

Skin Tune™

User Guide



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SkinTune is protected by a U.S. Patent Pending.

Written and designed by PhotoTune Software.

Windows Installation

1.) Double-click on Installer.exe to run the setup program. If the installer can't find Photoshop, use the Choose button to locate Photoshop's Plug-ins folder. It is normally located in C:\Program Files\Adobe\Photoshop\Plug-Ins.

2.) Next time you use Photoshop, SkinTune will appear as a new menu item under Photoshop's Filter menu. Look for PhotoTune SkinTune.



System Requirements

SkinTune is a Photoshop plug-in, compatible with:

Photoshop 7 and CS, Photoshop Elements 2, Jasc PaintShop Pro, and Corel PhotoPaint.

Windows 98 to XP.

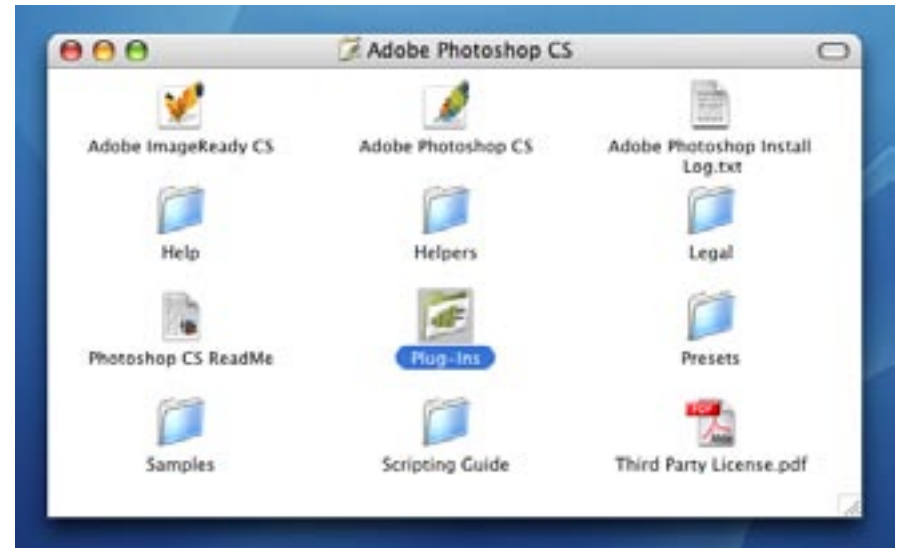
Minimum screen resolution of 800x600

24 bit RGB images. File types include Tiff, JPEG, Photoshop, BMP, and PICT.

Macintosh OSX Installation

1.) Move or copy SkinTune into Photoshop's Plug-ins folder located in the Applications Folder on your hard drive.

2.) Next time you use Photoshop, SkinTune will appear as a new menu item under Photoshop's Filter menu. Look for PhotoTune SkinTune.



System Requirements

SkinTune is a Photoshop plug-in, compatible with:

Photoshop 7 and CS, or Photoshop Elements 2.

Mac OSX 10.2+.

Minimum screen resolution of 800x600

24 bit RGB images. File types include Tiff, JPEG, Photoshop, BMP, and PICT.

Serial Number

When you start SkinTune, a dialog box will appear giving you an opportunity to enter your serial number by clicking the Register button. Be sure to enter your name, company, and serial number to activate the program. Until a serial number is entered, SkinTune will be restricted to demo mode, which provides 20 sessions before timing out.



Welcome To SkinTune

Thank you for purchasing SkinTune. We appreciate your support.

SkinTune is an Adobe Photoshop compatible Plug-in that automatically corrects skin color.

Face Facts

If you're a fashion, portrait, or wedding photographer, you know first-hand how difficult it is to correct skin color. You tweak, adjust, and experiment with Curves, but the slightest alteration can cause an unwanted color shift.

At PhotoTune, we've solved the problem by compiling complete skin-tone libraries for different national origins, including African, Asian, European, Latin, and Middle Eastern.

