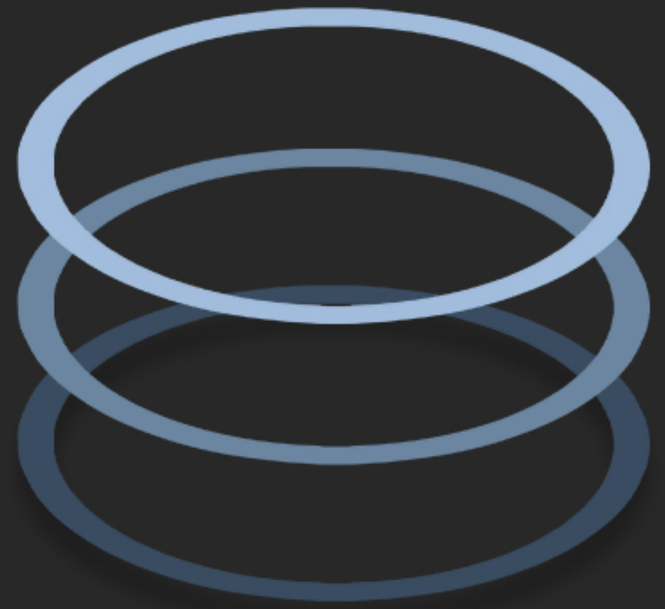
ProStacker



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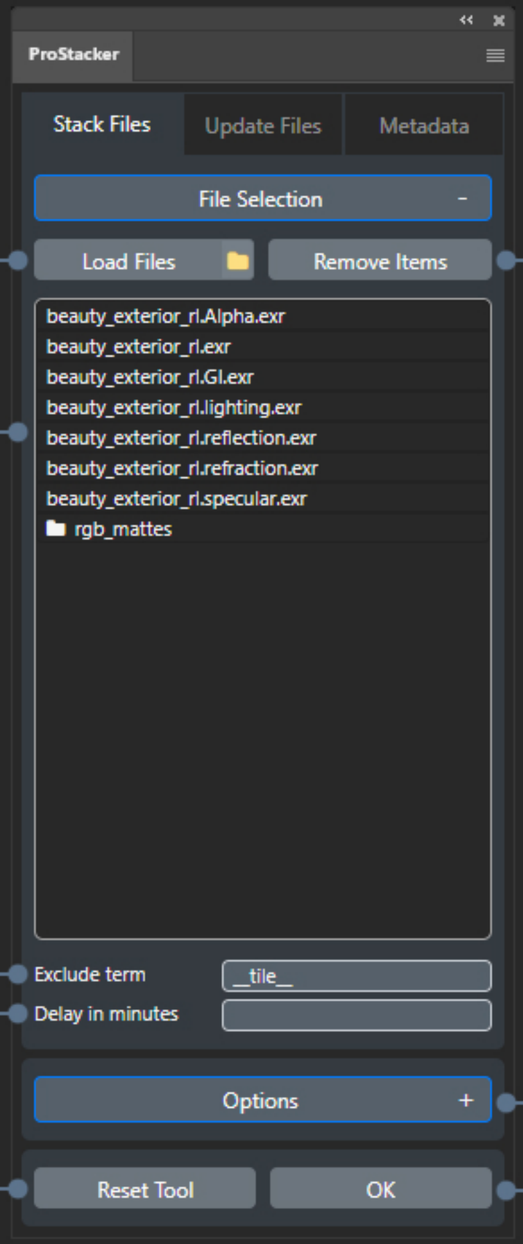
For any support issues, please contact:
support@grebesoft.com



Opens the file selection dialog. Image files selected here will be added to the selection list below.

If the folder icon is clicked then folders will be added instead of files.

Displays the files or folders to be stacked when the user clicks the OK button.

Folders are marked by the folder icon to their left.

Files within folders containing the Exclude term in their name will not be stacked. Multiple terms may be entered separated by a comma.

When a number is entered here, the stacking process is delayed by that number of minutes.

This is beneficial when folders have been added to the selection list which will later have files added to them, such as overnight renders.

For example, the user may choose to stack a folder which will have files added to it later that evening. By setting a 600 minute delay, they can be confident that the files will be ready by the time the stacking process begins.

