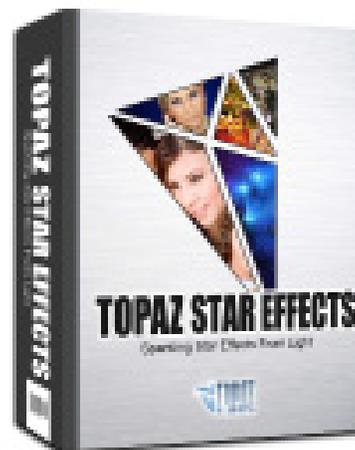




# Topaz ● Star Effects

## User Manual



Creative light control that allows you to create unique light and star effects by manipulating and enhancing the light and reflective sources in your images.



## I. Installation

- A. How to Install.....3
- B. Entering Your Key.....3
- C. Host-Specific Installation.....3
  - 1. Paint Shop Pro .....4
  - 2. Photo Impact.....5
  - 3. Irfanview.....6
- D. Uninstalling.....7

## II. Introduction

- A. About Topaz Star Effects.....8
  - 1. Primary Functions.....8
- B. Program Features.....9

## III. New Features

- A. Star Brush.....10
- B. Star Type.....10
- C. Mode.....11
- D. Apply Button.....12
- E. Auto Light Detection.....12
- F. Split Screen View.....13
- G. Interface Style.....14

## IV. Work Area

- A. Interface.....15
- B. Preview.....19
- C. Presets.....21
  - 1. Applying Presets.....21
  - 2. Adding Presets.....21
  - 3. Deleting Presets.....22
  - 4. Importing Presets.....23
  - 5. Exporting Presets.....23

- 6. Sharing Presets.....23
- D. Tools.....24
- E. Menu.....25
  - 1. Preferences.....25
  - 2. Check for Update.....25
  - 3. Enter Key.....26
  - 4. What's This?.....26
  - 5. User Guide.....26
  - 6. Tech Support.....26
  - 7. Product Info.....26
  - 8. Gallery.....26
  - 9. MyTopaz.....26
  - 10. Tutorials.....26
  - 11. About.....26

## IV. Settings & Parameters

- A. Presets.....27
- B. Star Settings.....28
- C. Main Adjustments.....29
- D. Color Adjustments.....30
- E. Additional Effects.....30

## VI. Work Flow

- A. Sample Project #1.....31
- B. Sample Project #2.....38

## VII. Additional Resources

- A. Glossary.....46
- B. FAQ's.....48
- C. Connect.....50
- D. Company Info.....51

Topaz Star Effects is a Photoshop plug-in, which means it won't run by itself and requires a compatible host program for use.

### To Install

1. Close Photoshop or other image editing program if you are using it.
2. Double-click on the Topaz Star Effects folder to access the installer, and then follow the on-screen instructions.



Mac Dmg



Windows exe

3. Your Topaz Star Effects plug-in will automatically be installed in your Photoshop plug-ins folder.
4. After the installation, you will need to enter your license or trial key.

### **Important for Mac Users:**

After installation, Topaz Star Effects will be installed in the following folder: “**Macintosh HD** -> Library -> Application Support -> Topaz Labs -> Star Effects”.

If your Photoshop is installed in a customized location, you will need to manually create a shortcut (alias) link inside folder “<Photoshop install folder> -> Plug-ins” that links to “**Macintosh HD** -> Library -> Application Support -> Topaz Labs -> Star Effects -> Plug-ins”.

### Entering Your Key

Entering your trial key allows you to save your projects and print them during your evaluation period. Entering your license key allows you do the same, except without any time limitations.

1. Start by opening up an image in Photoshop.
2. Go to Filters -> Topaz Labs -> Star Effects -> Menu -> Enter key.
3. You can then copy and paste or type your key in.

**Important:** To install the product on a second computer, you will need to download Topaz Star Effects and then enter your same license key.

### Host-Specific Installation

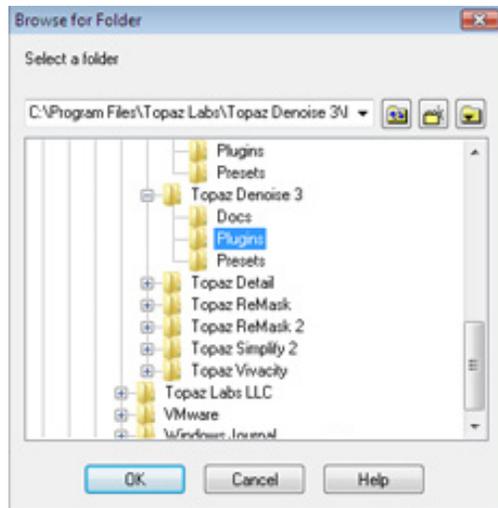
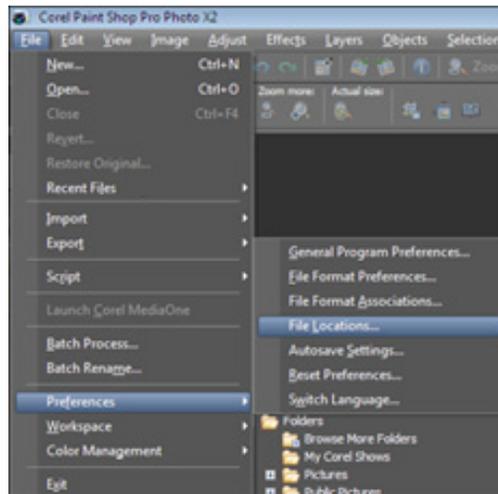
Topaz Star Effects is also compatible with Lightroom, Aperture and iPhoto. To use Star Effects in any of these programs you will need to download and install the free Topaz Fusion Express compatibility add on. You can get it online at: [www.topazlabs.com/downloads](http://www.topazlabs.com/downloads)

In Windows, Topaz Star Effects is supported by most host applications that support Photoshop plug-ins. This includes Paint Shop Pro, Photo Impact and Irfanview, although there are additional host programs that may also support Topaz Star Effects.

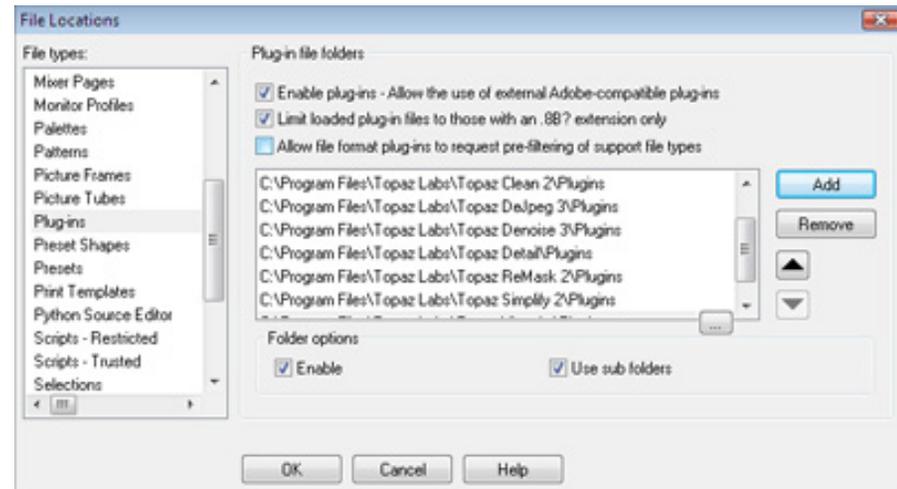
To install Star Effects in either Paint Shop Pro, Photo Impact, or Irfanview first download Topaz Star Effects to the default location. Then, to configure it into each program, follow the host-specific instructions on the next page.

## How to install Topaz Star Effects in Paintshop Pro

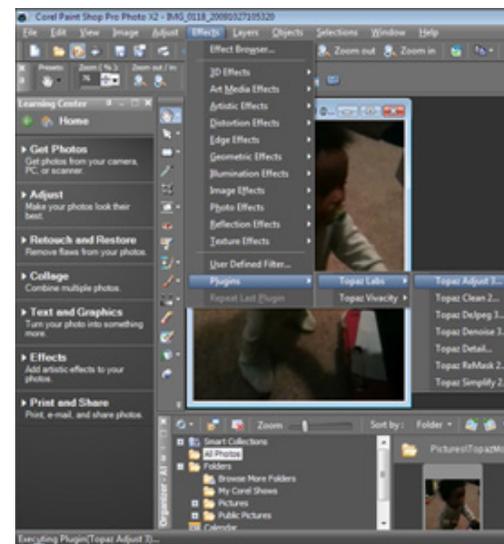
1. First launch PaintShop Pro / Photo Impact.
2. Go to Menu file -> Preferences -> File Locations. Select "Plug-ins" from the "File Types" list and click "Add".



3. Choose C:\Program Files\Topaz Labs\Topaz Star Effects plug-ins and click "OK".

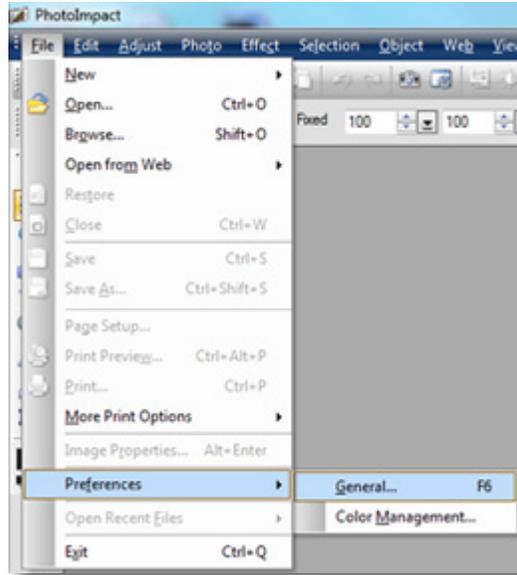


4. Topaz Star Effects is now available to use. Simply go to Effects -> Plug-ins and select "Star Effects".

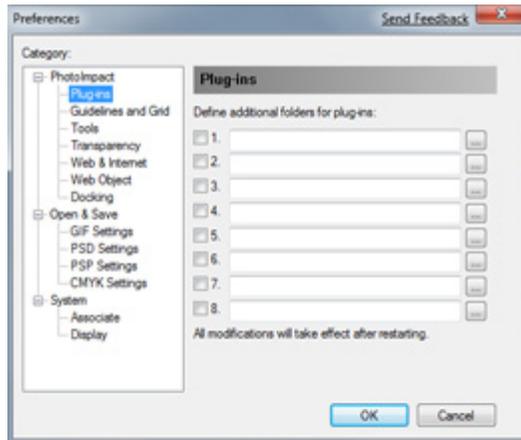


## How to install Topaz Star Effects in Photo Impact

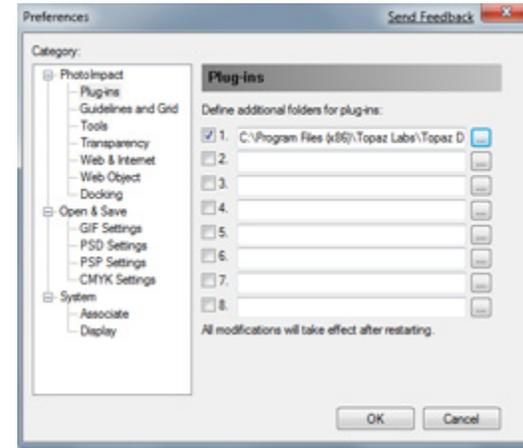
1. First launch Photo Impact.
2. Go to File -> Preferences -> General or use shortcut key F6.



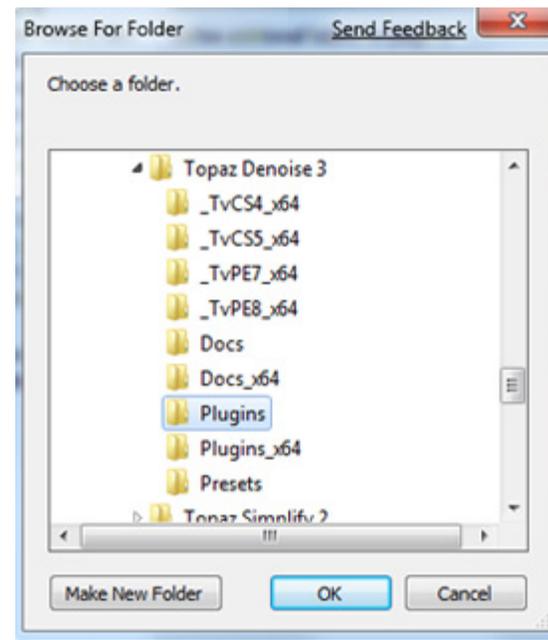
3. Select Plug-ins from the Categories list.



Then click on the ... button and browse to find the Star Effects plug-in folder located in: C:\Program Files\Topaz Labs\Topaz Star Effects plug-ins and click "OK".

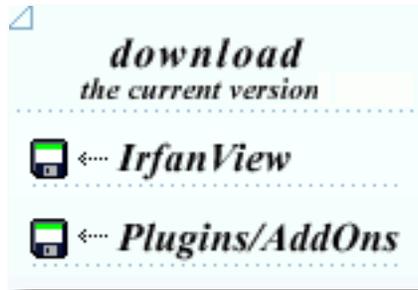


4. Restart Photo Impact. Go to Menu -> Effect to access the plug-in.

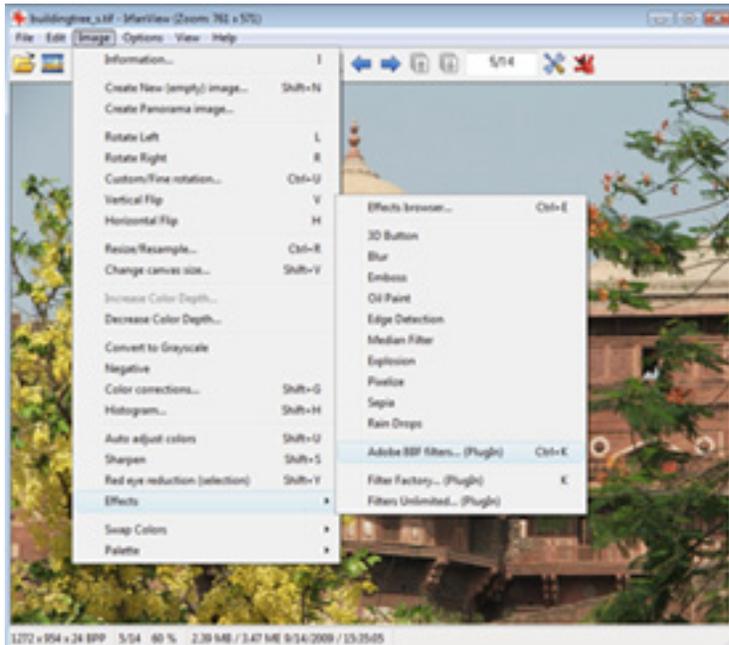


## How to install Topaz Star Effects in Irfanview

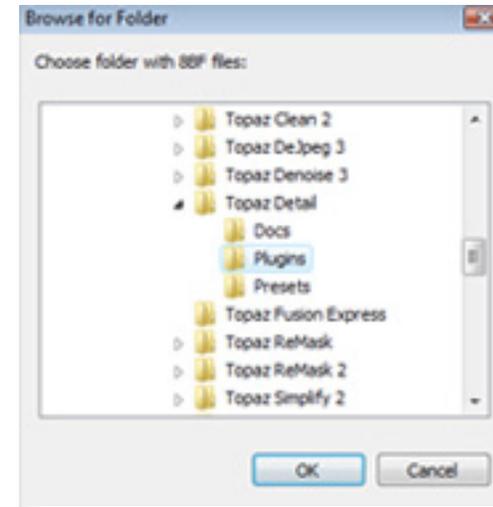
1. Make sure that you have downloaded and installed the 8bf plug-in add-on, available on the Irfanview webpage. (<http://www.software.com/irfanview-plugin>)



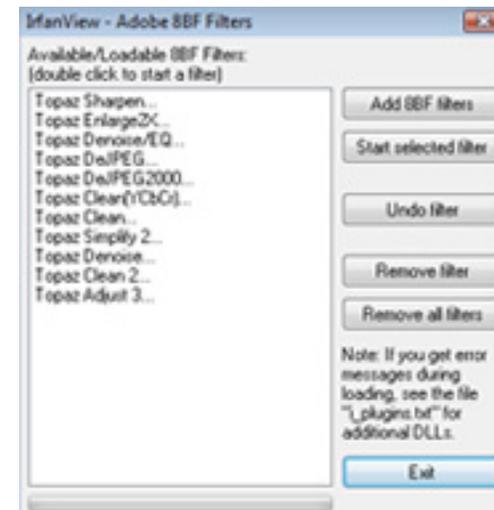
2. Open Irfanview and go to Image -> Effects -> Adobe 8BF filters.



