DREAM SEAM / STUDIO PRO

Dream Seam
STUDIO PRO

CUSTOMER USER GUIDE

INSTALL • ACTIVATE • CREATE • FINISH

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01 Start here

Dream Seam Studio Pro is a Photoshop plugin that brings extraction, background generation, and realistic reflections and shadows into one workspace. The launch package includes Dream Clean, Dreamscape, and Dream Gleam.

The fastest route to a finished portrait

01 Open your athlete photo in desktop Photoshop.

02 Use Dream Clean to extract the athlete and preserve important equipment.

03 Use Dreamscape to build and position a seamless studio background and floor.

04 Use Dream Gleam to add reflections and contact/ground shadows.

05 Inspect at 100%, fine-tune layers, and save a layered PSD before exporting.

Before you begin

- Adobe Photoshop 2026 (27.0) or newer is required.
- Use a full-resolution image when possible. Sharp footwear, clean exposure, and separation from the original background help.
- Keep your original photo and save a working PSD. Processing can add or change layers.
- For full-length floor reflections, leave room beneath the athlete in your intended final composition.

RECOMMENDED WORKING ORDER

Dream Clean → Dreamscape → Dream Gleam. This reduces conflicts between masks, subject placement, floor perspective, and shadows.

What is included at launch?

Dream Clean: subject/object extraction and batch extraction. • Dreamscape: studio environment and seamless floor. • Dream Gleam: pose-aware reflections and shadows.

02 Install & activate

Install the CCX file

01 Download the official Dream Seam Studio Pro .ccx installer supplied with your purchase.

02 Close or save active Photoshop work. Open the .ccx file using the Adobe Creative Cloud / UXP installation flow and approve the plugin installation.

03 Launch or relaunch Photoshop. Find Studio Pro under Plugins and open its panel.

04 Keep the plugin panel open while working; you can resize or dock it as your workspace allows.

IMPORTANT

Install the current production CCX. Old beta or developer copies can cause confusion. If you see an unexpectedly old interface, close Photoshop and remove obsolete Studio Pro installations before reinstalling the official release.

Activate your license

01 Open Studio Pro's License & Products area.

02 Enter the same email address associated with your purchase.

03 Choose Activate and allow the plugin to check your entitlements.

04 Use Refresh License if a recently purchased module does not appear unlocked.

Your license and updates

- Purchased modules remain unlocked permanently for the licensed version. This is not a monthly subscription.
- A license may be active on up to two computers. Use Deactivate when moving to another computer, if available in your installed release.
- The first 12 months of software updates begin with first production activation, not beta use.
- Your Studio-wide update anniversary is not extended by purchasing another module. After your update term ends, your eligible installed version keeps working; newer releases require renewed update eligibility.

If activation is not working

Confirm spelling and purchase email, check internet access, click Refresh License, and relaunch the plugin. If the license was already used on two computers, deactivate an older installation or contact Dream Seam support through your purchase channel.

03 Dream Clean

SUBJECT & OBJECT EXTRACTION

Dream Clean removes the original background while keeping the subject editable with a Photoshop layer mask. It is designed for sports portraits, including people holding gear.

Single image workflow

01 Open your portrait in Photoshop and expand Dream Clean.

02 If a separate item such as a ball, bat or stool needs its own cutout, choose Select Object for Extraction and extract that object first.

03 Choose Extract Subject to isolate the athlete.

04 Zoom in to inspect hair, fingers, jersey edges, shoes and equipment.

05 If an edge needs work, select the subject layer mask in Photoshop and refine it with Photoshop's mask tools. Continue into Dreamscape when ready.

Improve a difficult cutout

- Start with a well-exposed, sharp source photograph. Blurred edges or similarly colored backgrounds are inherently harder to separate.
- Inspect gaps between arms, legs, equipment and body at 100% rather than judging only at fit-to-screen size.
- Use Photoshop's mask painting or Select and Mask tools for stubborn hair, halos or missed details.
- Save your layered PSD so the original photo and mask remain editable.