All you do is open an image in Photoshop, and select PhotoTune SkinTune from the Filter menu. After two clicks of the mouse, SkinTune instantly finds the nearest acceptable skin color from the selected library, and automatically corrects your image. Each library contains more than 25,000 different colors that encompass the entire flesh tone spectrum.

After SkinTune does its magic, you're free to fine-tune the results by adjusting hue, brightness, and saturation. All your adjustments will stay within the boundaries of the library to insure perfect, lifelike results.

Interface Design

After you click to select a flesh tone, SkinTune displays your Original image alongside the Current corrected image. A complete set of tools lets you fine-tune and perfect the results.

National Origin Pop-Up

Skin-tone Libraries for African, Asian, European, Latin, and Middle Eastern are available under the pop-up menu. Each library contains more than 25,000 different skin colors.

Percentage Radio Buttons

SkinTune adjusts your image to the nearest acceptable color in the chosen library, based on your click point. The 50% option cuts the adjustment in half, while 25% reduces the adjustment in half, again.

Saturation Slider

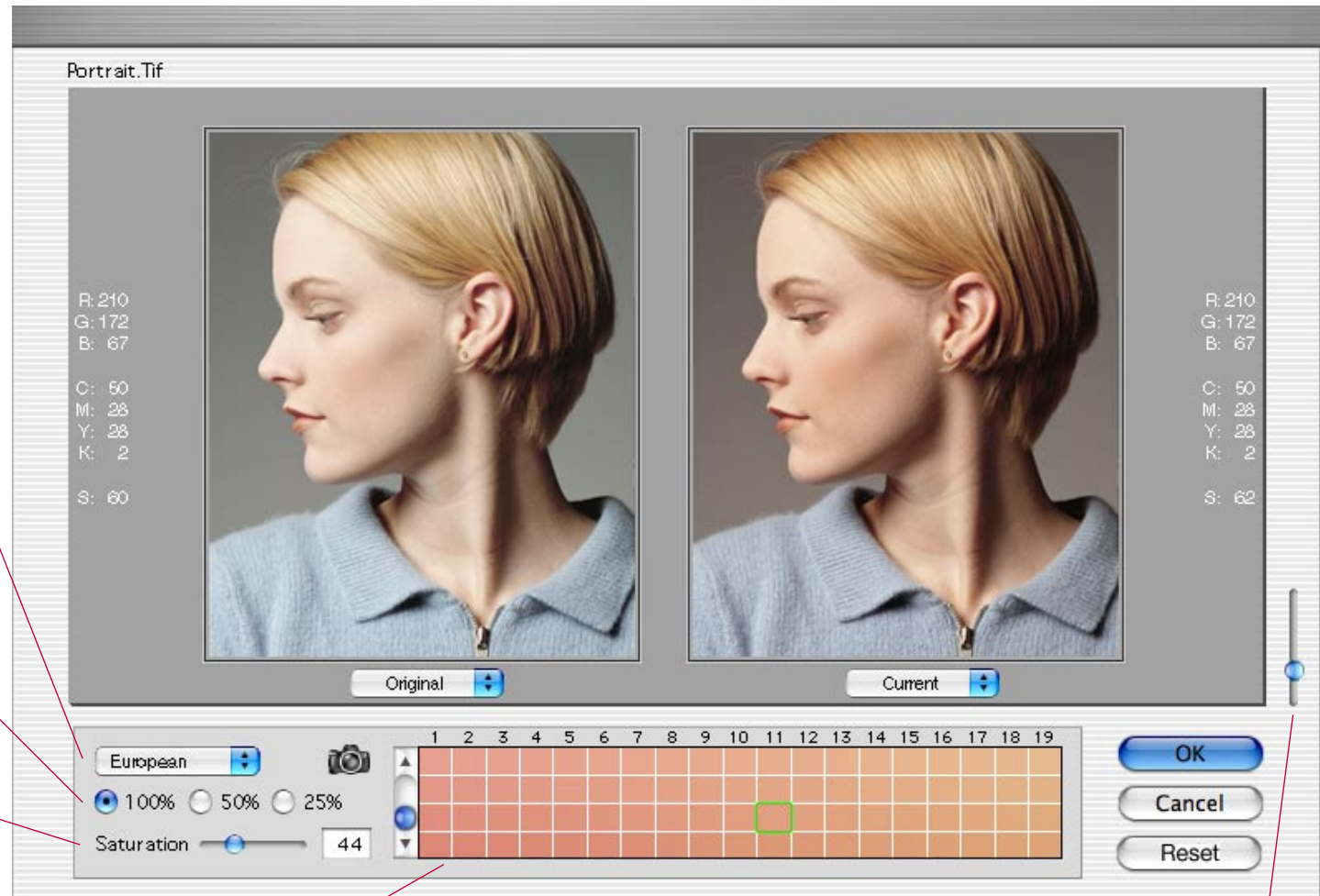
To start, saturation matches the click point of your original image. Altering saturation will not effect color or brightness.



