

COLOR projects 4 elements

User Manual

Contents

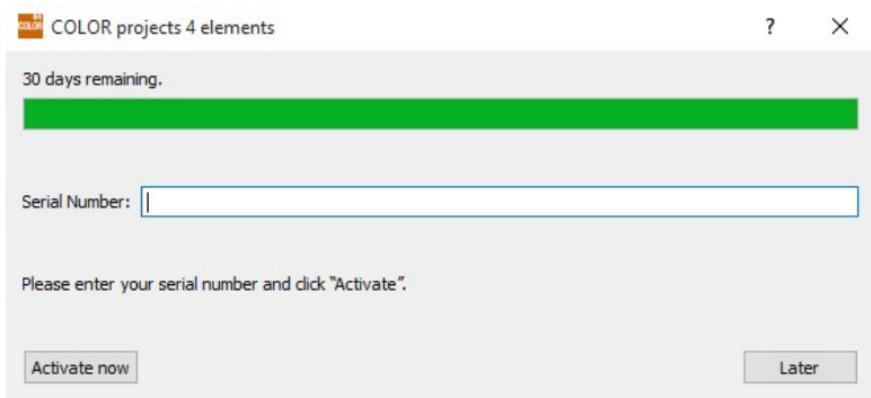
1.	Activation	3
2.	What's New?	4
3.	Photos Done Quickly	5
4.	Importing Image Material.....	6
5.	Optional: Image Preparation.....	6
6.	Post-Processing: Presets.....	8
7.	Post-Processing: Finalise.....	15
8.	Workflow.....	21
9.	Selecting and Saving Sections of Images	23
10.	Batch Processing.....	25
11.	Add-ons	27
12.	Keyboard Shortcuts	30
13.	Support.....	34

1. Activation

Upon starting **COLOR projects 4 elements** for the first time, you will be prompted to activate the program. Proceed as follows:

Install **COLOR projects 4 elements** as described by the installation wizard.

Input your serial number. For the box version, this can be found on the accompanying booklet. If you have chosen to download the program, you will have received the serial number by email directly following your purchase.



Finally, click on the “Activate” button. The software has now been successfully activated!

Note: **COLOR projects 4 elements** can be installed on up to two computers using the same serial number.

A second serial number is not necessary. When installing the program on a second device, simply enter the serial number again and press “Activate”.

2. What's New?

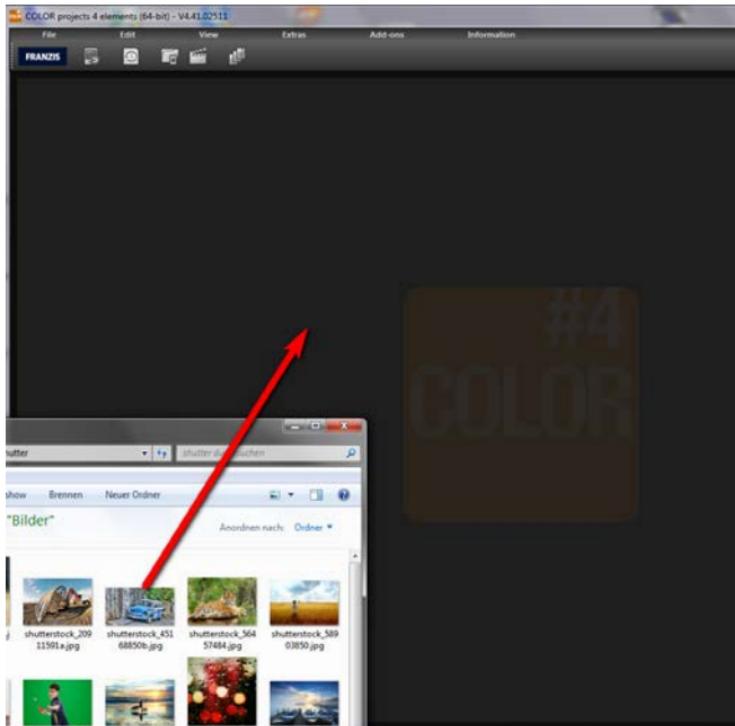
COLOR projects 4 elements offers many new features. Here is an overview of some of the most important developments:

- ✓ The intelligent Optimisation Assistant can now be used for eight finely tuned optimisation variations, from natural to brilliant to low-key
- ✓ New browser for an interactive selection of photo film emulations and optimizations.
- ✓ 90 new and optimised presets with gallery functions
- ✓ Two new preset categories « Drawings » and « Seasons »
- ✓ Customise program features - configure saving formats and automatic settings.
- ✓ Image tailoring with 71 format templates and new help tools like the golden spiral, the golden cut and the rule of thirds as guidelines
- ✓ Two-fold speed increase and more

3. Photos Done Quickly

You can obtain a finished image in just 4 clicks with **COLOR projects 4 elements**.