LAYER SAFETY

Keep the source photo intact and work on a duplicate document when experimenting. Refine the actual Photoshop layer mask rather than erasing image pixels.

Sports photography tips

- Watch gaps between arms and the body, lacrosse nets, glove openings and loose hair.
- Extract separate props before the subject if the main mask omits them.
- When moving multiple subject/object layers into Dreamscape, keep their alignment and link related layers.
- Avoid sharpening or aggressive cleanup along the mask edge until your composite is assembled.

04 Dream Clean batch

Batch extraction is useful for a roster or school portrait set when you need isolated subjects before compositing or delivery.

Recommended batch procedure

01 Put the intended source images in a dedicated folder; keep originals separately.

02 Open Dream Clean's batch extraction controls and choose the source and output settings offered by your installed version.

03 Test a small group of images before running an entire team or school.

04 Use standard mode for normal runs. If Photoshop hangs during background removal, turn on Safe Mode and retry a smaller batch.

05 Use Cancel to stop a running batch when needed. Review the completion summary and any skipped images before using the exports.

What Safe Mode does

Safe Mode takes a slower, more conservative extraction path intended to help on computers or image sets that cause Photoshop to freeze. It is a reliability option, not an image-quality upgrade.

Batch best practices

- Start with a trial set of 5–10 varied poses before processing hundreds of portraits.
- Keep Photoshop available; avoid running other heavy exports at the same time.
- Check cutouts with hair, hats, props, white socks, dark uniforms, and similar-colored backgrounds.
- If one file repeatedly stalls, extract it on its own and inspect its contents, dimensions, and Photoshop compatibility.
- Do not assume every image succeeded. Audit the output count and investigate skipped items.

BATCH REALITY CHECK

A successful extraction batch means cutouts were created; it does not guarantee every edge is production-ready. Spot-check representative files before a client delivery.

05 Dreamscape

SEAMLESS BACKGROUND & FLOOR

Dreamscape builds a studio-style environment behind your athlete, including floor placement and scene styling. It is built to work with Dream Clean's extracted layers.

Generate a scene

01 Open the extracted image and expand Dreamscape.

02 Choose the desired look, colors, exposure, floor and environment settings exposed by your version.

03 Choose the output orientation or use Format Current Image when available.

04 Generate the scene, then inspect the subject's placement and floor transition.

05 Refine the look before moving to Dream Gleam.

How subject placement works

Full-body subjects receive automatic floor positioning and subject centering. When an athlete is cropped at the bottom of the source, Dreamscape may position them against the bottom edge and omit a visible floor instead of inventing missing feet.

Pro tips for better composites

- For standing reflections, use a source with both feet visible and a little space below the shoes.
- Make sure the subject and separate equipment stay aligned. Related subject/object layers should be linked.
- Keep the background lighting direction consistent with the original athlete photo.
- If the athlete looks pasted on, first check scale, floor height, color temperature, and edge cleanliness. Shadows cannot repair a mismatched composite by themselves.
- Build the scene with enough space for the finished crop, not merely enough to fit the athlete.

FOR CROPPED PORTRAITS

If a source ends at the athlete's thighs, knees, or feet, a natural studio backdrop may be more believable than a forced visible floor or reflection.

06 Dream Gleam

REFLECTIONS & SHADOWS

Dream Gleam adds floor reflections and shadows that respond to the athlete's pose. The goal is believable grounding, not the strongest possible effect.

Start with Auto

01 Complete the Dreamscape background and open Dream Gleam.

02 Leave Reflection Method on Auto for most images.

03 Review pose detection and any Foot Contact Override offered by the interface.

04 Generate the reflections and shadows.

05 Use the reflection and shadow sections to adjust visible intensity, length, fade, and grounding to suit the image.

Auto vs. Mirror

- Auto: recommended for most single subjects, staggered feet, overlapping limbs, or complicated poses. The engine chooses an appropriate construction.
- Mirror: a manual reflection mode for images where a clean mirrored floor look makes visual sense. It can be used with one- or two-foot contact as the release allows.
- Foot Contact Override: use the toe/foot controls when automatic interpretation picks the wrong shoe or toe contact.