3. In the screen that pops up, select “Add 8BF filters” and navigate to the C:\Program Files\Topaz Labs\Topaz Star Effects \Plug-ins folder and click “OK”. You will then see “Topaz Star Effects” in the Available/ Loadable 8BF Filters section.



4. To use Topaz Star Effects in the future, simply go to Image -> Effects> Adobe 8BF filters again and select “Topaz Star Effects”.



To uninstall Topaz Star Effects follow these instructions:

## Mac

1. Quit Photoshop (or other editing program).
2. Navigate to the Topaz Labs support files and frames located at: Macintosh HD -> Library -> Application Support -> Topaz Labs.
3. Locate the Topaz Star Effects file and move it to the trash. You will need to enter your system password to OK this change.
4. Navigate to your Photoshop plug-ins folder located at: Applications -> Photoshop -> Plug-ins
5. Locate any leftover Topaz Star Effects files and move it to the trash.

## Windows XP\*

1. Quit Photoshop (or other editing program).
2. Click on the Start Menu and select Control Panel.
3. Double-click on Add / Remove programs.
4. Select Topaz Star Effects and click remove.

## Windows Vista\*

1. Quit Photoshop (or other editing program).

2. Click on the Start Menu and select Control Panel.
3. Select Programs, then Uninstall a Program.
4. Select Topaz Star Effects and click remove.

## Windows 7\*

1. Quit Photoshop (or other editing program).
2. Click on the Start Menu and select Control Panel -> Programs -> Programs and Features.
3. Select Topaz Star Effects and click uninstall.

\*Please note that if you also have the 64-bit version of Star Effects installed, then you will need to first uninstall this version before you can uninstall the regular version.

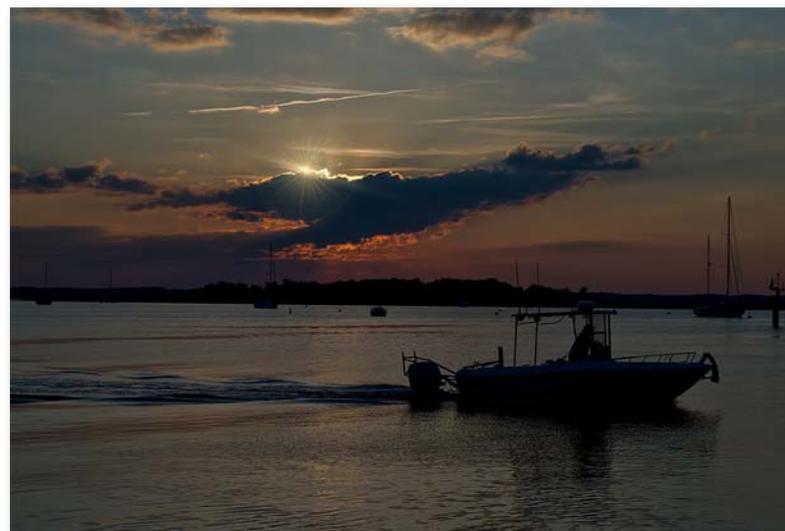


Image by Topaz User - Steve Rich

## Topaz Star Effects

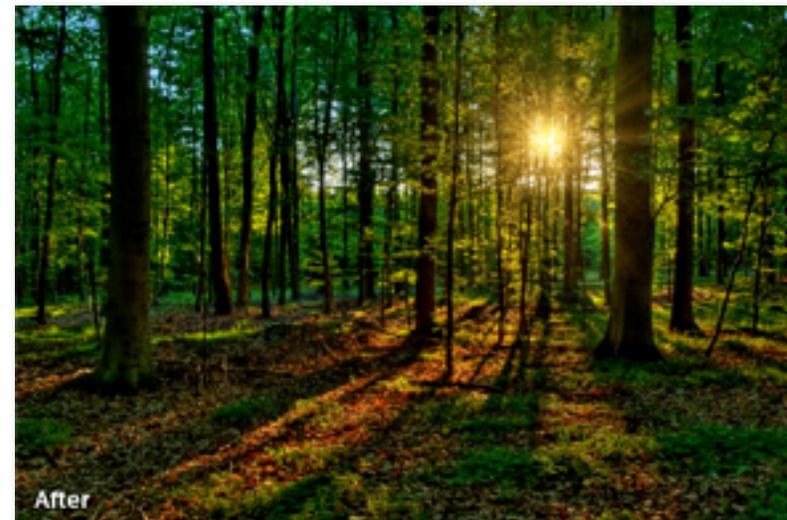
### About Topaz Star Effects

Topaz Star Effects is a light enhancement program that offers creative control over the light and reflective sources in your image. You can easily manipulate and enhance these lighting sources to create unique light and star effects.

### The Primary Functions of Topaz Star Effects Include:

1. Easily add sparkling, realistic star effects.
2. Enhance or reorient the look of light from source points.
3. Effortlessly add excitement and drama, or even change the entire mood of images.
4. Add bling/sparkle, shimmering water effects, beams of light and more.
5. Create unique backgrounds by extracting the created star effects.

Visit the Topaz user Gallery to see more user examples: <http://gallery.topazlabs.com/>



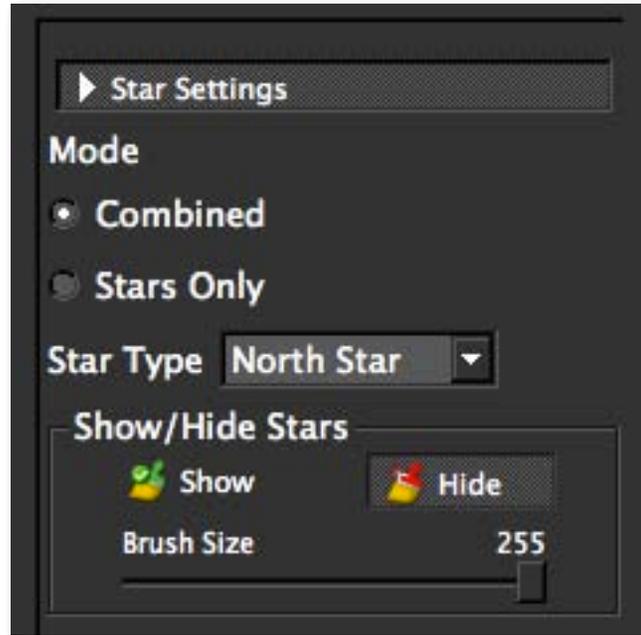
## Star Effects Features

1. **Star Brush.** Selective brush for quick and easy inclusion and exclusion of light sources.
2. **Apply Button.** Offers the ability to stack a variety of star effects.
3. **Presets.** Includes various presets for a quick and easy workflow.
4. **Mode Selection.** Offers two viewing/editing modes – combined and Stars only.
5. **Split Screen.** Use the 2-screen split view for easy before and after comparison.
6. **Undo / Redo buttons.**
7. **Collapsible side panels.** Expand and collapse the preset panel and the tool panel for an adjustable workspace.
8. **Snap / Recall buttons.** Save up to 99 snapshot settings for comparison.
9. **Auto Updater.** Get software updates instantly.
10. **Preset Navigation.** Use the up / down arrow keys to navigate the preset list and display the selected preset thumbnail (in preset preview window). Use the return (Enter) key to apply the currently selected preset.
11. **Enable / Disable Tool Tips.** Option to enable or disable the pop up tool tips.
12. **Quick Slider Reset.** Double click on the slider name to reset default slider values.



## NEW: Star Brush

Topaz Star Effects includes a star brush for quick selection of light sources. The easy-to-use brush is designed to help you individually select which light sources in your image to include/exclude.



### Show (selecting additional) Light Sources

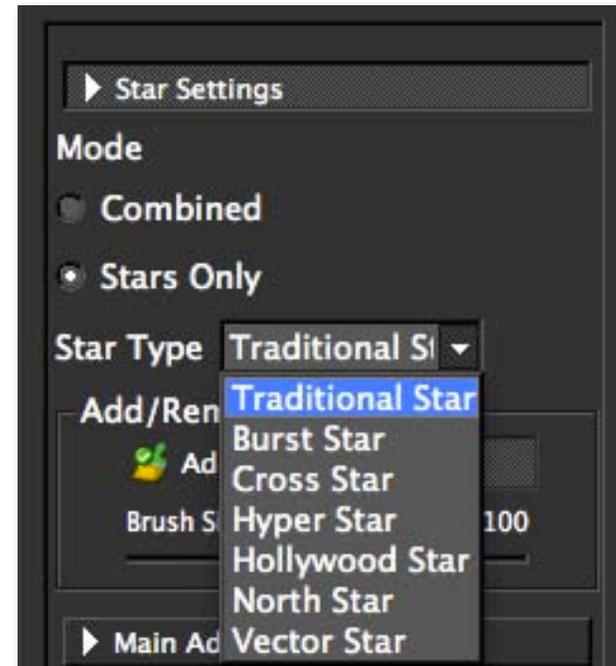
Select the Show option and then click on (or brush over) the light sources in your image that you want to add the effect to.

### Hide (removing additional) Light Sources

Select the Hide option and then click on (or brush over) the light sources in your image that you want to remove the added effects from.

## NEW: Star Type

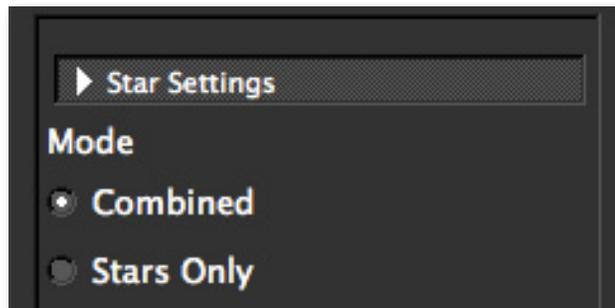
Located in the Star Settings tab is a drop down box that allows you to choose the type of star effect that you want to apply – choose from options like traditional, starburst, cross star, hollywood star and more!



Using the various adjustment sliders in the Main, Color and Additional adjustment tabs, you can create completely customized variations of the star types.

## NEW: Mode

There are two viewing/editing modes (located in the Star Settings tab) – combined and Stars only. The combined mode allows you to see your base image along with the applied star effects.



The Stars only mode allows you to view just your added star effects (on a black background) without your base image.

What's unique about this is that you also have the option of saving just the created star effects back to Photoshop (or your other host program) – just make sure that the Stars Only mode is selected before you click the OK button. This is great for creating your own unique backgrounds.



## NEW: Apply Button

The Apply button allows you to stack multiple star effects (with different characteristics) during the same workflow.



## NEW: Auto Light Detection

When you open the program and select one of the default presets, it will automatically detect the light sources in your image and apply the effect to those light sources.



To learn more about Effect Collections and other Topaz B&W Effect's features sign up for one of our FREE webinars. [www.topazlabs.com/webinars](http://www.topazlabs.com/webinars)

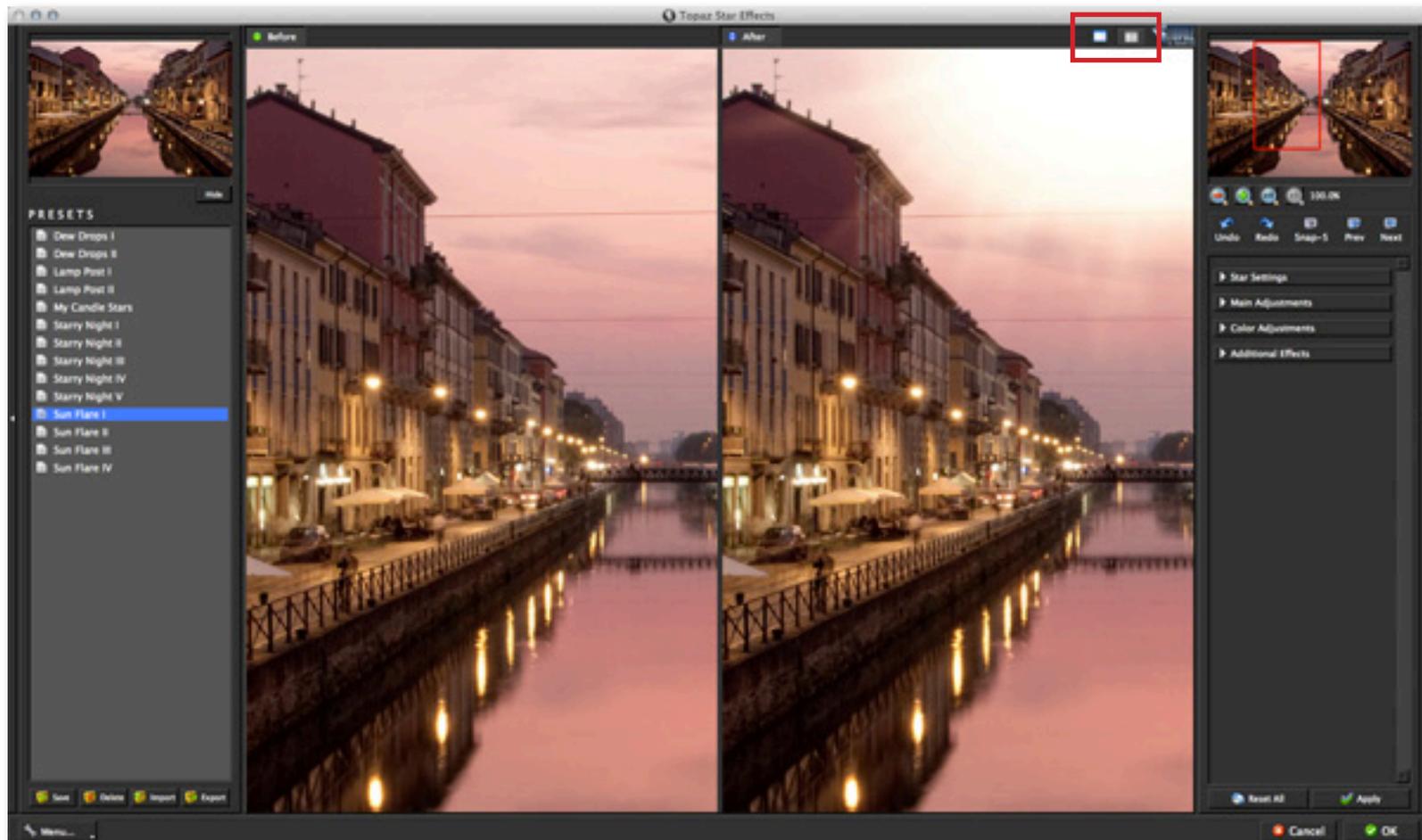
## NEW: Split Screen View

Topaz Star Effects interface features a 2-screen split viewing option for easy before and after comparison.



