

Melancholytron

Flaming Pear Software

[What it does](#)

[How to install](#)

[Quick start](#)

[Shape](#)

[Focus](#)

[Color](#)

[Other controls](#)

[Memory dots](#)

[Hints](#)

[Versions](#)

[How to purchase](#)

[Questions](#)

What it does

Melancholytron makes pictures blurry, dark, and discolored in a way that varies across the image. It can leave the picture clear and lucid in the center, and increasingly fatigued toward the edges. With this effect you can produce a faux-antique look with vignetting and sepia-toning, or a sad, moody look with blurred and dampened colors.



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.

If you have Photoshop, just put the plug-in filter into the folder where your paint program expects to find it. 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->Melancholytron.

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.

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->Melancholytron.

Quick start

When you invoke Melancholytron, a dialog box will appear.



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

Using the dice is the easiest way to use Melancholytron. If you want to hand-tune your own effects, it helps to learn the controls, which are arranged into three groups:

[Shape](#)

[Focus](#)

[Color](#)

...and a few other controls that affect the whole image.

Melancholytron's capabilities and controls are explained below.

Shape

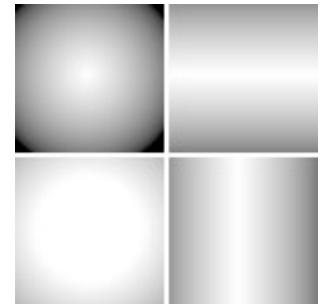
Melancholytron's effects are applied from zero to full strength across the image according to a gradient.

Shape specifies a round, horizontal, or vertical gradient.

Clear Area opens up a zero-strength region in the center of the gradient.

To move the gradient to a new position, click anywhere in the preview.

If you click and drag while zoomed in, that moves the whole preview.



clockwise from top left:

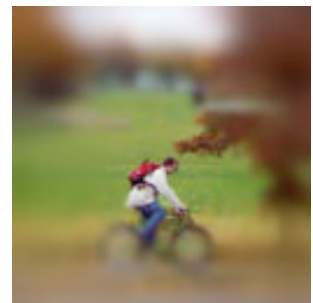
round, wide, and tall gradients; a round gradient with more clear area.

Focus

Focus makes the image blurry. This can simulate depth-of-field to draw the viewer's attention to the center of the picture.



original image



selective focus with a round gradient

Color blur smears only the color while leaving the luminance intact. This control says how much of this effect to apply.

CB width controls how blurry the color becomes.



blurred color

Color

Saturation influences the vividness of the colors. Unlike the other controls where 0 means “no effect,” Saturation works like this:

–100 strong negative color

–50 negative color

0 gray

50 normal color

100 strong normal color



saturation 0



saturation –50

Dampen makes vivid colors darker.



dampened trees

Vignette fades the edges of the picture to a uniform color.

The **center vignette** checkbox will arrange the vignette squarely on the middle of the image, regardless of where you have put the gradient.



vignette

The **color button** lets you choose the vignette color. Black works best and produces the appearance of a picture taken with a cheap lens or a bad flash.



color button

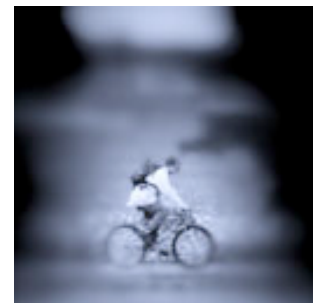
Sepia applies a tint to the image.

The **color button** lets you choose the sepia color. Medium gray yields a black-and-white picture; subtle hues close to gray give a traditional sepia look. Colors very close to black or to white can dramatically warp the contrast.

The **uniform sepia** checkbox applies the tint everywhere, instead of just near the edges.



uniform sepia



several effects combined

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.



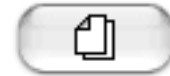
next glue

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: Melancholytron comes with some presets, which 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.

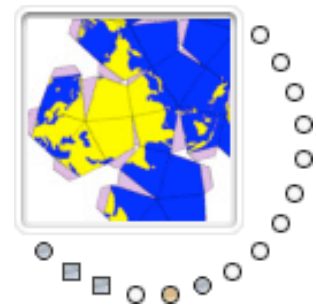
If a dot is orange, Melancholytron's currently using that dot's settings.

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

When you start Melancholytron, 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

Hints

Apply the filter twice for extra-intense results.

The dreamy effect that Melancholytron produces works best with wide-angle shots, views looking steeply up or down, and pictures depicting solitude or isolation.

Version history

Version 1.61

Fixes issues with stability and misaligned freeform selections in previews.

Version 1.6

64-bit version for Macintosh.

Version 1.5

64-bit version for Windows.

Version 1.4.1

Fixes a crash that can happen on Macintosh PowerPC machines.

Version 1.4

Adds convenience features to the interface. The Mac version is resizable.

Version 1.35

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

Version 1.32

Universal binary for Macintosh. Preset files have icons. Works as a Smart Filter in Adobe Photoshop CS3 Macintosh.

Version 1.3

Faster.

Version 1.22

High-quality checkbox lets you turn the smoother defocusing off to gain speed.

Version 1.2

New glue modes. Smoother defocusing.

Version 1.1

New glue modes. Works in 16-bit-per-component color.

Version 1.08

Recordable as a Photoshop action.

Version 1.06

Adds more glue modes and the next-glue button.

Version 1.05

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

Version 1.04

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 1.02

Makes the focus effect in the preview better resemble the final result.

Version 1.01

For Windows only, this fixes a problem where the plugin would make the host paint program would either crash on startup or fail to be recognized.

Version 1.0

The first public 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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