Ground and contact shadows

Contact shadows sit closest to shoes or other points of contact and keep the subject attached to the floor. Ground shadows supply broader, softer support beneath the athlete. Do not remove these just because a reflection is enabled.

Pose-specific advice

- Flat feet: favor compact, sharp contact and a subtly softened reflection.
- On toes: verify which foot is touching and correct the toe override if needed.
- One foot raised: keep the grounded foot convincing; do not create equal contact under a floating shoe.
- Depth poses / overlapping feet: inspect whether reflections include stray hands or gear. Use the feet-only controls if the available Depth options expose them.
- Jumping / air poses: a soft ground shadow under the athlete communicates height and space.
- Teams: reflections and large ground shadows may need extra visual review; complex group separation is harder than a single player.

A USEFUL RULE

Zoom out after tuning. If your eye goes to the reflection before the athlete, the effect is probably too strong.

07 Workflow recipes

The 2-minute hero portrait

01 Open a clean, full-length portrait.

02 Dream Clean: extract the subject; inspect shoes and equipment.

03 Dreamscape: set composition, floor, and scene lighting.

04 Dream Gleam: Auto; generate a restrained reflection and contact shadow.

05 Save PSD; export a JPEG or PNG for delivery.

Tough hair or background spill

01 Inspect the original image for blur, color spill and weak subject/background separation.

02 Zoom to 100% and refine difficult edges using Photoshop's mask tools.

03 Check the mask against your new background, not only against a transparency grid.

Athlete with equipment

01 Select and extract important disconnected gear separately in Dream Clean.

02 Extract the athlete and verify both layers remain aligned.

03 Link the layers before generating Dreamscape.

04 Inspect any shadow/reflection interactions around the gear.

Large roster / school workflow

01 Run a small Dream Clean batch and review output.

02 Use Safe Mode if the computer is unstable during background removal.

03 Fix exceptional photos individually.

04 Develop the consistent scene/style using a few representative athletes before scaling production.

08 Frequently asked questions

Is Studio Pro standalone software?

Adobe Photoshop 2026 (27.0) or newer is required.

Does it work on Photoshop for iPad?

No. The iPad version of Photoshop does not support this Studio Pro workflow.

Do I need an internet connection?

Plan to be online for activation and license refresh. Some Photoshop operations may depend on your Adobe configuration and available features.

Can I work with RAW or TIFF photos?

Open your camera RAW in Photoshop through Adobe Camera Raw first, then run the plugin on the resulting Photoshop document. TIFF files can be opened in Photoshop, but document mode, layers, and compatibility still matter.

Does Dream Clean use credits for each extraction?

The intended launch model does not charge per-image Dream Clean extraction credits. Adobe/Photoshop account requirements remain separate.

Will I lose my software after one year?

No. Your purchased modules are perpetual. The first year includes eligible software updates; continuing to use your entitled installed version does not require renewal.

What happens if I buy a new module in month 11?

The newly purchased module is yours, but it does not reset your existing Studio-wide update anniversary.

Can I install it on my desktop and laptop?

Yes, up to two activated computers per license under the launch policy.

Where are my other Dream Seam tools?

This guide covers the three launch modules. Other named modules may appear in the shell or arrive in later releases; their availability depends on what has shipped and your license.

Does batch mean it can finish entire composites unattended?

No. Dream Clean batch extracts subjects. Treat full composite assembly, creative decisions, and quality control as separate steps.

09 Troubleshooting & quality control

The plugin does not appear in Photoshop

Confirm the .ccx was installed successfully in Adobe Creative Cloud, restart Photoshop, and check the Plugins menu. Make sure you are using a supported desktop build, not Photoshop for iPad.

