



# ALCE 4

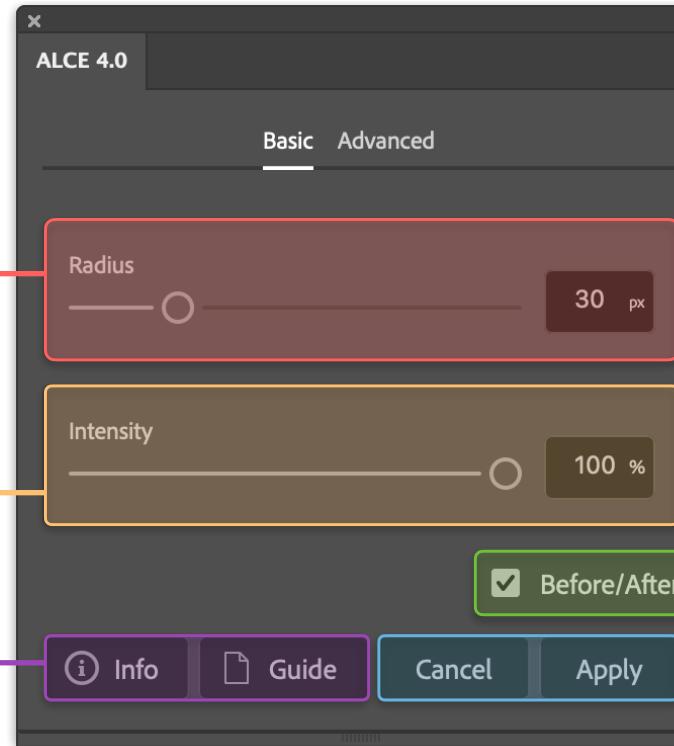
## QUICKSTART GUIDE

WHAT IS THIS FOR?

ALCE (**Advanced Local Contrast Enhancer**) is a Photoshop Plugin that boosts the image's Local Contrast, adding *shape* and a distinct 3D look.

# BASIC MODE

If you're after a quick Contrast Boost, **play with the Radius** and **click Apply**. That's it! **Repeat** until you're pleased with the result. You can always **reduce the Intensity** if it feels like too much.



The screenshot shows the ALCE 4.0 plugin window in Basic mode. It has two tabs at the top: 'Basic' (selected) and 'Advanced'. Below are two sliders: 'Radius' set to 30 px and 'Intensity' set to 100 %. A green checkbox labeled 'Before/After' is checked. At the bottom are buttons for 'Info', 'Guide', 'Cancel', and 'Apply'.

**Radius**  
How Local you want the Contrast boost to be:  
Large Radius → Global Contrast  
Small Radius → Local Contrast

**Intensity**  
How strong the Contrast will be

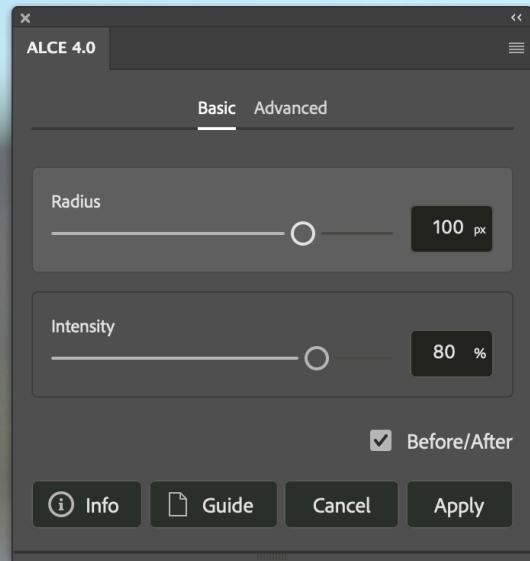
**Info / Guide**  
Get support or open this guide

**AT A GLANCE**

ALCE 4 is found the **Plugins** menu

**Before/After**  
Check/Uncheck to preview the effect

**Apply / Cancel**  
Apply the Contrast Boost / Cancel it



## High Radius

Gives shape to the portrait,  
without exaggerating skin texture  
or smaller, distracting elements.  
Tweak Intensity to taste.



