

Welcome to *TEKTOK*  
February 9, 2017

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*You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give.*  
~Anonymous

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## Web Sites

### February 9 Toothache Day

*Toothaches are no fun, and so you will no doubt be surprised to learn that Toothache Day exists. Don't be alarmed, though. This day is certainly not about celebrating the dreaded toothache. No way! Instead, Toothache Day is actually more about education and awareness and helping people learn how to prevent them happening to begin with and how best to make them go away, and quick!*

*It is so important that we learn how to take care of our teeth and not only get rid of nasty aches but also stop them coming back or turning into something more serious, and Toothache Day is a great opportunity to promote and celebrate health, share knowledge and fill your brain with info and facts in a fun and silly way. One thing is for sure though, there will be no sugary candy or soda involved!*

### [Toothaches](#)

This site provides a lengthy discussions about toothaches and abscessed teeth. The site is broken down into 2 primary strategies for dealing with these toothaches: removing the infection causing the pain and merely relieving the pain.

<http://home.teleport.com/~howieb/treats/tooth.html>

### [Suzy's World: Bacteria](#)

Use this site to find out what happens when you don't brush your teeth with this quick fact sheet on bacteria.

<http://www.suzy.co.nz/SuzysWorld/Factpage.asp?FactSheet=10>

### [KidsHealth: Mouth and Teeth](#)

The anatomy of the mouth and of teeth is described. An interactive diagram gives an excellent portrayal of the different types of teeth, and of the internal structure of a tooth. Health problems that can develop are also described.

<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/mouth-teeth.html>

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## Hardware/Software

### Luminar : A serious challenger to the reigning pro apps for photo editing mastery

Luminar 1.1.0, Macphun's brand new flagship photo app, is the company's answer to Photoshop and Lightroom for photographers. It's a universal, non-destructive general photo editor that sits atop an impressive assortment of specialized Mac-only image apps and plug-ins like Creative Kit 2016, Aurora HDR 2017, and others.

With Luminar, Macphun now aims to conquer the complexity of general image editing for amateur and pro users who capture photos with a variety of devices from DSLRs and mirrorless cameras to high-end smartphones. Whereas photographers who rely on Photoshop quickly encounter its famously steep learning curve, Luminar provides the tools for similar editing results with a much easier, Apple Photos-style effort. Its concentration on photo editing and styling, combined with a massive number of slider-based tools, is designed for all skill levels, giving users plenty of headroom, flexibility, and variety. It's a pro app in consumer disguise.

The app's interface is flexible, intuitive, and simple. Want to see only the editing controls? Click to hide the preset panel. Want to work with layers, the Transform tool, or brush in edits using a mask? Click to hide the side panel. One click hides or shows the histogram, a before/after view, masks, zoom, history, and undo-redo. The app provides advanced editing with layers, blending modes, compositing features, and raw white balance correction features, and offers Touch Bar support.

Luminar's Workspace is a flexible feature that offers customized photo editing tools for broad photo categories like Universal, Black & White, Landscape, Portrait, and Street, with a set of discrete controls for each. You can create your own customized Workspace from scratch with tools you use most frequently, or just tweak one of the app's pre-defined Workspaces and rename it.

This is my favorite way to work because I almost always want to enhance clarity, structure, dehaze outdoor shots, and remove color cast, and I want all my favorite tools available immediately rather than picking through the software's default idea of what I want to do with a landscape or a portrait.

As you add filters to your Workspace, the software gives a brief description of the effect it will have on your photos. The beauty of the Workspace is that it

lets you assemble all your favorite tools in one place, but you can still use each one at your discretion, or not at all.

## Presets

Presets are a hallmark of Macphun's editing apps, and Luminar follows in that tradition. Brand new users (and even experienced photographers) can immediately leverage Luminar's more than 50 quick presets in categories like Basic, Street, Dramatic, Portrait, Outdoor, and Travel, complete with instant full-window previews. And if that's not enough, three additional preset packs designed by professional photographers are immediately available as a free download from within the app after purchase.

Mostly, I find category-based presets limiting, but the app lets you override the categories to access all the presets at once so you can quickly click through previews regardless of category. You can also create your own customized presets.

## Standalone or plug-in

Luminar is flexible: You can launch it as a standalone app, or as a plug-in to Photoshop, Lightroom, Aperture, or as an Apple Photos extension. The interface in all cases is exactly the same, as the app launches in its own window. Luminar can be used alone or in conjunction with Macphun's other editing apps.

One major new convenience not present in Macphun's previous apps is a multi-image tabbed interface, like Photoshop's, which lets you click to choose different images within the main window. However, you can only access the tabs function after launching the app.

Luminar's batch processing feature, available from the opening screen or from within the interface, lets you gather multiple photos together for a single editing operation. It accepts all the supported image formats, including raw, and proved fairly speedy: It took about three minutes to process 12 raw photos. My only beef is that the batch window opens smack in the middle of the screen and cannot be resized or relocated.

## Some downsides

Elegant and polished as it is, Luminar currently lacks an asset management system, so users will have to rely on their existing photo libraries in Lightroom, Adobe Bridge, Apple Photos, or other utilities to organize and survey images. The company says it plans to eventually add that important feature in future versions.

The app's opening screen, an unassuming small window, launches in the middle of the monitor and like the batch processing window, cannot be moved. I appreciate that Macphun is trying to keep it simple, but it's disconcerting not to be able to relocate the window until after you navigate to and open your image.

Despite its many pro features, Luminar is not entirely a substitute for Photoshop because it is solely concentrated on photo editing—that's not a bad thing, just a distinction. If you're looking for CMYK four-color separation, a variety of print output options, or text capabilities, it's best to hang on to Photoshop with Luminar as a plug-in.

