

AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0

for Windows® and Mac OS X

We are proud to introduce AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0, the filter plug-in (8bf) for Adobe® Photoshop® and compatible hosts.

The new version of our famous “puzzle-maker” plug-in has become much more effective and more powerful thanks to the plug-in’s new unique features and improved engine!

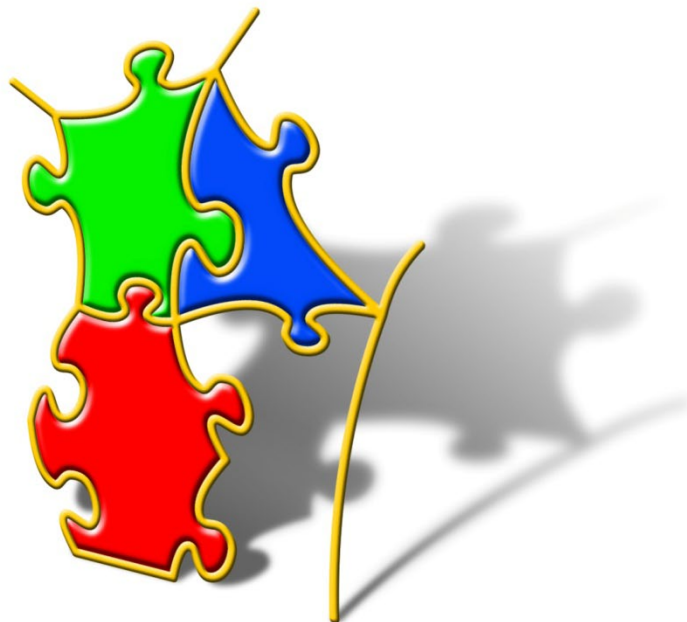
And, of course, Puzzle Pro 3.0 continues to help you produce a whole bunch of various high quality image effects in addition to its main function – creating a high quality jig-saw puzzle image effect!

It is hard to believe, but this extremely professional and powerful product is also very convenient to use!

We really believe that you will not only be pleased with the achieved result, but you will also enjoy using Puzzle Pro 3.0!

What has remained the same is our strong recommendation to invest some time in reading the on-line User Guide of Puzzle Pro 3.0 to learn how to make the plug-in’s power obedient to you to obtain the best result quickly. It is really worth it!

We also recommend that you visit both the Gallery of AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 and the Tutorials page on our web-site at www.avbros.com



Overview

AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 is a filter plug-in (8bf) for Adobe® Photoshop® and compatible hosts (Such as: Adobe® Photoshop® Elements, Adobe® Fireworks®, Corel® Paint Shop™ Pro®, Corel® Photo Paint®, Corel® PhotoImpact® and others.) Please check the list of hosts on our web-site at www.avbros.com

With AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 you have nearly complete freedom to create jig-saw puzzle shapes using the convenient and powerful tools and are able to modify the content of the obtained puzzle pieces with the help of a number of built-in effects.

Thanks to the new features of Puzzle Pro 3.0 you can achieve the results, which were very time-consuming or simply impossible in earlier versions. Now you can get them in almost NO time!

And, of course, Puzzle Pro 3.0 has inherited the most useful options of the previous versions of the plug-in and you can review the complete List of Features below.

Customer Support

We (AV Bros.) provide our registered customers with professional, fast and free of charge technical support.

If you have questions relating to AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0, then please send them to support@avbros.com

In order to quickly process your support request, please use the following text in the Subject line of your letter: AV Bros. support request!

Note! To save yourself some time, please visit our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page at <http://www.avbros.com/faq.html>

Note! We do NOT provide technical support relating to the image editing application (host). Please, address such questions to the technical support staff of the host's Developer.

Note! For up-to-date information about the Customer Support, please visit our site at <http://www.avbros.com>

Registration

The purchased Puzzle Pro 3.0 should be registered if you want to be eligible for:

- Our professional, fast and free of charge technical support.
- Being able to upgrade to the newest version of the plug-in.
- Receiving the special offers from AV Bros.

For that you should visit our web site at <http://www.avbros.com/register.html> and fill in the special Registration Form. The required information* for registration, includes the License Key of Puzzle Pro 3.0 and your contact information. After submitting this data you will become our registered customer.