Clears the selection list and resets all setings in ProStacker.

Removes the selected items from the selection list below.

Expands the Options section.

Launches the stacking process. ProStacker will verify the items on the selection list and check if any options are enabled.

If the OK button is clicked but there are no files or folders in the selection list, ProStacker will check if the Group Layers or Sort Layers checkboxes are enabled within the Options section.

If so then the user will be asked if they want to perform these functions on the active document.

Group layers by name fragment, popular metadata tags or user metadata field input.

The settings for each Group By method will appear below the Group By dropdown. In this example, the Name Fragment method is chosen.

These settings are chosen to accommodate the files in the File Selection section. Here, file names will be split by the placement of full stops, and the text prior to the first full stop wil be used to define the folder name.

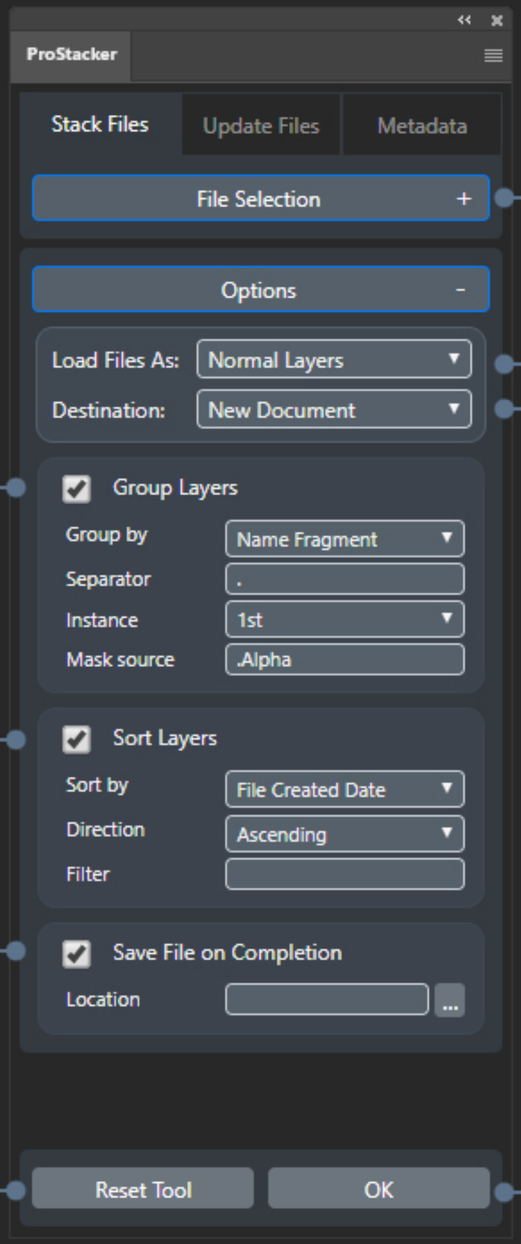
This means that all the files whose name starts with “beauty_exterior_rl” wil be moved into a folder of that name.

Sort layers within their folders by brightness, popular metadata tags or user metadata field input.

The settings for each Sort By method will appear below the Sort By dropdown. In this example, layers will be arranged based on the File Created Date metadata embedded within them, running from oldest to most recent.

Saves a .psb file to a location of the user’s choice upon finishing the stacking process and any grouping or sorting operations.

Clears the selection list and resets all settings in ProStacker.



Expands the File Selection section.

Choose to stack files as Normal Layers, Smart Objects or Linked Smart Objects.

Choose to stack files as a New Document or to add them to the top of the Current Document.

