

XEN²FEX

USER MANUAL

Chapter 1: How to Buy Xenofex 2

You are using a time-limited demo version of Xenofex 2. After 30 days, your fully-functional software is downgraded to “preview only” mode. At this time, you will no longer be able to apply any of the Xenofex 2 filters. When you are ready to buy Xenofex 2, you can use any of the following options, at any time during the evaluation period.

Buy From Within the Demo User Interface

Click the “Learn More” button in the upper right corner of any demo filter window. Your Web browser will open the Xenofex 2 section of the Alien Skin Software Web site.

Buy from the Alien Skin Web Site

To buy from the Alien Skin Software Web site, visit the Xenofex 2 product page at <http://www.alienskin.com/xx2>, then click the “Buy Now” link.

Buy Direct from an Alien Skin Software Salesperson

US customers can call Alien Skin Software toll-free at **1-888-921-SKIN (7546)**. International customers call **1-919-832-4124**. Our offices are open from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Eastern Standard Time.

Xenofex 2 Pricing

Deep discounts are available for registered users of Xenofex 1.0 and other Alien Skin Software products. Please see our Web site for more details:

[<http://www.alienskin.com/xx2>](http://www.alienskin.com/xx2)

Chapter 1: Getting Started with Xenofex 2

Welcome

Welcome to Xenofex 2, a set of 14 phenomenal plug-in effects for Photoshop and other compatible graphics host programs.

Please take some time to explore this manual; it contains information essential to getting the most out of Xenofex 2. Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the preview window and user interface. Soon you'll be ready to dive in and experiment with Xenofex 2

This chapter contains the following sections:

- “What’s New” on page 2
- “Important Symbols” on page 3
- “Host Requirements” on page 3
- “System Requirements” on page 4
- “The Xenofex 2 User Interface” on page 4
- “Keyboard Shortcuts” on page 9

What’s New

For Users Upgrading from Xenofex

Note: If this is the first version of Xenofex you’ve owned, skip ahead to “Important Symbols” on page 3.

This section lists the new features, improvements, and new filters added to Xenofex since version one. Detailed discussions of new features can be found in the relevant sections of the manual.

Four New Filters

The following filters are new to Xenofex 2:

- **Burnt Edges**—Easily scorch photos.
- **Classic Mosaic**—Convert photos into mosaics with a single click.
- **Cracks**— Simulate fault lines, cracks, erosion or fissures.
- **Rip Open**—Tear holes in the shape of text and selections.

New User Interface

Xenofex 2 adopts and updates the Eye Candy 4000 interface. Simple and uncluttered, with hundreds of presets, unlimited undos, keyboard shortcuts, a before/after feature and more, the new user interface is a *huge* improvement. For more details, see “The Xenofex 2 User Interface” on page 4.

Existing Filter Improvements

Here are just a few of the improvements to existing filters:

- Constellation—Now highlights edges for more realism, and adds new features, such as Twinkle.
- Crumple—More realistic, with a seamless tile option, and expanded distortion features.
- Electrify—Tabbed interface organization.
- Flag—More realistic simulation with better control over Flag attachment points and wind direction.
- Lightning—Now aim your lightning bolts by specifying beginning and end points.
- Little Fluffy Clouds—Now create perspective clouds with improved sky color controls, seamless tiling and more.
- Puzzle—Now knock out puzzle pieces!
- Shatter—More realistic, with shards that fly off the page.
- Stain—More realistic, with ring stain option.
- Television—More realistic, with vertical shift simulation.

Important Symbols



Pay close attention when you see a warning symbol in the manual. Warnings point out bad technique or improper use of the Xenofex 2 filters.

Don't shoot yourself in the foot.



Tips provide useful techniques and time-saving steps that increase your productivity when using Xenofex 2.