Please pay attention that if you have purchased AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 on-line directly through AV Bros. web-site, then you *DO NOT* need to register, because the purchased plug-in has been *registered automatically*. But if you have purchased Puzzle Pro 3.0 using any other method, then the *registration is required*.

** The required for registration information, provided by you, will not be shared with anyone else.*

Copyright and Disclaimer

Copyright 2003-2009 AV Bros. All rights reserved.

The content of this AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 User Guide (for Windows® and Mac OS X) is provided for informational use ONLY and can be changed without prior notice. AV Bros. is not responsible for any errors or mistypes that may occur in this User Guide.

In the event that this User Guide is distributed with the appropriate AV Bros. software that includes the EULA (End User License Agreement), then both the AV Bros. software and this User Guide are provided under the EULA and may be used only in compliance with the terms of the EULA.

The content of this User Guide is the sole property of AV Bros. and is protected by copyright and trademark laws, international conventions and/or other intellectual property laws. Any reproduction in whole or in part is strictly prohibited without prior written permission from AV Bros.

All other brands, product names, company names and logos are trademarks of their respective owners.

Getting started with Puzzle Pro 3.0

To successfully use AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0, you should follow the following steps:

1. To review the plug-in's complete [List of Features](#) to become familiar with AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 capabilities. (If you have used the earlier version(s) of the plug-in, then you may find it effective to learn what is new in the 3.0 version.) For that, it would be helpful to understand the specific [Terms](#) that we use for the plug-in.
2. To have the plug-in correctly installed (See [Installing.](#)) under your image editing application (host) and then run the plug-in. (See [Running Puzzle Pro 3.0.](#))
3. To understand the way the plug-in works for being able to perform your creative ideas. For that the best way is to combine reading the [The general principle of how AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 works](#) and various [HOW TOs](#) topics in the on-line User Guide and "playing" with the plug-in.

Terms

A Host: this is your image editing application (e.g. Adobe Photoshop). AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 is the plug-in for your host.

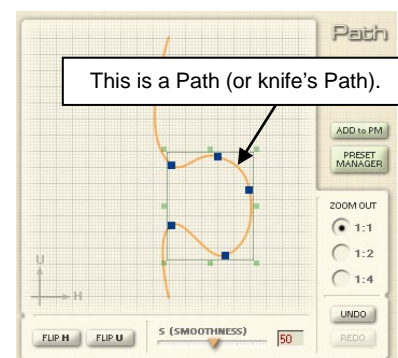
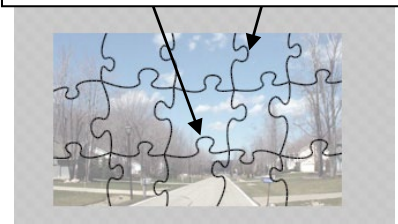
A Splitter: this term is used to name a virtual knife that can be used both as a "big knife" for cutting your image into pieces and as an object to be drawn. The latter option is called a [Draw Splitter](#) option. In Puzzle Pro 3.0, a [Splitter](#) is a matrix of single knives that you construct using the plug-in's built-in tools.

A Knife: this is a basic element, of which the [Splitter](#) consists. In Puzzle Pro 3.0 each knife has two main properties – a shape and a thickness and either of these parameters can be adjusted using the plug-in's controls.

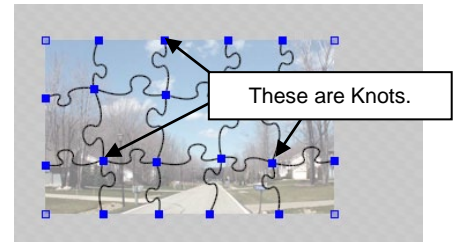
A Path (or a knife's Path): this is a mathematical (vector) line that represents a shape of a knife. When you create or edit the knife's shape, you create or edit this knife's [Path](#) using the plug-in's tools located in the [Path](#) palette of the [Cutter](#) window. Pay attention that the thickness of the orange line (that represents the [Path](#) in the preview area of the [Path](#) palette) has relation to neither the [Path's](#) thickness (The [Path](#), as a vector line, has NO thickness, by definition.), nor to the thickness of the knife (the [Splitter's](#) element).