1. Load Images
2. Post-Processing Preset Selection
3. Optimisation Assistant
4. Select Image Detail and Save

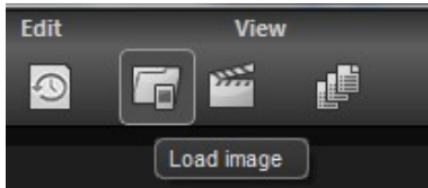


You can simply drag and drop your images onto the start screen

How to get the results you want, and fast - the elaborated presets and looks, individual image adaption and selected drawing allow you to also go the creative route. **COLOR projects 4 elements** offers both options.

4. Importing Image Material

To load an image, simply drag and drop the images onto the start screen. Alternatively, you can also use the toolbar buttons or drop-down file menu.



5. Optional: Image Preparation

Click on **extras/image preparation**. Here you can precisely configure the image preparation settings or select the standard settings and turn off the image preparation window which pops up upon uploading photos.

For the first steps, select the standard settings. Clicking the back arrow at the bottom left restores any changes made here back to the standard settings, so nothing is irreversible.



a. Colour space conversion: advanced users can choose a colour space here -

for all other users, it is recommended to not make any adjustments, to avoid incorrect colour rendering later.

- b. White balance: corrects colour casts that occur with shots taken, for example, in a warmly lit room. To start, leave this setting unchanged.
- c. The colour temperature ranges from 1000K to 16500K, which makes for a powerful tool for establishing warm and cool moods.
- d. The **checkbox** at the bottom edge of the window allows you to choose if you would like to have this window displayed when uploading images or not.
- e. The **backwards arrow** returns all adjustments back to their initial values.

6. Post-Processing: Presets



A change from previous versions, we are starting directly with post-processing after uploading the images.



Left side of the post-processing screen: the presets show the breakdown of the live preview in categories - "All", "Natural", "Landscape", "Portrait", "Drawings", "Custom", "Surreal", "Architecture", "Artistic", and "Seasons" with the quantity of presets in the appropriate category.

To begin, we've chosen the "Natural high quality" preset. Clicking on the preview image applies the effect to the image in real time, which will then be displayed in the middle of the screen. Discover the wide variety of different looks by clicking on the 90 different presets. You will be amazed by the intriguing styles in the artistic section!



Image with “Landscape powerful” preset



Image after applying the “Portrait Duotone” preset

All 90 **COLOR projects 4 elements**

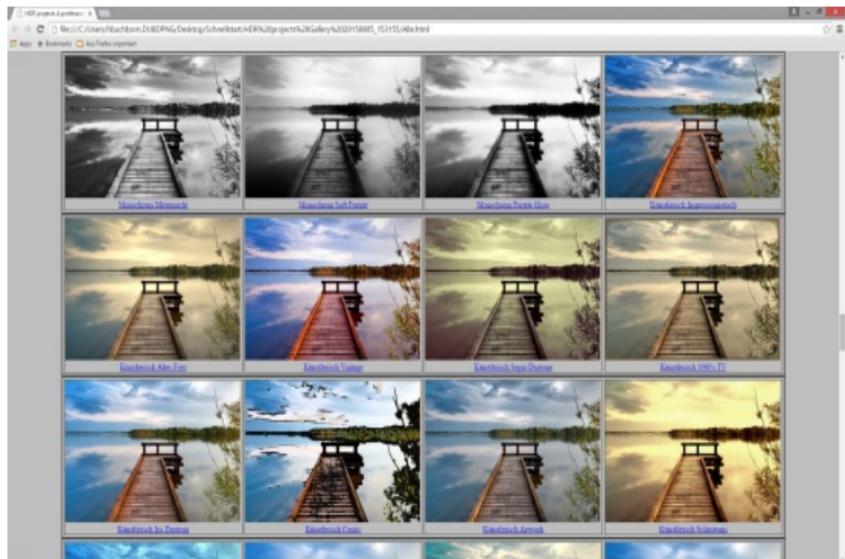
presets at a single glance. The "Presets" section can be separated from the rest of the interface by clicking on the "Default settings" bar, which then allows you to adjust the size of the window as you like.



➤ Preview Gallery



Would you like to see all the previews for the loaded image or series? Click on the "All" category.



This very practical feature is reminiscent of good old contact sheets. You can create proofs to assess how the image with your favourite presets would look when printed.

➤ Comparison View



Do you want a comparison to the image without tone mapping? Simply right click on the middle of the image to see the before/after result. A quick check on the editing process is available at any time. For an extensive overview with selectable areas and luminance display, click on the symbol bar.



