

Everyday Photoshop Elements

by Art Schaefer

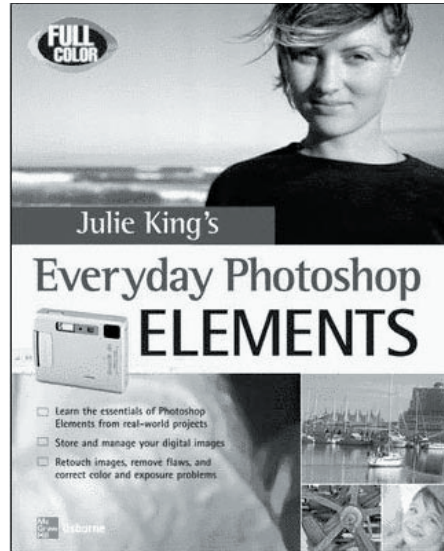
I recently won the softcover book *Everyday Photoshop Elements 3.0*, by Julie King, published by McGraw Hill / Osborne. This is not a lightweight treatment of the subject but a 289 page treatment of the newest Photoshop program written for the middle-ranks of users who want to use the program's power to solve common problems and prepare the finished picture for print or the web, although any level of expertise can benefit from this book. The Author specializes in the step-by-step guidance approach and provides Mac-specific information when the Windows and Mac versions are significantly different.

While I was not familiar with the author, it turns out that she has written at least six other books ranging from the full Photoshop, through *Digital Techniques and Retouching*, and *Web Graphics*.

First a word about Elements 3.0. It is now a full-featured image editor that will do just about anything most of us want or need to do. It is no longer just a simple upgrade of PhotoDeluxe, or Elements 1 and 2. For example, Elements now contains full Photoshop Camera Raw support. It's hard to stay on track and review the book rather than Elements 3.

The book is well organized and presents the fundamentals in the first half, basically chapters 1 through 6 (Parts I and II), although there is not a sharp distinction. Each chapter of the book includes sample projects to give you hands-on experience. For help with these projects you can download low-res copies of the images from the publishers web site at: www.osborne.com. The techniques in the second half build on the fundamentals of the first half. The book can be read cover-to-cover, which I can never do with this kind of book, or simply used as a reference text.

The author also provides in-depth information on how to output your files, whether you do it yourself, have them professionally printed or share them on the Internet. There are a lot of tips and tricks scattered throughout.



I was very impressed by this book, it's thoroughness yet easy to understand approach. I would rate it 5 on a scale of 1-5. It may be the only book one needs with Elements 3.0. This is high praise coming from someone who has purchased far too many expensive books on Photoshop from 4.0 to CS. For some reason those books made me feel like I knew what I was doing, although in truth I am a lightweight with the full version of Photoshop. Thanks in part to this book, and Elements 3.0, I am probably through buying full upgrades of Photoshop.

For what it's worth, I have about 12 years experience on the Mac and for several years now have worked on a G4 with 1GB of RAM. Most of my Photoshop time is spent enhancing film-based images of my black and white photography which I print up to 16x20 inches. 🍏

I was very impressed by this book, it's thoroughness yet easy to understand approach.