An Initial Path: this is a [Path](#) that you have chosen for cloning (propagating) onto a [Splitter](#). You use a shape of the [Initial Path](#) as a pattern when you create knives – elements of a [Splitter](#). But the knives shapes are dependent not only on the [Initial Path's](#) shape, but on the type of cloning too, so they may be equal to the [Initial Path's](#) shape or different.

These are Knives.
There are 22 knives in total in this layout and the Splitter is the matrix of all these knives.

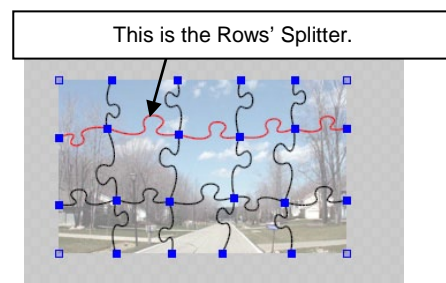
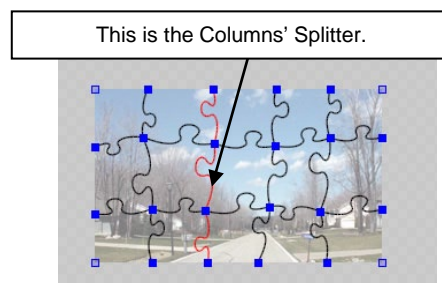


A Knot: this is a node in the knives' matrix (*Splitter*). In Puzzle Pro 3.0 you can insert an extra knife between any two *Knots* (except the neighboring *Knots*, of course). The position of a *Knot* can be adjusted either manually or automatically, using the plug-in's built-in tools.



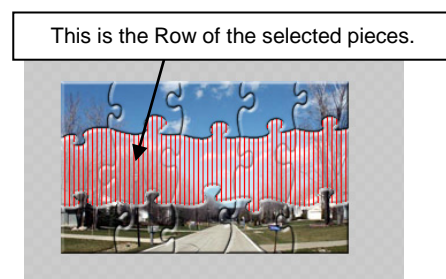
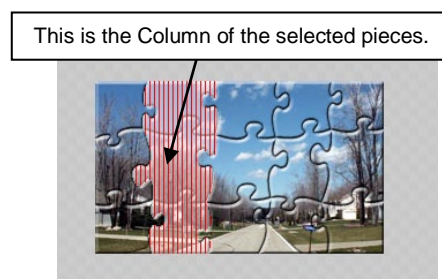
Columns' Splitter: this term is used to name a virtual knife in which all knives are allocated vertically, one after another, within the document's height.

Rows' Splitter: this term is used to name a virtual knife in which all knives are allocated horizontally, one after another, within the document's width.

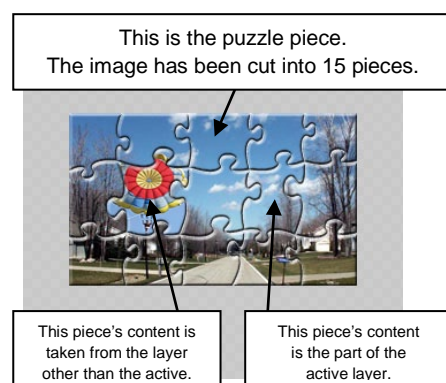


A Column: this is the group of pieces located between two neighboring *Columns' Splitters*.

A Row: this is the group of the pieces located between two neighboring *Rows' Splitters*.



A Piece: a piece, or a puzzle piece, is a part of the working document that has been generated when you had cut this document using a *Splitter* as a "big knife". The piece's shape is determined by the *Splitter's* shape. The content that the piece carries, may be either the appropriate part of the document or the specific image taken from the layer other than the active layer. The latter possibility is provided thanks to the *Image Overlay* option of the plug-in and is available only when Puzzle Pro 3.0 works under Adobe® Photoshop®.



