



AKVIS Default

- AKVIS BW Sketch Sea Shell
- AKVIS BW on Brick Wall
- AKVIS Charcoal on Pink
- AKVIS BW Sketch Desert Sand
- AKVIS Dash Pattern
- AKVIS BW Intensive
- AKVIS Charcoal and Chalk
- AKVIS Pavement Drawing
- AKVIS BW on Canvas
- AKVIS Light Sketch
- AKVIS White Drawing
- AKVIS Soft Sanguine on Sky Blue
- AKVIS BW Fine Details
- AKVIS Sanguine on Black
- AKVIS BW Drawing on Khaki
- AKVIS Sketch on Brown
- AKVIS Inky Black
- AKVIS Sanguine on Pale Turquoise
- AKVIS Graffiti
- AKVIS Charcoal Sketch
- AKVIS Ultra Shine
- AKVIS Soft Charcoal
- AKVIS Charcoal Thin Lines
- AKVIS Blurry Charcoal and Chalk
- AKVIS Blurry Charcoal
- AKVIS BW High Contrast
- AKVIS Quick Sketch
- AKVIS Chalk on Dark
- AKVIS Show White
- AKVIS Artistic Lines
- AKVIS Dense Strokes
- AKVIS Charcoal and Chalk on Gray
- AKVIS Overlay

NEW From AKVIS Charcoal (and Chalk)

Regular DoubleClick readers should recognise this type of article instantly. **Charcoal**, the newest offering from AKVIS, has an interface very reminiscent of their other twenty-one titles - many of which have appeared in previous issues of the DoubleClick. And, like the rest of AKVIS titles, Charcoal is an easy-to-use image editing program that has a huge array of powerful tools that will make it possible to turn a digital photo into something else. In this case, the program, aptly named Charcoal, has the ability to re-render your digital images to make them appear as if they were sketches done on a variety of background materials using either charcoal or charcoal and white chalk. As anyone knows who has ever done any charcoal sketches, this primitive drawing tool lends itself to many possible effects. AKVIS Charcoal presents these effects as Presets.



The application window (shown above) indicates where to find everything Charcoal can do:

- 1- Charcoal offers a large view of your image with **Before** and **After** tabs.
- 2- Charcoal gives over 30 Preset sketch effects to use as starting points
- 3- Charcoal gives a step-by-step rendering record you can access in lieu of the final After image
- 4- Charcoal gives a set of sliders to fine tune aspects of the actual charcoal strokes
- 5- Charcoal gives the user the ability to specify colours for the paper, charcoal, chalk and outlines
- 6- Charcoal offers a selection of materials and textures to be used as the paper or canvas
- 7- Charcoal offers the user text tools to sign, title, or personalise the finished image.
- 8- Charcoal offers a simple tools palette with smudging, erasing, and smearing tools.

Charcoal is a brand new title from AKVIS. It is easy to use and invites exploration and experimentation. And, like the other AKVIS titles, a copy of Charcoal can be downloaded for free from the AKVIS website downloads page and used for ten days as a fully functional demo (<http://akvis.com/en/download-macintosh-software.php>) because of the AKVIS “try before you buy” policy.

The AKVIS website provides excellent support for all of their products with free access to product user guides, tutorials, image samples, screen shots and reviews. Copies of all AKVIS titles are also available for Windows.

You can get Charcoal either as a stand-alone image editor or as a plug-in for various image editing programs that accept tailored third-party plug-ins, like Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements. Charcoal (as a plug-in) is compatible with Corel PaintShop Pro and with all version of Adobe Ps Elements from 1 to 13, Adobe Photoshop CS to CS6, and the 2014 Creative Cloud version of Photoshop. It is compatible with Mac OS X 10.6-10.9 (32/64 bit) and requires a Mac with an Intel processor and 1 Gig RAM.

Charcoal is not available in stores but you can buy it online through Cleverbridge at <https://www.cleverbridge.com/250/catalog/catalogname.akvis/>. Paypal and all major credit cards are accepted. The non-commercial stand-alone or plug-in is about \$60 Canadian. Both together is \$80. Your license includes 1 year of free updates to any new versions of the product. There is a slightly higher charge for commercial users. When the payment is effected you will get a license key to your e-mail within minutes. To get a full version register the trial version using this number.

Submitted by Michael Shaw

