



VelderFlow

— THE PORTRAIT RETOUCH WORKFLOW FOR PHOTOSHOP —

by Velderhof PHOTOGRAPHY

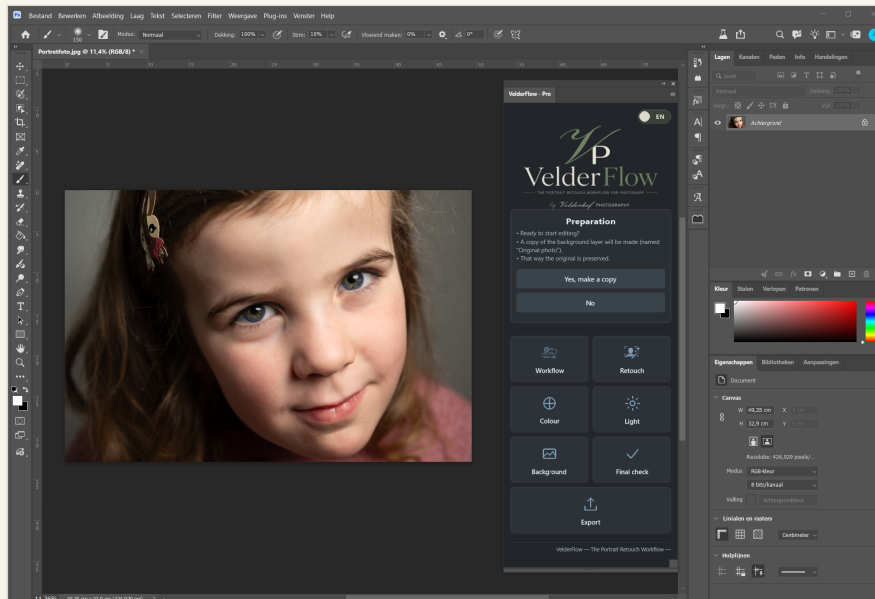
— VERSION 1.0.0 —

MANUAL

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Setting the language



The VelderFlow panel beside your photo, inside Photoshop.

VelderFlow starts in **English** by default. Adobe distributes the plugin worldwide through the Creative Cloud Marketplace, where English is the default language. Would you rather work in Dutch? Click the toggle at the top right of the panel, above the logo.



ENGLISH



DUTCH

- The switch takes effect **immediately**. There is no need to restart Photoshop.
- Your choice is **remembered**. Next time, the panel opens in the language you used last.

What does not change

The names of the layers and groups VelderFlow creates stay the same in both languages: **01_Achtergrond**, **Bg_Egaliseren**, **Skin_Retouch_Basis**, and so on. That is deliberate. It keeps a document recognisable when you switch languages yourself, and when you share a PSD with someone working in the other language.

The names of the seven menu entries — Workflow, Retouch, Colour, Light, Background, Final check and Export — are in English in both languages as well. They act as fixed anchors that this manual refers to.

One exception: the copy VelderFlow makes during preparation is called "Original photo" in English and "Originele foto" in Dutch. VelderFlow recognises both, so a document prepared in one language carries on working in the other.

Welcome.

VelderFlow makes no creative decisions. You decide what the final result looks like.

One panel, two editions.

VelderFlow comes in two editions: Basic and Pro. These are not two separate products — it is one panel, with one workflow. Wherever it matters, this manual states which edition you need for each part.

If you use Basic, the Pro items are still there to see. They appear dimmed, with a padlock in front. That way you know exactly what Pro adds, and the numbering of the workflow keeps making sense — even when you do not use every step.

The padlock

A dimmed button with a padlock belongs to the Pro edition. If you click it anyway, a short explanation of what Pro adds appears — instead of the operation itself. Nothing breaks and no error appears.

FROM BASIC TO PRO

Bought Basic and want to move up to Pro? Send your proof of purchase to Velderhof Photography. You get the price difference refunded against your Pro purchase.

What is in which edition

Both editions run the same workflow. Basic is missing a number of steps; in Pro they are all available.

