Photoshop 7 Bible, Professional Edition by Deke McClelland

Photoshop Bible Is The "Good Book".

* Picks up where the classic Photoshop 7 Bible (0-7645-3694-X) ends, with bonus color pages and topics for highend users

  * Graphic artists and Web designers will flock to this special Bible edition-a peerless professional resource from a bestselling Photoshop guru

  * Includes 320 color pages of exciting images and instruction for the experienced user

  * Provides expanded coverage of advanced topics such as creating and optimizing Web graphics, using filters, convolution kernels and displacement maps, actions and batch processing, ImageReady, and more

Personal Review: Photoshop 7 Bible, Professional Edition by Deke McClelland
This book describes the fine intricacies of all the tools, the filters and the features of Photoshop. Where other books lead you through lessons and tell you to set X tool preference to Y, and you may happily use the Y preference for years without even knowing there is also a Z preference, this book explains all the preferences for all the tools and gives illustrated examples of what the various settings produce.

I wanted to force myself to sit down and read this thing cover to cover to get an in-depth knowledge of everything Photoshop, but after 2 chapters of reading I just couldn't go on in this manner. For me, the best use of this book is as a reference when I have a question about a particular tool or technique. I'll read a few pages to get the particulars, then I put the book back up on the shelf until the next question arises.

This version has lots of nice color plates and paging through it can be inspirational when I'm stuck for a design idea. Especially if I'm burned out on surfing online for ideas.

The one irritating factor about this book is the author's sense of humor interspersed throughout. I understand that he's trying to make a technical subject friendly, approachable and enjoyable, but the humor just comes across as extremely corny. This is a plague I've noticed infecting many of today's authors of software books.

Dear Authors, unless you are absolutely certain that people other than family and close friends consider you funny, please leave the humor out or hire a professional to help. Thank you.

I still give this book highest marks because
1) it is so absolutely thorough
2) the author knows his stuff and can communicate it well (even if there is a bit of dorky humor in it) and
3) since I use it as a reference book, the humor only comes in small, manageable chunks.

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