Use the single screen button to see the full image preview.  
Use the 2-split button to see before and after comparison.

Use the preview navigator (top right of interface) to pan the preview or drag the images around in the preview.

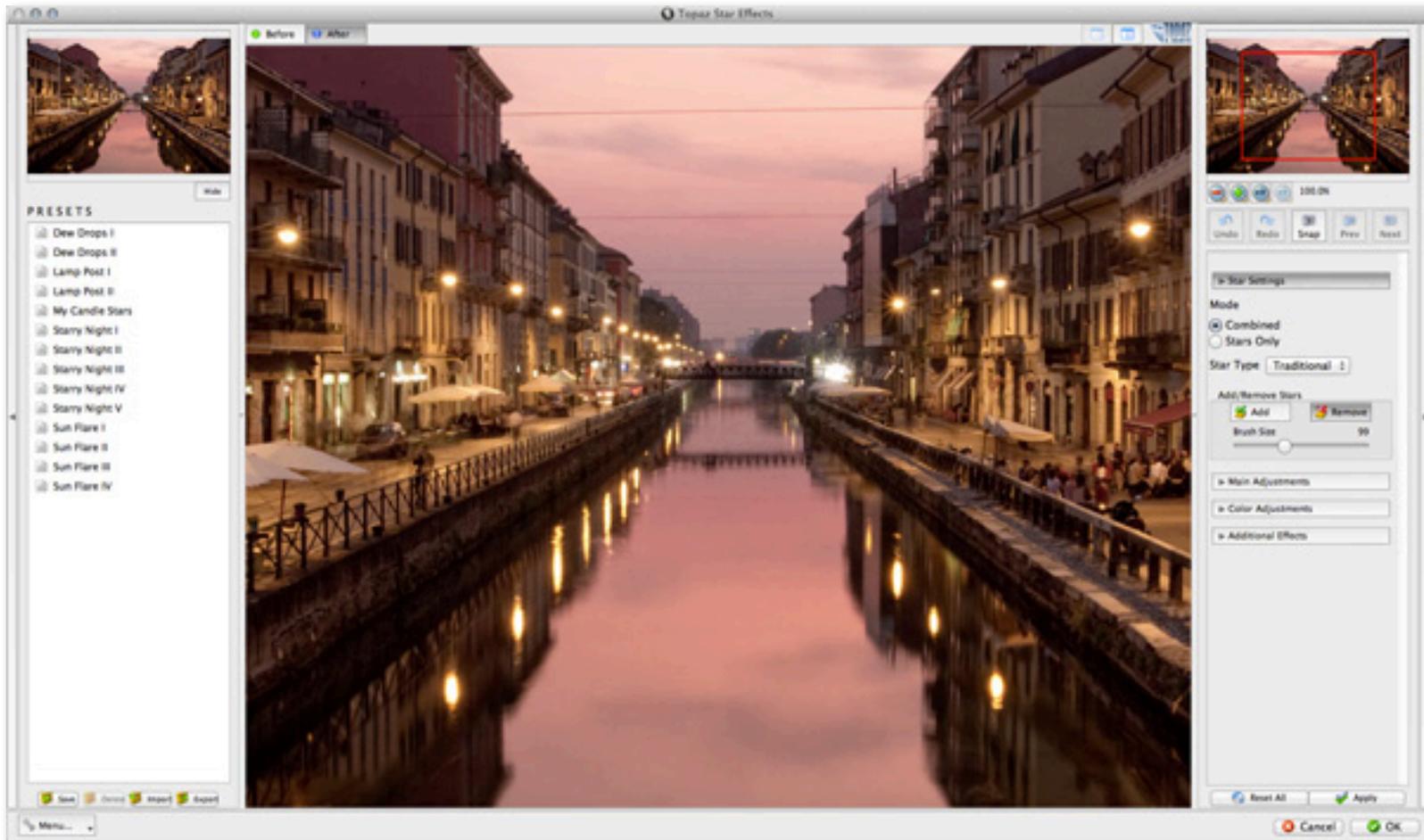


## NEW: Interface Style

By default, Star Effects uses the darker Topaz Style interface. However, you have the option in your StarEffects' preferences menu to change this interface setting to a lighter color scheme.

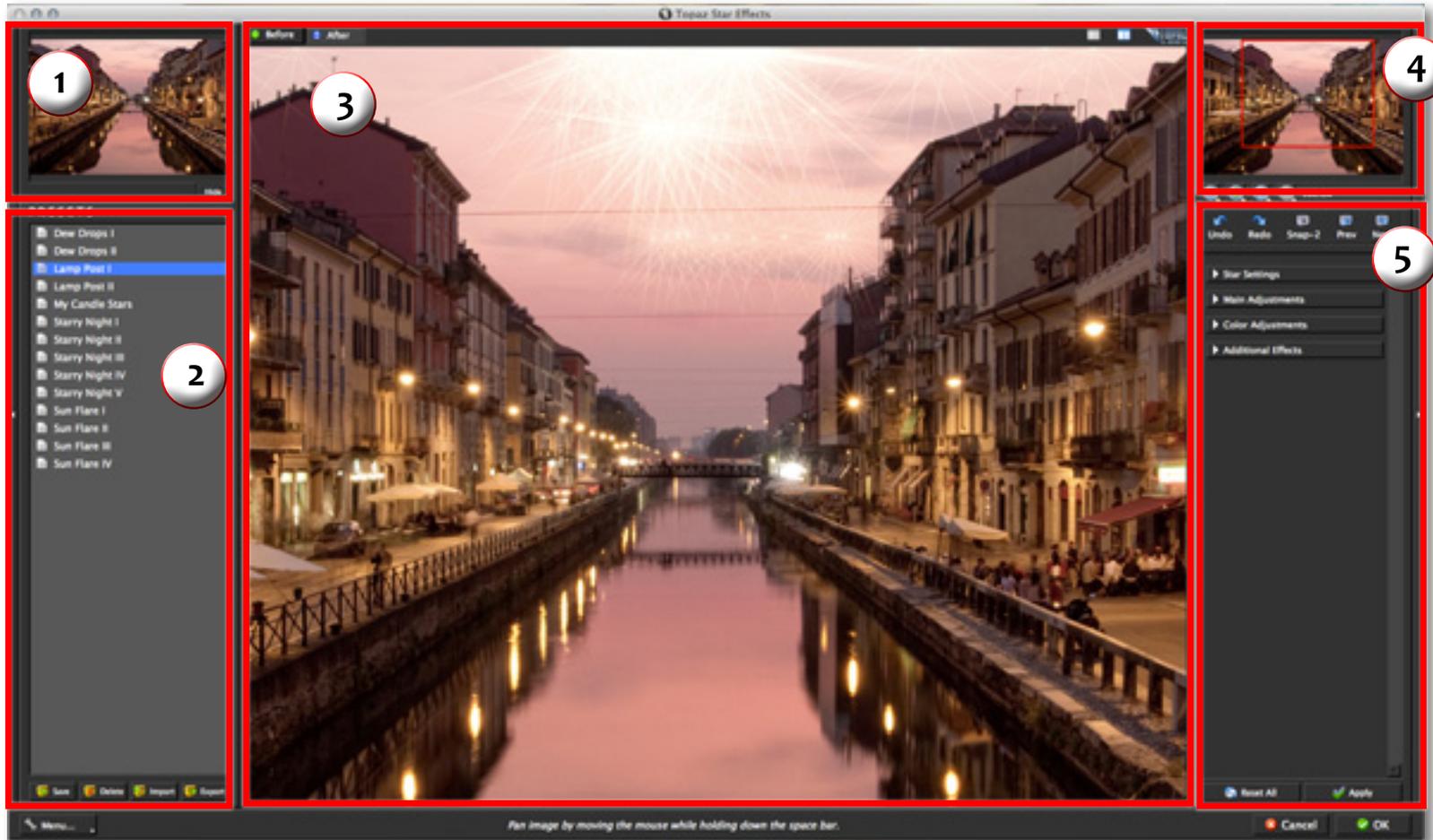
Simply go to Menu -> Preferences from within the Star Effects program and uncheck the "Use Topaz Style" box. The next time you restart Star Effects your program will feature the lighter-colored interface.

Go to Menu -> Preferences and check the "Use Topaz Style" box and restart Star Effects to re-enable the darker color scheme.



## Interface (Main View)

Although the Topaz Star Effects interface may look intimidating at first glance, don't worry: it's actually quite simple and easy to use. You'll soon be a pro after experimenting with it for a bit. In order to make sense of the function of each of the various controls, we have divided the interface into a few sections:



1. Presets Preview  
Displays previews of the included presets.

2. Presets Panel  
Provides “snapshots” of pre-defined effects.

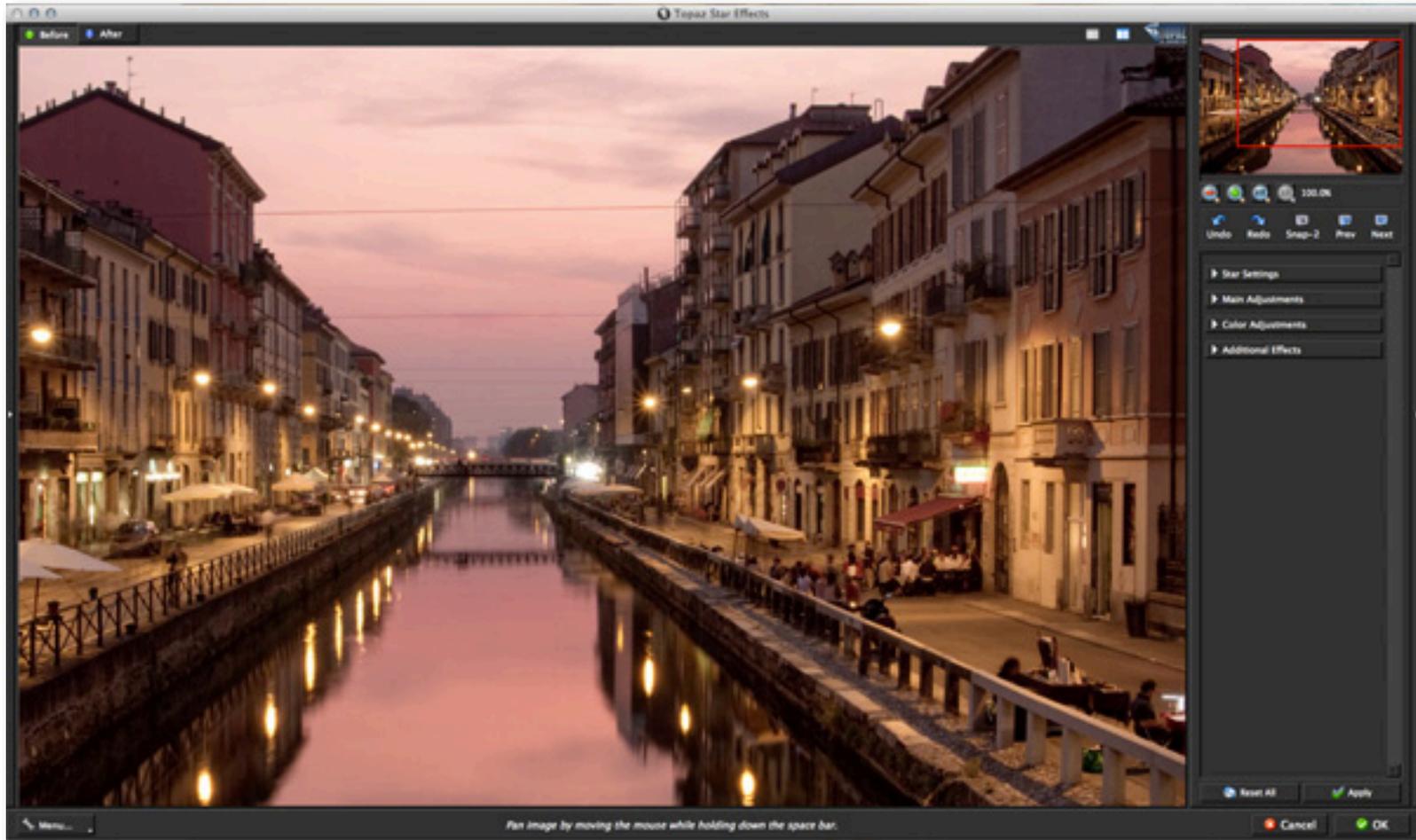
3. Preview Window  
Displays the preview of the original and adjusted image.

4. Preview Navigator  
Displays the region of the preview image you are currently focused on.

5. Settings & Parameters  
Controls the editing using sliders to adjust the various effects.

## Interface (Tool Panel View)

Use the small white arrows to expand and collapse the preset panel. You can click the white arrow  or grab the edge of the panel and drag it in or out - note that tool selections will change depending on which effect is selected.



## Interface (No Panel View)

Use the small white arrows to expand and collapse the preset and tool panels. You can click the white arrows or grab the edge of the panels and drag them in or out.