Snapshot

The Snapshot command lets you make a temporary copy of the Current preview, along with a record of your corrections. That way, you can compare different results, and experiment with different alterations without losing your prior changes.

The Original and Current Pop-up menus under the preview images control Snapshot functions.



Color Swatches

SkinTune displays a set of colors that can be used to adjust the Current image. The active color is highlighted with a green outline. Click on a different color to choose a new target color.

The color swatches are arranged in rows with different brightness levels, while columns contain different color variants or hues.

Brightness Slider

The scroll bar at the end of the color swatches controls brightness. Scroll up for lighter colors and down for darker colors.

Reset Button

The Reset button reverts to the original correction which was applied when you clicked to select a skin-tone.

Zoom Slider

To begin, the image is always reduced to fit. The vertical Zoom slider lets you increase or decrease the size of the preview images.

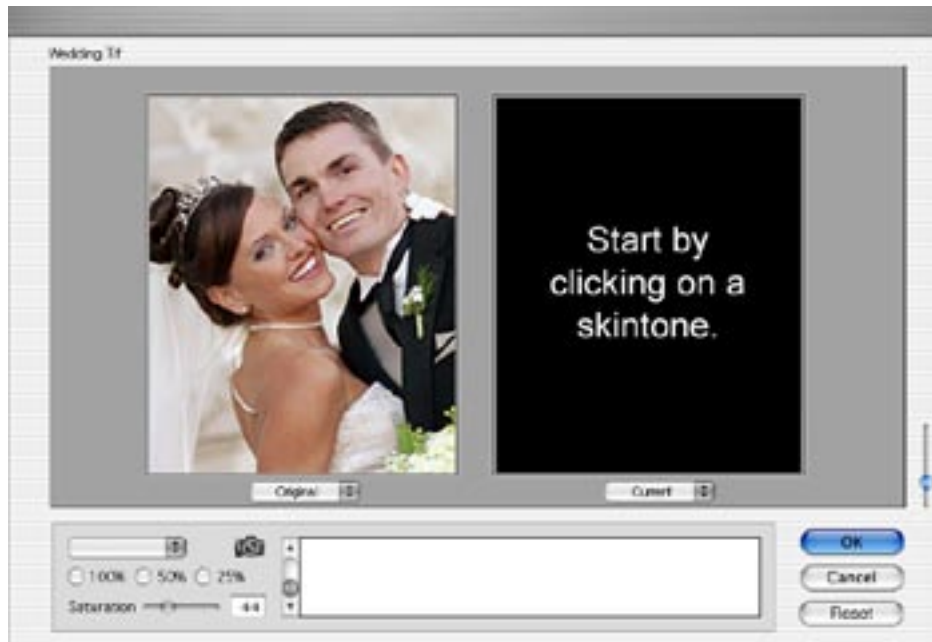


Pan Tool

If the image is cropped, you can reposition it using the pan tool.

Macintosh - Option Click and drag

Windows - Control Click and drag.



Start The Correction Process

To begin, open an image in Photoshop, and then choose PhotoTune SkinTune from Photoshop's Filter menu.