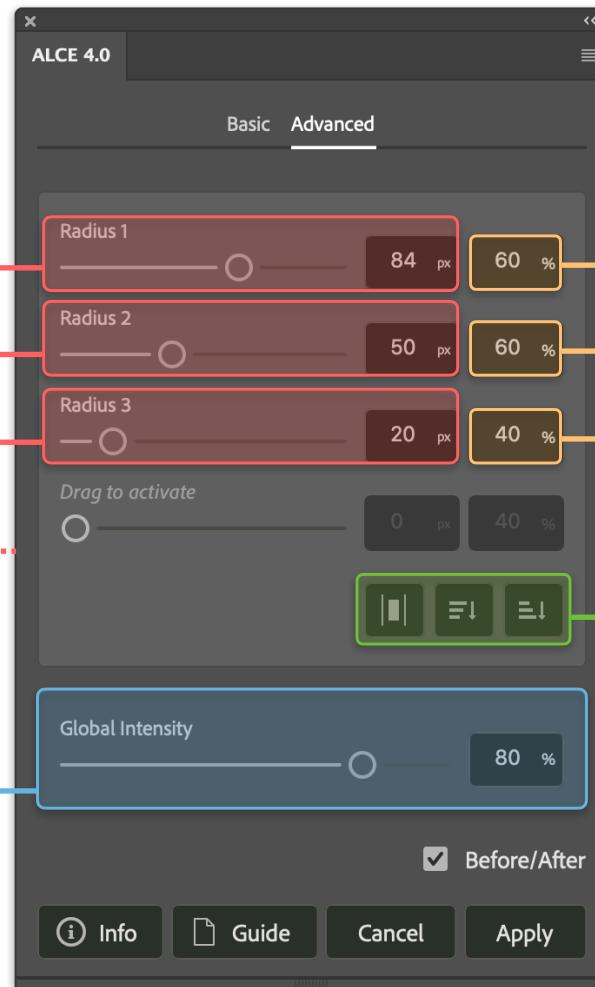


## Low Radius

Better fit for the feathers: it emphasises smaller features.  
Full Intensity for a stronger effect.

# ADVANCED USE

Get more elaborate effects modulating **multiple rounds** at **different Radii**.  
Play with Radius/Intensity of each round, click Apply. Repeat until you're satisfied.



## Radius

Each Radius will add an extra round of ALCE on top of the others (up to 4)

Drag to zero to deactivate a round

## Global Intensity

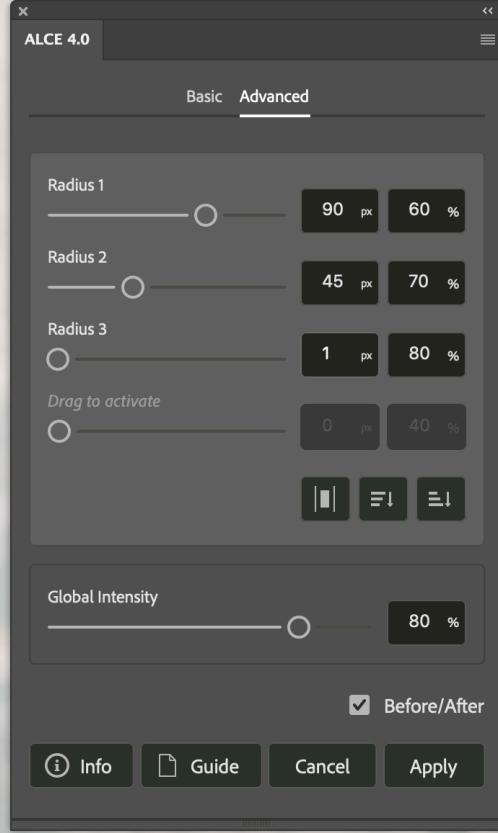
Control the combined effect's strength

## Intensity

For each individual round  
Hint: don't exaggerate!