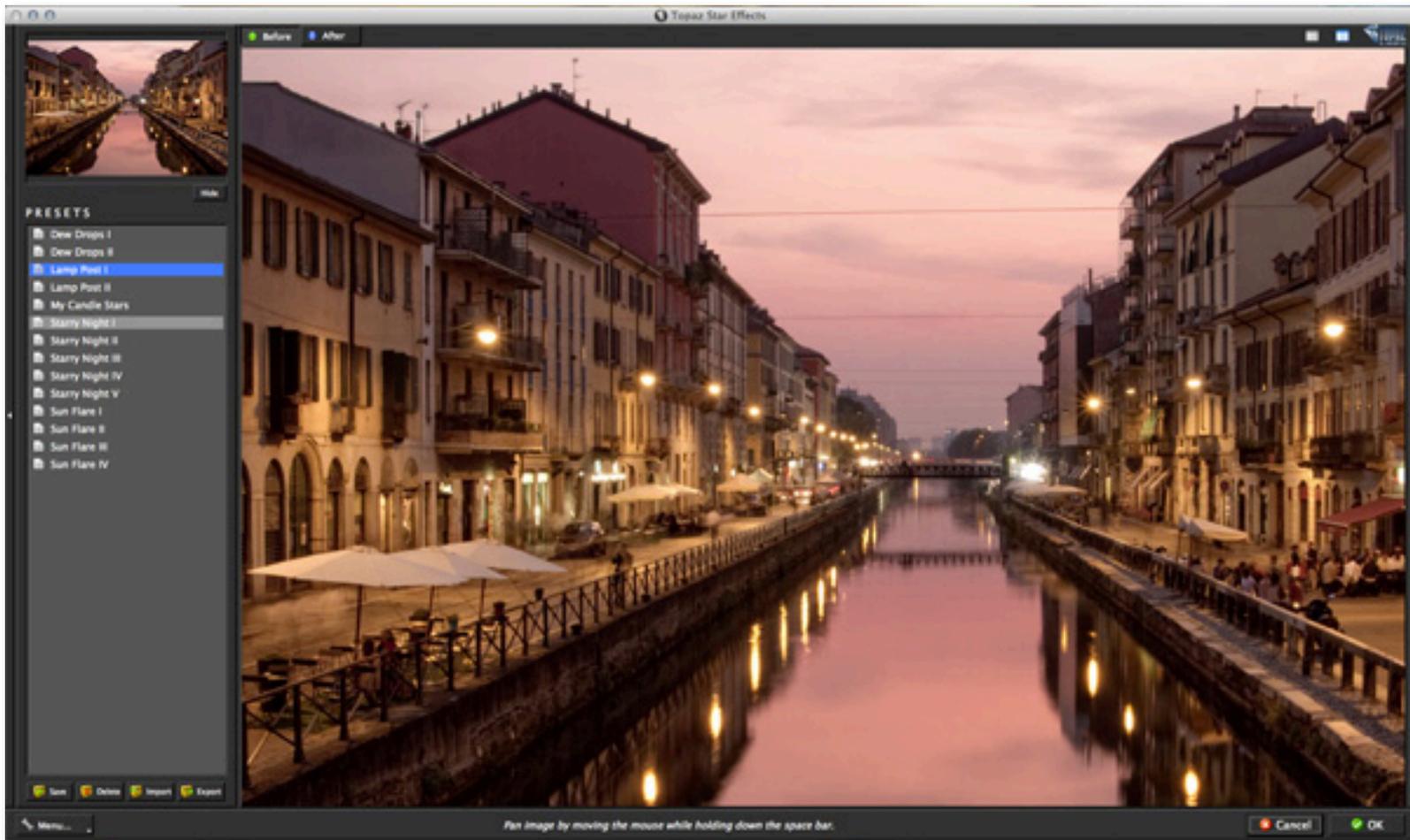


## Interface (Preset Panel View)

Use the small white arrows to expand and collapse the tool panel. You can click the white arrow edge of the panel and drag it in or out.



or grab the

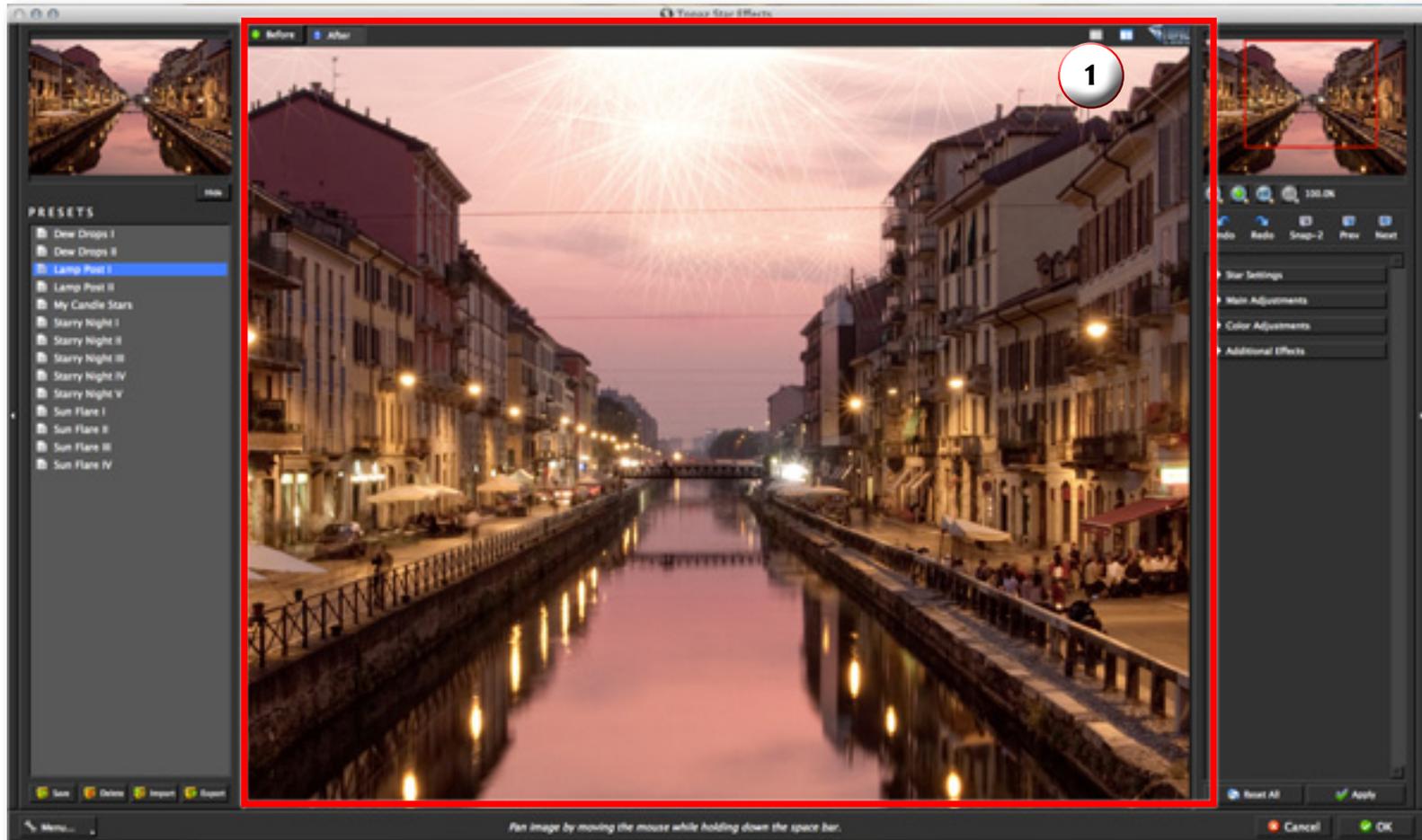


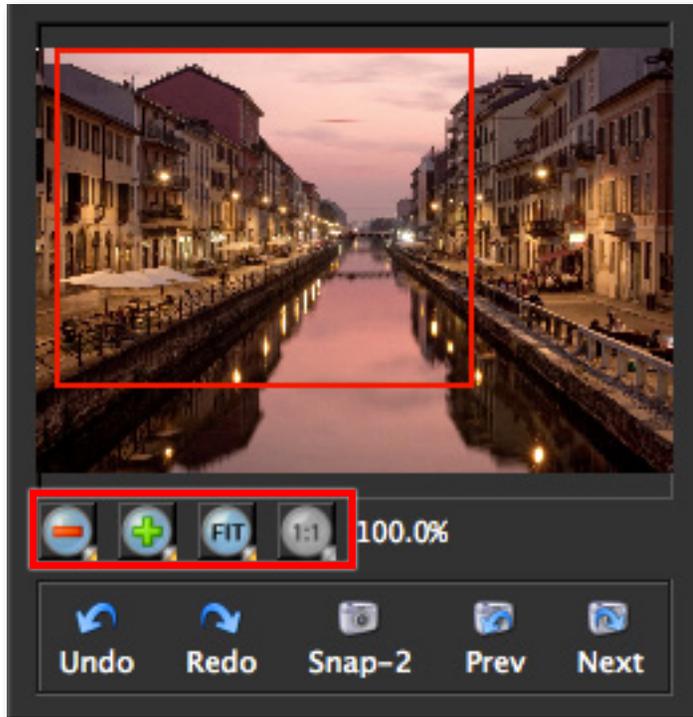
## Preview Section

The Preview section is the main window that is centered in the Star Effects interface. The preview section shows you the original image and the processed preview of the image. Click on the image in the preview window (or use the Original and Preview buttons) to switch between the Original and Preview tabs and compare the filtered and un-filtered images.

To pan the preview image, click and hold the left mouse button on the preview image and drag it around. When you let go of the mouse button, the new portion of the image will be processed and the result will be displayed.

You can also use SPACE bar or your numbered shortcut keys "1" and "2" to switch back and forth between your filtered and unfiltered image in the preview window.





You can zoom in or out of the preview image by clicking the “+”, or “-” buttons below the preview image. You can also resize the window as well by dragging the bottom right corner in and out.

The “Fit” button will fit the entire image into the preview window.

The “100%” button will zoom to 100% view.

If zoomed below 100% the preview image will be internally resized in order to speed up preview updating.

Star Effects presets offer a convenient 1-click workflow that is quick and simple.



The “Ctrl +” and “Ctrl -” keys zoom in and out of the image, just like in Photoshop.

You can use the arrow keys to adjust the value of the slider that is currently selected.

A complete list of the shortcut keys can be found in the Shortcut Keys section later in this manual.

Photoshop and other host software support many Image Modes, such as Grayscale, RGB, LAB, CMYK, etc. Images can also be 8, 16, or 32 bits per channel. Topaz Star Effects supports both 8 bits per channel and 16 bits per channel. Star Effects supports RGB mode only. To work on black-and-white images, first convert them to RGB mode.

## Presets

Presets are a great way to speed up and simplify the whole process of using Topaz Star Effects. Presets are set previews with previously defined settings that you can recall and reapply at any time.

We've included some default effects and presets for you and, although they won't work for every single photograph, they serve as excellent starting points for customized tweaking.

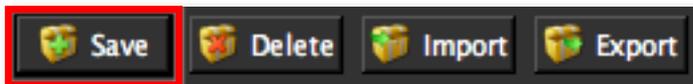
### Applying Presets

Applying a default preset is easy and intuitive. Simply clicking on a preset will change all the settings in Topaz Star Effects to match those in the selected preset.

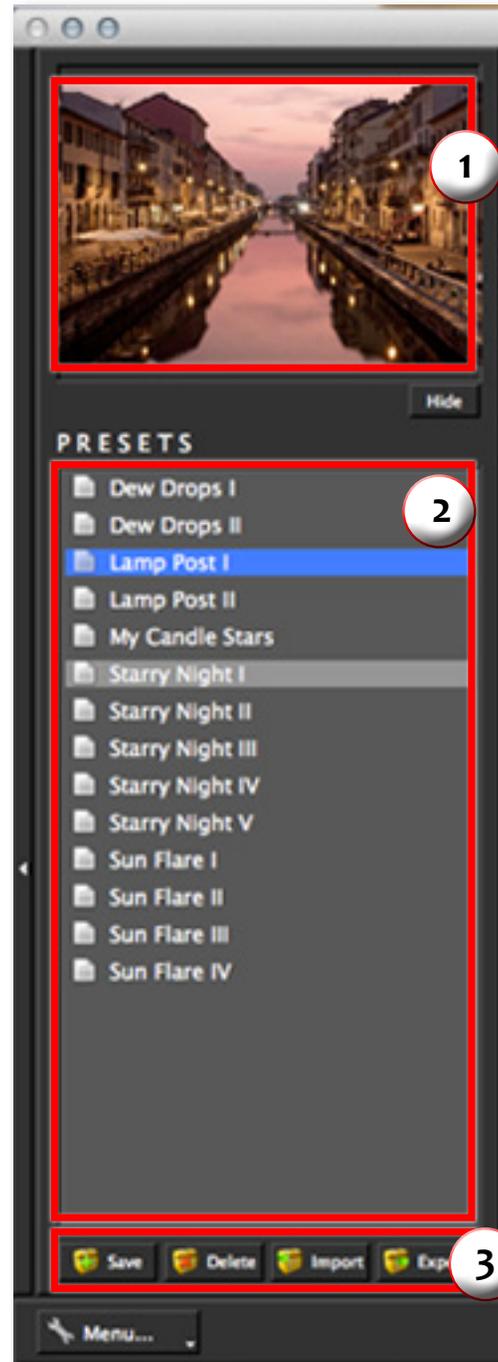
To get the exact results you want, you may still want to go through the tabs and tweak the parameters.

### Adding Presets

Sometimes it's convenient to be able to define presets and save your settings for later use. To do this, first adjust the Topaz Star Effects parameters until you're satisfied with the result. Then, click on "Save".



Remember that you can easily expand or collapse the presets panel by clicking on the small white arrow on the edge of the panel or by grabbing the panel edge and dragging it in or out.



# Work Area

## 1. Presets Preview

The removable preview window displays preset previews. Click Hide / Show to expand or collapse the preset preview window at anytime during your workflow.

## 2. Presets List

Lists all of the saved presets available for use.

## 3. Preset Options

The preset options allow you to save your presets, delete presets (default presents cannot be deleted), import new presets and export your saved presets to share with your friends.

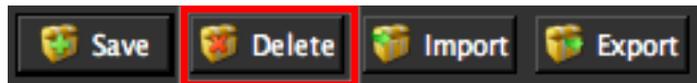
Next, enter a preset name, select the type of image that it is good for and then enter a description and click “OK”. You can also select a second image category type that the preset is good for.

Note that if the name you’ve entered is the same as a preset you’ve already defined then you will be asked if overwrite the previous one.

Your preset will be automatically saved as a new file with a “.tpp” extension in the Topaz Star Effects Presets menu and the preview is automatically generated. To apply it later, just click it like any other preset.

### Deleting Presets

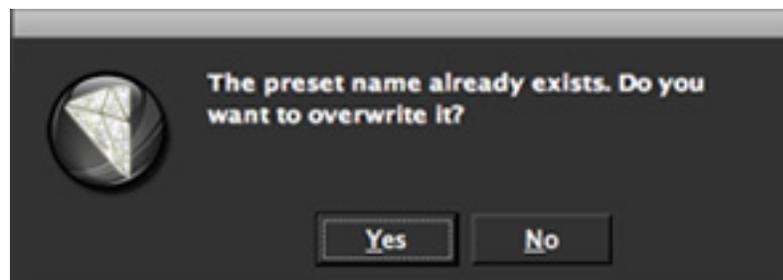
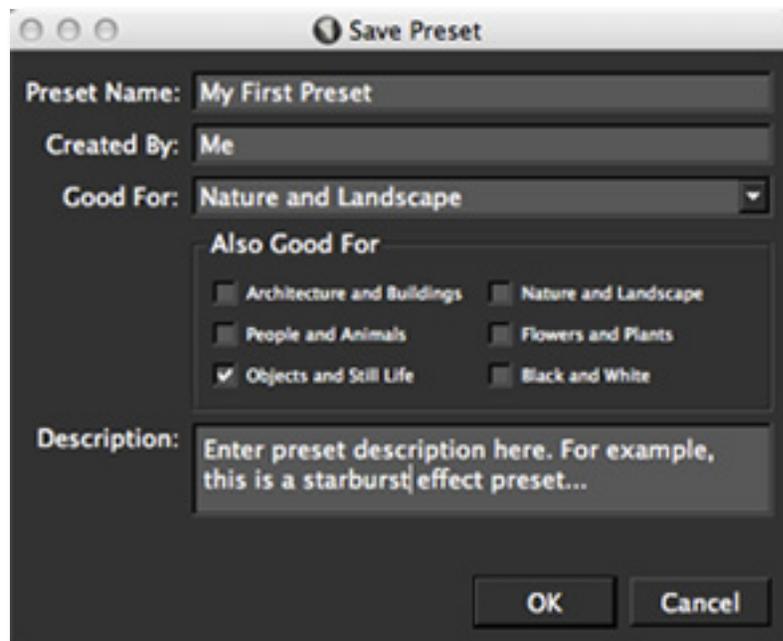
If you’d like to delete a preset, use the Delete option with your desired preset selected.



**Please Note:** Default presents cannot be overridden or deleted. Once you delete a preset it or overwrite it, it cannot be retrieved.

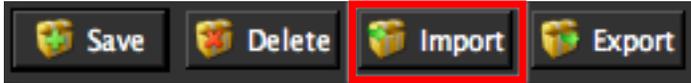
Saved presets are located in the Topaz Star Effects “Presets” folder:  
C:\Program Files\Topaz Labs \ Topaz Star Effects \ Presets unless you’ve opted to install Topaz Star Effects into a different directory.

Mac users have this folder at: HD / Library / ApplicationSupport / TopazLabs / Star Effects / Presets.