A single image is displayed in the left preview area. All the tools are grayed out and inaccessible. Only the Zoom slider and image panning can be used at this time.

The first step is to use your mouse to select a flesh tone in the original image. After you click, a contextual menu appears listing the available skin-tone libraries, based on national origin. Choose a library.



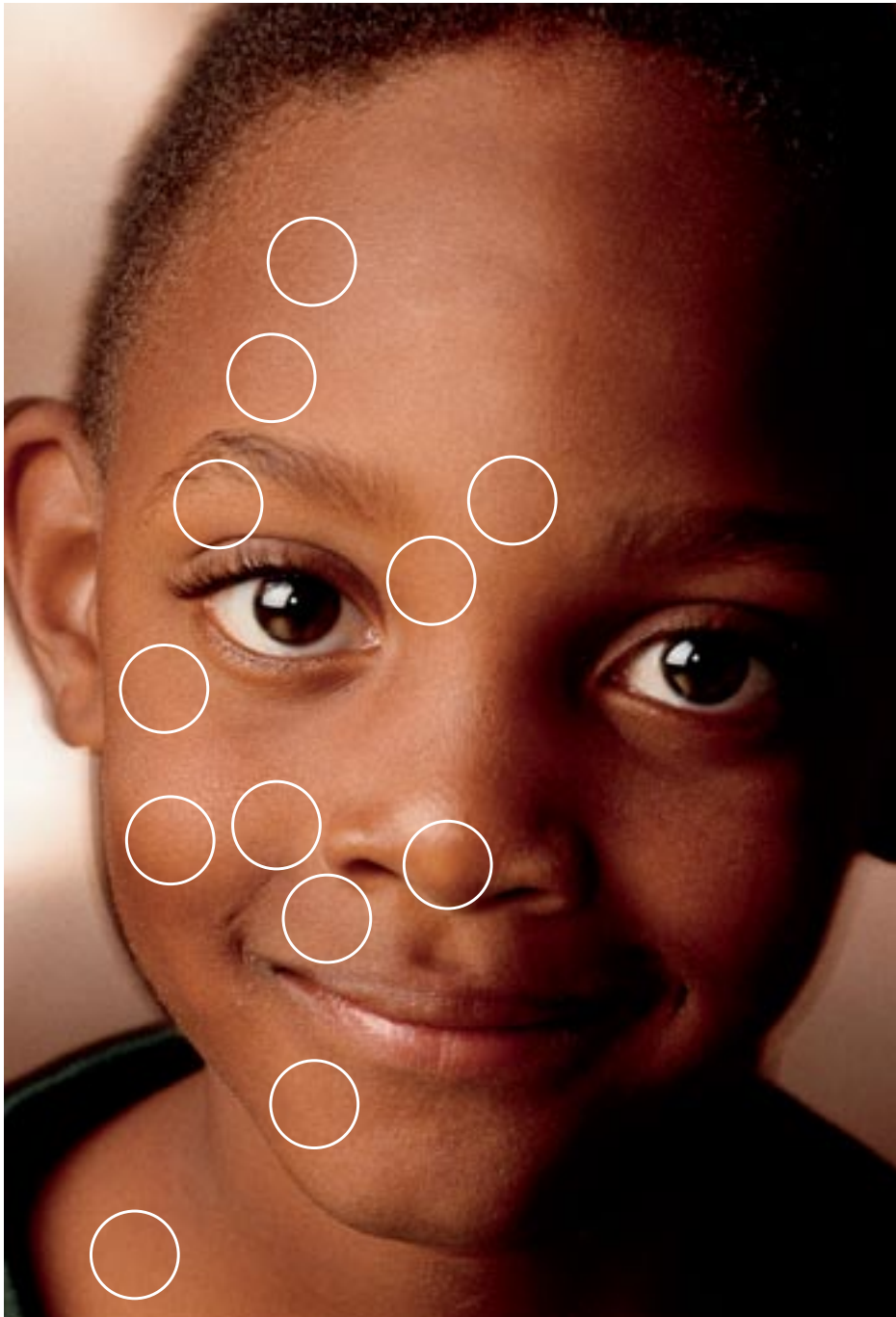
Note: See page 7 for more information regarding the selection process.



