

Software Editorial

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**AKVIS Sketch is software for
conversion of photos into
pencil sketches and watercolor drawings.**

Now Sketch v 8 really is something, and to think the upgrade is free for registered users Magnificent. I've loved Akvis products for a long time but just when you think they cannot improve on a particular piece of software, bish bash bosh!! they defy the laws of programming and bring out a masterpiece.

I liked Sketch, but you can only have so many sketches but now, with version 8 you can accomplish all sorts of variations. My particular favourite is to mix and match sketch and photo. At a flat warming party at the weekend I took a photo of a group of people in the kitchen. Now this may not sound very interesting but it turned out a real treat with the help of Akvis.

I transformed the group of people and the kitchen into a greyscale sketch and kept the flat owner in the original colour photograph format. Now at this stage it looked good but I went a step further. I then opened the edited photo in coloriage and on the greyscale sketch part I highlighted some pots and pans on a shelf and turned them into a rich and shiny brass colour which I felt gave an interesting touch to my photo.

The Quick Preview window which is new to version 8 is a great help too as now there is no need to spend time processing the whole image to see your adjustments. But, the program does a whole lot besides this and I thoroughly recommend you visit the Akvis website and see for yourself the many examples and interpretations this extremely entertaining program can easily achieve. You will also find simple to follow tutorials which can be printed off and held in a ring binder for future reference. Swirling backgrounds, artistic blurring, mixtures of sketch and colour, watercolour paintings all of which turn bog standard photographs into works of art. To be honest, if you really enjoy photo editing you might consider purchasing the complete set of 11 Akvis applications for under £200.00 I know times are tough but this set of programs holds a great discount as well as a magnitude of styles and compositions which may mean that by the end of the winter you could have become an accomplished and interesting photo editor..

In line with other Akvis applications Sketch v 8 retains EXIF and IPTC data thus ensuring that all additional information held by the camera won't disappear.

Akvis Sketch v 8 runs on Windows 2000/2003/XP/Vista and Mac OSX 10.3.9 and above

Available as a standalone/plugin

Source: <http://www.softwareeditorial.com/Digital Photography/akvis sketch.html>