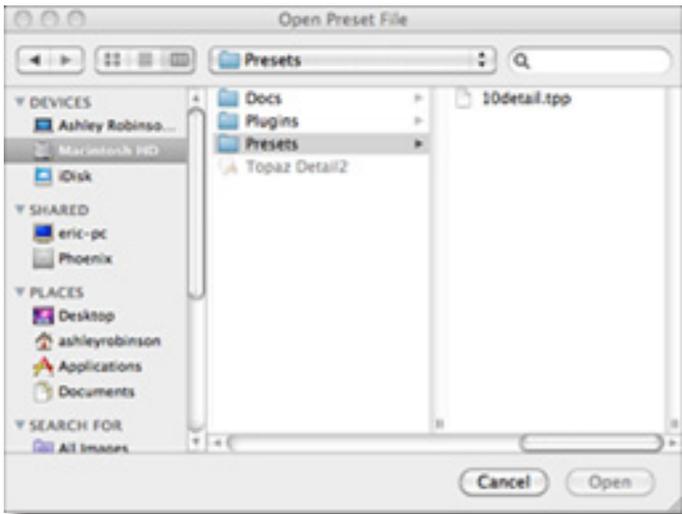


### Importing Presets

To import a preset file, click the “Import” button.



This will open up a “Browse” box to import a saved preset from your computer into Topaz Star Effects. This is useful if you have downloaded a preset file that you’d like to use.



### Sharing Presets

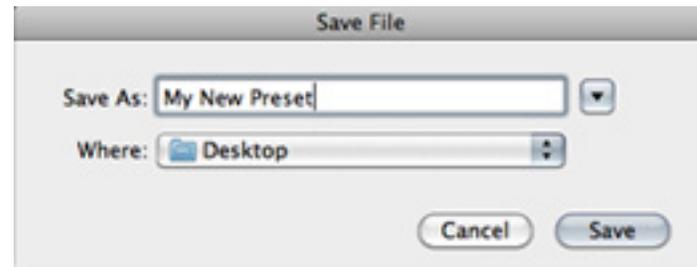
Feel free to share your saved presets by emailing them to your friends and having them put it into their Topaz Star Effects Presets folder.

### Exporting Presets

To export the preset file to a certain location, click “Export”.



Name your preset and save it to your desktop or other specified location that you have reserved for saved presets.



You can then share this preset file with others who may then import it.

Visit the [Topaz Labs Blog](#) which features the latest Photography, software and design information including tutorials, videos, and thoughts about both Topaz and non-Topaz topics.

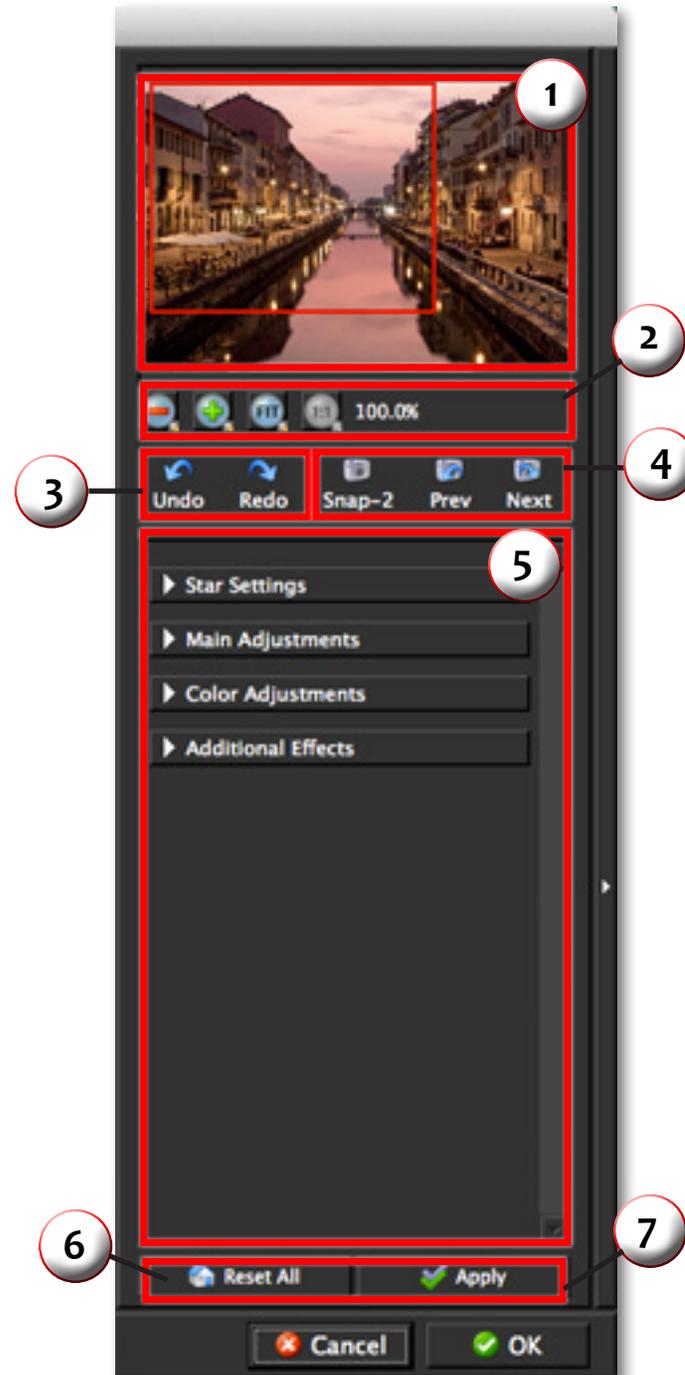
## Tools

You will use the various tools in the tool panel during your workflow to make your image adjustments.

1. Preview Navigator - Displays the region of the preview image you are currently focused on.
2. Zoom Buttons - Use the zoom buttons to zoom in and out of your image. Or you can also set your image to fit the preview window or to view it at 100%.
3. Undo and Redo buttons - move back and forward through previous adjustments.
4. Snap and Recall buttons. Save up to 99 snapshot settings for comparison.
5. Sliders and Parameters - Controls the editing process using sliders to adjust the various effects.
6. Reset All. Reset all of the sliders values back to the default value.
7. Apply Button. Allows you to stack multiple star effects during the same workflow.

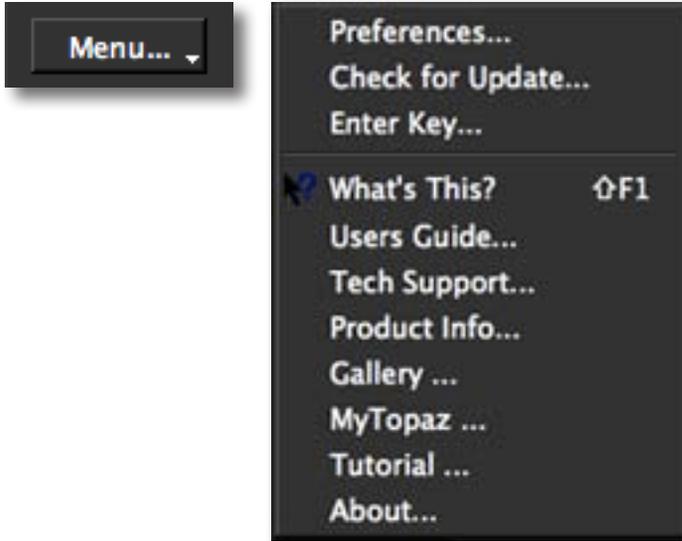
Have more questions about TopazStar Effects or any of the other Topaz software programs?

Check out the new Topaz Knowledge Base online at:  
[www.topazlabs.com/support/kb](http://www.topazlabs.com/support/kb)



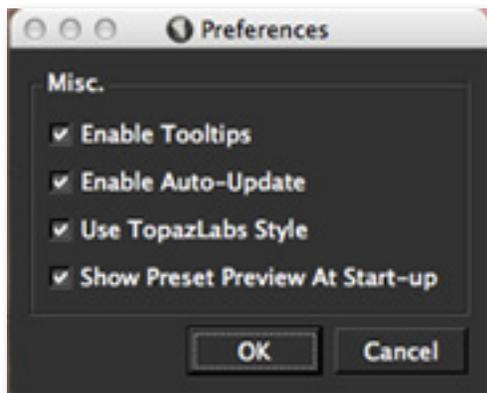
## Menu

You can access Topaz Star Effects' menu by clicking on the "Menu..." button at the bottom of the interface.



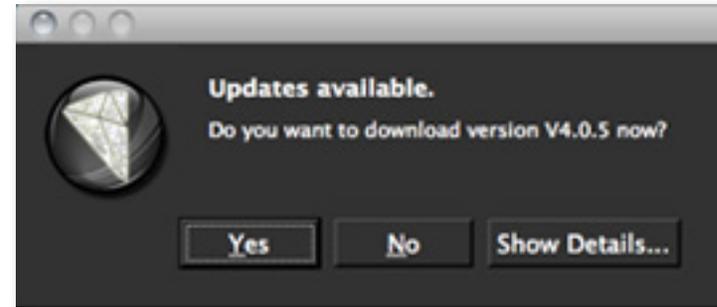
## Preferences

Select this to enable or disable the program tool tips or the Auto-Update feature. You can also change your interface color scheme to a lighter/darker appearance.

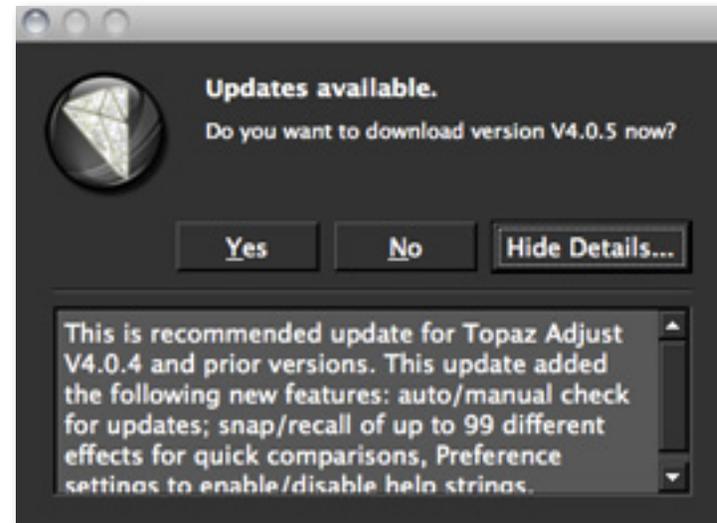


## Check for Updates

Checks for available Topaz Star Effects updates.

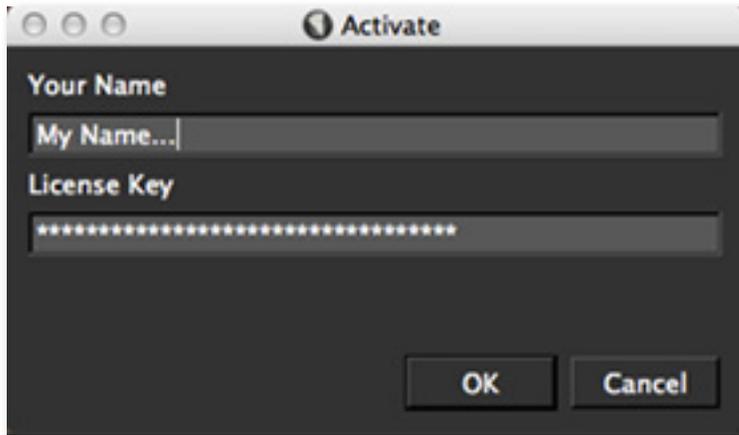


Click the Show Details button to get find out what's included in the update before you install.



### Enter Key

Select this to enter your trial or purchased license key.



### What's This?

Select this (or click F1) then click on a feature in the Star Effects interface to learn more about it.

### Users Guide

Select it to pull up this user guide.

### Tech Support

Brings you to the Topaz Labs support page where you can request assistance from our support specialists, contact our customer service team, retrieve lost license keys, or browse through our Knowledge Base.

### Product Info

Select this to go to the Topaz Star Effects web page to learn more about the Topaz Star Effects plug-in.

### Gallery

Select this to open up your Internet browser and go to the Topaz Star Effects image gallery to see other user images enhanced with Topaz Star Effects.

### MyTopaz

Brings you to the Topaz community where you can connect and interact with other Topaz users. Here you can also participate in discussions and contests, and share your favorite Topaz images.

### Tutorials

Brings you to the Topaz Star Effects tutorials page where you can access a variety of helpful video and text tutorials. You can also submit tutorials that you created here as well.

### About

Select this to see what version of B&W Effects you currently have.

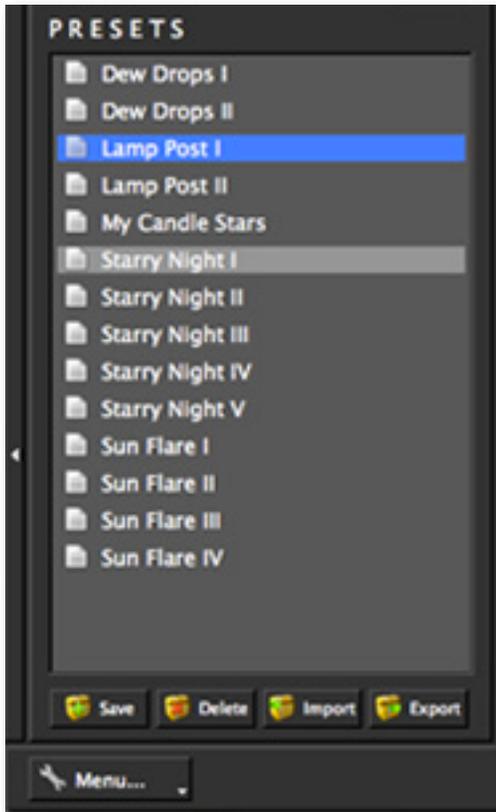


To connect with other Topaz users, participate in Topaz contests and to see the latest tips, tricks and tutorials sign up for the new Topaz Forum online at:  
[www.topazlabs.com/forum](http://www.topazlabs.com/forum)

# Settings & Parameters

## Presets

Topaz Star Effects includes default presets to help you achieve quick and easy workflow.



Before Topaz



After Topaz

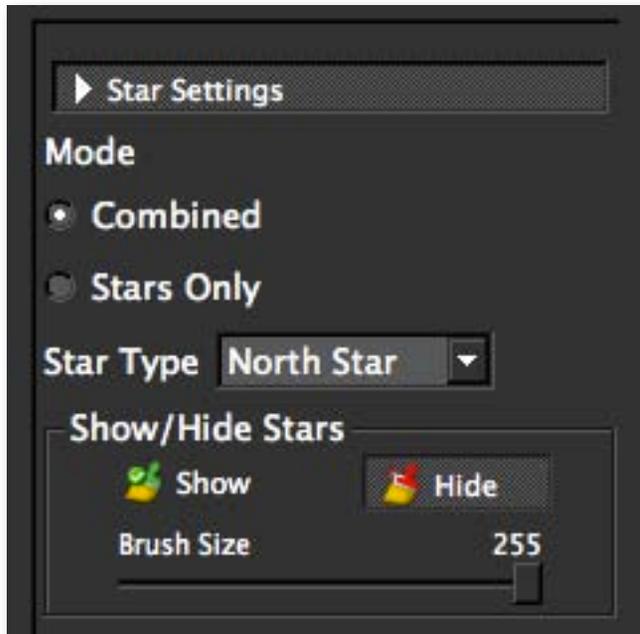
Need to reset your slider values?  
Simply double-click on the slider name above the slider control to instantly reset the slider value to 0.