## Radii spacing & sorting

Evenly space radii  
Sort Descending  
Sort Ascending



## Multiple Radii

The smallest Radius gives a sharpening effect to the subtle fabric features.

The median Radius adds shape and three-dimension to the lady's face and dress.

The largest Radius boosts a more "Global" Contrast. Global Intensity is set to taste.





ALCE 4.0

Basic Advanced

Radius 1: 300 px 40 %

Radius 2: 160 px 60 %

Radius 3: 70 px 70 %

Radius 4: 3 px 80 %

Global Intensity: 70 %

Before/After

Info Guide Cancel Apply

## Multiple Radii

Another example

01\_01 The ALCE tutorial videos | Introducing ALCE. By Marco Olivotto.  
Bologna, 16th May 2010  
(by Alessandro Bernardi - PSSchool)

01\_01 What is Local Contrast? | Introducing ALCE. By Marco Olivotto.  
from Know-How Transfer

**KNOW HOW TRANSFER**  
the photography knowledge hub

**1.1**  
Introducing ALCE

**Tutorial By Marco Olivotto**

What is Local Contrast?  
Understanding ALCE's Working Principles

Between Radius and Saturation  
Choosing ALCE's Radius and Dealing with Colors

radius 1÷200

Getting ALCE to Work  
Installing and Running the Script. The Interface

2.1 ALCE in the Abbey | Simple ALCE layers tuned with opacity and hand-made layer masks  
from Know-How Transfer

**KNOW HOW TRANSFER**  
the photography knowledge hub

ALCE in the Abbey  
Simple ALCE Layers Tuned with Opacity and Hand-Made Layer Masks

Even if it's been produced for ALCE® 2, on [YouTube](#) you can watch a +90 minutes, multi-parts, HD video tutorial covering the basics aspects of Local Contrast, and ALCE advanced masking / channel blending techniques.

Smoked ALCE  
Comparison and Blending of ALCE Layers with Different Radii

ALCE Goes Plastic  
Separating Light and Dark Halos, and Beyond

ALCE on Wuthering Heights  
Using Combination of Channels and Layer Masks

ALCE: Portrait or Fashion?  
Difference Leads to Different Approaches to the Same Image

02\_06 ALCE Gets Married | Working with ALCE. By Marco Olivotto.  
from Know-How Transfer

**2.6**  
Working with ALCE

ALCE Gets Married  
Enhancing Shape Where There's Little

02\_08 ALCE, Leak-a-boo | Working with ALCE. By Marco Olivotto.  
from Know-How Transfer

**2.8**  
Working with ALCE

ALCE, Leak-a-boo  
Localizing the Effect by Conditional Blending

ALCE in the Lab  
A Diversion Into a Powerful Colorspace

02\_07 ALCE in the Lab | Working with ALCE. By Marco Olivotto.  
from Know-How Transfer

**2.7**  
Working with ALCE

ALCE in the Lab  
A Diversion Into a Powerful Colorspace

02\_09 ALCE finds the Key | Working with ALCE. By Marco Olivotto.  
from Know-How Transfer

**2.9**  
Working with ALCE

ALCE Finds the Key  
A Difficult Case Which Requires Black Magic

02\_10 ALCE: The ultimate nightmare | Working with ALCE. By Marco Olivotto.  
from Know-How Transfer

**2.10**  
Working with ALCE

The Ultimate Nightmare  
Improving Impossible CMYK Conversions

## COMPATIBILITY

**ALCE 4** is only compatible with **Photoshop 2021** onwards, on either Mac/PC.

If you need backward compatibility you must buy the previous version, ALCE 3.

## SUPPORT

If you need support, you can reach me at:

**support@cs-extensions.com**

Thanks for buying ALCE – you're helping me building more Photoshop products such as the ones you can find at [cc-extensions.com](#)

Davide Barranca