Host Requirements

Xenofex 2 is a plug-in; you must use it with one of the following compatible host programs:

Macintosh

- Adobe Photoshop 6 or 7
- Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0
- Macromedia Fireworks MX or later

Windows

- Adobe Photoshop 6 or 7
- Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0
- Macromedia Fireworks MX or later
- Paint Shop Pro 7.0 or later

We are constantly testing new programs for compatibility with Xenofex 2. For information about other compatible host programs, please check our Web site: <http://www.alienskin.com>.

System Requirements

Macintosh

- PowerPC processor
- Macintosh System Software 9 or later; OS X 10.1 or later
- 64 MB or more of physical RAM

Windows

- Pentium II-class processor
- Windows 98/2000/Me/XP
Note: *Windows NT is not supported.*
- 64 MB or more of physical RAM

The Xenofex 2 User Interface

Menus

Command menus are accessible when you call up each of the Xenofex 2 filters. Macintosh users will see the menus in place of their usual menu bar. Windows users will see the menus at the top of the filter preview window.

Edit Menu

This menu allows you an unlimited number of Undo's and Redo's in the preview window. If you experiment with the sliders, and find that you prefer a previous group of settings, simply use

the Undo command in the **Edit** menu, or use Command-Z (Control-Z on Windows machines) to back up as many times as necessary.

The **Edit** menu also allows you to **Copy**, **Cut**, **Paste**, and **Delete** numerical values from parameter fields.

Filters Menu

This menu allows you to switch between filters from within the preview. Photoshop users note that if you switch between filters from within the Xenofex 2 preview, the Actions, History, and Last Filter Used functions will record the filter you initially selected.

View Menu

This menu allows you to zoom the preview in and out. You can also view all of the layers in your image using the **Show All Layers** command.

Note: Due to a limitation in Photoshop, choosing **Show All Layers** in the preview window will show all of the visible layers in your image, even if those layers are above the current (working) layer in the Layers palette. As a result, your effect may be invisible in the filter preview window.

In the preview, you will also see the current working layer below the filter effect. Again, this is a limitation in Photoshop, not Xenofex 2, but it can be misleading so we recommend temporarily turning off **Show All Layers** in cases where the current working layer is below other opaque layers in your composition.

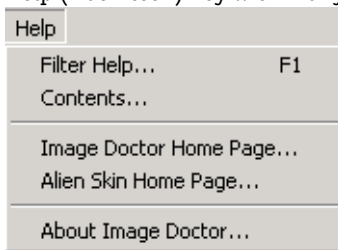
Note: **Show All Layers** will be grayed out and unavailable in hosts other than Photoshop.

Settings Menu

This menu allows you to name, save, and delete your own settings, as well as use the presets that we include with each filter. You can also reset a filter to its factory default settings from this menu. Another way to reset the settings is by pressing the F5 key (Windows) or the Command-R key sequence (Macintosh).

Help Menu

The enhanced **Help** menu allows you to access context-sensitive (filter-specific) help from within a filter window. You can access filter-specific help by pressing the F1 (Windows) or Help (Macintosh) key within any filter interface.



The enhanced **Help** menu contains user manual documentation to help you better use the Xenofex 2 filters. You can also access the Alien Skin home page from the **Help** menu.

To access a Table of Contents for the online help, click **Help > Contents** in the Xenofex 2 user-interface.

The Filter Window

Take a look at the Crumple filter window. The Macintosh and Windows versions are functionally identical.