➤ Preview Mode



When this option is activated, the result image will appear as a small preview size. If this option is deactivated, the picture will appear in its true size. Please note that processing the preview can take longer when this feature is deactivated.

➤ Real Time Processing



When activated, all of the changes that you have made to the preset settings will be immediately applied to the image and you will see the outcome of your adjustments directly.

➤ **High-Quality Display**

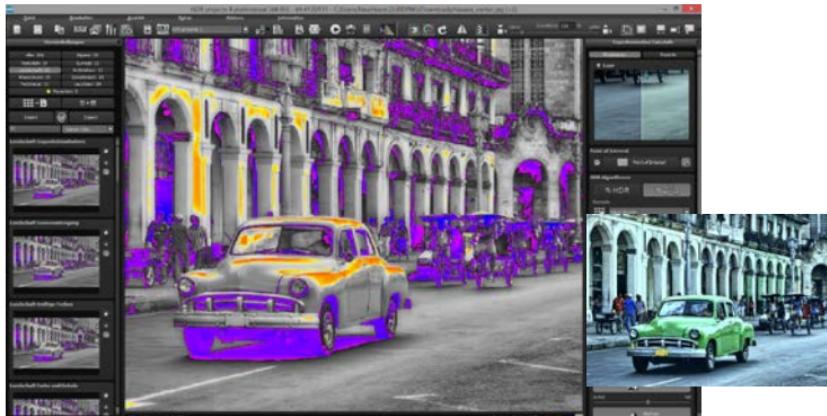


Activate this option to see the preview image in high-resolution. If the preview is set at 100%, there will be no difference. If you zoom in on a section of the photo however, there is a noticeable difference in quality.

➤ **Border Pixel Display**



The border pixel display helps to reveal areas that tend towards maximal light and dark values, that is to white and black. Dark border pixels are depicted by blue and light pixels by orange.



Depiction of border pixels in dark blue and orange tones

If you would want to brighten this image, you have to be careful of the orange border pixels. Light surfaces on the car and the walls should not become too white, in order to avoid losing detail. In technical terms, these patches are called “burned highlights”. The border pixel view helps to find these critical image areas.

➤ Combine Presets

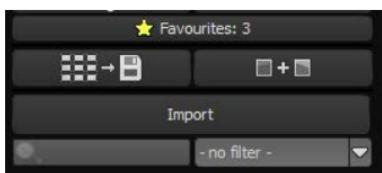


To merge two looks together use the "Combine default presets" button directly under the categories. These new presets will be saved under "Custom". It's that easy to expand your numerous options and accumulate new ideas!

➤ Name Favourites



Have you found certain presets that you love and instantly want to have handy? Click on the top right star in the preset window and add the setting to your favourites. By clicking the button, previews all of your favourite presets will be displayed.



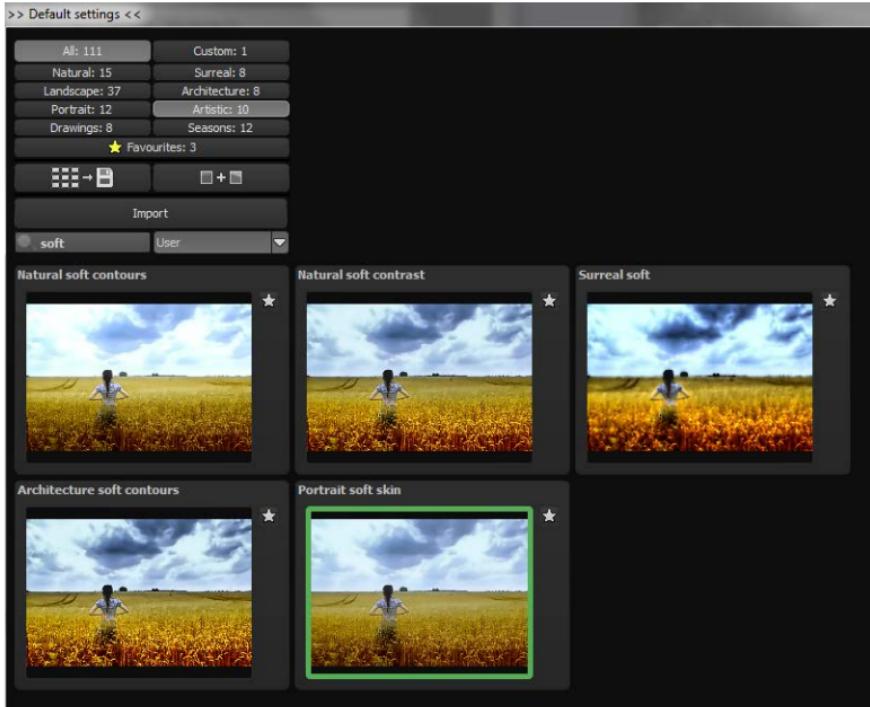
➤ Import/Export from Presets

Presets from earlier versions can be easily imported. Do you want to exchange all of your presets with a friend or just secure all of your treasures? Use the practical export function.

