

Adobe Photoshop CS2 Studio Techniques

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Bonus Chapters on CD

- Bonus Chapter 1: Line Art Scanning
- Bonus Chapter 2: Channels
- Bonus Chapter 3: Shadows
- Bonus Chapter 2: Type & Background Effects

Dedication: To my father, Nate (N8 for short), who taught me that technology doesn't always have to be complicated.

About the Author

A senior engineer from NASA once said that this man gave the best technical seminar he ever attended. That same year a computer-phobic who had been struggling with Photoshop for years proclaimed that “He takes the Boogie Man out of Photoshop!” This seems to be **Ben Willmore's** special gift; he has an ability to connect with users of every level and mindset; whether it's first-timers taking their first sniff of Photoshop, or razor-sharp nerds and nerdettes who are on the fast track to technical illumination. The common echo that Ben leaves in his wake seems to be “Aha! I finally GET Photoshop!”

Known for revealing the simplicity that lies within Photoshop's complexity, Ben has personally taught over 45,000 Photoshop users on three continents. He is co-author (with Jack Davis) of another best-seller, *How to Wow: Photoshop for Photographers*, as well as the just released *Up to Speed: Photoshop CS2*.

He continues to be a featured speaker at publishing conferences and events worldwide, including Photoshop World, American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP), Professional Photographers of America (PPA) and the Royal Photographic Society of England. He's a member of the Dream Team for NAPP and writes for numerous digital imaging and photography publications, including a monthly column for Photoshop User magazine. In 2004 he was inducted into the Photoshop Hall of Fame at Photoshop-World. His reputation as the “expert's expert” prompted NAPP's president, Scott Kelby, to say, “When we get stuck, we call Ben!” His home office is perched at 8,000 ft. in the Colorado rockies, where he is often joined by a herd of elk and a lone coyote.

Introduction

Why This Book?



Ben Willmore, Founder: Digital Mastery

My mission is to help you graduate from “I’m just going through the motions,” to “At last, I really understand Photoshop.”

Well, I asked the same question when I set out on this project. I found myself at Barnes & Noble staring at a daunting abundance of Photoshop books, and I discovered that there were more special-effect “cookbooks” and technical tomes than I’d ever care to read. The problem was that none of the “cookbooks” gave enough detail to really let me feel like I understood the program (I just blindly followed the listed steps), and all of the technical books seemed to want to turn me into a slide rule–toting nerd (talking about terms like rasters, vectors, and bit-depth settings). That’s when I decided that there was a void just begging to be filled. And that void is the primary reason that most people aren’t truly comfortable with Photoshop. They either get the 1, 2, 3 steps (but no real understanding), or they get so many technical terms that it makes Photoshop impossible to grasp.

So how is this book different? My approach is to use the same language that you use in everyday life to explain everything from the simplest feature to the most advanced techniques. I acquired this approach as a result of teaching tens of thousands of people in hundreds of seminars and hands-on workshops. I’ll still provide a fair share of step-by-step techniques, and we will delve into some rather advanced features, but through it all I’ll use metaphors and stories that will make everything easy to understand and digest. Because often the difference between a confident Photoshop master and a struggling amateur is how much they truly understand about the way Photoshop works behind the scenes.

With that in mind, my mission is to help you graduate from “I’m just going through the motions” to “At last, I *really* understand Photoshop.” Once you’ve made that leap, you will experience an incredible ripple effect. Your efficiency will skyrocket. Your costs will go down. Your creative genius

will come out of the closet like gangbusters, and your clients (or boss) will be thrilled. But what's most important to me is that through learning how to master Photoshop, you'll find the passion and energy that come from knowing you're really good at something.

Will I Understand It?

First and foremost, I hate technical mumbo jumbo! If words like raster, gamma, absolute colorimetric, bit-mapped, clipping paths, algorithms, dither, and anti-aliasing drive you crazy, you better believe that they drive me even crazier. I see no reason that those terms can't be done away with and replaced by plain English. I'll do whatever it takes to communicate a concept to you, without relying on 10-syllable words or terms that sound like they came from the inside of an engineer's head.



Does It Start at My Level?

In terms of skill level, this book is written in such a way that if you are generally comfortable with your computer, you should be able to fully comprehend the information, no matter how advanced the topic. I've made the assumption that you've either installed Photoshop or that you're using the *Photoshop User Guide* to figure out how to do that. (There's no reason to duplicate that kind of information here.) And if you're an advanced user, don't worry. Just because this book is very understandable doesn't mean that we won't get into the real meat of Photoshop.

Mac or Windows?

From a functionality standpoint, Photoshop is pretty close to identical on Mac and Windows platforms. Anything you can do on one platform, you can do on the other. But those darn keyboards are different. You can put your worries aside, because *both* Mac and Windows keyboard commands are integrated right into the text. For screen shots, I had to pick one platform and run with it, and I went with Mac OS X for those.



What's on the CD?

To make it as easy as possible for you to follow along with my examples, I've provided a boatload of practice images for you to play with. You'll find these on the shiny disc that is hiding inside the back cover, in a folder called Practice Images. Stockbyte, PhotoSpin and iStockphoto were kind enough to provide many of the images in this book and on the CD. If you like what you see, you can get more of their delicious imagery at their respective web sites, www.stockbyte.com, www.photospin.com, and www.istockphoto.com.

You'll also find a supplement called "Where's My Stuff." Every time Adobe releases a new version of Photoshop, they make changes that often cause some initial discomfort. CS2 is no different, and in fact there were some whopping changes made to certain features. "Where's My Stuff" is designed to help you make the transition from CS to CS2 by indicating what's happened to many of the features that were available in the previous version of Photoshop.

Have You Lost Weight?

If you own a previous version of this book, you might notice that this one is looking a bit skinnier than the one that came before it. No, it's not the South Beach diet. It's because Photoshop is getting so robust (dare we say "fat!") that trying to pack all the new stuff into the book was going to add not only weight, but push the price up as well. Our solution was to put four chapters on the CD: Line Art Scanning, Channels, Shadows, and Type & Background Effects. These chapters required no updating for CS2, which made them good candidates for the CD. I also put my guide to Photoshop CS's File Browser (for those of you still using Photoshop CS) on the CD. Ben's Techno-Babble Decoder Ring (which translates Photoshop's technical terms) used to be at the end of each chapter and is now available online (at www.digitalmastery.com/definition), which makes it easier to keep updated. So you are still getting all the new information without losing any of the original content. And no increase in price!