WORKFLOW	BASIC	PRO	OPTIONAL MODULES	BASIC	PRO
01. Background	✓	✓	A. Freq. separation	—	✓
02. Redness	✓	✓	B. Colour cast	—	✓
03. Skin	✓	✓	C. Colour contrast	—	✓
04. Hair	✓	✓	D. Texture	—	✓
05. Clothing	✓	✓	E. Black & White	—	✓
06. Face	—	✓	F. Orton	—	✓
07. Teeth	✓	✓	G. Matte look	—	✓
08. Lips	✓	✓	H. Dodge & Burn	—	✓
09. Liquify	✓	✓			
10. Contrast	✓	✓			
11. Skin tone	—	✓			
12. Eyes — short	✓	✓			
12. Eyes — extended	—	✓			
13. Sharpen	✓	✓			
14. Check layers	—	✓			

Menus

Retouch, Colour, Light and Background can be reached in both editions; the Pro items inside them appear dimmed. Final check is Pro throughout.

Export

JPG/Online and JPG/Original are in both editions. PSD/Archive with layers, and managing and embedding copyright and contact details, are Pro.

Before you start

WHAT YOU NEED

- ✓ Adobe Photoshop, version 25 or newer
- ✓ A portrait photo, preferably in 16-bit
- ✓ About 30 seconds to install the panel

INSTALLING

- 1 Quit Photoshop.
- 2 Double-click the file **VelderFlow.ccx**.
- 3 Adobe Creative Cloud opens automatically. Click **Install**.
- 4 Start Photoshop again.
- 5 Open the panel via **Plugins → VelderFlow**.

The panel disappears after a restart

Check that you actually installed the plugin from the .ccx file. A plugin loaded through the UXP Developer Tool disappears when you quit Photoshop.

Getting to know the panel

The main menu has seven entries. Two of them lead to the same modules, but from a different starting point.

MENU	WHAT FOR
Workflow	The complete workflow, numbered 01 to 14, plus eight optional modules. The route to take when you finish a portrait from start to end.
Retouch	Only the repair work on the person: skin, hair, clothing, face, teeth, lips, eyes.
Colour	Everything around colour and tone: redness, skin tone, colour cast, colour contrast, black and white, matte look.
Light	Light and contrast: contrast curve, Orton glow, Dodge & Burn.
Background	Work on the background: cleaning up, evening out, isolating.
Final check	The last check: control layers and sharpening.
Export	Saving for the web, at full resolution, or as an archive file.

Open a module from Colour, for example, and the back button brings you back to Colour as well. You never lose your way.

THE COLOURS OF THE BUTTONS

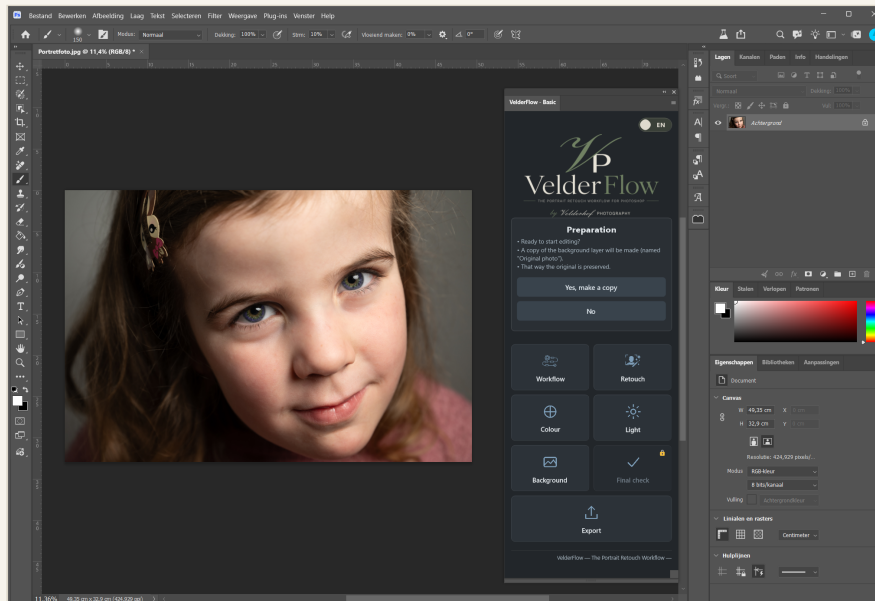
-  **Charcoal** — a normal choice, ready to click.
-  **Green** — this one has already run. The button locks afterwards, so you cannot accidentally run the same operation twice.
-  **Blue** — navigation, or the Undo button.
-  **Dimmed text with a padlock** — this part belongs to Pro. See One panel, two editions (page 05) for what happens when you click it.

