What is Action Station?

Action Station from 1-click actions (http://www.1clickactions.com) is a streamlined alternative to the Photoshop action palette that lets you locate and run any of your installed actions without you having to trawl through an ever-increasing list of actions in the palette.

Action Station not only supports the 1-click range of actions but all the actions you have installed in your action palette whether they are commercial actions or your own creations. There is no need to install actions into Action Station, just install them into Photoshop as usual and Action Station recognises them automatically. You can reduce your action palette to its smallest possible size thus freeing up valuable screen space.

Action Station lets you browse through your action sets and automatically displays the actions in the selected set letting you run them directly without having to access the Photoshop actions palette.

Action Station also features a powerful search or filter function. Using this you don’t even need to know which set your actions are in. Just enter part of the action name and Action Station will find all the actions that match. Suppose you want to run a sepia toning action but you have several spread across your action palette. With Action Station you can simply type “sepia” and it will display all your actions with “sepia” in the title and let you run it. You can even use partial matches so “sep” will find sepia, separation etc.
System Requirements
Action Station requires Adobe Photoshop CS2, CS3 or CS4 running on either Microsoft Windows or OSX on the Mac. Photoshop CS4 64-bit on 64-bit Windows is also supported.

Installation
Action Station is supplied as a ZIP archive containing this user guide and the following files:

- ActionStation 1.01.jsx
- 1clogo.png
- res1click.rsc

Close Photoshop and copy these three files to your Photoshop Scripts folder which on Windows is usually located under C:/Program Files/Adobe/Adobe Photoshop CS2/Presets/Scripts (substitute your Photoshop version for the CS2 part above. Likewise on a Mac the files need to be copied to the Scripts folder.

And that’s it as far as the installation goes unless you want to set up a Hot-Key for Action Station which is highly recommended. This will let you simply press a key of your choice to call up Action Station. This involves installing a small Photoshop Action to set up the Hot-Key. Actions are included for Photoshop CS4 on Windows and Macs and also for CS2 and CS3 on Windows. If you have Photoshop installed in a folder other than the defaults then the CS2/3 actions will not work. If you are uncomfortable with creating and modifying actions then email support@1clickactions.com and we will guide you through the process or write the action for you free of charge.

The actions included are set up so that F11 triggers Action Station but you can assign a different key if you wish following the instructions below.

1. Select the newly installed “ActionStation” action in the Photoshop actions palette.

2. Open the Action Palette menu by clicking the Top Right of the action palette

3. Select “Action Options”

4. Make sure that “ActionStation” is highlighted and select a Function Key and modifier key combination to assign to the Action Station action.

Placing a tick (check mark) in the Shift and/or Control boxes adds these keys to the combination. So you could assign Shift F12 or Ctrl-Shift F4 for example. Then Click OK. What you set here will be the key(s) you will use to launch Action Station.
Using Action Station

Once you have installed your actions you can locate and run your actions from within Action Station so it’s recommended that you reduce the size of your action palette to make it as small as possible. Whilst you can close the Photoshop Action Palette completely it is not advisable as some actions have multiple Play components which require you to press play again whilst the action is running. These actions include the 1clickTex actions and actions like the KidzAIO interactive.

By leaving the actions palette visible (all you really need is the green play button) you can use multiple play actions successfully with Action Station.

A suitable setup would be to dock it to the History palette as shown in the screenshot above. You can of course locate the action palette anywhere that you choose—just make sure you can access the play button.

Starting Action Station

To start Action Station select File-Scripts-ActionStation from the Photoshop menu.

Alternatively if you have installed the HotKey action just press F11 (or whatever Key you have set) and the Action Station will pop-up.

You will then locate and run your actions from the Action Station user interface as shown in the next screenshot.
User Interface

Displays all the action sets you have installed.

Allows you enter the search for your action. Enter part of an action name into this box.

Click here to get a list of all the action sets.

Click here to run the action you have selected in the 'Action Name' box.

Click this button to perform the search.

Click here to see a list of all the actions in the currently selected set.

Displays the actions contained in the currently selected set.

Cancels the operation and closes Action Station.

In the display above the set “1clickEssentials” and the action called “BackLightBoost” are selected. If you clicked the “Run Action” button now Action Station would run the BackLightBoost action on the image. Once you click the “Run Action” button Action Station closes so that it does not cover any part of your image.

You can drag the Action Station dialog around your screen until you are happy with its position. Usefully it will remember its last position and will open there the next time you use it. This lets you tailor the layout of your workspace to your choosing.
Selecting your action using the browse feature.

If you want to browse for actions you can use the Action Set and Action Name boxes. Once you’ve made your selection click “Run Action”. Using Action Station in this way is like an improved action palette.

Selecting your action using the search feature.

Type your selection here—‘golden’ in this example.

Click here to run the search.

A new window will appear with all the actions that match the search. Here all the actions that have the word ‘golden’ in their name are displayed. You would then highlight which action you require and click the ‘Run Action’ button.

The search facility is a very powerful feature of Action Station and is the quickest way to locate and run your actions. There is no need to remember exact names or which set the action belongs to.
Of course not all searches will find a match—if so Action Station will display a message indicating that no match was found.