#### Bottom line

Macphun has covered some major photo editing territory with Luminar 1.1.0, its new flagship general photo editor. It's accomplished that feat while at the same time promoting the app as a plug-in to its major competitors: Lightroom, Photoshop, and Photos.

If you're already familiar with Macphun's other apps, you'll catch Luminar's drift in a jiffy, as its interface sports a similar signature look and feel. If you're looking for a serious photo-centric editor with a polished and well-tested interface, deep functionality, and room to grow, Luminar is an outstanding choice.

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## Hints/Tips

***Q: I bought a used CD and ripped it to add to my iTunes library. The last track has pops and skips. I bought another copy of the CD – it's fairly old and out of print – and the same thing happens. Is there anything I can do to fix this?***

**A:**This is not uncommon with old, worn CDs. The last track of a CD is the one at the outside of the disc, and that area is more likely to be worn or damaged. When you try to rip a CD like that, you'll get what's called diginoise, those pops and clicks that come from areas where data isn't read correctly.

Different drives will react differently, and you may find that one drive can import the file without noise. Also, when you play it on a CD player, you may not hear that diginoise, because of the CD player's error correction. In fact, if you play the CD on a computer, through an optical drive, the same error correction is often used, so you may not hear any noise either.

One thing you can try when importing is to turn on the Use Error Correction setting in the Import Settings of iTunes' General preferences. I use this all the time, to ensure that there is as little diginoise as possible.

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## Riddles You Can Tell in Class

*What starts with T, ends with T, and is full of T?*

Answer: Teapot.

*What letter is most useful to a deaf woman?*

Answer: The letter A can make 'her' 'hear'.

*What ends with E and begins with P and has a thousand letters?*

Answer: Post office.

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## This Day in History

***Birthdates which occurred on February 10:***

1728 Peter III Feodorovich German/Russian czar of Russia (1761–62)

1890 Boris L Pasternak Russia, novelist/poet (Dr Zhivago, Nobel 1958)

1892 Alan Hale [Rufus Alan Mackahan], Washington DC, actor (Little John–Adventures of Robin Hood)

1893 Jimmy Durante New York NY, long-nosed comedian (and good-night Mrs Calabash)

1893 William [Bill] T Tilden II tennis player (US Open 1920–25, 29)

1906 John "Cat" Thompson basketball hall of famer (elected 1962)

1906 Lon Chaney Jr Oklahoma City OK, actor (Dracula vs. Frankenstein, The Phantom, Hawkeye, Pistols 'n' Petticoats)

1929 Jerry Goldsmith pianist/composer (Twilight Zone)

1929 Jim Whittaker mountain climber (1st American to climb Mt Everest)

1930 Robert Wagner Detroit MI, actor (It Takes a Thief, Hart to Hart)

1937 Don Wilson rock guitarist (Ventures–Walk Don't Run, Batman Theme)

1939 Roberta Flack Black Mountain (Asheville) NC, vocalist (The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face)

1940 Jimmy Merchant rock vocalist (Frankie Lymon & Teenagers–Why Do Fools Fall In Love)

1946 Donovan [P Leech] Scotland, rocker (Mellow Yellow)

1955 Greg[ory John] Norman Queensland Australia, PGA golfer "The White Shark" (1984 Kemper)

1958 Sharon Stone Meadville PA, actress (Basic Instinct, Total Recall)

1961 George Stephanopoulos presidential adviser (Clinton)

1966 Daryl Johnston NFL running back (Dallas Cowboys)

1967 Laura Dern Los Angeles CA, actress (Blue Velvet, Mask, Small Talk)

### ***On This Day:***

0060 St Paul thought to have been shipwrecked at Malta  
1098 Crusaders defeat Prince Redwan of Aleppo at Antioch  
1635 Académie Française is founded in Paris (by Cardinal Richelieu)  
1676 Wampanoag Indians under King Philip kill all men in Lancaster MA  
1720 Edmund Halley appointed 2nd Astronomer Royal of England  
1824 Simon Bolívar named dictator by the Congress of Perú  
1855 US citizenship laws amended all children of US parents born abroad granted US citizenship  
1863 PT Barnum stages wedding of Tom Thumb & Mercy Lavinia Warren (New York NY)  
1870 City of Anaheim incorporates (1st time)  
1879 Henry Morton Stanley departs to the Congo  
1897 New York Times begins using slogan "All the News That's Fit to Print"  
1920 Baseball outlaws all pitches involving tampering with the ball  
1940 "In The Mood" by Glenn Miller hits #1  
1940 Tom & Jerry created by Hanna & Barbera debut by MGM  
1945 "Rum & Coca Cola" by Andrews Sisters hits #1  
1946 1st black pro-baseball player Jackie Robinson marries Rachel Isum  
1947 WWII peace treaties signed  
1954 Eisenhower warns against US intervention in Vietnam  
1956 "My Friend Flicka" premieres on CBS (later NBC) TV  
1956 Elvis Presley records "Heartbreak Hotel" for RCA  
1961 AFL's Los Angeles Chargers move to San Diego  
1967 25th Amendment (Presidential Disability & Succession) in effect  
1990 Buster Douglas KOs Mike Tyson in 10 to become heavyweight boxing champion  
1992 Bonnie Blair wins 1992 Olympics 1st gold medal for the USA  
1997 O J Simpson jury reaches decision on \$25 million in punitive damages  
1998 Olympics figure skater Peggy Fleming undergoes breast cancer surgery

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### **Doug Yonce**

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