

Glare

Flaming Pear Software

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What it does

Glare creates glaring halos around the brightest parts of an image to create an impression of dazzling brightness.



How to install

Illustrated installation instructions are online at www.flamingpear.com/faq.html .

To use this software, you need a paint program which accepts standard Photoshop 3.02 plugins.

Just put the plug-in filter into the folder where your paint program expects to find it. If you have Photoshop, the folder is Photoshop:Plugins:Filters or Photoshop:Plug-ins. You must restart Photoshop before it will notice the new plug-in. It will appear in the menus as Filters->Flaming Pear->Glare.

Most other paint programs follow a similar scheme.

If you have Paint Shop Pro: you have to create a new folder, put the plug-in filter into it, and then tell PSP to look there.

PSP 7:

Choose the menu File-> Preferences-> File Locations... and choose the Plug-in Filters tab. Use one of the "Browse" buttons to choose the folder that contains the plug-in.

The plug-in is now installed. To use it, open any image and select an area. From the menus, choose Effects->Plug-in Filters->Flaming Pear->Glare.

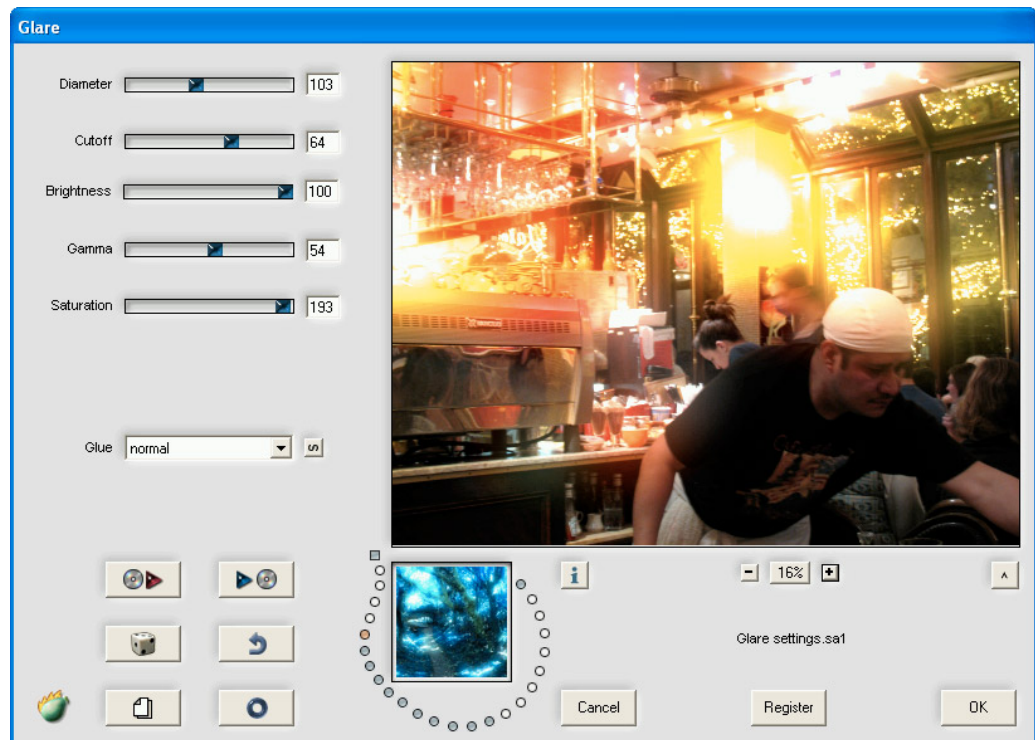
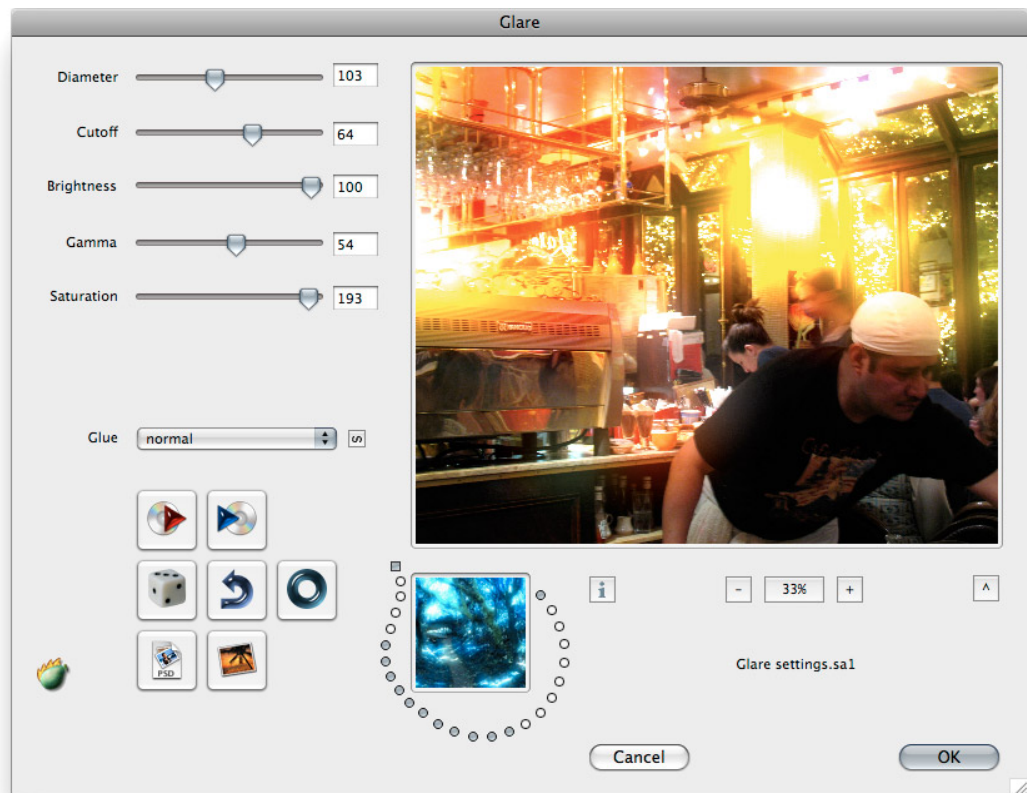
PSP 8, 9, X, XI, and X2:

Choose the menu File-> Preferences-> File Locations... In the dialog box that appears, choose Plug-ins from the list. Click "Add." If you are using PSP 8 or 9, click "Browse". Now choose the folder that contains the plug-in.

The plug-in is now installed. To use it, open any image and select an area. From the menus, choose Effects->Plugins->Flaming Pear->Glare.

Quick start

When you invoke Glare, a dialog box will appear.



If you just want to see some effects quickly, click the dice button until you see something you like; then click OK.

Using the dice is the easiest way to use Glare. If you want to hand-tune your own effects, it helps to learn the controls, which are explained below.



dice

Controls

Glare has five main controls to produce bright halos.

Diameter sets the size of the halos.

Cutoff specifies how bright parts of the image have to be before they start contributing to the halos. At the maximum value, almost nothing will glare. At the minimum value, even quite dark regions will act as if they are glowing. The proper value to use varies from image to image.

Brightness simply sets the basic brightness of the glare.

Gamma influences how rapidly the brightness of the halos falls off from the center to the edges. Lower values will produce slower falloff, making the whole picture appear brighter.

Saturation says how strongly colored the halos are. Surrealistic effects are possible by setting using the very highest and lowest values. The central setting of zero will produce colorless grey halos.

Things to try

Try loading the settings files that come with Glare to see what it can do, or click the dice until you see something you like.

Here are some example effects that you can do. Open a favorite picture for these examples -- you won't see anything if you start with a blank canvas.

Basic glare

With this view up the trunk of a tree, these settings produce a straightforward glare effect:

Diameter 150

Cutoff 60

Brightness 90

Gamma 75

Saturation 100

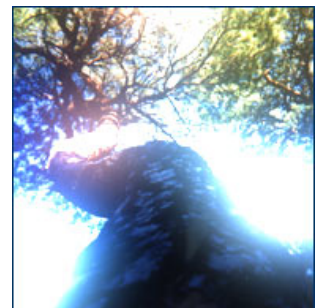
Glue normal.



original image

If you click the dice button to see various random effects, this is the sort of thing you will see most often.

You can use this tree image (just drag it off the web page) to test the Cutoff control. At a Cutoff value of 98, only the patches of sky will glow. At values near zero, everything but the trunk will glow.



basic glare

Less glare, stronger colors

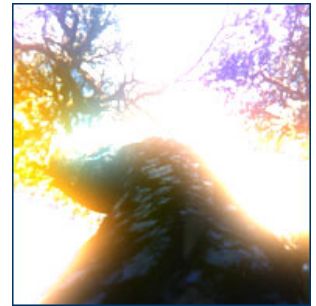
Reduce Brightness and increase Saturation to the max.
Now the hues are less washed out.



less glare, stronger colors

Weird colors

Raise Brightness again and reduce Saturation to -200.
You'll get reversed colors in the halos.



weird colors

White haze

Increase Diameter to the max and set Saturation to zero.
This will produce a broad haze over the whole picture.



white haze

Speckles

Use a very small Diameter of about 6 and turn Brightness and Gamma far up. You'll see tiny, unrealistic blotches of glare.