Once you make a skin-tone and library selection, several things happen:

1. The selected skin-tone area is marked with a box.
2. The corrected Current image is displayed on the right.
3. The tools become active.
4. The color swatches are displayed.
5. The RGB, CMYK and Saturation values for the selected skin-tone area are displayed to the side of the Original and Current images.





Preliminary Photoshop Corrections

SkinTune is designed to make precise skin color adjustments, and is not intended for general purpose corrections.

Before using SkinTune, you should use Photoshop to set the dynamic range, adjust brightness, and perform any necessary sharpening.

DO NOT use Photoshop to alter Hue or Saturation. SkinTune will handle those functions for you.

Click Points

Your flesh tone selection is an important first step in achieving good results. Here are some things to consider:

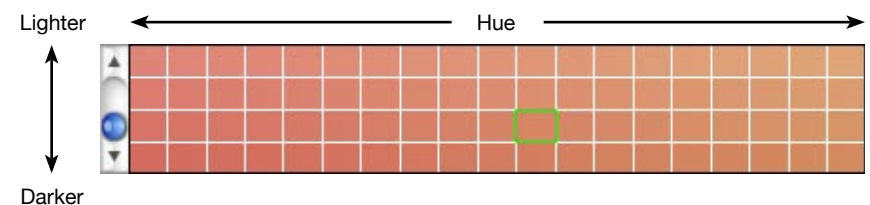
1. Select a mid-tone color. Choose an area that is a good representation of the average color, brightness, and saturation of the image.
2. Avoid shadows and highlights.
3. Avoid facial hair and make-up.
4. The program takes a 7x7 pixel average based on your click point, so choose a smooth, uniform area.
5. At any time, you may select a new click-point, which will reset the results.

Color Swatches

After choosing a flesh tone, SkinTune automatically adjusts the Current preview image so that the click-point matches the nearest acceptable flesh tone in the library. SkinTune color swatches can be used to adjust the result.

The highlighted square is the target color used to adjust the Current preview. If you select a different color swatch, it becomes the new target color and is highlighted to indicate the change.

1. The color or hue can be fine-tuned by selecting a color to the right or left of the target color.
2. To lighten the image, choose a color that is above the target color, and to darken the image choose a color below the target color. The scroll bar can also be used to change the brightness.





National Origin Pop-up menu.

The pop-up contains choices for African, Asian, European, Hispanic, and Middle Eastern. Each item

has its own library. This is initially set with the Contextual menu, which appears after making a skin-tone selection.

Choosing a different item from the National Origin pop-up will reset the correction process. The Current image, color swatches, target color, and saturation slider will be reset, and any alterations you made will be ignored.

Percentage Radio Buttons

SkinTune adjusts your image to the nearest acceptable color in the chosen library, based on your click point. The 50% option cuts the adjustment in half, while 25% reduces the adjustment in half, again.



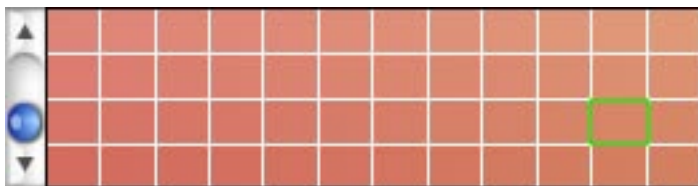
Saturation Slider

Saturation can be increased or decreased with the slider. To begin, the saturation matches the click-point in your original image. So, if you adjust saturation, and later want to return to the previous amount, just set the slider to match the densitometer reading located to the left of the original image.

When the slider is adjusted, both the image and the color swatches are immediately updated to reflect the new Saturation value.

