

Macedon Ranges Photographic Society



Affinity Guides Creating, Managing And Executing Macros

Note - Canva Version 3.3 has been released during September 2026 with changes Presets. The Library Panel - becomes the Presets Panel and new options are added. This document applies to the previous release.

Affinity help describes Macros as follows.

“Affinity includes a macro recording and playback feature, available via the Macro panel. It allows you to record multiple operations and then play them back sequentially as one action. “

[This link opens the Affinity Help “Macros Panel” explanation page.](#)

Note: Macros are not supported within the Develop function in Affinity.

If you are processing a RAW image, complete your initial adjustments then click DEVELOP

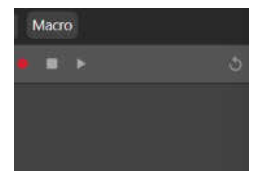
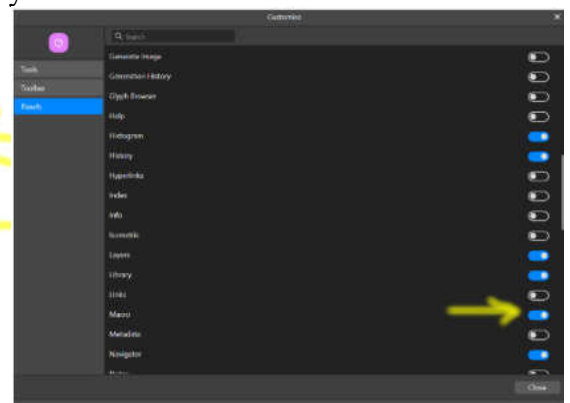
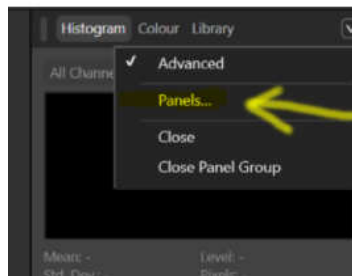
To record a macro proceed as follows

First, ensure that you have the PIXEL studio selected.

If the Macro panel is not already displayed, click the drop down arrow at the top right of any open panel and select Panels. Scroll down to MACRO in the alphabetic list and click the option slider on the right to display the Macro Panel, then click Close.

The Macro panel will open, typically on the left of the workplace near the Pixel Tools.

The 3 icons in the Macro panel are Start, Stop and Play. To record a new macro we will use only Start and Stop.

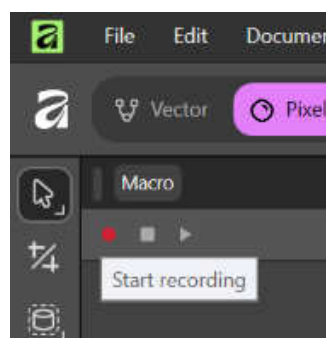


A simple first macro for this exercise will consist of :- **Recording a macro** to create a Curves Adjustment and to modify the curve to provide a conservative initial change to increase contrast, **Stopping the recording** then **Saving the new macro** with the name “Add Curve Layer”

1. Open an image. If it is a raw image, complete your Develop modifications and press Develop. This should give you an open, Pixel image with the Background layer selected in the layers panel.

If the Layers panel is not active, Click the layers panel to open it.

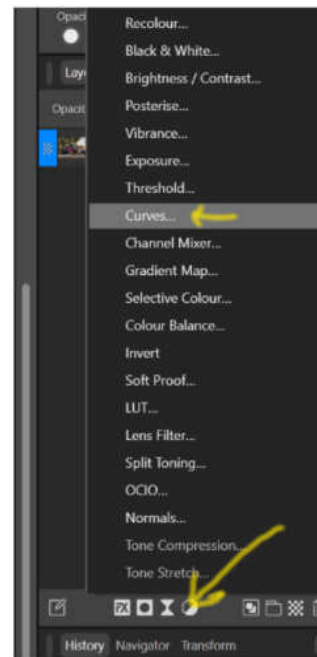
2. Click the red Start button on the Macro Panel. Each step you perform will now be recorded.