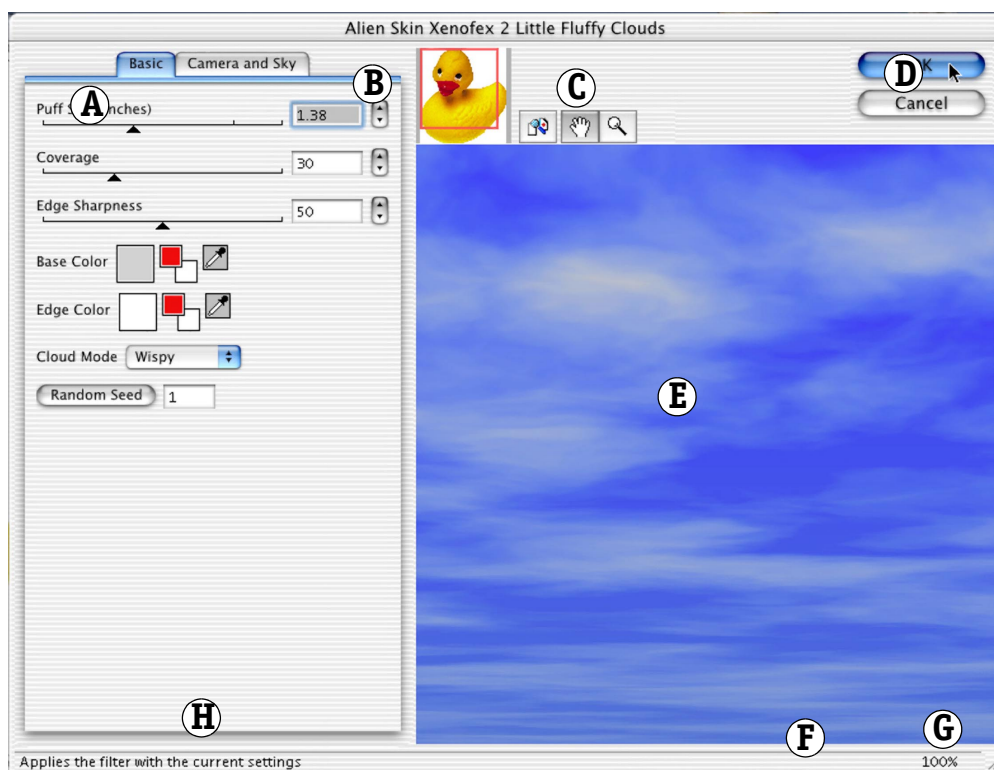
The Windows filter window looks almost exactly the same, with the addition of the Xenofex 2 menu bar at the top left.

B: Thumbnail Navigation

The thumbnail image above the preview window allows you to move the preview anywhere in your image with a single click. The movable red box displays the area of your image visible in the preview window.

A: The Slider Controls

Slider controls and radio buttons appear along the left side of the filter window.



C: Move, Zoom, Show Original, and Arrow Buttons

The **Move** (hand) and **Zoom** (magnifying glass) tools, and **Show Original** button are found above the preview window. Click the hand to enable the **Move** tool, then click and drag to move around the preview image.

The Move and Zoom Tools



Click the magnifying glass to enable the **Zoom** tool. Click to zoom into your image; Option-click to zoom out (Alt-click for Windows users). Double-clicking the **Zoom** tool at any time resets the preview window to 100% magnification.

The **Show Original** button enables you to toggle back and forth between the filtered and unfiltered versions of your image. Just click and hold the button to view the unaffected image. Release the button when you want to view your image with the effect.

The Show Original Button



The **Arrow** button enables In Preview controls in the Puzzle and Lightning filters. See the Puzzle or Lightning chapters for more details.

The Arrow Button



D: OK and Cancel Controls

Clicking the **OK** button applies the filter with the current settings. Clicking **Cancel** closes the filter window without applying the effect.

E: Preview Window Area

Preview the effect on your image here. The preview area can be resized by clicking and dragging the bottom right-hand corner of the filter window. Windows users can also click and drag the bottom of the window.

F: Render Status Bar

The rectangle to the left of the magnification indicator is the Render Status bar. As an effect is being rendered in the preview, this rectangle displays the amount of rendering that has been completed.

G: Magnification Indicator

The current level of magnification is shown to the right of the render status bar at the lower right corner of the filter window.