Brightness Slider

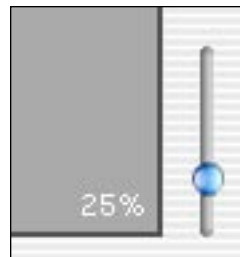
The scroll bar at the end of the color swatches controls brightness. Scroll up to lighten the image and down to darken the image. To begin, the brightness matches the click-point in your original image.



Target Color

The Target color is used to adjust the Current image. It is highlighted with a green border.

You can alter the Target color by changing the saturation or brightness, and you can click on a different color swatch to make it the Target Color. Different Hues are arranged horizontally, with warmer colors to the left and cooler to the right.



Zoom Slider

To the right of the image area, you'll find a vertical Zoom slider, which can be used to increase or decrease the size of the preview images. When the slider is activated, the zoom percentage is displayed in the corner of the image area.

Moving the slider handle up increases the image size, while down reduces the size.

You can NOT freely adjust the image size. The slider jumps to the next available percentage, which is determined by Photoshop.

When you open an image in SkinTune, the image is always reduced to fit in the available image area.



Hand Tool

Most images appear full-frame in SkinTune, unless the image has been enlarged with the zoom slider or if the image is excessively tall or wide, as with panoramic images. In these cases, the image display is cropped, and only the center portion of the image is in view. Once you make a skin-tone selection, zooming will use your click-point as the center.

You may reposition the image by using the hand tool, which is accessed with a keyboard shortcut.

Macintosh: Option Click and drag.

Windows: Control Click and drag.



Reset Button

When you click on the Reset button, SkinTune reverts to the previous settings that were present when you last clicked on an image with the eye dropper tool.

The correction process starts over whenever you use the eye dropper tool to select a flesh tone.

Furthermore, when two images are displayed, you may click on either preview image. You may also click and drag the selection rectangle to a new location.



Snapshot

The Snapshot command lets you make a temporary copy (or snapshot) of any state of the Current image. A snapshot lets you work from that version forward, while retaining the information used to create the Snapshot. In this way, you can experiment, or compare different effects.

For example, you can take a snapshot, and then tweak amounts to compare different results. Then, take another Snapshot any time you have made an improvement, and continue experimenting. With snapshots, you can recover your work easily. If you're not satisfied with your changes, you can select the snapshot to undo all the steps which were made after the Snapshot. Use Revert To Snapshot to reload the Snapshot adjustments.

The "Original" and "Current" pop-up menus, located under the image previews, are used to control the Snapshot process.

A camera icon, located on the Tool Palette allows you to take a Snapshot. You can also use the "Take Snapshot" option located in the Current pop-up menu.

By clicking the camera icon, the Current, right-hand image preview is recorded as a Snapshot, along with its adjustments. The Snapshot preview is displayed on the left, where the Original preview was located. At this point, the Snapshot and Current are duplicates. The Current image can be adjusted as normal. Each new Snapshot is handled in this way.

There is always a Snapshot. A Snapshot survives a reset, or OK (Apply).

If you've taken a Snapshot, it is saved when the image is processed (OK), so when you reopen SkinTune to color correct a new image, the Snapshot from the previous session is available.

The pop-up menus contain the following items:

Left Menu

Original
Snapshot

Right Menu

Current
Take Snapshot
Revert To Snapshot

Save History...

Load History...

Revert to Snapshot

There is only one Snapshot and one Current preview. If you want to switch from the Current to the Snapshot, use the pop-up menu item "Revert To Snapshot".

When Revert To Snapshot is selected, the Snapshot is displayed in the right-hand window, and overwrites any edits that have been made to the Current preview since the Snapshot was created. The Snapshot becomes the Current preview. The tools are updated with the changes that were used to create the Snapshot. The Current preview can be edited as normal.

Save History and Load History

Only one Snapshot is remembered. An unlimited number of Snapshots can be made, but each new Snapshot overwrites the previous Snapshot. But, you can save an unlimited number of Snapshots to disk. To save to disk, choose the Save History option in the Current pop-up menu, and specify a name and location for the file. Use the Load History option to open and apply a previously saved setting. You can edit the Saved History using all of the tools on the Fine-Tune Panel.