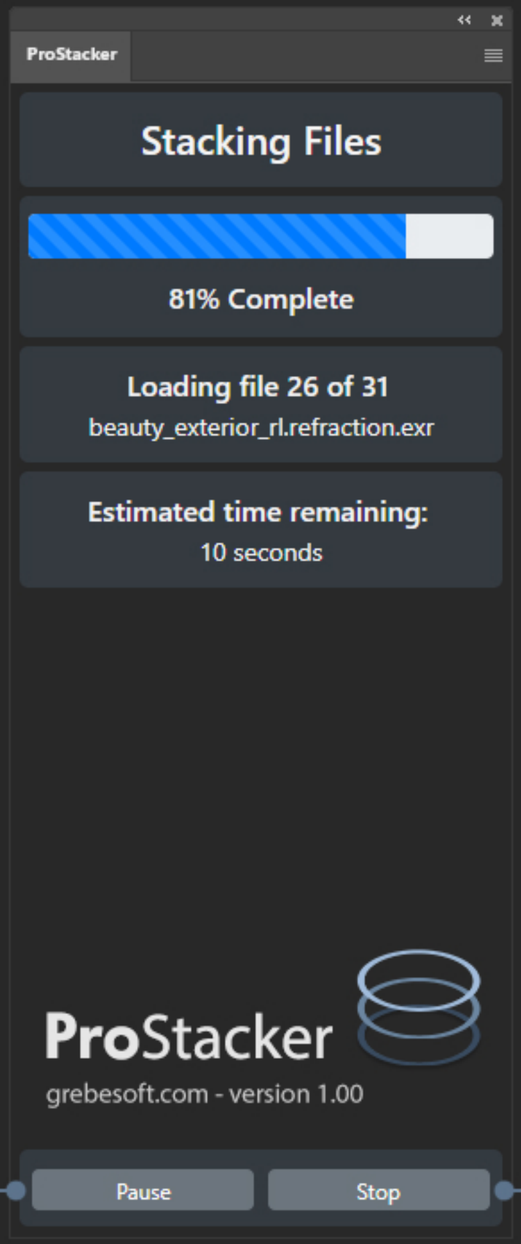
If the user selects Current Document, a further option appears asking how to handle color profile discrepancies.

By default the current comp’s color profile will be assigned to the incoming files. However if the user has at some point converted their document to a color profile, they will need to select “Convert to Comp Profile” from the dropdown to ensure consistent appearance of incoming layers.

Launches the stacking process. ProStacker will verify the items on the selection list and check if any options are enabled.

If the OK button is clicked but there are no files or folders in the selection list, ProStacker will check if the Group Layers or Sort Layers checkboxes are enabled within the Options section.

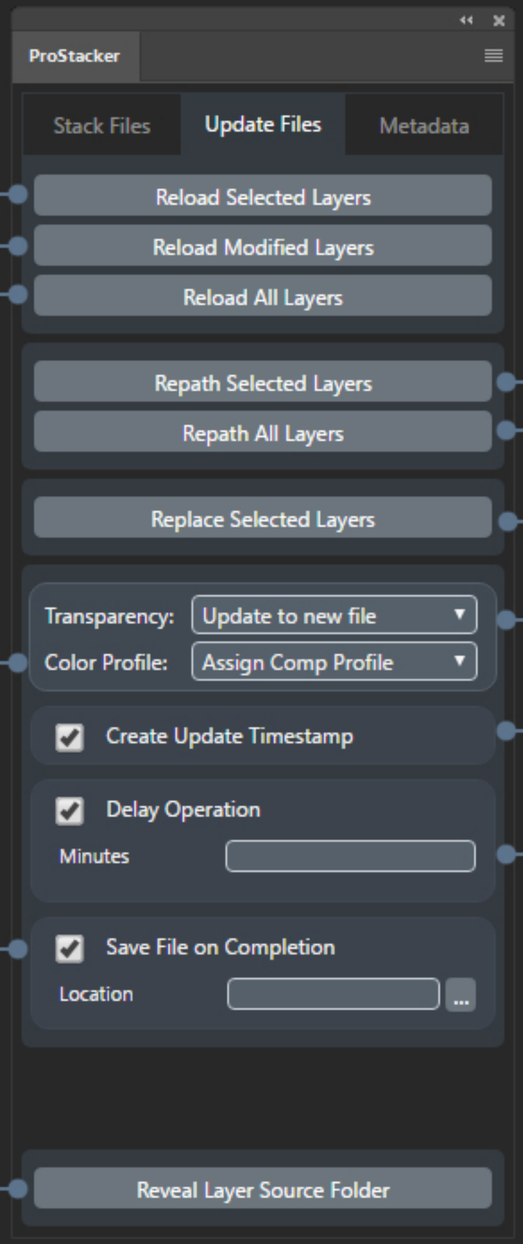
If so then the user will be asked if they want to perform these functions on the active document.