Want to redo a step that has already run? Leave the module and open it again — the steps are ready once more.

The Undo button

At the bottom of an open module you will find Undo. It opens Photoshop's History panel, where you click back to the point you want. As long as you have done nothing in that module, the button stays dimmed.

Getting started



The panel right after opening: the Preparation step.

PREPARATION

Open your photo and click **Yes, make a copy** in the panel. A copy of the background layer is made, named "Original photo". All further work happens on top of it, so your original stays untouched.

THE ORDER

The numbering 01 to 14 is not an arbitrary list but a workflow. It runs from coarse to fine: first the background and the large areas, then the skin and the details, and only at the end sharpening and checking.

You are not obliged to follow that order — each module works on its own — but the numbering is there for a reason.

Sharpening comes last

Sharpening (13) is always the last operation, after every other adjustment. Sharpen too early and later operations amplify the sharpening along with everything else.

The workflow

01 — 07

01. Background	Three routes: removing distracting elements, evening out the background (blurring), or isolating the subject so you can treat, paint or fill the background separately.	BASIC + PRO
02. Redness	Tones down red and yellow in the skin. Choose whether the correction lands on an automatic skin selection, or whether you decide with a brush where it goes.	BASIC + PRO
03. Skin	Three methods with increasing depth: Basic, Short and Extended. Each with a choice of strength, from natural to beauty.	BASIC + PRO
04. Hair	Remove stray hairs, fill gaps, even out the hair, add shine, or the Hair boost: contrast and vibrance that you paint onto the hair.	BASIC + PRO
05. Clothing	Remove blemishes, smooth out creases with frequency separation, or adjust the colour and contrast of a garment.	BASIC + PRO
06. Face	Face shaping: shadows under the cheekbones and highlights on the forehead, the way make-up does it.	PRO
07. Teeth	Prepares a whitening layer that you paint over the teeth with white.	BASIC + PRO

The workflow

08 — 14

08. Lips	A wet gloss on the lips, ready-made or set up by you.	BASIC + PRO
09. Liquify	Prepares a merged layer for the Liquify filter.	BASIC + PRO
10. Contrast	An S-curve across the whole photo: deeper shadows, stronger highlights.	BASIC + PRO
11. Skin tone	Selects the skin tones and lays a warming filter over them. You do not have to paint anything.	PRO
12. Eyes	Two methods: a short curves route (Basic and Pro), or the extended route with reflection, darkening and sharpening (Pro only).	BASIC + PRO
13. Sharpen	A High Pass filter across the whole photo.	BASIC + PRO
14. Check layers	A group of temporary analysis layers to check your work before you export. See the next page.	PRO

About the control layers

Module 14 creates a group at the top with four layers you do not use to correct, but to see.

Black and white	Judge brightness and tonal balance without the distraction of colour.
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Extreme curve	Reveals dust, sensor spots and mask edges in flat areas.
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Extreme saturation	Exposes subtle colour problems, such as a shadow that is too green.
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Threshold	Shows where light runs to white or dark runs to black.
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The group is switched off, and that is intended

Turn on one layer at a time, judge, and switch it off again. Forget to do that and you export with an analysis layer visible over your photo.

Optional modules

Eight modules for creative depth, separate from the fixed workflow. Pro throughout — found via Workflow, or directly via Retouch, Colour, Light or Background.

A. Freq. separation	Separates colour and texture into two layers, so you can even out the skin without losing its structure.
B. Colour cast	Neutralises a colour cast using the average-colour method with the grey point eyedropper.
C. Colour contrast	Bluer shadows, more yellow highlights. Gives the photo depth.
D. Texture	Places a texture file over the photo and masks the subject out of it.
E. Black & White	A neutral conversion, or the Polaroid look with a warm undertone, tone curve and vignette.
F. Orton	A dreamy glow, in two strengths.
G. Matte look	Lifts the blacks for a soft, filmic feel.
H. Dodge & Burn	Two Curves layers with black masks: one to lighten, one to darken.

Texture needs a file of your own

The plugin does not ship with texture images. In module D you choose a file yourself through the file picker.

Exporting

The Export menu offers three routes.