For more strange-looking variations, try using glue modes other than "normal" with this effect.



speckles

Other controls

Dice: This randomizes the settings. Click it as much as you want to see different effects.



dice

Reset: Gives you the factory settings.



reset

Glue: Lets you combine the result image with the original, instead of replacing it. The **next-glue** button advances to the next glue mode.



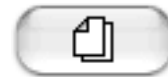
next glue

Send to photo manager: Sends the result to iPhoto (on Macintosh).



send to photo manager

Export to PSD: Renders the result to a .psd file.



export to PSD

Make Gallery: Builds a web page showing all the presets in a folder that you choose.



make gallery

Plus, % and minus buttons: If the selected image area is bigger than the preview, these buttons let you zoom in and out. Drag the preview to move it.

Load preset: Presets are files containing settings. To load one, click this button and browse for a preset file.



load preset

Save preset: When you make an effect you like, click this button to save the settings in a file.



save preset

Undo backs up one step.



undo

Info: briefly explains the controls.



info

Three more buttons:

OK: Applies the effect to your image.

Cancel: Dismisses the plug-in, and leaves the image unchanged.

Register: Allows you to type in a registration code and remove the time limit from the demo.

Memory dots

Although you can [save your settings permanently to files](#), you can also stash settings in memory dots.

Click an empty dot to stash the current settings in it.

Click a full dot to retrieve its settings.

Hover the mouse over a dot to see what it contains.

Option-click to erase a dot on Macintosh.

Right-click to erase a dot on Windows.

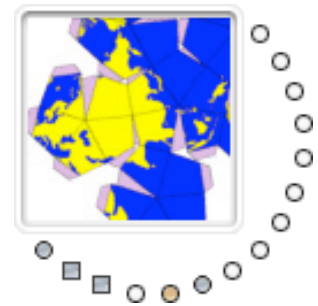
If a dot is orange, Glare's currently using that dot's settings.

Dots remember their contents until you erase them. If you'd rather make a temporary dot that forgets when you exit Glare, control-click it. Temporary dots are square.





When you start Glare, it puts the starting settings in a temporary dot. That way it's easy to start over without exiting the plug-in.

On Mac, you can drag-and-drop settings files from the central memory well.

You can build a web page showing how the current image would look with every memdot setting. Just option-click (Mac) or right-click (Windows) on the big memdot image.



memory dots

-  empty
-  full
-  current
-  temporary

Version history

Version 1.8 December 2009

64-bit version for Windows.

Version 1.7 June 2008

The Glare effect now changes to suit the scale of the input image. Adds convenience features to the interface. The Mac version is faster on multicore machines and is resizable.

Version 1.6 June 2007

Fixes a Macintosh problem where the plug-in could have bad settings or crash when installed on a machine for the first time.

Version 1.55 April 2007

Universal binary for Macintosh. Works as a Smart Filter in Adobe Photoshop CS3 Macintosh. Fixes a Windows problem where the plug-in wouldn't remember its registration when it was installed in one user account but activated in another.

Version 1.4 July 2004

Works in 16-bit color.

Version 1.3 December 2003

Recordable as a Photoshop action.

Version 1.25 September 2003

Adds more glue modes and the next-glue button.

Version 1.22 February 2003

Adds more glue modes and fixes a crash that could happen when using the menus under Windows XP.

Version 1.21 December 2002

Adds new glue modes: Color, Luminance, Linear Light, and Pin Light. Fixes the appearance of text in the interface when running under Mac OS X 10.2.3 .

Version 1.2 February 2002

Adds previews in the preset browser.

Version 1.1 September 2001

Adds an Undo button.

Version 1.0 September 1999

First release.

How to purchase

You can place an order online [here](#). A secure server for transactions is available.

Questions

The software, documentation, and supporting materials are made by Flaming Pear Software. Answers to common technical questions appear on our [support page](#), and free updates appear periodically on the [download page](#).

Trouble with your order? Orders are handled by [Kagi](#); please contact them at admin@kagi.com .

For bug reports and technical questions about the software, please write to support@flamingpear.com .

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