H: Mouseover Help String Area

All elements in each filter window have mouseover help text associated with them. This help text appears at the bottom left of the filter window whenever you move your cursor over a user interface element.

A Note About Sliders

A variety of sliders are used in Xenofex 2. Each one allows you to enter a numeric value or click and drag the slider to get the desired effect.

Note that you can use the slider, enter a numeric value, or use the up and down arrow keys to change the value of filter controls. You can also adjust slider settings by using the up and down arrow buttons to the right of the sliders.

Using Settings

The **Settings** menu in each filter window allows you to save and manage the presets that are included with each filter. You can also create your own settings.

How to load a preset

To use a preset included with a filter, simply open the **Settings** menu and select the name of the desired setting from the list.

How to Save and Manage Settings

If you have a filter setting you'd like to save for later use, click **Save...** in the **Settings** menu. A dialog box appears, asking you to name the setting. Type in a name, using only letters and/or numbers, and click **OK**. The setting will appear in the **Settings** menu immediately.

To rename a setting, click **Manage...** in the **Settings** menu. Highlight the setting you wish to edit and click **Rename**. Type in the new name and click **OK**.

To delete a setting, click **Manage...** in the **Settings** menu. Highlight the setting you wish to delete from the list and click **Delete**.

You will not be able to undo deleting a setting. Be certain you want to delete any setting before doing so; the delete is *permanent*.

Resetting to Factory Default

Every filter has a basic factory default setting. The **Reset to factory default** command in the **Settings** menu will display a preview with the filter's default setting. If you are bogged down in a quagmire of complex slider combinations, use the F5 (Windows) or Command-R (Macintosh) key to reset the current preview to the filter's factory default setting.

Enjoy the Filters!

That's it for the opening section. We've designed Xenofex 2 to be a tool that's both fun and easy to use. We hope you enjoy using the filters.

Keyboard Shortcuts

	Macintosh	Windows
Next Editable Text Field	Tab	Tab
Previous Editable Text Field	Shift + Tab	Shift + Tab
OK	Return	Return
Cancel	Escape	Escape
Undo	Command-Z	Control-Z
Redo	Command-Y	Control-Y
Cut	Command-X	Control-X
Copy	Command-C	Control-C
Paste	Command-V	Control-V
Next Filter	Command-]	Control-]
Previous Filter	Command- [Control- [
Zoom In	Command- +	Control- +
Zoom Out	Command- -	Control- -
Actual Pixels	Alt + Command + Zero	Alt + Control + zero
Restore Default Settings	Command-R	F5
Switch to Move Tool (hand)	H	H
Switch to Zoom Tool	Z	Z
Switch to In Preview Controls	A	A
Zoom In (with zoom enabled)	Mouse Click	Left Mouse Click
Zoom Out	Option + Mouse Click	Alt + Mouse Click
Zoom to Actual Pixels	Double-click Zoom Tool	Double-click Zoom Tool
Increase/Decrease Slider by 1	Up/Down Arrow	Up/Down Arrow
Increase/Decrease Slider by 10	Shift-Up/Down Arrow	Shift-Up/Down Arrow

Chapter 2: Troubleshooting

We have tried to collect the most commonly-asked questions here. A regularly updated troubleshooting guide can be found in the Support section of our Web site. If you get really stuck, send E-mail to support@alienskin.com. Include in the E-mail your 12 letter registration code, whether you are using Mac or Windows, and your graphics host program (Photoshop, Paint Shop Pro, etc.).

This chapter covers the following troubleshooting issues:

- “Installation Problems” on page 10
- “Performance Issues” on page 12
- “Error Messages” on page 14

Installation Problems

Problem The installer won't accept my 12-letter registration code, or I can't find my code.

Solution—If you can't find your code

The Product Registration Code (serial number) is a 12-letter code located in one of the following three places:

- Your user manual (physical version).
- On the CD jewel case (physical version).
- On the download page and in an email invoice (electronic version).