List of Features

In the Layout Mode:

- Fast and convenient (including a multi-level undo option) creating almost any possible shape of a knife using the plug-in's built-in tools.
- Powerful solutions for constructing the *Splitter* (a matrix of the knives), such as the following:
 - *Auto Layout* option - the possibility to prepare a time-consuming hexagonal and triangle layouts quickly and conveniently.
 - The possibility to add an extra knife between two knots.
 - The possibility to clone (propagate) a picked knife's *Path* with or without mutation for obtaining the desired appearance of the *Splitter*.
 - Turning ON/OFF (show/hide) any knife or a group of knives.
 - Copying a knife for further pasting it instead of other knife/knives.
 - Inserting, deleting and moving *Columns'/Rows' Splitters*.
 - A manual adjustment of any *Knot's* position.
 - Randomizing *Knots'* positions automatically with the possibility to obtain the default "straight-grid" look with just one click.
 - The possibility to specify a thickness of any knife of the *Splitter* independently.
 - A *Razor Cut* option, which means that a *Splitter's* thickness is set to 0 (zero), so that the cutting lines can be perfectly thin.
 - The possibility to specify a size of any knife's knob independently.
 - The possibility to equalize different sized knobs.
 - Enabling/disabling of a *Splitter's* anti-aliasing option.
 - A wide range of knives' flipping operations for obtaining the most realistic look of the created *Splitter*.
- A *Draw Splitter* option – using a *Splitter* as an object to be drawn.
- A wide range of methods to select a group of knives (for further operating), such as the following:
 - Using channels of a document, such as a document's current selection, RGB, CMYK or Gray channels, layer transparency and alpha channels (This is supported only by Adobe® Photoshop®.) as maps for selecting knives.
 - The possibility to select all shown or all hidden, or all extra knives at your discretion.
 - The possibility to select all *Columns'* and/or *Rows' Splitters*.
 - The possibility to randomly select a group of knives.
- Using the *Preset Manager's* powerful options for most convenient managing knives' *Paths*, such as the following:
 - The possibility to add the particular *Path* to a list of the *Paths'* presets.
 - Organizing *Paths* into various sets with the possibility to operate (save, load and replace) these *Sets of Paths* afterwards.
 - Using a thumbnail view of stored *Paths* for most convenient navigating.

- An advanced *Layout mode's* Save/Export options, such as the following:
 - Exporting a knife, group of knives or an entire *Splitter* as .EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) or .AI (Adobe Illustrator) files.
 - Saving a *Splitter*, with all its parameters, as an .AVPD (an internal AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 format) file with the possibility to load this file back into the plug-in, when necessary.
 - Saving a created knife's *Path* as an .AVPH (an internal AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 format) file with the possibility to load this file back into the plug-in, when necessary.

In The Puzzle Mode:

- A powerful set of the built-in effects that lets you do the following:
 - To use ten (10) built-in effects, such as *Bevel*, *Gaussian Blur*, *Motion Blur*, *Opacity*, *Color Overlay*, *Hue/Saturation*, *Brightness/Contrast*, *Stroke*, *Invert* and *Image Overlay*.
 - To apply more than one built-in effect to a piece or a group of pieces.
 - To specify both the value of an effect's particular parameter and a range of values of this parameter for a piece or a group of pieces. Plus the possibility to set a type of distribution of a parameter's values.
 - To enable/disable any built-in effect of any piece at any time.
 - To copy built-in effects applied to any piece for further pasting these effects onto another piece or a group of pieces.
- A highly advanced *Export* option (in the *Puzzle Mode*) of the plug-in that includes the following:
 - Exporting pieces as a multilayer .PSD (Adobe Photoshop Document) file, where each piece is placed in a separate layer.
 - Exporting pieces as a group of .PNG files, where each piece is an individual .PNG file.
 - The possibility to choose between exporting all pieces and exporting only selected pieces and if the latter, then exporting with or without a so-called *Composite* (a single "piece" that is an integration of all non-selected pieces).
 - The possibility to disable a built-in bevel effect while exporting pieces.
 - The possibility to choose a method (simple or advanced) of pieces' naming while exporting.
- A wide range of methods to select a group of pieces (for further operating), such as the following:
 - Using both a bonding box selecting and free shaped selecting methods.
 - Using channels of a document, such as a document's current selection, RGB, CMYK or Gray channels, layer transparency and alpha channels (This is supported only by Adobe® Photoshop®.) as maps for selecting pieces.
 - The possibility to randomly select a group of pieces and other methods.

