

AKVIS Makeup

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We see so many gorgeous photos of celebrities in magazines and wonder how it is possible they can look so good when no matter how much we try, we never seem to look that great.

Here's a clue—most of those pictures have been enhanced. If they published the actual photos untouched, most celebrities would be revealed to look more like the rest of us. We all have some flaws.

AKVIS has come up with another application called Makeup. You can get the stand-alone application or the Plug-in which works with Photoshop or Photoshop Elements.

When I first tried AKVIS Makeup (I am using the Photoshop Plug-in), I noticed there were many presets already available. You can choose one and instantaneously see how it will look by the preview square on the screen. You can drag the preview over the photo to see how it will change different parts of it. If you like the looks, you can click to run the filter without actually applying it to the photo. Then you can switch back before clicking the “apply” to change the photo.

The presets are already pretty good. I believe they combine lighting, blurring, and many other factors to change the look of the original, hopefully, for the

better. Most likely, you will be able to find one that works well with each photo you are working on. However, you can still tweak the picture in many ways, as you can see from the screenshot to the left. There are controls for Smoothing, Correction, and Effects. It is fun to play around with the different settings and see what you come up with.

I have found that the portraits that work best for AKVIS Makeup are high resolution photos that have not already been enhanced. An older person with a lot of wrinkles can look 10 or 20 years younger by using the right settings. A younger person's portrait can be made to look like a glamorous movie star. Other presets can be used for artistic effects.

I found a picture of myself from when I was about 17 or 18 years old—one of those 4 for 25¢ strips you used to be able to get in a photo booth. Today, I think they are about \$2 and in color. It is surprising how good the quality of those photos are compared to many of the snapshots from back then. I was able to glamorize a picture of myself and in my opinion, it looks about as good as any magazine photo. Check out the “before” and “after” shots below.

This standalone or plug-in application is only \$39 for a single user. You can get both for \$10 more.

I believe you can also get a free 10-day trial by downloading it. AKVIS.com has tutorials on their website to help you learn how to use the program. I found it easy enough to figure out without needing to look much at the tutorials.

I am really enjoy AKVIS Makeup. I love playing around with photos and seeing how they can be altered to look better or more artistic.