➤ Filter Presets

Locating presets can be difficult when you have imported presets or created many additional looks. For example, enter "soft" into the search bar and only presets relating to "soft" will be shown.

COLOR projects 4 elements – User Manual

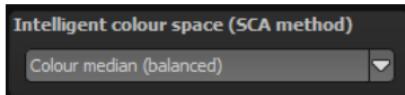


7. Post-Processing: Finalise

finalise

Now that we have understood the most important part of post-processing, let's go onto fine-tuning, which can be found on the right side of the screen under "Finalise". These features are intended to only to be used to edit pictures further after selecting a preset.

➤ Intelligent Colour Space (SCA Processing)



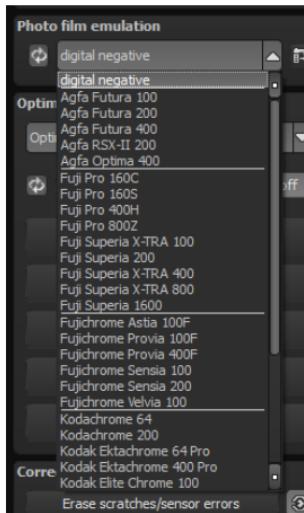
This menu offers you options for optimal colour detail gradation of your tone mapping results. Selecting SCA processing (Smart Colourspace Adaptation) demonstrates differences in the details of more saturated colours.

Tip: With "Supersampling" you will get exceptional details and saturated colours!

➤ Film Emulation and Preview Browser

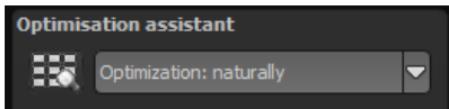
COLOR projects 4 elements includes film looks from the legendary days of analogue film, thanks to its film emulation engine.

Rummage through a box of old photos - it's worth it! Select a type of film and its specific colour characteristics, such as



grain and contrast film effects, to apply to your picture. You can regulate the intensity of individual features as well as the overall effect of a film look.

➤ Optimisation Assistant

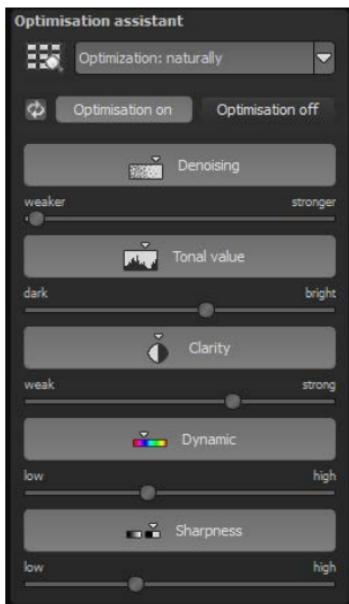


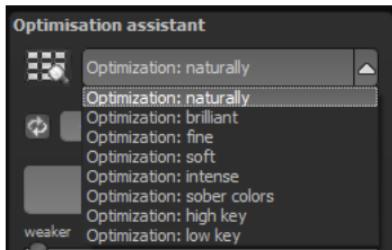
The optimisation assistant is a very efficient tool for fast, fascinating results. When the preset is activated, denoising, tonal value, clarity, dynamic and sharpness settings can all be adjusted by sliding the control to the left or right. The result can be seen live. The optimisation assistant is intelligent; it remembers the values you entered, and applies the same settings to the next image in the same way, but tuning the result to the new motif.

If you would like to edit without the assistant, you can simply turn it off. If you would like to turn off the values that have been “learned” so far, click



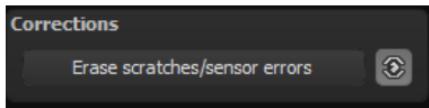
Additionally, the assistant can be given optimising specifications for an entire image style: choose between natural, brilliant, fine, soft, intense, sober colours, high key and low key.





Pro Tip: Remember that the preset specifications and Optimisation Assistant are added together. If you select the "Surreal powerful colours" preset and the "Intense" optimisation, you will get strong, saturated colours and dramatic contrast. Not to worry, you can quickly change back to the "Natural" optimisation and have the familiar look of the "Surreal powerful colours" again. On the other hand, you can compile new creative ideas and jump between intense, unsaturated and high and low key looks lightning fast.