It says an update is available, but I am current

Check the version shown in the plugin against the installed CCX and the official release notice. Refresh the update check, then restart Photoshop. Do not reinstall an old beta by accident.

Activation succeeds but a module is locked

Confirm the purchase email and click Refresh License. If the entitlement is still wrong, contact the original seller/support channel with the purchase email and order information.

Extract Subject freezes or batch stops

Try the problem file alone, then use batch Safe Mode with a small test set. Close other memory-heavy jobs and check for skipped outputs. Preserve the source files and note whether the freeze happens consistently on one image.

The result looks cut out or unrealistic

Inspect the subject mask at 100%, then check scene lighting, floor placement and scale. Reduce overly sharp reflections and make sure the shoes have believable contact shadows.

The reflection is wrong for the pose

Start with Auto, check the selected foot/toe override, then regenerate. Use Mirror only when the pose benefits from a clean mirrored treatment. Review depth and feet-only options for overlapping poses.

Before client delivery

- Check hair, hands, equipment edges and footwear at 100%.
- Verify there are no unsupported shadows or floating feet.
- Examine floor perspective and subject scale at fit-to-screen size.
- Save a PSD with original image and editable layers; export a final client-ready copy.

10 Quick reference

Choose the right module

NEED	MODULE	FIRST MOVE
Remove original background	Dream Clean	Extract Subject
Keep a ball or prop	Dream Clean	Select Object for Extraction
Extract a folder	Dream Clean	Batch; Safe Mode if needed
Create a studio backdrop	Dreamscape	Generate scene
Build a floor environment	Dreamscape	Review floor placement
Add believable floor contact	Dream Gleam	Auto + shadows
Create a mirrored floor look	Dream Gleam	Mirror when appropriate

The most common mistakes

- Skipping mask inspection before constructing the scene.
- Using Mirror on every pose instead of trying Auto first.
- Making a reflection too dark or too long.
- Trying to force feet into an image that was cropped too high.
- Assuming every batch file succeeded without checking output.
- Confusing a beta CCX with the current production release.

FINAL ADVICE

Use the plugin to do the repetitive work. Use your eye to make the final call. Natural shadows, clean edges and consistent lighting are what make the finished image look photographed instead of assembled.

DREAM SEAM STUDIO PRO • SPORTS PORTRAITS. WITHOUT LIMITS.

09 Release compatibility & FAQs

Photoshop requirement

Dream Seam Studio Pro v1.0.8 requires Adobe Photoshop 2026 (version 27.0) or newer. Update Photoshop through Creative Cloud before installing the CCX. Earlier Photoshop releases are not supported by this customer installer.

What happens after the first year of updates?

Your purchased modules remain usable under your perpetual license. New releases published after your Studio-wide update eligibility expires require renewal. Buying another module does not restart the update year. The initial 12-month period starts at first production activation, not during beta testing.

Can I use two computers?

Yes. The license allows two activated computers. Deactivate an old device before activating a third, or contact support if the old computer is unavailable.

Does Dream Clean work with RAW or TIFF?

Open the source in Photoshop first. Camera RAW files normally open through Adobe Camera Raw and then into Photoshop; TIFF documents can be opened directly. Extraction operates on the active Photoshop document. Batch compatibility depends on the file types supported by the installed batch workflow; test a few files before committing a large folder.

What if a batch stops or skips images?

Check the output folder against the source count, then retry problem images individually. Safe Mode is a slower reliability option when normal background removal freezes. Do not assume all images succeeded merely because the batch finished.

How do I get updates?

Use the update controls shown in the plugin when eligible, or obtain the latest official customer installer from dreamseamsports.com/install. Save open documents before installing or updating.

Final image quality checklist

- Inspect hair, fingers, equipment, and shoe edges at 100%.
- Check that the athlete is centered and the floor transition is natural.
- Ensure shadows agree with contact points and light direction.
- Reduce overly strong reflections; the athlete should remain the focus.
- Save a layered PSD before delivering flattened JPEG or PNG files.