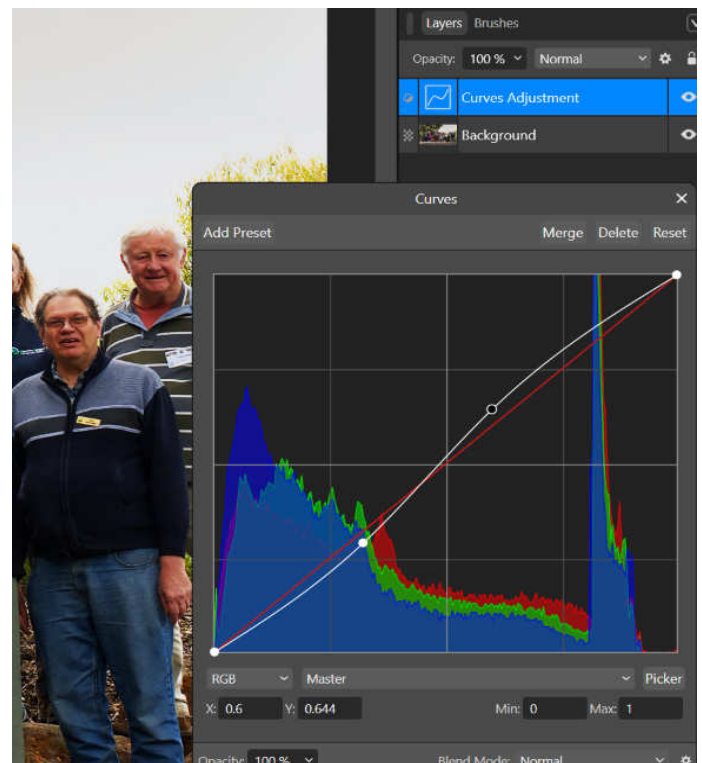


3. Add a curves adjustment layer by clicking the new adjustment layer icon then clicking Curves.

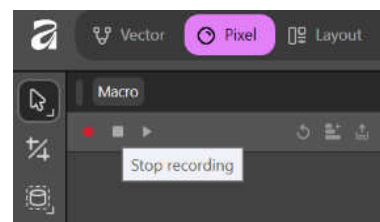
A new Curves adjustment layer will be added above your Background layer and the Curves adjustment panel will open with a straight line displayed over the histogram.



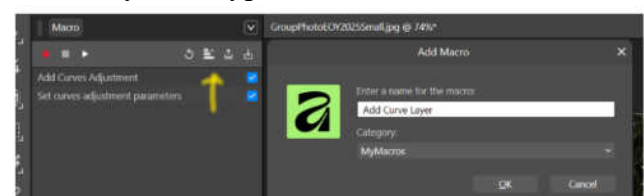
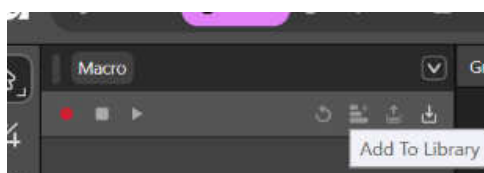
4. Make some adjustments by clicking on the line in the left quadrant and dragging down a little. Release the mouse and click on the line in the right quadrant and dragging up a little.



5. Stop recording the macro by clicking the macro Stop recording button.



6. Save the macro for later use. Click the icon to “Add to Library: then type the name and click OK





Your first macro will be added to a macro group called **Default**.

In order to **replay**, **manage** or **re-organise** your macros you will need to open the Library Panel.

Follow the steps illustrated at the beginning of this document for Macro Panel to open the Library Panel.

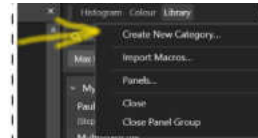
I keep my Library Panel docked with the Histogram and Colour panels at the top right. In the middle right I dock the Layers and Brushes panels and at the bottom right I dock the History, Navigator and Transform panels. This layout allows me to have the Library, Layers and History panels all open and visible during most Pixel editing processes.

7. Create a **new Macros Category** to manage your macros.

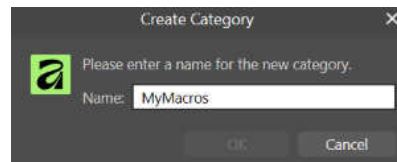
Select the Library Panel then click the drop down to the right. Click Create New Category

Type a name like “MyMacros” and click OK

Having created the new category, you can now drag your macro from the Default category to the “MyMacros” category.



The above macro is very simple and will not be a huge time saver however it does demonstrate the potential of macros.



When editing I often use both Curves and HSL adjustments and have created a single macro which adds both adjustment layers. After completing the RAW Develop steps I simply launch the macro which adds both adjustments. I then refine the curves adjustment and make any changes within HSL without taking the time to individually add both adjustment layers.

Another Macro I have created consists of 12 steps to convert an image into Line Art. Whilst I may need to make minor adjustments after the initial macro, this macro does save 5-10 minutes per image.

