



↑ Express retouching

As well as more advanced control, MakeUp has a simple Express option for automated effects. The adjustment sliders allow quick fine-tuning before the enhancement is made, and a preview pane is a handy guide to effect

➤ Healing powers

After the adjustments are made, you can use the spot healing brush to tidy up skin blemishes. Unfortunately, MakeUp doesn't support the Mac's scrolling gesture that would have been useful for adjusting brush sizes

→ Perfect portraits

Akvis MakeUp enhances portraits, giving them a professional look, but the masking options are somewhat limiting, and only the Home Deluxe and Business versions allow localised editing



PHOTO RETOUCHING TOOL

Akvis MakeUp

Banishing blemishes

Available as a standalone app or as a plugin for Adobe Photoshop, Akvis MakeUp is a highly automated utility for smoothing skin and removing blemishes from portraits.

Before you can benefit from all this slick functionality, though, you'll have get to grips with a the three licensing options. The Home and Home Deluxe and Business versions each offer different functionality.

All three ship with a potent set of tools. An Express mode keeps these hidden, for the most part, offering you a choice of Skin Smoothing options in the form of three adjustment sliders and 11 presets.

Batch processing is available and is especially useful when combined with the presets. Some of these aren't exactly what

you could call subtle, but there's a wide range of different looks available.

We found the default setting impressive for most portraits, while the Glamour preset adds punchy colours to lighter skin tones. Some colour shifts in skin tones is something to watch out for, but can only be adjusted in the Advanced mode. Still, you can fine-tune the skin smoothing results using the sliders and save the adjustments as a new preset.

You can remove any unsightly skin blemishes using the spot healing brush, which works as well as anything from Apple, while a history brush is a novel yet handy inclusion.

More control is available from the Advanced mode, though, and it's here that the real power of MakeUp is revealed. As well as several correction sliders for hue, saturation, contrast and the like, the manual mask editing option allows additional local correction via a range of colour tones. Sadly, that's only available with the Home Deluxe and Business licence options.

Although the editable tone mask provides the ultimate in control, MakeUp's lack of multiple layer options means it's restricted compared with more rounded applications

such as Portrait Professional. Still, MakeUp's strength is its time-saving automated masking and batch processing, and is well worth the asking price. ☺

Kevin Carter



£24.22

inc VAT (sold in US dollars at £29)

for Home licence • Home Deluxe:

£30.42 • Business: £44.70

From akvis.com

Needs OS X 10.5.0 or later

Pro Automated skin smoothing.
• Batch processing option • Spot healing brush

Cons Single layer mask restricts editing options • Occasional tweaking of skin tones required

