

BBTools Glow & Glare

User Manual

Installation

Method 1: Using the Creative Cloud Desktop App

1. **Opening Creative Cloud Desktop App:** Launch the Creative Cloud desktop app. You'll typically find it in your Applications folder on a Mac or in the Start Menu on Windows.
2. **Navigating to Plugins:** Within the app, click on the 'Stock & Marketplace' tab. This is usually located at the top of the window. Here, click on 'Plugins'.
3. **Finding Your Plugin:** Use the search bar to find the plugin you need. Once you find it, click on 'Get' or 'Learn more'—the button depends on whether the plugin is free or paid.
4. **Completing Installation:** Follow the instructions that appear on your screen. This process usually involves a few simple clicks.
5. **Accessing the Installed Plugin:** If you're unsure where to find your newly installed plugin in Photoshop, visit Adobe's 'My Exchange' website, find your plugin, and look for the 'Where to find it' section.

Method 2: Manual Installation via CCX File

1. **Locating the CCX File:** After downloading your CCX file (usually from a trusted online source), note where it's saved on your computer.
2. **Unzipping the CCX File:** Use a file extraction tool like 7-Zip or WinRAR to unzip the CCX file. Right-click on the file and select 'Extract here' or 'Extract to...' to unzip it to a chosen location.
3. **Moving Files to Photoshop Plugin Folder:** Open the folder where Photoshop is installed, typically located at 'C:\Program Files\Adobe' on Windows or in the 'Applications' folder on Mac. Inside, locate the 'Plug-ins' folder and drag your unzipped plugin files into this folder.

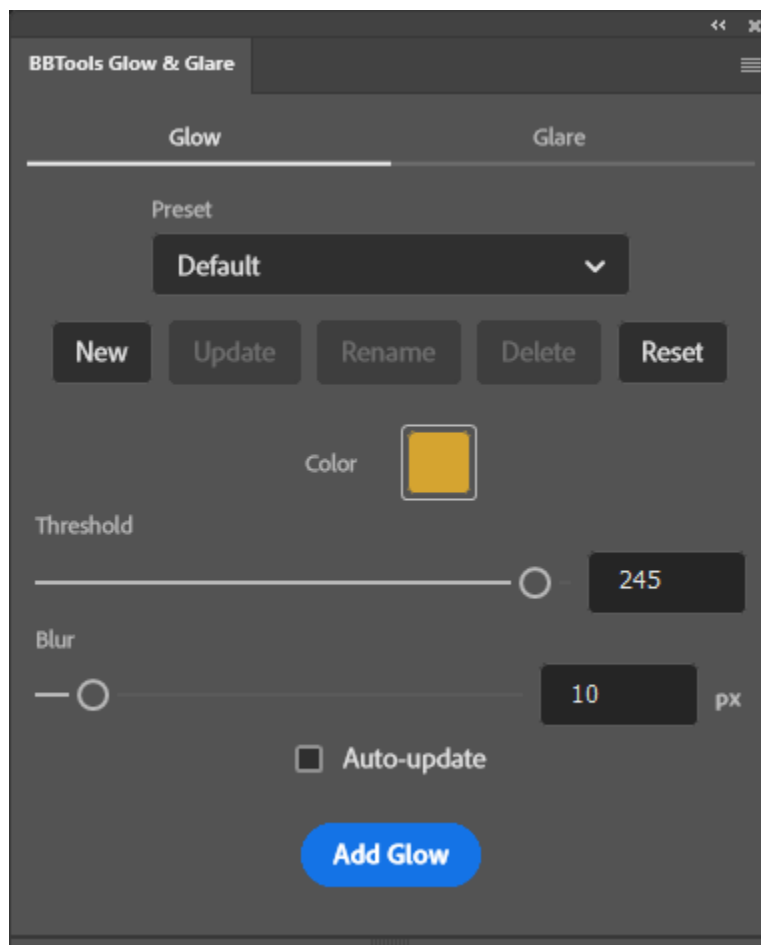
Introduction

BBTools Glow & Glare is a Photoshop plugin designed to help digital painters, retouchers, and graphic designers add stunning, professional, and completely *non-destructive* glow and glare effects to their projects.

