

BBTools Shadow

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.

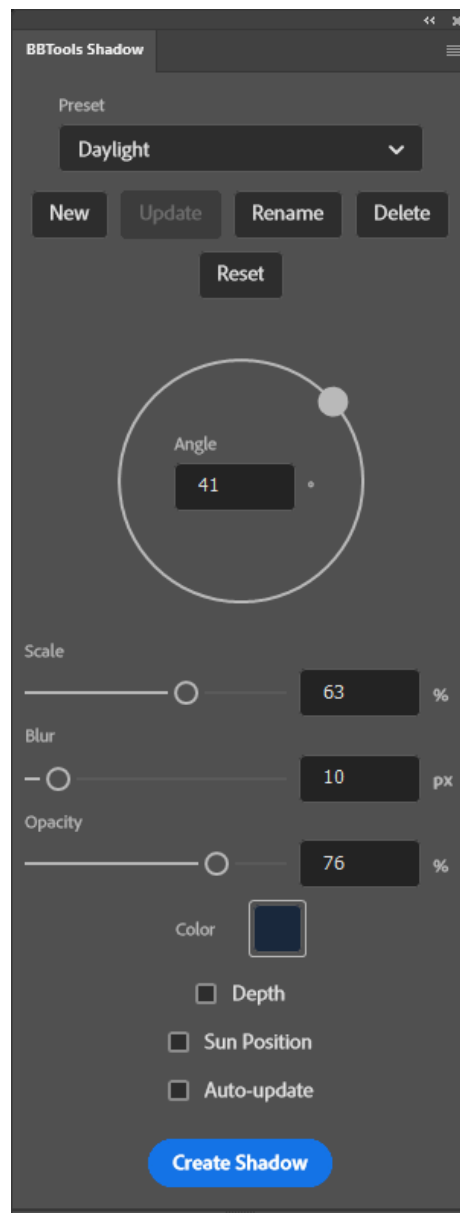
Method 2: Manual Installation via CCX File

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 Shadow is a Photoshop plugin designed to help digital painters, retouchers, illustrators, and graphic designers generate stunning, highly realistic, and completely customizable shadows for standing objects in their projects.

Creating realistic shadows manually in Photoshop can be a tedious process involving duplicating layers, rasterizing, vertical scaling, manual skewing, and applying complex gradients or blur filters. BBTools Shadow automates this entire pipeline into a single click, using advanced mathematical projections and native Photoshop filters to deliver professional results instantly.



Features

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

- **Angle:** Determines the direction the shadow projects. (e.g., 90° projects straight up/backwards, 270° projects straight down/forwards).
- **Scale:** Controls the length of the shadow relative to the object's height. Sharp, flat angles dynamically stretch the shadow longer to respect physical projection.
- **Blur:** Controls the shadow dispersion. Higher values create a broad, soft, fading blur; lower values yield sharp, hard-edged shadows.
- **Opacity:** Controls the opacity of the final shadow layer.
- **Color:** Triggers the native Photoshop color picker. **Tip:** Outside shadows on sunny days are rarely pitch black. Use a dark navy/blue color to match the natural reflection of the sky!
- **Depth:** Activates 2-point perspective warping (mutually exclusive with Sun Position).
- **Sun Position:** Activates automatic angle calculation from a single-point light source (mutually exclusive with Depth).
- **Auto-update:** When active, changing any parameter automatically updates your active shadow layer in real-time.

Note: The shadow creation can be recorded as a Photoshop action and played back.