If you've registered the software with us (by purchasing directly from us, registering online or sending in a registration card), we'll have the code in our database. If you didn't register with us, contact us at support@alienskin.com <<mailto:support@alienskin.com>> to get registered and receive a new registration code.

Solution—If you have the code

- 1 Make sure that you are entering the 12-letter code and other registration fields correctly. The registration code should be all letters with no spaces before or after the code. The Name field must contain at least three characters.
- 2 Make sure that you are using a Xenofex 2 code. Product registration codes are not interchangeable. For example, your Eye Candy 4000 code will not work with Xenofex 2. You will need to use the new Xenofex 2 code that you were issued when you purchased the software. This 12-letter code can be found on web page from which you downloaded the software, in an email invoice you received while downloading the product, or on a sticker inside the front cover of the manual.

Problem When I try to install Xenofex 2, I get an error dialog saying that I don't have privileges or permission to install the software.

Solution The Xenofex 2 installer, like most installation programs, will need to write files to various folders on your computer. With operating systems such as Mac OS X, Windows 2000 and Windows XP, you will need to have administrator privileges. For information on configuring your user account for such privileges, see your system administrator or your operating system manual.

Problem After installing the plug-ins and starting the graphics host program, the filters do not appear in the Filter or plug-in menu.

Solution The filters were probably not installed in your graphics program's plug-in folder. Find out exactly which folder your host program is using for plug-ins. With Photoshop, you can determine this by going to **Edit > Preferences > Plug-ins**. Then try to install the filters again and make sure you select the proper plug-in folder. Also, remember that after installing new filters, you must restart your graphics program for them to become available. With other graphic host programs, consult that program's manual for more information about where plug-ins need to be installed and how to access them.

Problem: Xenofex 2 doesn't work with a graphics program that claims to use Photoshop plug-ins.

Solution: Programs sometimes claim to work with all Photoshop plug-ins without testing thoroughly or strictly following the Photoshop plug-in standard. If you'd like to use Xenofex 2

with a host not listed in this manual, please visit our Web site for the latest list of compatible hosts.

Problem: How do I uninstall Xenofex 2?

Macintosh OS 9/Classic Solution: Find the Xenofex 2 folder in your graphics program's plug-in folder and delete it. Also delete the **Application Support : Alien Skin : Xenofex 2** folder.

If the multiple users control panel is *enabled*, you'll also need to delete the **Users : <user name> : Application Support : Alien Skin : Xenofex 2** folder.

If the multiple users control panel is *disabled*, you'll also need to delete the **System Folder : Application Support : Alien Skin : Xenofex 2** folder.

Macintosh OS X Solution: Find the Xenofex 2 folder in your graphics program's plug-in folder and delete it. Also delete the **/Users/<user name>/Library/Application Support/Alien Skin/Xenofex 2** folder.

Windows Solution: Run **Add/Remove Programs** from your Windows Control Panel. Select Xenofex 2 from the program list and click the **Add/Remove** button. This will remove the program and most of its components. Next go to your plug-ins folder and delete the **Xenofex 2 Settings** folder.

Performance Issues

Problem Running Photoshop 7 under OS X, when I use the color picker in an Xenofex 2 filter, the effect doesn't apply.

Solution The effect has been applied, but the view window is not being updated. There are two ways to kick this recalcitrant window into gear:

- 1 *Before* you run the filter, select and use the Apple color picker, rather than the Photoshop color picker (select this under the General tab in the Preferences dialog).
- 2 If you have already used the Photoshop color picker, zoom in and out to update the image.

Problem Some or all of the filters appear grayed out in the Filter menu.

Solution Grayed-out filters in the **Filter** menu occur if you are in certain color modes (such as CMYK, Lab or Bitmap) that won't allow a specific filter to work properly.

Problem One of the filters seems to have no effect on the image.