Whether you want to make light sources shine or create cosmic star-burst glare patterns, BBTools Glow & Glare gives you precise, granular control without cluttering your history or permanently altering your original pixels.

The plugin is divided into two tabs:

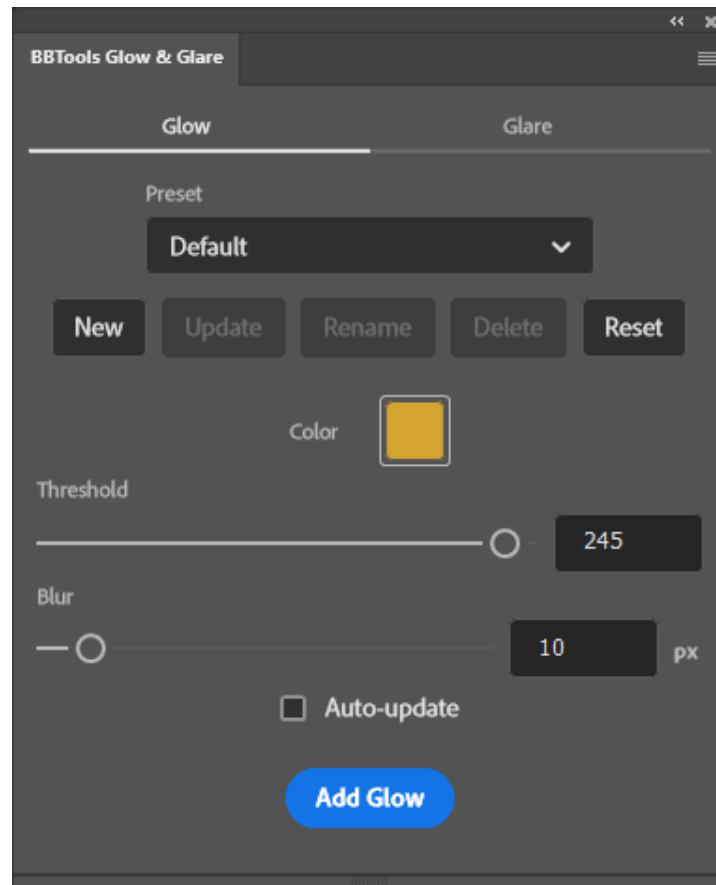
- Glow
- Glare



Features

Glow

The **Glow** tab concentrates on producing atmospheric light scattering (bloom) around bright areas. It is perfect for neon signs, headlights, magical spells, or soft, dreamy atmospheres.



Preset Manager

Presets are persisted across Photoshop sessions. The preset manager includes:

- **Select a Preset:** Use the dropdown menu to choose from default presets or your own custom saved configurations.
- **New:** Creates a new preset by prompting the user to give a preset name.
- **Save:** Click Save to store the current configuration of sliders, colors, and shapes.
- **Update:** If you modify sliders on an existing preset, click Update to save the changes.
- **Rename:** Click Rename to customize the name of your loaded preset.
- **Delete:** Click Delete to discard a preset you no longer need.

- **Reset:** Click Reset to clear all custom settings and restore factory default presets (confirmation prompt will appear).

