

## **Shadow/Highlight – Advanced Mode**

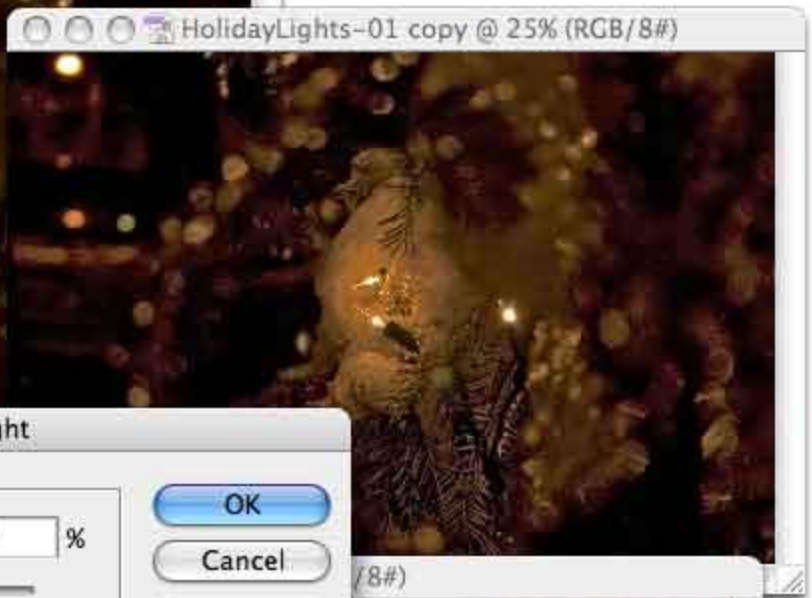
Photoshop CS's new Shadow/Highlight adjustment give you great control over both ends of your image's tonal range. With the Show More Options box checked, you control not only how much change to make to the shadows and highlights, but what should be consider to be a “shadow” or a “highlight.”

Take a look at the expanded Shadow/Highlight dialog box. You'll see that it's divided into three sections, one for shadows, one for highlights, and one that adjusts color and midtone contrast. In each of the upper sections you find three sliders: Amount, Tonal Width, and Radius.

**Amount:** This is the actual change you're making. It opens up (lightens) the shadows and tones down (darkens) the highlights.

**Tonal Width:** Use this slider to determine how much of the image's tonal range is adjusted by the Amount slider. At 10%, you're changing half the tonal range of the image. At 100%, you're changing the whole image. Generally speaking, you'll want to change a narrower band of shadows or highlights.

**Radius:** Use the Radius slider to include or exclude small dark or light patches from the adjustment. As you can see in the figure below, the Radius slider in the Highlights section has been bumped up to 50 pixels. That's necessary to preserve the smaller highlights and reflections in the crystallized snow. With a lower Radius setting, those sparkly little areas are toned down and disappear.



### Shadow/Highlight

**Shadows**

Amount: 50 %

Tonal Width: 10 %

Radius: 30 px

**Highlights**

Amount: 100 %

Tonal Width: 55 %

Radius: 50 px

**Adjustments**

Color Correction: +10

Midtone Contrast: -50

Black Clip: 0.01 % White Clip: 0.01 %

Save As Defaults

Show More Options

OK  
Cancel  
Load...  
Save...  
 Preview



*In the figure above, the original is shown in the upper-left. The image to the upper-right is being adjusted, and a second window for that image appears behind the Shadow/Highlight dialog box, showing the detail around the holiday lights.*

In the Shadows area, a large Amount lets the darkest shadows show detail. The Tonal Width slider restricts the large adjustment to only the darkest 10% of the image. The default 30 pixel Radius works well.

In the Highlights area, a very large Amount is used to minimize the glare of the little bulbs. The Tonal Width includes all of the image's lighter pixels, and even a few of the darker ones as well. As explained above, the large Radius setting preserves the small highlights.

In the lower third of the dialog box, Color Correction is boosted 10% to retain the warmth of the image, that holiday-feeling-inducing orange glow. Remember that the Color Correction slider applies changes only to those pixels included by the Tonal Width sliders. The Midtone Contrast slider at -50 helps prevent posterization that would result from the large Amount and Tonal Width settings in the Highlights area. Since this image isn't destined for an offset press, there's no need to change the default Clip settings. (Clipping the shadows and highlights makes sure that even the darkest shadows and lightest highlights have at least a little detail.)