- Turning ON/OFF (show/hide) any piece or a group of pieces.
- The possibility to save a project created in the Puzzle Pro 3.0, as an .AVPD file (This is an internal AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 format.) and then, load it back into the plug-in, when necessary. The stored data includes the created layout of pieces, plus states and built-in effects of any piece.
- Preserving Color Profiles in documents exported as .PSD files. (This is supported only by Adobe® Photoshop®.)

General Features

- Supporting images in RGB, CMYK and Grayscale color modes.
- Fast and high quality previewing in all modes.
- Specifying the units of measurement for the *Ruler* (inches, mm, cm, pixels and percents).
- Wide use of keyboard shortcuts.
- Customizing preferences of the plug-in.
- Supporting .AVPD files of earlier versions of the plug-in (Puzzle Pro 2.0 and Puzzle Pro 2.2).
- FULL compatibility with Adobe Photoshop CS3 and CS4 (Mac OS X 32-bit and Windows both 32-bit and 64-bit versions), including support of the Smart Filters and Video Layers (for Photoshop CS3/CS4 Extended) options of this host!
- Mac version of AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 is the Universal application and therefore can be successfully used on both Intel- and PowerPC-based Mac computers.

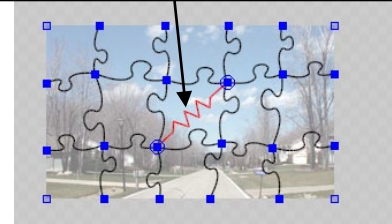
What is new in Puzzle Pro 3.0?

There is a plethora of new features that were added in AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 and some of these improvements are revolutionary ones!

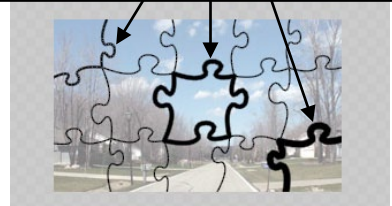
Here are the features that have become available in the plug-in's *Layout mode* and thanks to which, you can now prepare the layout that was simply impossible to create using the earlier versions of the plug-in:

- The possibility to *add an extra knife* between two knots. Bingo! One of the most anticipated features is now available, so that you could create some "crazy" layouts!
- The possibility to *specify a thickness* of any knife of the *Splitter* independently. Every time when we've been asked on how to change the thickness of just several knives, rather than the entire *Splitter*, we had to answer – "...sorry, but to our regret this is not possible...." Now it is!

This selected knife is the Extra knife added between the two knots.



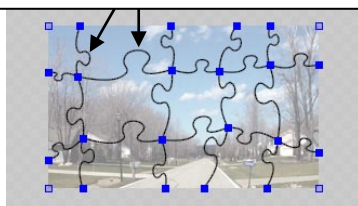
A thickness of any knife can be specified independently.



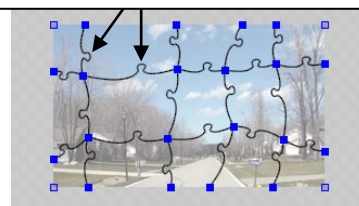
The following *Layout mode's* new features dramatically improve the productivity and the convenience while working with the plug-in:

- The *Auto Layout* option - the possibility to prepare a time-consuming hexagonal and triangle layouts in almost NO time. In particular, creating the hexagonal layout of average complexity could take 30-40 min of boring *Knots'* dragging if the previous versions of Puzzle Pro were used. We even do NOT speak about the possibility to change that kind of layout if such changing was required. One should have the "nerves of steel" to start the process again. But now... How would you like the recent... say 20 seconds for the entire process? Dislike the obtained result – noting is easier, get the new one even faster (because now you know what to do)!
- The possibility to *equalize different sized knobs* with just a click. When you are about to prepare the pieces of a different size, then you need to create the layout with the different sized knives. But by default, the bigger knives have the bigger knobs and if your project requires the similar sized knobs, then you're "in trouble" with the earlier versions of Puzzle Pro. You could do that, but only one knob by one... Now, it can be done – in just a click! Well, if you count that you reach the Adjust menu first, then two clicks in total.

By default, the different sized knives have different knobs, but...



...now you can equalize different sized knobs with just a click!



- The possibility to *specify a size of any knife's knob independently*. This is the opposite task – you need to prepare the different sized knobs. And again, it could be done in earlier versions, but with lot of efforts. Now, with Puzzle Pro 3.0 you can do that quickly and easily!