Pauses the stacking or updating operation, returning user control of Photoshop. The ProStacker window will remain on the progress page, with the text on this button changing to "Resume".

On clicking the Resume button, the stacking or updating process will continue. The user may also choose at this point to click the Stop button which ends the operation and resets ProStacker.

Ends the stacking or updating files operation and resets ProStacker.



Replace the selected layers with the input files stacked to create them.

This is useful if some comp source files have been overwritten and the document needs to reflect that change, or if the layers need reverting to their original state.

Check the filesystem to see if any files stacked into the current comp have been overwritten. In positive cases, the layers will be updated.

Replace all layers with the input files stacked to create them.

This is useful if all comp source files have been overwritten and the document needs to reflect that change, or if the layers need reverting to their original state.

Defines the color profile treatment for the update process.

By default the current comp's color profile will be assigned to the incoming files. However if the user has at some point converted their document to a color profile, they will need to select "Convert to Comp Profile" from the dropdown to ensure consistent appearance of updated layers.

Saves a .psb file to a location of the user's choice upon finishing the updating process.

Opens a Windows Explorer or MacOS Finder window at the location of the selected layer's input file.

Replace selected layers with same named files from a user selected folder.

This is useful if newer versions of these files have been saved elsewhere.

Replace all layers with same named files from a user selected folder.

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Replace the selected layers with a file of the user's choice.

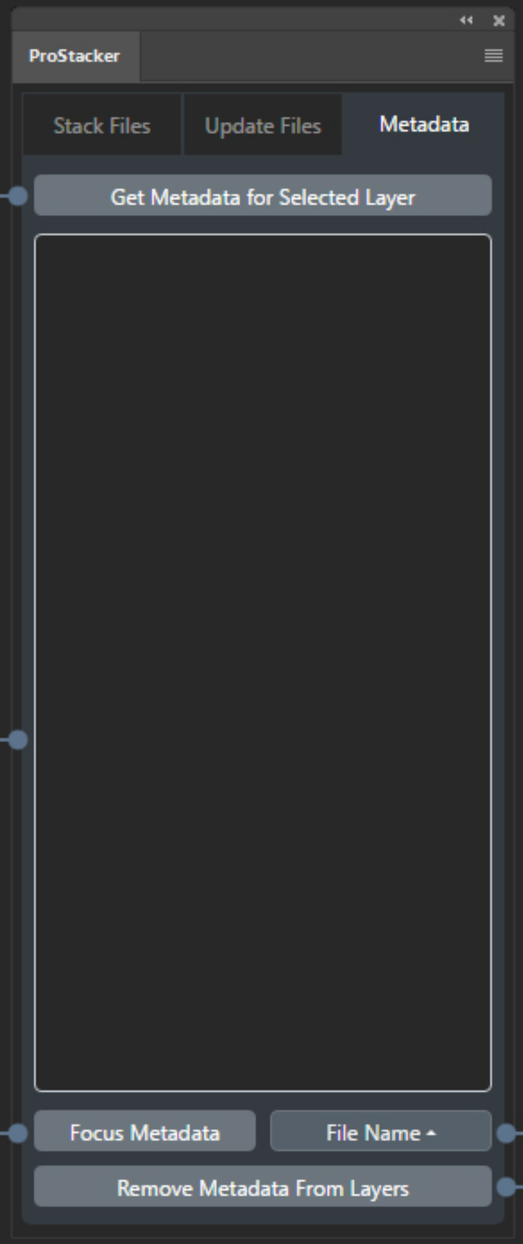
Set if a layer's transparency will be updated to that of the new file or not. If custom drawn masks need to be retained when layers are updated, set this dropdown to "Do not change".

Create a snapshot of the comp prior to a Reload, Repath or Replace operation. This allows the user to flick between the before and after state of the update.

Delays the updating operation by the number of minutes entered here.

This is beneficial when files used in the comp are expected to be overwritten or updated overnight.

For example, the user may choose to Repath the selected layers to a folder which will have files added to it later that evening from a render farm. By setting a 600 minute delay, they can be confident that the files will be ready by the time the updating process begins in the morning.



Displays the selected layer's embedded metadata in the box below.

The first five items are gathered from filesystem information, with all subsequent metadata items contained within the file being displayed alphabetically.