➤ Scratch and Sensor Errors



Micro-contrast enhancement used in photography unfortunately shows every unwanted sensor imperfection that every photographer, despite internal camera sensor cleaning, knows and dreads. Don't stress - just eliminate them! With the easy to apply correction function from **COLOR projects 4 elements**, it can even be fun.

Pro Tip: This intelligent correction doesn't only remove sensor spots, but other disturbing things too - a deserted beach has never been so easy to produce.

Lightly mark defects in your motif, the program will automatically substitute these areas with other appropriate parts of the image.

Here's how to go about correcting:



Select the brush tool under (6) and click on the point of the image that you would like to correct. A circle will appear beside it that will serve as a source.

Move this circle to a place on the image that can act as a source for the first marking. The selected area will then be improved based on the source.

Prior to this, you can reveal sensor spots, which will appear as a bright patch in the image, with (1).

(2) allows you to expose or hide the fixed areas. Even when the corrections are still active, even if they have been blended in. Hiding is solely to enable a before and after comparison.

You can select multiple areas to correct by simply clicking on the brush symbol (6) and adding another point.

The button marked (3) can blend the targeted corrections in and out, which also controls clarity.

(5) deletes the added corrections.

The section marked (7) controls the size of the area that is to be corrected.

You also have the option to automatically search for the best source area for the improvement. Click on the (8) button.

Button (4) calculates the appropriate correction spots for all of the points automatically set using (8).

All currently selected corrections can be deleted with the (9) button.



The sensor spots are circled in red



The sensor spot corrector marks all of the patches and determines a source within the image that can be used as a substitute.



Successful sensor spot correction.

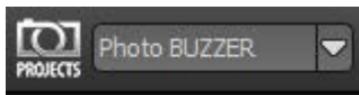
8. Workflow

Edit final image further in an external program

COLOR projects 4 elements offers interaction with external programs. That way you can take a successful image result to another photo editing program and continue there.

➤ Open in other *projects* programs

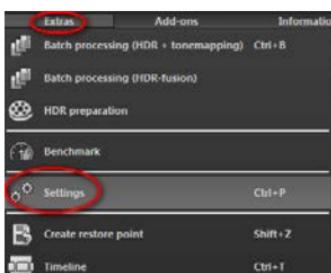
Click on the “Projects” symbol in the toolbar to open the image in a different program from the *projects* series. Use the drop-down menu beside the symbol to choose one of the programs that you already have installed on your computer.



➤ Open in other photo-editing programs

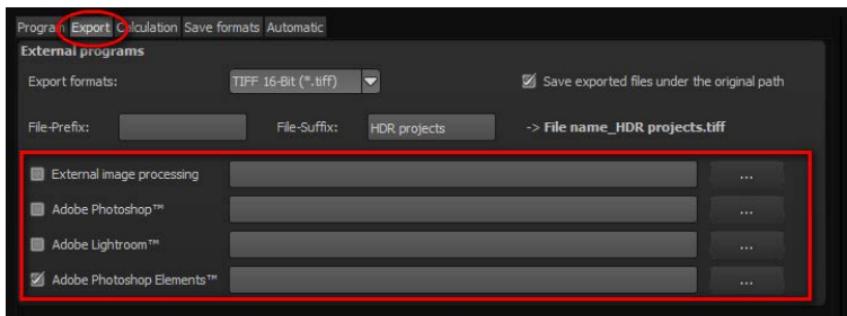
To directly open the image in another photo editing program, such as Adobe Photoshop, click on the corresponding button in the symbol bar.

If necessary, go through the settings to show the path to the program. Click on



“Extras” in the menu and select “Settings” in the drop-down menu:

Next, click on the “Export” tab. You can enter the name of a photo editing program here, and save it for later as well.



➤ Work with a timeline and restore points

This option can be found in the symbol bar at the top edge of the screen:



"Create Restore Point" saves an in-between point of the current settings. You can now always return to this stage of your editing. You can save as many editing restore points as you like. The timeline displays the restore points and makes it possible to call up any phase with just a single click:



This function is especially useful when, for example, you are satisfied with an image, yet want to continue trying out different settings and effects. Simply set a restore point and carry on editing your picture. If you want to go back, simply click on your restore point in the timeline.

9. Selecting and Saving Sections of Images



To save a final image, click on the button in the toolbar, go through the file menu or use the corresponding keyboard shortcut (Ctrl+S).

➤ Cropping and captions

As soon as you have initiated to save a file, the cropping and caption window will open.



At the top are several practical aids for perfect image composition and cropping.

