

# Melancholytron

**Flaming Pear Software**

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## 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](http://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->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.

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->Melancholytron.

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->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

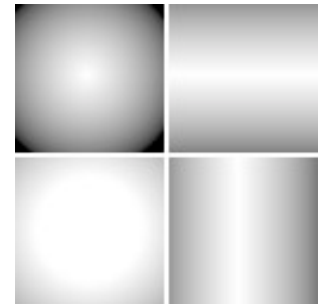
Melancholytron's effects are applied from zero to full strength across the image according to a gradient.

**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:

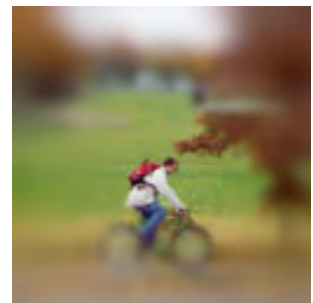
round, wide, and tall gradients; a round gradient with more clear area.

## 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

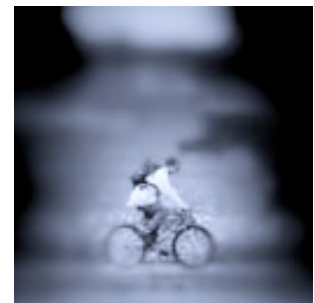
**Sepia** applies a tint to the image.

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.



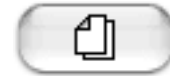
next glue

**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.

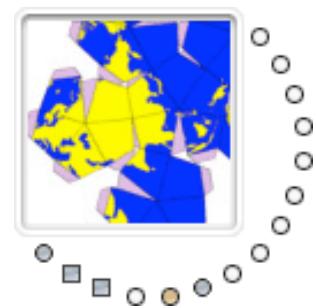
If a dot is orange, Melancholytron's currently using that dot's settings.

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 1.5 December 2009

64-bit version for Windows.

### Version 1.4.1 June 2008

Fixes a crash that can happen on Macintosh PowerPC machines.

### Version 1.4 May 2008

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

### Version 1.35 June 2007

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 February 2007

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

### Version 1.3 May 2005

Faster.

**Version 1.22 February 2005**

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

**Version 1.2 January 2005**

New glue modes. Smoother defocusing.

**Version 1.1 May 2004**

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

**Version 1.08 December 2003**

Recordable as a Photoshop action.

**Version 1.06 September 2003**

Adds more glue modes and the next-glue button.

**Version 1.05 February 2003**

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

**Version 1.04 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 1.02 June 2001**

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

**Version 1.01 January 2001**

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 December 2000

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](mailto:admin@kagi.com).

For bug reports and technical questions about the software, please write to [support@flamingpear.com](mailto:support@flamingpear.com).

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