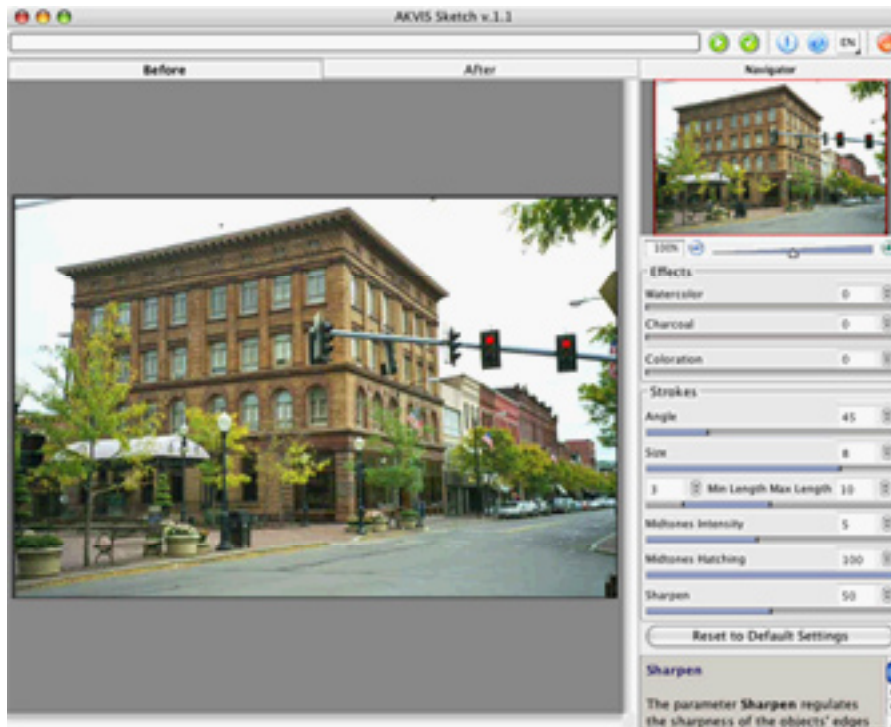


Akvis Sketch is a plug-in that will convert your photos into pencil sketches, charcoal, or watercolor drawings.

The Sketch window has a Before and After tab that lets you see if you are getting your desired results before applying it to your photo. Along the right side of the window are Parameter controls that let you further modify your photo. There are two Parameter fields: Effects and Strokes. The Effects field contains: Watercolor, Charcoal, and Coloration. The Strokes field contains: Angle, Size, Min. and Max length, Midtones Intensity, Midtones Hatching and Sharpen. Tweaking these controls can completely change the look of your photo i.e. you can change the angle and pitch of the strokes, make the hatching denser or finer, or control the amount of color that is displayed in your picture. When you hover your cursor over one of the Parameter controls, an explanation of the Parameter's function is displayed at the bottom right of the Akvis Sketch window.

The Akvis Sketch Help file contains the documentation and easy-to-understand tutorials. FYI: the same tutorials are posted to Akvis' web site. This is a great way to see what Akvis Sketch can do before downloading the demo.



The default settings will convert your photo into a pencil drawing.



If you adjust the watercolor settings, you can smooth out some of the cross-hatching. It makes it seem like you are drawing on wet paper.



If you want to make your image look like a watercolor drawing, simply adjust the Coloration slider. The higher you move the slider, the more color shows through (from the original photo). Once you are satisfied with the results, simply click the Run button and your photo is instantly adjusted.



You can come up with some interesting results whether you use Akvis Sketch on buildings or portraits.



The Skinny

Evaluation: Akvis Sketch was a little sluggish when I tried to adjust a 720 DPI photo on my 500 MHz G4, but worked quite well on a lower DPI photo. I assume the more power your Mac has, the faster it will work.

Akvis Sketch accomplishes what it sets out to do-convert photos into works of art. If you are interested, I suggest you download the demo and see if it suits your needs.

Requires: (Minimum requirement) OS X 10.3.9, PowerPC G3, 256 MB RAM, 15 MB free hard drive space, (Recommended requirement) OS X 10.4.6, PowerPC G5, 2 Gb RAM, 2 Gb free hard drive space, Photoshop or Photoshop Elements,

Company: [Akvis](#)

Street Price: \$72

[Available Demo](#)