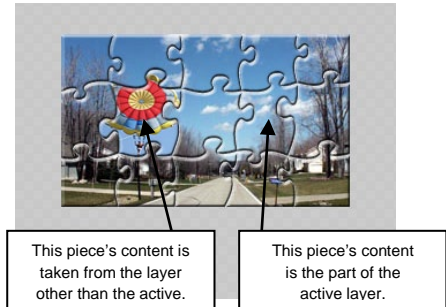
The *Puzzle mode* of the plug-in is full of new features too:

- Three (3) built-in effects have been added: *Stroke*, *Invert* and the *Image Overlay**

* *Stroke* and *Invert* are helpful features and by including them we've met our customers' needs, but the *Image Overlay* option... *Image Overlay* is the revolutionary option and has become one of the most effective features that Puzzle Pro 3.0 has obtained! (Please note that this option is supported only if your host is Adobe® Photoshop®.)

Now you can quickly and conveniently perform (either automatically or manually) the very useful effect – to make the particular puzzle piece (or a group of pieces) carry the content taken from the layer other than the active layer.

Example: You want to create a collage of a school graduates with each one on a particular piece. (Please check our on-line Gallery for the similar sample.)



- Puzzle Pro 3.0 has obtained a highly advanced *Export* option (in the *Puzzle Mode*) that includes the following features:
 - In addition to exporting pieces as a PSD file, the plug-in now offers exporting pieces as a group of .PNG files, where each piece is an individual .PNG file. This feature is extremely useful for further operating pieces in the numerous hosts, because .PNG is a widely supported file format (unlike .PSD).
 - The possibility to disable the plug-in's built-in bevel effect while exporting pieces. This possibility is very important for further manipulating pieces in Photoshop. In particular, you can now use the Global Light option when add Photoshop layer effects (e.g. bevel) to the pieces, so that you could keep the correct shading/highlighting the pieces while manipulating (e.g. rotating) them.
 - The possibility to choose a method (simple or advanced) of pieces' naming while exporting for most convenient identifying the particular piece afterwards.

And finally, here are the general improvements of the plug-in:

- Puzzle Pro 3.0 for Windows platform has now both 32-bit and 64-bit versions!
- The plug-in has obtained the larger preview areas. Both the *Main Preview* area and the knife *Path's* (formerly Shaper) preview area have become larger and this has significantly improved the convenience while working with the plug-in.
- The plug-in's user interface was redesigned, so it has become both more aesthetically pleasing and more convenient to use.
- The plug-in's performance was improved.
- A couple of minor bugs were fixed.

Installing

AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 is a filter plug-in (8bf) for Adobe® Photoshop® and compatible hosts (Such as: Adobe® Photoshop® Elements, Adobe® Fireworks®, Corel® Paint Shop™ Pro®, Corel® Photo Paint®, Ulead® PhotoImpact™ and others.) Please check the list of the supported hosts on our web-site at <http://www.avbros.com>

Below you will find instructions on how to install AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 in Adobe® Photoshop®.

Note! Taking into account the fact that each host has its own required location where the plug-in must be installed, we recommend that you read the host's manual on installation procedures for a plug-in.

How to install AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 into Photoshop for Windows:

- Close Photoshop.
- Run either the *avpuzzlepro30.exe* (*avpuzzlepro30d.exe* for the demo version) setup application if you use the 32-bit version of Photoshop or the *avpuzzlepro30x64.exe* (*avpuzzlepro30dx64.exe* for the demo version) setup application if you use the 64-bit version of Photoshop.
- When you install the plug-in under Photoshop, the setup of the plug-in automatically determines the plug-ins folder of this host. So, you just need to check it. But you can also choose the desired folder manually by using the "Browse" button.
- Click the Install button.
- Start Photoshop. "AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0" ("DEMO - AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0" for demo version) will appear under Filter > AV Bros. menu.

How to install AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 into Photoshop for Mac OS X:

- Close Photoshop.
- Mount the *avpuzzlepro30.dmg* (*avpuzzlepro30d.dmg* for the demo version) disk image.
- Drag and drop AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 (DEMO - AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0" for demo version) to the plug-ins' folder of your Photoshop.
- Start Photoshop. "AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0" ("DEMO - AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0" for the demo version) will appear under the Filter > AV Bros. menu.