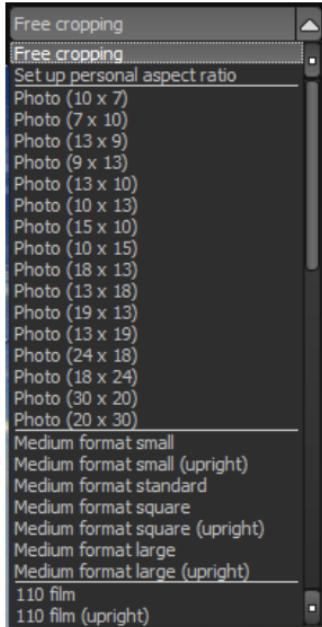
You can set the aspect ratio and activate guidelines like the rule of thirds, the golden section or the golden spiral.

The centre of the window shows your final image. Fix the area to be saved by adjusting the corners and borders of the photo.

At the bottom is an option to enter a caption. You can determine the size, position and background for the text. The size of the text will be automatically coordinated to the final cropping.

You can either crop free-handedly or use one of the 71 provided formats.

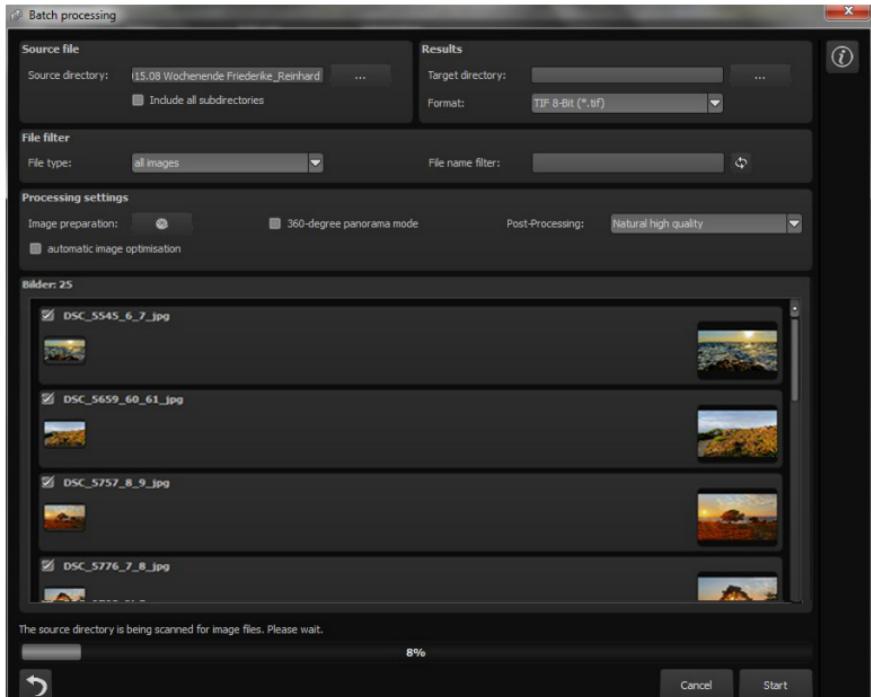
Please note: If you choose the cropping, e.g. 13 x 18, the final image will not be saved as 13 x 18 cm, rather as a ratio of 13 to 18.



As soon as the image has been cropped and captioned, confirm the save and the following window will prompt you to select a file format and name your file.

10. Batch Processing

COLOR projects 4 elements' batch processing allows for automatic processing of multiple bracketing series. The function can be found in the drop-down menu for "**Extras**" in the menu bar.



Note: Remember that looking through folders with several subfolders can require a lot of time. That's why selecting "C:\\" is not recommended.

- **Results:** Here you can set where the resulting images of the batch processing will be saved. Select the corresponding folder with the "Target directory (...)" button or enter the name of the folder directly into the text box.

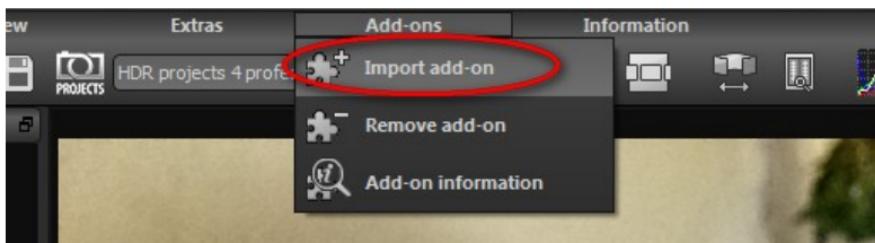
- **Format:** You can choose from five different formats to save your resulting images. Besides .jpg and .tif, there are two 8-bit formats and three 16-bit formats. JPG images are always the highest quality and TIF files are saved uncompressed and without defects.
- **Editing settings:** Choose which filters of the batch you would like to apply. From here you can also access image preparation and select presets to be administered to the image.