JPG / Online	Scaled down to 2000 pixels high, sRGB, without an embedded profile. For the web and social media.	BASIC + PRO
JPG / Original	Full resolution, sRGB, with an embedded profile. For printing and delivery.	BASIC + PRO
PSD / Archive	With all layers, to carry on working later.	PRO

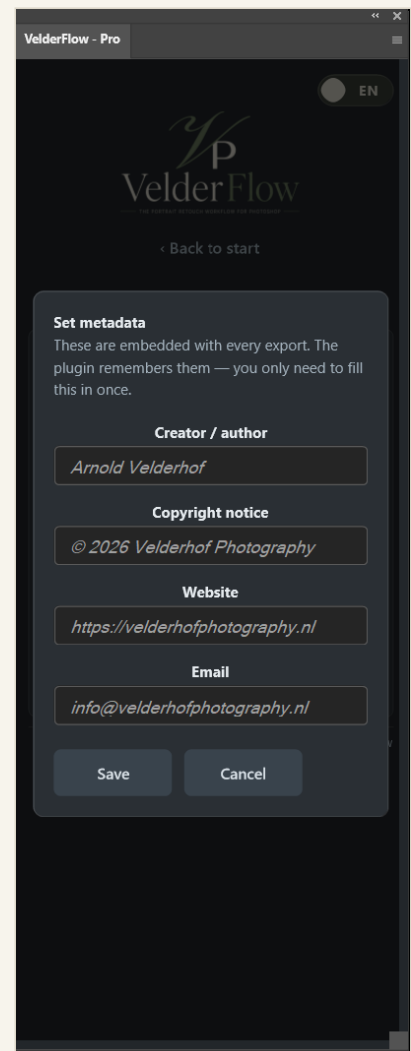
THE FIRST TIME

On your first export the plugin asks for this, and remembers it afterwards:

- 1** Your **export folder**. Choose where the files end up. You can change it later via Choose a different export folder.
- 2** Your **metadata**: creator, copyright notice, website and email. These are embedded in every exported file. **PRO**

Basic skips this step — no metadata is asked for, and nothing is embedded. In Pro you can change your metadata later via Edit metadata.

Why metadata matters. It travels with your file. Anyone who comes across your photo can see whose it is and get in touch — for a licence, for example. Windows Explorer shows only part of those fields; an EXIF viewer, Lightroom or Bridge shows all of them.



Setting metadata — Pro only.

Good to know

Photoshop does not give plugins access to everything. In three places VelderFlow therefore asks something of you. That is not a shortcoming of the panel, but a limit Photoshop sets.

The Flow of your brush

In Frequency separation and in Hair → Fill gaps you work with a low Flow, so the effect builds up gently. Photoshop does not allow a plugin to change that setting. The message tells you which value you need; you set it yourself in the options bar at the top.

The Liquify window

Module 09 prepares the layer for you, but you have to open the window yourself via Filter → Liquify, or with Shift + Ctrl + X.

The link to the website

Click the logo at the top and velderflow.velderhofphotography.nl opens. Photoshop asks for permission once. Tick Remember my choice and the question does not come back.

Frequently asked questions

A button is grey and does not respond

Grey means: not its turn yet. Run the step above it first. Green buttons have already run, which is why they are locked.

A filter does not work

Some filters only work on 8-bit files. Go to Image → Mode → 8 Bits/Channel and try again. The plugin warns you where this applies.

PRO

A button is dimmed with a padlock

That is not a fault — this part belongs to Pro. See **One panel, two editions** (page 05) for what happens when you click it.

I want to redo an operation

Leave the module and open it again; the steps are ready once more. To roll back the result itself, use Undo at the bottom of the panel and pick the point you want in the History panel.

I get a message that an operation has already run

That group already exists in your Layers panel. If you continue, a second group is added. Usually you want to cancel and carry on with what is already there.

The panel is in the wrong language

Click the toggle at the top right to switch between EN and NL. The switch takes effect immediately and your choice is remembered. See **Setting the language** (page 03).

The effect is too strong

Almost every module creates a group or layer whose opacity you can lower. Around 40 per cent is a good starting point. Some modules use fill instead of opacity; the message says which.

Thank you.

Thank you for choosing VelderFlow.

I hope VelderFlow helps you retouch faster,
more consistently and with more pleasure.

All the best with your photography — see you behind the lens!



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