Running AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0

Once the plug-in is correctly installed (See [Installing](#).) into your host, you can run Puzzle Pro 3.0. For that, open or create the document (in any of RGB, CMYK or Grayscale color modes) in your host and then, go under the appropriate menu of your host (in Adobe® Photoshop® it is Filter menu), then find there AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0 and run it.

When you run the full version of the plug-in (Not the DEMO version!) for the first time, then the special License Key Validation window appears and you are asked to enter the License Key (You have received it, when purchased the plug-in.) to continue working with Puzzle Pro 3.0.

The general principles of working with AV Bros. Puzzle Pro 3.0

For creating the high quality jig-saw puzzle image effect, which is the plug-in's primary goal, you should accomplish two (2) main tasks, using the plug-in's tools:

1. To construct a *Splitter* that may be used for cutting your image into puzzle pieces.
2. To operate these puzzle pieces for obtaining the perfectly looking jig-saw puzzle effect.

For accomplishing these tasks, the plug-in has the specific working modes:

- The *Layout mode* for constructing a *Splitter*.
- The *Puzzle mode* for operating puzzle pieces.

When you start the plug-in, it is switched into the *Layout mode* by default. So you operate *Paths*, knives and a *Splitter*. Some of the actions in the *Layout mode* are listed below:

- Picking a *Path* using the *Preset Manager* or creating a desired shaped *Path*, using the plug-in's built-in tools and then, cloning (propagating) this *Path* onto knives, of which a *Splitter* consists.
- Specifying a number of *Columns* and *Rows* while creating layout.
- Adjusting a thickness either of any knife or an entire *Splitter*.
- Adjusting the size of any knife's knob.
- Randomizing *Knots* position.
- Turning OFF/ON any knife.

Once you are happy with the result achieved in the *Layout mode*, you can use the created *Splitter* in the following ways:

- As a "big knife" and cut your image into puzzle pieces.
- As an object to be drawn inside your host (the *Draw Splitter* option).
- To export the *Splitter* as a vector (in .AI or .EPS format) file.

Of course, cutting the image into puzzle pieces is the main usage of the *Splitter* and if you have chosen this option, then the plug-in switches into the *Puzzle mode*, so that you can operate the puzzle pieces. The main actions with the pieces are the following:

- Using ten (10) built-in effects in any combination.
- Turning OFF/ON any piece.

Once you have obtained the desired appearance of the puzzle pieces, then you can use them in the following ways:

- To export the created puzzle pieces either as a multilayer .PSD document and/or as a group of .PNG files for further operating (moving, rotating, etc.) these pieces inside various hosts.
- To apply the achieved result, for obtaining the created jig-saw puzzle effect inside your host.

When necessary, you can switch between the modes. For example: the plug-in is already in the [Puzzle mode](#), but you have decided that the current layout (number of pieces, their shapes, etc.) has to be changed. No problem – you can easily switch the plug-in back to the [Layout mode](#) in just one click and then, make the appropriate adjustments.

As a very versatile product, Puzzle Pro 3.0 provides you with a plethora of possibilities to realize your creative ideas. Some of them are listed below:

- Breaking your image into the puzzle pieces when each piece carries a part of the entire image.
- Creating the puzzle layout, but this time the particular piece carries the content from the layer other than the active layer. (This one is employing the [Image Overlay](#) built-in effect and is supported only when the plug-in works under Adobe® Photoshop®.)
- Using the appearance of a [Splitter](#) for your art-work (the [Draw Splitter](#) option).
- Exporting vector paths generated by Puzzle Pro 3.0 for further usage into such hosts as Adobe® Illustrator®, Adobe® Flash™, Corel® CorelDRAW®, etc.

This way or another, but you still operate the plug-in in the two, mentioned above, working modes.

To learn more, read the following chapters of the On-Line User Guide:

- Working with Puzzle Pro 3.0: the [Layout Mode](#)
- Working with Puzzle Pro 3.0: the [Puzzle Mode](#)
- Working with Puzzle Pro 3.0: the [Common Controls](#)

We also recommend that you review the Tutorials section of our site.