## Star Settings

Allows you select the type of star effect that you want to apply, the mode you want to view/process in and also features a selective brush for adding/removing stars.

### Mode

This parameter offers two viewing/editing modes (located in the Star Settings tab) – combined and Stars only.



# Settings & Parameters

### Combined

Allows you to see your base image along with the applied star effects.

### Stars Only

Allows you to view only your added star effects (on a black background) without your base image.

### Star Type

Allows you to choose the type of star effect that you want to apply – choose from options like traditional, starburst, cross star, hollywood star and more!

### Show/Hide Star Effects

Offers selective control over the affected light sources via the Star Selection Brush. This brush will allow you to individually select which light sources in your image to include/exclude.

#### Show

Select the Show option and then click on (or brush over) the light sources in your image that you want to add the effect to.

#### Hide

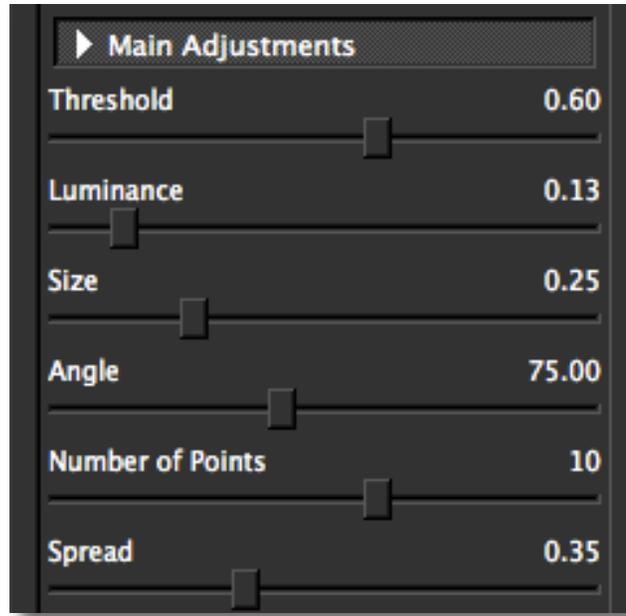
Select the Hide option and then click on (or brush over) the area in your image that you want to remove the added effects from.

### Brush Size

Allows you set the size of your selective star brush.

## Main Adjustments

Controls the main characteristics of the star effects.



### Threshold

This sets the threshold for light sources to be considered. A higher value recognizes brighter light sources only, resulting in less star effects, while a lower value will include more light sources, resulting in more star effects.

### Luminance

Increasing this parameter increases the overall brightness and transparency of the added star effects.

# Settings & Parameters

### Size

Controls the length of the star points. A higher value will result in a larger star effect, while a lower value will result in a smaller star effect.

### Angle

Adjust the angle of the stars. You can adjust the angle from 0 to 360 degrees.

### Number of Points

Sets the number of points on the star. You can adjust the points from 1 to 32.

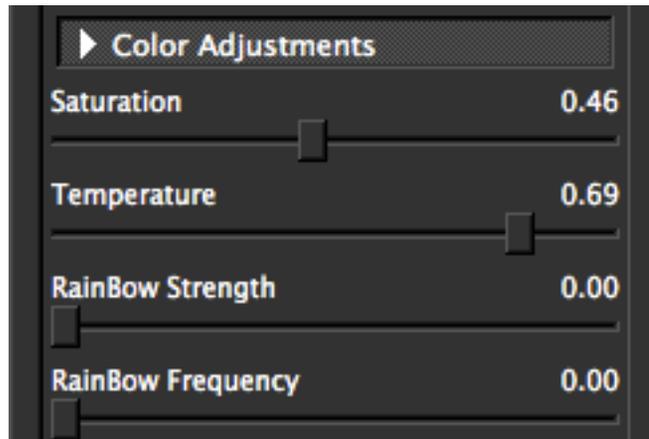
### Spread

Controls the spread of the effects. Increasing the spread will result in softer, larger stars.



## Color Adjustments

Controls the color characteristics of the star effects.



### Saturation

Increases or decreases the saturation of the star effects. A setting of 0 will result in a pure white, desaturated effect, while a setting of 1 will saturate the effect with the light source color.

### Temperature

Controls the overall temperature of the star effects - from cool (-1) to warm (1).

### Rainbow Strength

Controls the appearance of rainbow effects in your stars. A higher value will produce a strong rainbow effect. A value of 0 disables the effect.

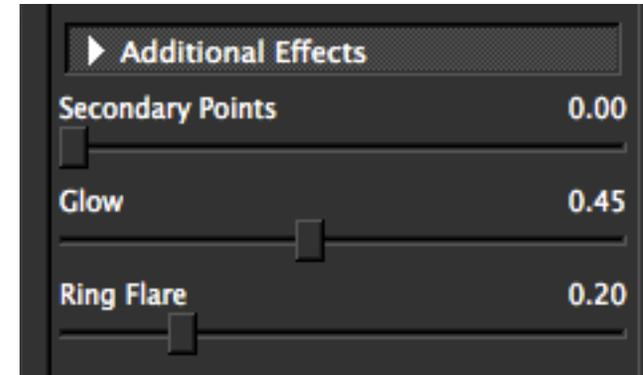
### Rainbow Frequency

Controls the frequency of the rainbow pattern in the star effects. A higher value will produce more rainbows.

# Settings & Parameters

## Additional Effects

Allows you to add some neat finishing effects to your star effects for a customized look and feel.



### Secondary Points

Controls the characteristics of the secondary spike. A higher value produces more spikes, while a lower value produces less spikes. A value of 0 disables this feature.

### Glow

Creates a soft glow from the center point of the star effect. A higher value increases the radius of the glow, while a lower value lowers the radius of the glow effect.

### Ring Flare

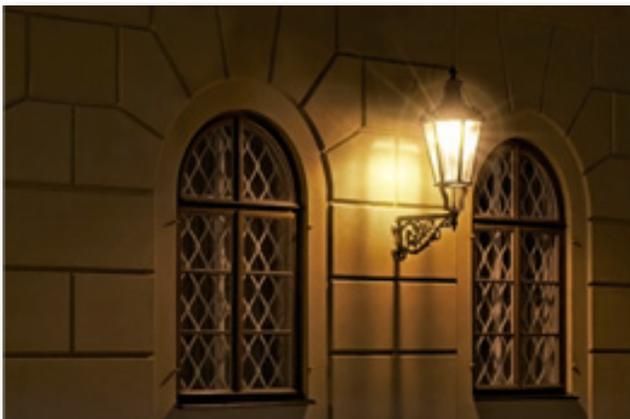
Creates and controls a circular flare around the spikes/points of the star effect. A higher value increases the strength of the flare. A lower value decreases the strength. A value of 0 disables this effect.

## Sample Project #1

In this project, we will walk you through an example workflow to help you get acquainted with the tools and setup of the new Topaz Star Effects. For this example we will start our work in the presets panel and then make some manual adjustments to customize the effect. Our goal here is to enhance the light post to instantly draw the eye to that light source.



Before Topaz Star Effects



After Topaz Star Effects

1. Open your image in Photoshop (or another compatible host program) and go to Filters -> Topaz Labs -> Star Effects.
2. Once your image loads, use the zoom tools to zoom in on a specific part of your image. Then you can click on the preview and drag it around until you find an area that you like.

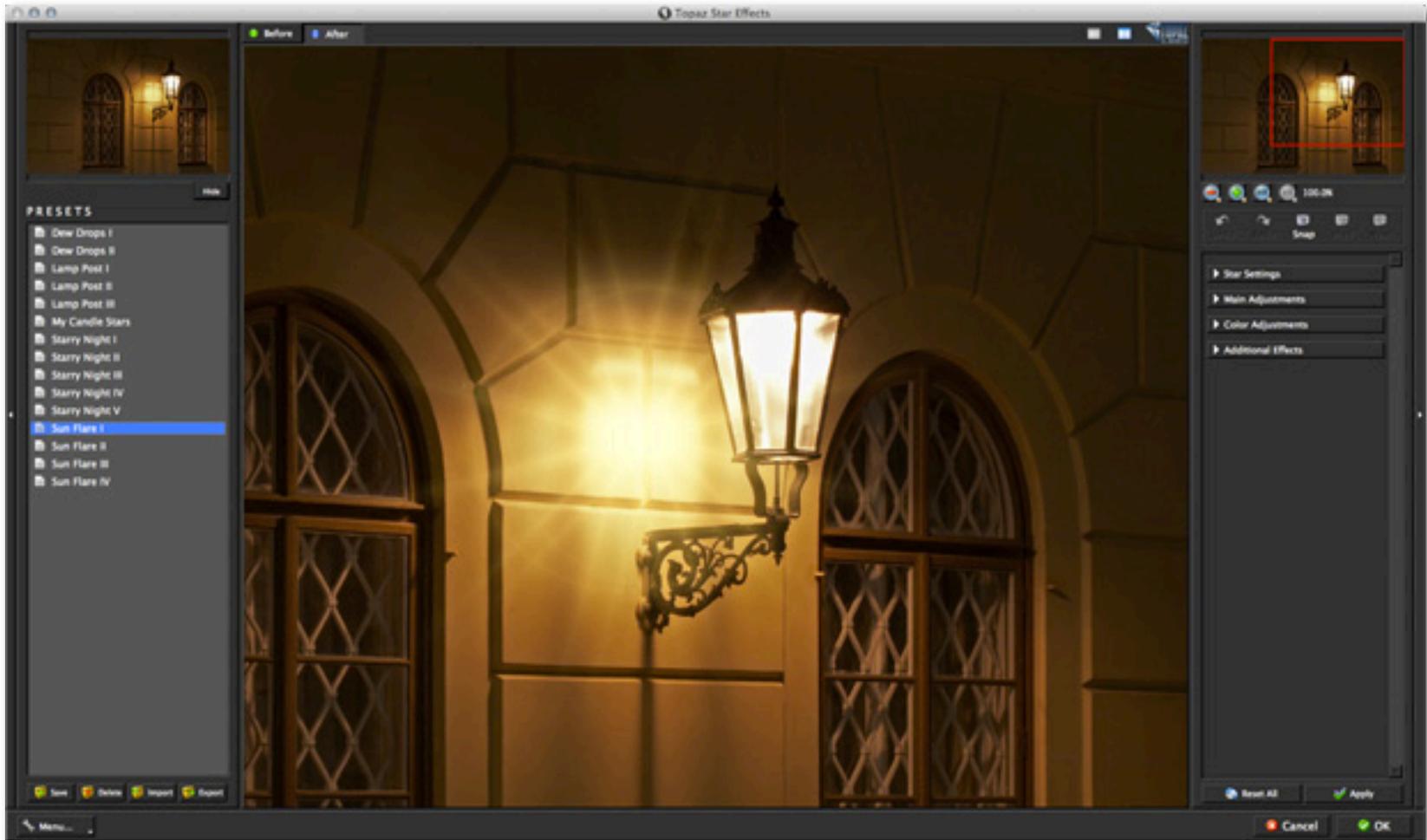
When first getting into Topaz Star Effects you may want to explore all of the presets before jumping into the workflow. This will give you a better idea of the various lighting and star effects that you can create.

3. Go to your Presets panel on the left side of the screen and select the Sun Flare I preset.

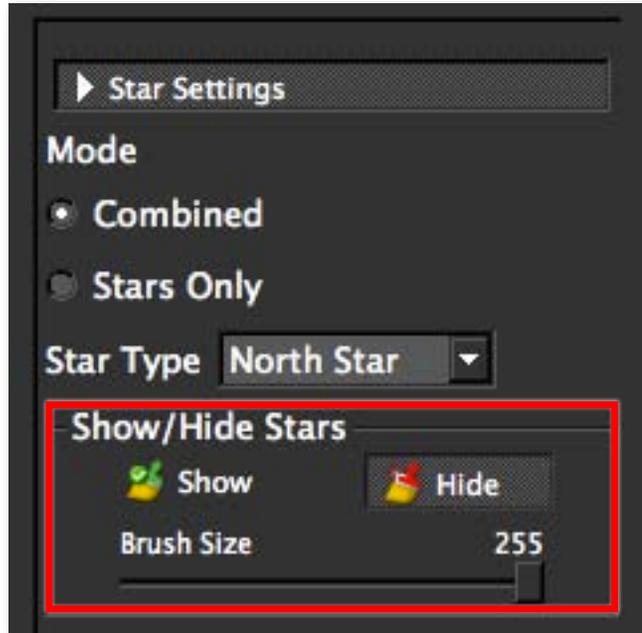
This will automatically detect the available light sources in your image and apply the effect to those light sources.

Don't worry if too many or too little light sources are affected. We will be able to adjust this using the Threshold slider and also the selective star brush tool.

We are going to work on two aspects of this image. The first is the light cast on the wall behind the light post and then the second will be the actual light post itself.



4. Go to the Star Setting tab and select the Hide brush option and brush over the light post to hide (remove) the Sun Flare I effect.



Once the effect is removed from the light post, we can focus on enhancing the light characteristics of the light reflection on the back wall.

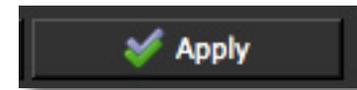
5. Go to the Main Adjustments tab and we are going to slightly lower the Luminance and Spread sliders, which is going to lower the intensity of the added effect to give it more of a natural look.

6. Skip the Color Adjustments tab and go directly to the Additional Effects tab. Here we are going to also slightly lower the Glow and Flare sliders.

Be sure to use the Original and Preview buttons to see your before and after for comparison. You can also use the spacebar shortcut key.

Once you are happy with your adjustments you can either click OK to process your image or you can click Apply to add more effects.

7. For this example we also want to enhance the actual light post. So we will click the Apply button to apply and save the changes we've made so far.



Next we will focus on enhancing the lighting in the light post.

8. Select the Star Flare I preset again.
9. Go back to the Star Settings tab and select the Hide brush option. This time we are going to brush over the back wall to remove the effect. This will allow us to enhance only the light in the light post.

