo magic. The plug-in comes with an 11-page "tutorial" guide. I opened it expecting a step-by-step tutorial, but it was only a brief summary of the different settings and how to use them. About one-third of the guide is dedicated to performance tests done on various platforms.

Like most of the Power Retouche collection of filters, this is a powerful plug-in that's used by many professionals. It works with 8- and 16-bit RGB, Grayscale, Duotone, CMYK, Multichannel, and Lab images. I recommend working with the other 19 filters before buying this one because you can save a lot of money if you buy them all at once.

**PRICE:** \$54

**FOR:** Mac and Windows

**FROM:** Power Retouche

**PHONE:**

**WEB:** [www.powerretouche.com](http://www.powerretouche.com)

**DATE:** January/February 2006

**PSU RATING:** 4

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