

Adobe PhotoshopCS, One-on-One

by Jack Saporta

Adobe Photoshop CS, One-On-One by
Deke McClelland
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Reviewer: Jack Saporta

Never having used Adobe Photoshop but always having an interest in the possibilities of editing and manipulating images on the computer, I chose this book by Deke McClelland as my Member Raffle gift.

Some of the promotional statements about this training package which includes a companion CD describe it as, "If you want to learn Photoshop from the ground up, look no further". Another descriptor proclaims, "the equivalent of a twelve-week intensive course on digital imaging". I confess I would agree with these assessments.

This training package offers some, "killer benefits":

1. You can proceed at your own pace, step by step in 12 lessons;
2. The author introduces key concepts for each chapter and shows you how to get real work done in real time;

3. Full-color photos, diagrams and screen shots illustrate every key step along the way;

4. Multiple choice quizzes follow each lesson offering a great way to reinforce your learning and helping you test your knowledge.

The book has over 450 pages and it seemed quite overwhelming at first. I didn't know you could do so many things with some pictures. Among the things I learned, beyond the fact that images can be opened, organized and printed, was that they can be:

- manipulated for brightness and contrast, color balanced, cropped, straightened and sized, 'healed' and patched, elements extracted, focus adjusted (sharpening), creating and formatting text, adding layer effects and printing for commercial reproduction.

One is instructed to read the book, watch the videos and do the exercises but also encouraged to experiment as one sees fit.

I found especially inviting was the prospect of every exercise being, "project based", meaning it would culminate in a real-world project that I wouldn't mind showing others.

Booting up the accompanying disc goes through the usual antivirus scan and takes a few minutes, (approximately 300 files are

examined). Every work file needed is included on this CD. There are about two hours of video instruction hosted by the author with illustrations every step of the way.

The promise is that when you're done with this training package, you'll be editing and manipulating images like a pro. The initial steps went easily and well and it felt like I had acquired a level of competence I could feel good about. I certainly would recommend that anyone interested in Photoshop and the kinds of enhancing manipulations taught with this package to purchase it.