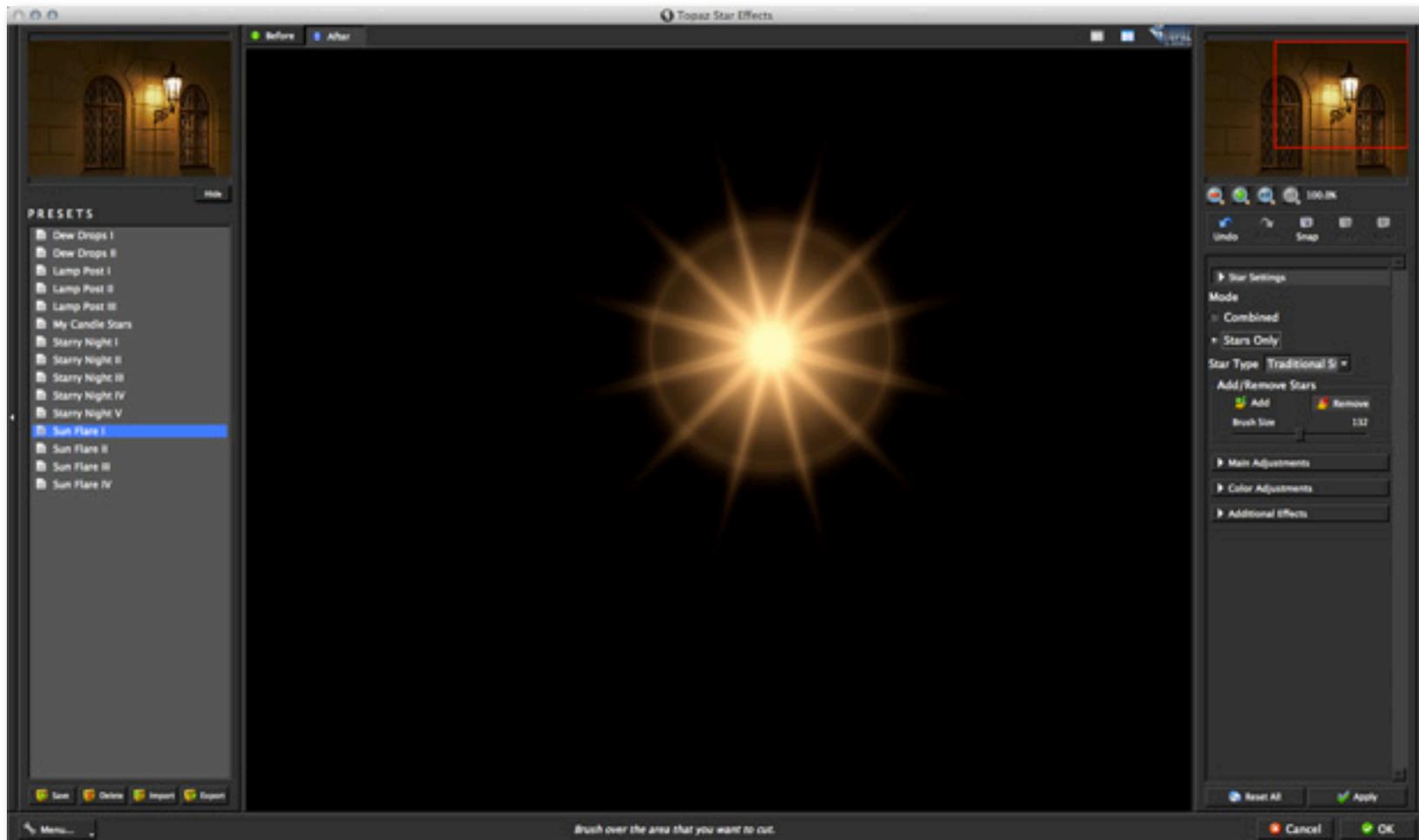
Tip: If you want to reposition the selected light source in your image, then you can use the Hide brush to erase it and then switch to the Show brush to select a new light source or reposition the center point of a selected light source.

To see only the added star effect(s), go to your Star Settings tab and select the Stars Only Mode. This will display on the the created effect on a black background.

Tip: Don't forget to switch back to the combined mode.

You also have the option of processing only the star effects without your base image. Just stay in the Stars only mode and then click the OK button.

10. Go to the Stay Type option in the Star Settings tab and change this to Hyper Star.



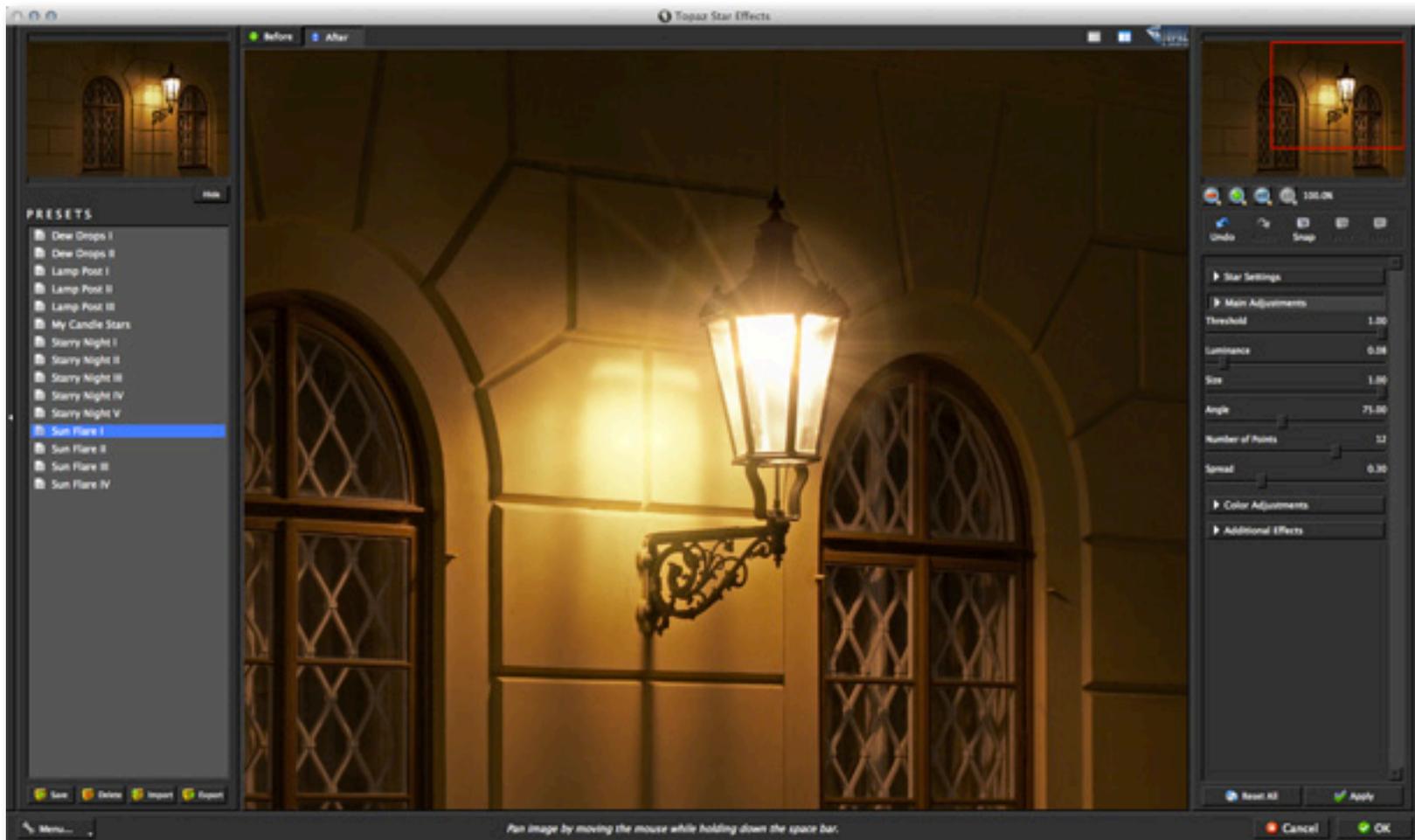
11. In the Main Adjustments tab we are going to lower the intensity of the effect by decreasing the value of the luminance and spread sliders.

12. We are going to subtly enhance the color of the effect using the sliders in the Color Adjustments tab. Slightly increase the Temperature slider (for a warmer effect) and also the Rainbow Strength and Rainbow

Frequency sliders.

13. Finally we will go to the Additional Effects tab and increase the Secondary Points slider, while slightly lowering both the Flare and Glow sliders.

14. Once you are happy with your adjustments, click the OK button to process your changes and save your image back to Photoshop.





Before Topaz Star Effects



After Topaz Star Effects

## Sample Project #2

In this project, we will walk you through another quick example workflow to show you how to add a subtle star/glow enhancement to night photography.

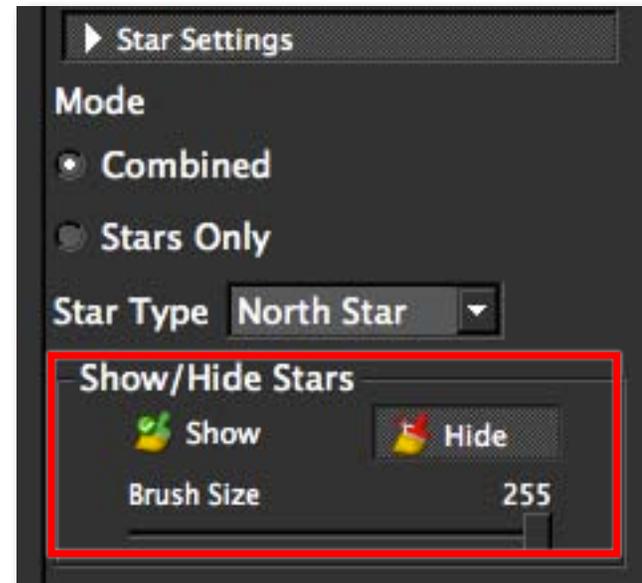


Before Topaz Star Effects



After Topaz Star Effects

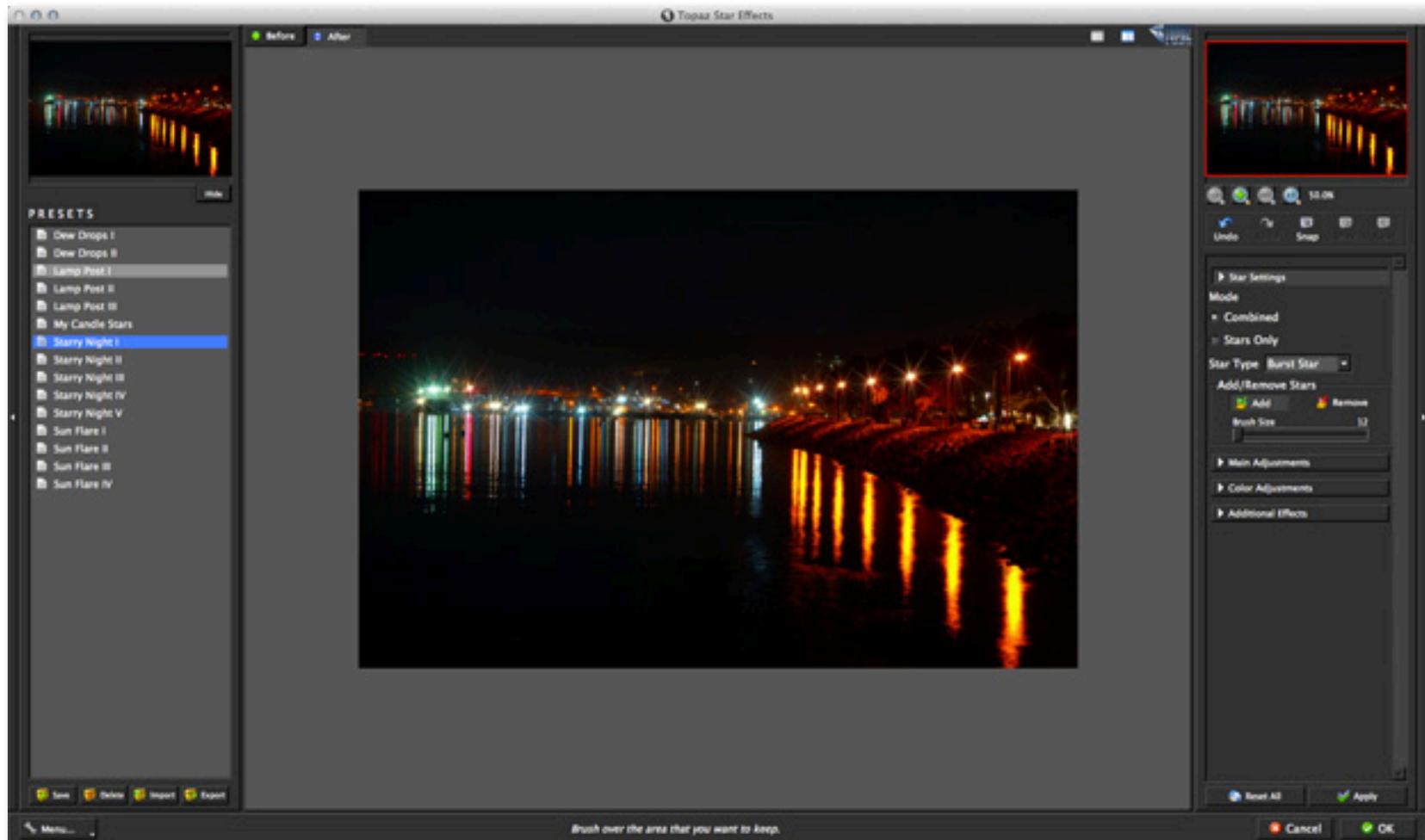
1. Open your image in Photoshop (or another compatible host program) and go to Filters -> Topaz Labs -> Star Effects.
2. Once your image loads, use the zoom tools to zoom in on a specific part of your image. Then you can click on the preview and drag it around until you find an area that you like.
3. Go to your Presets panel on the left side of the screen and select Starry Night I preset.
4. Go to the Star Settings tab and use the Hide brush to remove the effects from light reflection see in the water.



When first getting into Topaz Star Effects you may want to explore all of the effects and their associated presets before jumping into the workflow. This will give you a better idea of the various effects that you can create.

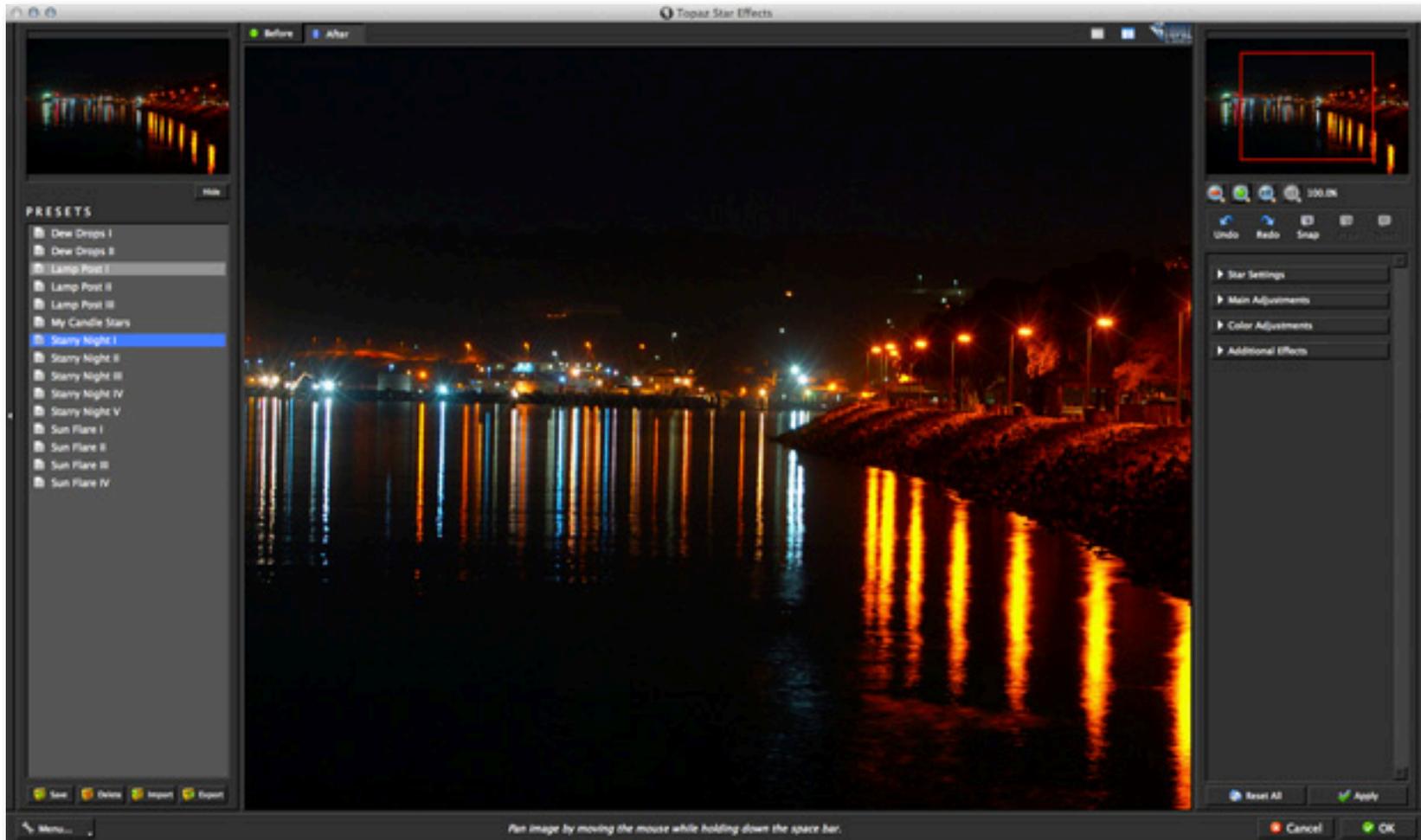
5. We want to select some of the additional light posts in the far distance, so we will switch to the Show brush and then click on the center of the light posts.