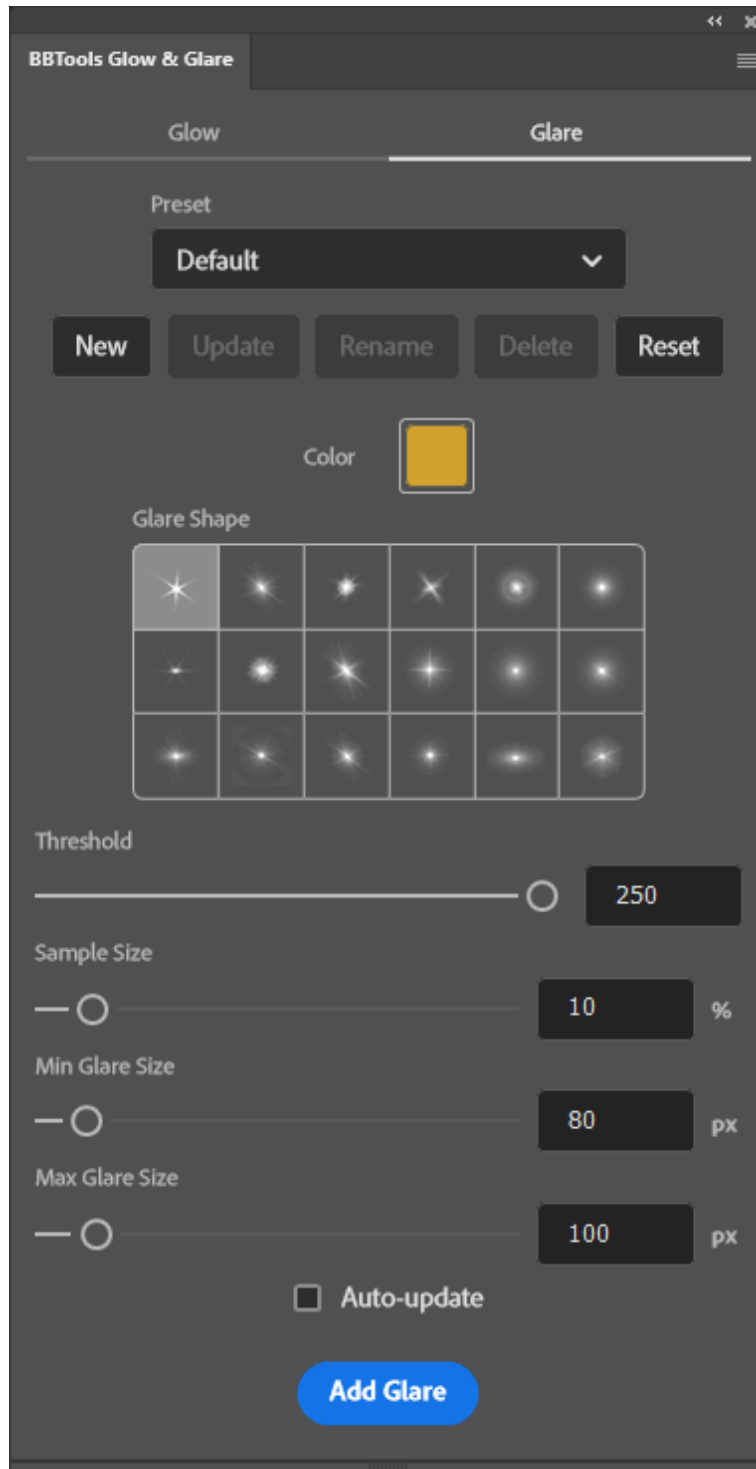
Options

- **Color:** Opens the native Photoshop color picker and selects the color for the glow effect.
- **Threshold:** Controls the brightness limit. A lower value includes darker tones in the glow selection (more glow area), whereas a higher value limits the glow exclusively to bright highlights (narrower glow area).
- **Blur:** Controls the width and softness of the glow spread. Higher values create a larger, softer atmospheric bloom, while lower values yield tight, intense light leaks.
- **Auto-update:** When active, any adjustments to the Color, Threshold, or Blur sliders instantly update the active Photoshop layer in real-time.

Note: Glow effect creation can be recorded as a Photoshop action and played back.

Glare

The **Glare** tab generates high-impact, geometric glare bursts (like lens flares or starbursts) on specular highlights. Perfect for jewelry, metal reflections, glass glint, water ripples, and futuristic laser effects.



- **Color:** Determines the color overlay tint of your glares.
- **Glare:** Interactive grid containing 18 custom-engineered glare shapes. Each shape represents a different flare, stripe, star, or optical cross.
- **Threshold:** Controls which highlights qualify for a glare burst. Specify high values (e.g., 245-255) to add glare points only to the brightest reflections.
- **Sample Size:** Controls the grid sampling density. Lower values (e.g., 5-10%) increase sampling accuracy (resulting in more detailed and tighter placements on smaller highlights), but increase calculations. Higher values are faster but skip smaller highlights.
- **Min Glare Size:** The minimum possible pixel diameter for a glare stroke.
- **Max Glare Size:** The maximum possible pixel diameter for a glare stroke. The plugin dynamically randomizes and scales glare brush sizes between your Min and Max values based on specular intensity!
- **Auto-update:** Dynamically updates the color of the active Glare layer style on-the-fly.

Note: Glare effect creation can be recorded as a Photoshop action and played back.