Tip: It is better to select a preset from the “natural” or “landscape” categories if you have a large number of images to process at once. Extreme effects are better suited to individual images.

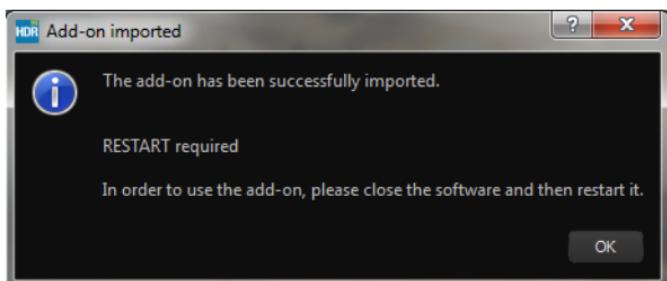
11. Add-ons

With help from add-ons, you can not only import presets, but entire post-processing modules can be integrated, which can be necessary to create new preset looks.

1. Extract the files from the downloaded zip folder: **Preset-Collection-Color-projects-Seasons.zip**
2. Open your **COLOR projects 4** version
3. Click on Menu → Add-ons → Import Add-on



4. Select **Photo projects Seasons (20)** in the following dialog window, open it with a double-click and select the **PHOTO_Seasons.praddon**. Then click "Open".
5. The add-on will now be imported. A confirmation message will appear:

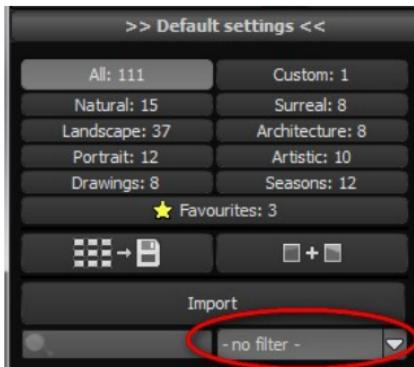


6. Please close and restart the program to be able to use the add-on with all of the other presets.

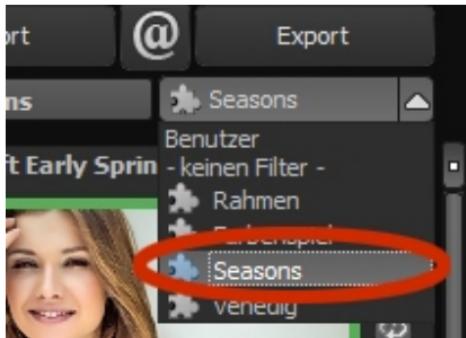
7. Open **COLOR projects 4 elements** and load an image. Switch to post-processing mode (palate symbol). If you are the owner of **COLOR projects 4 elements**, you will automatically be sent to post-processing mode. Select Menu → Add-ons → Add-ons Information, and confirm that your filter package was successfully activated.

8. Filter selection can be found on the left-hand side, directly under the import/export buttons.

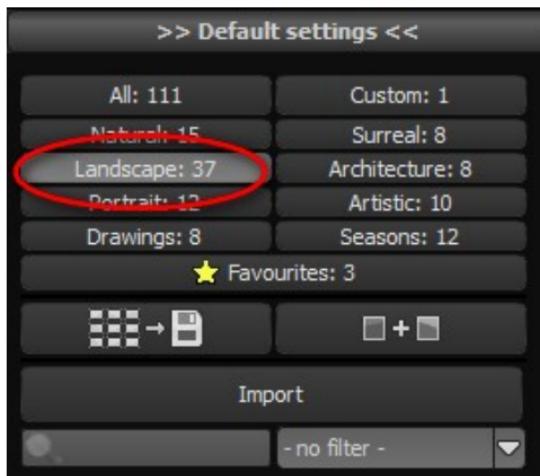
Here only the new, recently imported presets are displayed.



9. Click the arrow to open the drop-down menu and select "Seasons". Now exclusively the new presets will appear on the left display box.



1. If you do not want to select a filter, the new presents can be found in the “landscape” category.



12. Keyboard Shortcuts

Menu Functions:

Windows	Apple	
Ctrl + N	cmd + N	New project
Ctrl + Shift + O	cmd + Shift + O	Upload single image
Ctrl + O	cmd + O	Upload bracketing exposure series/image series
Ctrl + S	cmd + S	Save result
Ctrl + B	cmd + B	Open batch processing
Shift + Z	Shift + Z	Create restore point
Ctrl + Z	cmd + Z	Return to restore point
Ctrl + T	cmd + T	Show/hide timeline view
F7	F7	Show post-processing view
Ctrl + E	cmd + E	Show exif information
Ctrl + H	cmd + H	Show/hide histogram
Ctrl + F	cmd + F	Open/close full screen
ESC	ESC	Close full screen
Ctrl + P	cmd + P	Open settings
Shift + F1	Shift + F1	Open window "About"
@	@	Show product homepage
Ctrl + F4		cmd + Q Close application