6. While still in the Star Settings tab, go to the Star type drop down box and select the Burst Star Type.



7. Next, we will go to the Main Adjustments tab and increase the Threshold slider. This will cause allow less light sources to be affected by the preset that we selected.

8. We will also slightly decrease the Luminance, Size and Number of Points sliders which will reduce the strength of the added star effect.



We won't be making any adjustments in the Color Adjustments tab, however you are welcome to if you'd like.

9. Click on the Additional Effects tab to open it and reveal the adjustment sliders. Here we are going to slightly increase both the Glow and Right Flare to help create a soft and diffused look.

Be sure to use the Original and Preview buttons to see your before and after for comparison. You can also use the spacebar shortcut key.

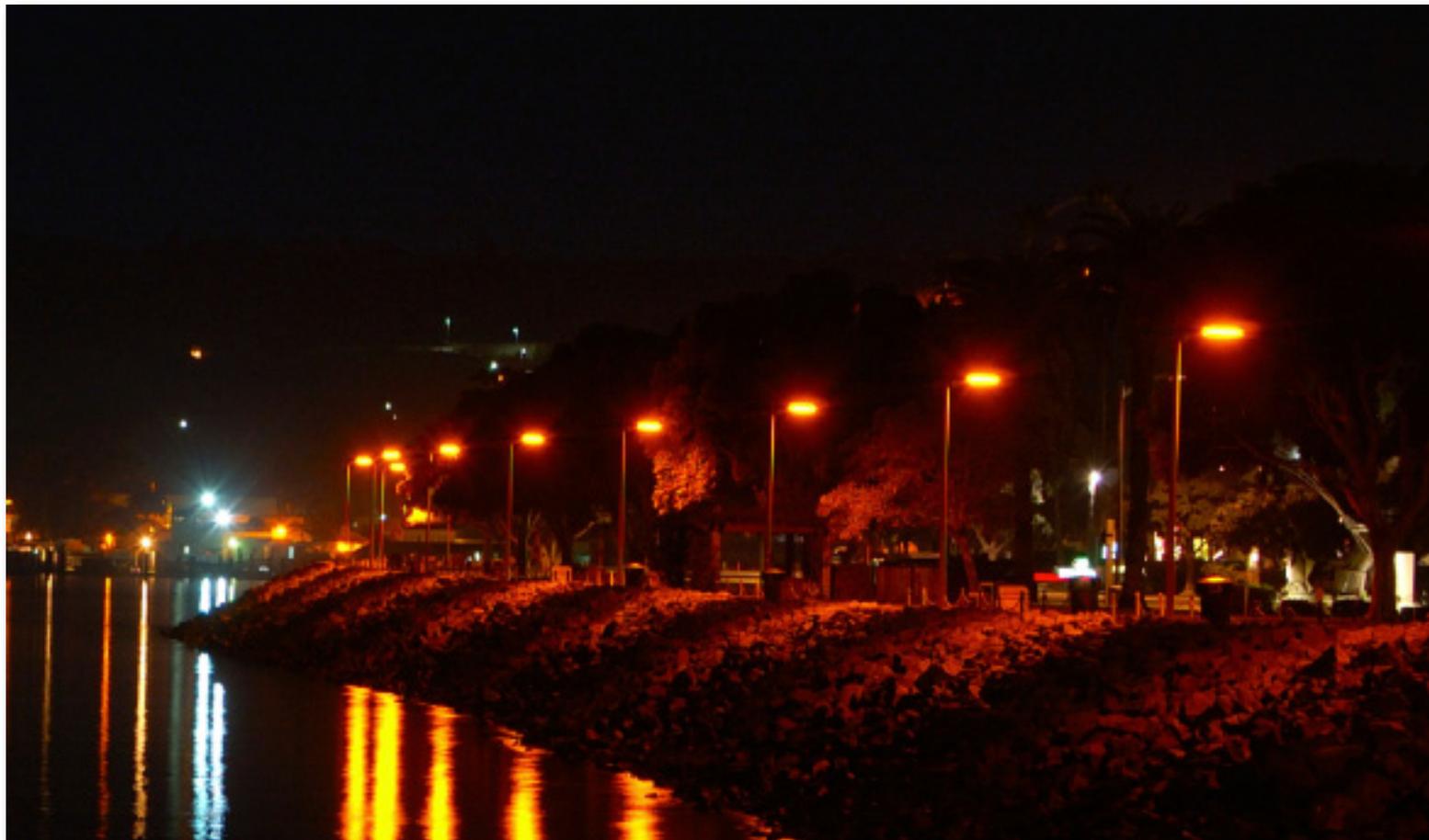
10. Once you are happy with your adjustments, click the OK button to process your changes and save your image back to Photoshop.



Before Topaz Star Effects



After Topaz Star Effects



Before Topaz Star Effects



After Topaz Star Effects

**Achromatic** - Without color.

**Adjustment Layer** – A layer that allows you to adjust the look of an original image without making it permanent. With adjustment layers you can make various changes to a layer without damaging it and go back and readjust it at anytime.

**Algorithm** - Any bit of code or programming that defines a process.

**Brightness** - The degree to which a color sample appears to reflect light.

**Chroma** - Purity or intensity of color. The difference of a color against the brightness of another color that appears white under similar viewing conditions.

**Color** - The human perceptual response to different wavelengths of light impinging on the photo receptors in the retina.

**Color Cast** - Tint or light hint of colour evenly covering an image - typically an unwanted side effect. It is usually most visible in light or medium density neutral tones.

**Color Profile** - defines the range of colors that can appear in a digital photo.

**Contrast** - The difference between light and dark values.

**Download** - The process of transmitting or transferring data from one device to another.

**Export** - Outbound data transfer in a format that can be used by other programs.

**Filters** - Transparent lens attachments used to change the color, or other characteristics, of an image.

**Highlights** - The bright to white range of tones in an image.

**Hue** - One of the main properties of a color, described with names such as “red”, “yellow”, etc.

**Import** - Inbound data transfer into a file or document.

**Parameter** - A numerical or other measurable factor forming one of a set that defines a system or sets the conditions of its operation.

**Photo-editing or Imaging software** – Programs in which you can alter your photos and / or create digital images. Depending on the software, you can improve exposure, color and other attributes of your picture, paint on it, add type, apply special effects, remove noise, resize it, combine it with other pictures, prepare it for e-mail or posting on the web, output it to a printer, or do any number of other manipulations or edits.

**Plug-in** - A computing feature with the ability to be added to a system to give extra features or functions.

**Preset** - A pre-defined combination of parameters and settings that is saved into a folder within Topaz Lens Effects. Topaz provides default presets. A preview of each preset can be seen in the preset preview win-

dow located at the top left hand side of the interface above the preset list.

**Preview**- Shows the processed preview of the image.

**RAW image** - An image file format that contains untouched, “raw” pixel information straight from the digital camera’s sensor. It has yet to translate the information in each pixel into the full color information, so this format offers more control over how the final JPEG or TIFF image is generated.

**RGB** - Red, Green, Blue. The color model that is used in digital cameras and by computer monitors.

**Saturation** - The difference of intensity within a specific hue.

**“I need a Topaz B&W Effects trial key.”**

Visit <http://www.topazlabs.com/downloads> for a trial key. Please check your Spam folder because your Spam filter sometimes filters out the automated email.

If you need more time to evaluate, please contact us at: [www.topazlabs.com/support](http://www.topazlabs.com/support) for an extended trial key.



**“I can’t find Topaz Star Effects in the Photoshop Filters menu.”**

If Photoshop was open when you installed then you will need to restart Photoshop and then you should be able to access it. If it is still not listed in your Filter menu then do the following:

For Windows:

Please go to your preferences menu in Photoshop and select Plug-ins. Check / enable the Additional Plug-ins Folder option then click Choose. After that, please navigate to: C: \ Program Files and select the Topaz Labs folder. Then click Choose (or it may say Save / OK) to save this back to Photoshop. Back in Photoshop click OK to save your changes, then restart Photoshop. Once Photoshop opens, go to your Filter menu and you should be able to access Topaz.

For Mac:

Please go to your preferences menu in Photoshop and select Plug-ins. Check / enable the Additional Plug-ins Folder option then click Choose. After that, please navigate to: Macintosh HD -> Library -> Application Support and select the Topaz Labs folder. Then click save /

# Frequently Asked Questions

OK to save this back to Photoshop. Back in Photoshop click OK to save your changes, then restart Photoshop. Once Photoshop opens, go to your Filter menu and you should be able to access Topaz.



**“Do you have any other Star Effects tutorials?”**

Yes, please see pages 31 and 38 of this Topaz Star Effects user guide.

You can also visit: <http://www.topazlabs.com/tutorials/stareffects> or sign up for a free webinar at: <http://www.topazlabs.com/webinars>



**“I don’t have Photoshop, will Star Effects work with my Elements, Aperture, Lightroom, iPhoto Paint Shop Pro, Photo Impact or Irfanview?”**

Yes, you can use Topaz Star Effects with any of the above host programs. However, to use Star Effects in Aperture, Lightroom or iPhoto, you will need to download the free Topaz Fusion Express plug-in. For more information please visit: [www.topazlabs.com/fusion](http://www.topazlabs.com/fusion)



**“I already have Fusion Express installed for use with my other Topaz programs but Star Effects does not show up in the Fusion Express menu?”**

Star Effects requires the latest version of Fusion Express. You will need to download it online at: [www.topazlabs.com/downloads](http://www.topazlabs.com/downloads) and then install it. After that you will be able to access and use Star Effects.

**“What are the limitations of the trial version of your software?”**

The only limit on the trial versions of the Topaz plug-ins is time. The free trial versions are designed to enable you to experience the full functionality of our plug-ins for a 30-day trial period. After the trial period is up, you will only be able to use the Topaz software by purchasing it. You will then receive a license key to activate the plug-in, and the trial version will automatically become the full version with no time limitations.



**“If I use the 30-day trial version will I need to uninstall the trial version before I upgrade to a full version?”**

No, the Topaz trial software is designed to be unlocked to become the full version simply by entering a license key. The full license key will be e-mailed to you immediately after you purchase the software.



**“Where do I enter my key?”**

To enter your key please open an image in Photoshop. Go to Filter -> Topaz Labs -> Star Effects. Once the program opens go to Menu -> Enter Key. Then copy & paste or type in your license key and then select OK.



**“I had Topaz Star Effects as a trial, then I purchased. How do I enter my new license key?”**

You can enter your new license key by opening up an image in Photoshop and go to Filter -> Topaz Labs -> Star Effects -> Menu -> Enter Key. Please remove the trial key and enter your new purchased license key, then select OK and you are all set.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**“My Topaz Star Effects key doesn’t work!”**

There are a couple of reasons why Topaz B&W Effects might think your key is invalid.

First, make sure that your key is in the proper format. It’ll be in the format “xxxxxx-xxxxxx-xxxxxx-xxxxxx-xxxxxx” and will be all numbers in 30 digits in five groups of six (no letters).

Second, make sure that as you’re entering the key there is nothing in the space beforehand. This means clicking, pressing Ctrl-A, and hitting delete to make sure that absolutely nothing is in that field before you paste in the key.

If it doesn’t work when you copy and paste, try typing it out, and vice versa.



**My Topaz filters are grayed out in the filter menu.**

Please make sure that you are using a 8-bit or 16-bit image that is in RGB color mode. Also, if your project includes adjustment layers please make sure that you are not on an adjustment layer. You will need to select the image layer. This will allow you to access your Topaz programs.



**I have a question not listed here.**

Please visit our knowledge base online at: <http://www.topazlabs.com/support/kb/>

If you are not able to find the answer there then contact our support specialists online at: [www.topazlabs.com](http://www.topazlabs.com).

## Connect with Topaz



Check out our new **Forum** and our **blog** for tutorials, tips and updates from Topaz Labs!



Follow us on Twitter for notifications of recent news and easily get in touch with us whenever you feel like it!



Find us on our Facebook page and network with other Topaz users!



Participate in the entirely user-led Topaz Flickr group for a helpful and highly active community for Topaz Photoshop plug-ins!



Subscribe to our YouTube channel to keep up with any newly released product video tutorials!

## Contact Information

Topaz Labs LLC  
4100 Spring Valley Road  
Suite 103  
Dallas, TX 75244

### Technical Support

Visit: <http://topazlabs.com/support/>  
Email: [help@topazlabs.com](mailto:help@topazlabs.com)

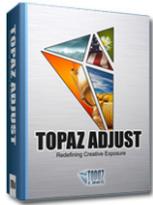
### For more information

[info@topazlabs.com](mailto:info@topazlabs.com)

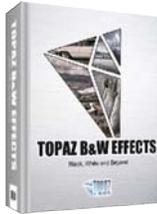
Topaz Labs LLC, a privately owned company in Dallas, Texas, focuses on developing advanced video and image enhancement technology. With today's widespread use of digital still cameras, digital video cameras, and HDTV, the need for high-quality digital images and videos has greatly increased. Topaz Labs' mission is to bring practical state-of-the-art image and video enhancement technology to both professionals and consumers.

# Be sure to check out the complete line up of Topaz products.

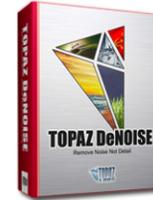
## Topaz Photoshop Plug-ins for digital photography.



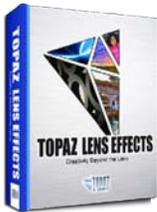
Topaz Adjust creates vibrant images that pop. Includes tools for creative exposure, detail, color and pseudo HDR.



Topaz B&W Effects is the most versatile black and white image converter. Designed specifically for creating and enhancing high-impact B&W images.



Topaz DeNoise offers high-quality noise reduction tools that eliminate digital image noise and recover lost image detail.



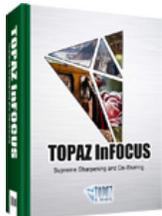
Topaz Lens Effects allows you to create bokeh, add vignettes and simulate a variety of filter, lens and specialty camera effects.



Topaz ReMask is the quickest, easiest and best masking tool for complex masking and removing unwanted image backgrounds.



Topaz Detail features multi-level tools for control over detail enhancement and sharpening without edge artifacts or halos.



Topaz InFocus offers tools for advanced sharpening and minor blur reduction to refine and improve overall image quality.



Topaz Simplify is a digital art tool that makes it easy to transform digital images into works of art in just a few clicks.



Topaz Clean features unique smoothing, edge and texture control for enhancing portraits or stylizing images.



Topaz DeJPEG eliminates jpeg artifacts and restores optimal JPEG image integrity, helping create high-quality jpeg images.



Bring the power of Topaz to your Aperture, iPhoto and Lightroom workflow with the new Fusion Express plug-in.

Go to <http://www.topazlabs.com/downloads> to get your 30-day free trial!