

Photoshop CS4 – Recommended READING 2009

First, you need Photoshop. Trying to learn Photoshop without the actual use of Photoshop presents insurmountable obstacles. So download free trial versions of **Photoshop CS4** or **Photoshop Elements 6** for Mac or **7** for PC at: <http://www.adobe.com/downloads>

Next, you need help. Web-based tutorials can be accessed through the HELP menus of both **CS4 & Elements 6** or **7**. In addition, **World Cat** in Jan 2009 listed 5622 books with **Photoshop** in their titles and another 681 with **Photoshop Elements**. (This tally omits DVDs & websites.) You need only the few that specifically address *photo retouching*, which is mostly what you'll ever do, and for what Photoshop 1.0 (1990) solely was intended. All books cited are paperback and are published or co-published by Peachpit Press, probably the most dependable single source for computer manuals.

❖ **[Adobe] Photoshop CS4 Book for Digital Photographers**

Scott Kelby, New Riders/Peachpit, <http://www.peachpit.com/store/product.aspx?isbn=0321620755> 480pp, \$55
Its suitable subtitle is "Photoshop Fun 101." Filled with (sometimes distracting) humor, the lively text is fun to read. Yes, read. Most Photoshop manuals are intended to be referenced, not read, but with its spacious & clear graphics this stand-alone book can be read when you are unchained from your computer. If compelled to recommend one Photoshop manual above all others, I would choose this. View all Kelby team Photoshop books at: <http://www.kelbytraining.com/books>

❖ **Photoshop Elements 7 Book for Digital Photographers**

Scott Kelby; New Riders/Peachpit <http://www.peachpit.com/store/product.aspx?isbn=0321565959> 512 pages, \$50
"Reach out & retouch someone." Here are provided techniques for rendering photo retouching effects similar to CS4 tools and commands that Elements lacks. See comments above about Kelby team's CS4 book. Though this book contains 22 pages more than for CS4, it costs \$5 less.

❖ **[Adobe] Photoshop Restoration & Retouching, 3rd Edition**

Katrin Eismann; Peachpit Press; 472 pages; \$55
Whereas Kelby stands up and cracks jokes, Eismann sits down, gets to work, and possibly never again gets up. The next step after Kelby, if not the last step, palatable only in small doses, yet nourishing. Sample chapter free download *Damage Control and Repair* at the book's homepage: www.peachpit.com/store/product.aspx?isbn=0321316274

❖ **The Photoshop Elements 5 Restoration and Retouching Book**

Matt Kloskowski; Peachpit Press; www.peachpit.com/store/product.aspx?isbn=0321481658 320 pages; \$35
Unlike Eisen, Kloskowski keeps it simple. And short. Not updated as of Sept 2009, but still useful.

❖ **Adobe Photoshop Master Class: John Paul Caponigro, Second Edition**

Adobe/Peachpit; www.peachpit.com/store/product.aspx?isbn=0321130103 504 pages; \$55
Photoshop as art ("This book attempts to put the photography back into Photoshop."), and Photoshop manual as philosophy ("A good memory knows not only what to remember, but also what to forget."). Inspiring images paired with pondering prose, intended to be read away from your computer. Published 2003, but not version specific, so will be just as relevant years hence.

❖ **Adobe Photoshop CS4 Classroom in a Book**

Adobe Press, <http://www.adobepress.com/bookstore/product.asp?isbn=032157379X> 464 pages; \$55
For beginners who prefer to learn everything before doing anything (and thereby risk accomplishing nothing). Sample chapter about compositing available under heading *Related Articles*, which being free is "good for nothing."

for PDF of this document, see: <http://www.vraweb.org/resources/diag/photoshopresources.html>

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