Image Functions:

Windows	Apple	
Ctrl + Plus	cmd + Plus	Zoom in
Ctrl + Minus	cmd + Minus	Zoom out
Ctrl + 0	cmd + 0	Zoom to100%
L	L	Set magnified view
Double Click	Double Click	Switch between "Fit" and "1:1" views

Scratch/Sensor Spot Removal:

Windows	Apple	
N	N	Add new contour area
C	C	Activate/deactivate contour display
Page Up	Page Up	Select next contour area
Page Down	Page Down	Select previous contour area
Cursor Left	Cursor Left	Move selected area 1 pixel to the left
Shift + Cursor Left	Shift + Cursor Left	Move selected area 5 pixel to the left
Ctrl + Cursor Left	cmd + Cusor-Left	Move selected area 10 pixel to the left
Cursor Right	Cursor Right	Move selected area 1 pixel to the right
Shift + Cursor Right	Shift + Cursor Right	Move selected area 5 pixel to the right
Ctrl + Cursor Right	cmd + Cursor Right	Move selected area 10 pixel to the right
Cursor-Up	Cursor-Up	Move selected area 1 pixel up
Shift + Cursor-Up	Shift + Cursor-Up	Move selected area 5 pixel up
Ctrl + Cursor-Up	cmd + Cursor-Up	Move selected area 10 pixel up
Cursor-Down	Cursor-Down	Move selected area 1 pixel down
Delete	Delete	Delete selected contour area
Plus	Plus	Increase selected contour area
Minus	Minus	Reduce selected contour area
Ctrl + Plus	cmd + Plus	Zoom in
Ctrl + Minus	cmd + Minus	Zoom out

History Viewer:

Windows	Apple	
Cursor Left	Cursor Left	Move to the previous image
Cursor Right	Cursor Right	Move to the next image
Page Up	Page Up	Move to the previous page (3 entries)
Page Down	Page Down	Move to the next page (3 entries)
Home	Home	Move to the start of the history
End	End	Move to the end of the history

Photo credit:

Imagery provided by the members of the FRANZIS *projects* team and the programmers.

Special thanks to Mr. Falko Sieker for providing several exposure bracketing series and single images for testing purposes. The majority of the screen shots found in this user manual are results of Mr. Sieker's bracketings.

13. Support

If you have questions regarding the installation, problems or errors of the software, please contact the **FRANZIS customer support team**.

Contact: <http://www.projects-software.com/contact>

Please understand that your questions can only be answered directly by FRANZIS customer support. This is to give us the opportunity to constantly enhance our customer service for you and to make sure that you receive only the most qualified answers to all of your questions as fast as possible.

This is how our customer support works best:

Please have the most important details about your computer and about our product at hand when you call our customer support. These include:

- Name of the product
- Product ISBN (which you can find on the back of the packaging, above the easy to spot barcode).
- Operating system of your computer
- Technical details of your computer including all your peripheral devices

Copyright

Franzis Verlag GmbH has prepared this product with the greatest possible care. Please read the following conditions:

All the programs, routines, controls, etc., contained in this data media or within this download are protected by their respective authors or distributors as mentioned in the respective programs. The purchaser of this data media or of this download is authorised to use those programs, data or data groups that are not marked as shareware or public domain for his/her own purposes within the provisions of their designated use. He/she is authorised to use programs or parts of programs that are marked as shareware, freeware or public domain within the restrictions given by the respective programs or parts of programs. A reproduction of programs with the intent of distributing data media containing programs is forbidden. Franzis Verlag GmbH holds the copyright for the selection, arrangement and disposition of the programs and data on these data media or these downloads.

The data and the programs in this data media or within this download has been checked with the greatest possible care. Considering the large quantity of data and programs, Franzis assumes no warranty for the correctness of the data and a flawless functioning of the programs. Franzis Verlag GmbH and the respective distributors do not undertake neither warranty nor legal responsibility for the use of individual files and information with respect to their economic viability or their fault-free operation for a particular purpose.

Additionally, there is no guarantee that all the included data, programs, icons, sounds and other files are free to use. Therefore the publisher cannot be held liable for a possible breach of third party copyrights or other rights.

Most product designations of hard- and software and company names and labels mentioned in this product are registered trademarks and should be treated as such. The product designations used by the publisher are basically as the manufacturer describes them.

© 2015 Franzis Verlag GmbH, Richard-Reitzner-Allee 2, 85540 Haar, München