Solution You may have selected a layer that is hidden by other layers when **Show all Layers** is enabled. Deselect the **Show all Layers** checkbox in the **View** menu in your filter interface.

Problem I get a message that Xenofex 2 ran out of memory while rendering the preview.

Solution In Photoshop, the history palette and other features take up a lot of memory. You can free up this memory by selecting **Edit > Purge > All**.

Problem The preview seems broken. It only shows the checkerboard pattern.

Solution Sometimes the preview begins in a transparent part of a layer. Click an opaque area of your selection in the navigation thumbnail.

Problem A filter makes the graphics program or the entire computer crash or freeze up.

Mac OS 9/Classic Environment Solution Make sure that you have allocated enough memory to your image editing program. The default memory allocation may not be enough, especially if you are working with print resolution images. You can increase the memory allocation by exiting the image editor and performing a **Get Info** on the program icon in the Finder.

If you are using Photoshop, the history palette and other features take up a lot of memory. You can free up this memory by selecting **Edit > Purge > All** from the Photoshop menu.

To determine whether you have an extension conflict, restart your Macintosh while holding down the Shift key. You may release the Shift key after you see the message "Welcome to Macintosh. Extensions off." Then try the same filter operation. If it now works, then you have a control panel or extension installed in your computer that is incompatible with Xenofex 2.

We will love you very much if you try to identify the problem extension and inform us of the conflict.

Mac OS X/Windows Solution Sometimes freezes or crashes occur when your computer runs out of available memory. If you are using Photoshop, you can sometimes free up large amounts of memory by selecting **Edit > Purge > All**.

Also, make sure that your computer system has the minimum requirements to run our software. You also should try exiting out of other programs before you run your image editing program, as there might be a conflict between another program and Xenofex 2. If you notice such a conflict, we will love you very much if you try to identify the problem program and inform us of the conflict.

Also, make sure that your computer system has the minimum requirements to run our software. You also should try exiting out of other programs before you run Photoshop, as there might be a conflict between another program and Xenofex 2. If you notice such a conflict, we will love you very much if you try to identify the problem program and inform us of the conflict.

Error Messages

The table below provides remedies to the error messages you may encounter in Xenofex 2.

Error Message	User Remedy
This host application does not support enough of the Photoshop filter specification for this filter to run.	Sorry! Your host graphics program is incompatible with Xenofex 2. Consult the list of compatible host programs in “Host Requirements” on page 3.
This filter requires a selection.	Make a selection, then rerun the filter.
This filter requires editable transparency. Please turn OFF Preserve Transparency in the Layer palette.	In Photoshop 6, turn off the Preserve Transparency option in the Layers Palette. In Photoshop 7, clear the Lock Transparent Pixels button.
This filter only runs on MacOS 9 or later.	Check the operating system requirements for Xenofex 2 in your user manual. Xenofex 2 only works with MacOS 9 or later.
The filter ran out of available memory while rendering the preview image.	<p>The history palette and other features take up a lot of memory. In Photoshop, you can free up this memory by selecting Edit > Purge > All.</p> <p>You may not have enough physical memory (RAM) to handle the image that you’re working with.</p>
A serious error occurred and the filter was unable to find the entry point for the core library. Reinstalling the filters may fix this problem.	Reinstall Xenofex 2.
A serious error occurred and the filter was unable to load the core library. Reinstalling the filters may fix this problem.	Reinstall Xenofex 2.
A serious error occurred and the filter was unable to set the location of its resources. Reinstalling the filters may fix this problem.	Reinstall Xenofex 2.
The registration code was not installed or is invalid. Please reinstall the filters.	Reinstall Xenofex 2.
Please make a selection or an object in a layer that does not take up the entire layer.	Make a selection or place an object in its own layer with surrounding transparency to make the filter run.
Setting names can only include letters, numbers and spaces, and must be 31 or fewer characters in length.	Reduce the length of your setting name and make sure that it only contains letters, numbers, or spaces.

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