Displays metadata values when the Get Metadata for Selected Layer or Focus Metadata buttons are pressed.

Displays a single metadata item for all layers within the comp in the box above. The metadata field to display is specified in the dropdown menu next to the Focus Metadata button.

Selects which metadata field will be used when the Focus Metadata button is pressed.

Removes metadata from selected or all layers in the comp. Once this is done, layer Grouping, Sorting or Updating is no longer available via ProStacker.

Opening ProStacker

In Photoshop, click Window, Extensions, ProStacker

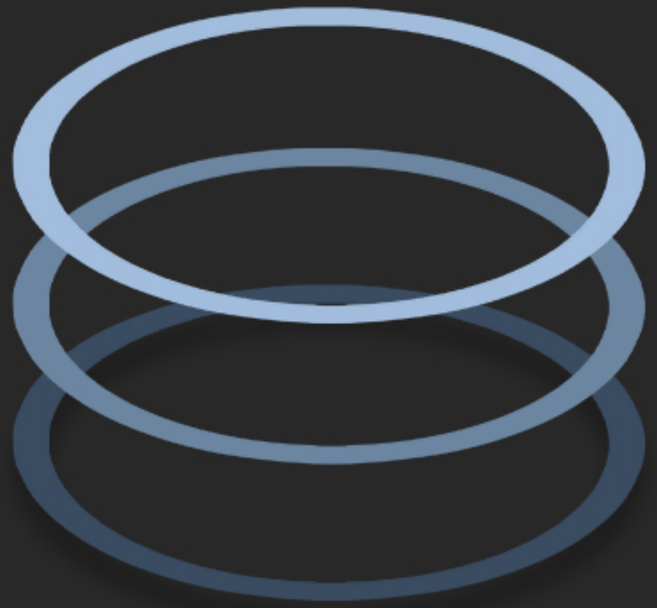
Please note that in some versions of Photoshop, extension panels can't open behind the start screen.

If you open ProStacker for the first time and the panel isn't visible, press the Esc key on the keyboard to close the start screen.

You should then see ProStacker docked within Photoshop. If you drag the ProStacker panel out so that it becomes a floating window, it will always be visible when opening, even if the start screen is present.

If you need any further help using ProStacker, please visit our website at:
www.grebesoft.com

Or email us at:
support@grebesoft.com

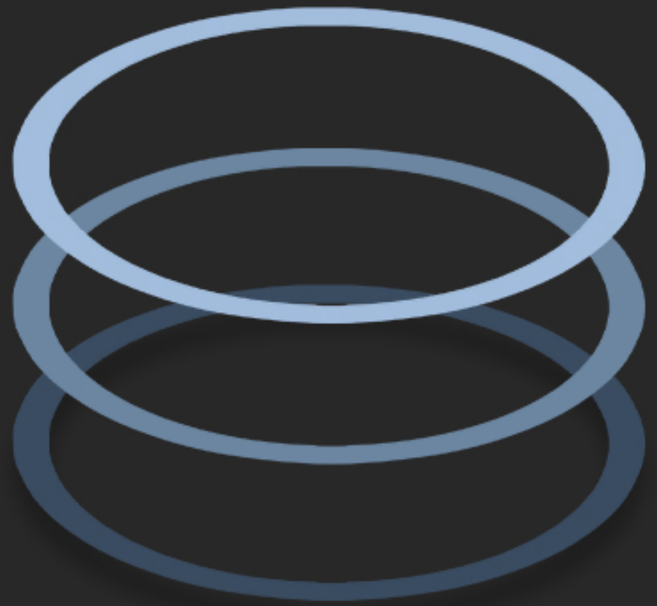


Notes on Updating Layers

In order to make best use of the Update Layers functions within ProStacker, its important to know what the tool can and can’t do.

Using Reload, Repath and Replace layer functions will not:

- Change the masks of updated layers.
- Work properly if the document canvas size has been altered since the files were stacked.
- Retain any user made changes to the layer.

If you have created a layer which should not be updated at any point in the future then we recommend removing the metadata from that layer. This can be done in the Metadata tab using the Remove Metadata from Layers button.

Every time a Reload, Repath or Replace function is performed, a history snapshot is created. These can be used to undo any updating operation. History snapshots can be accessed by going Window > History.