

# *the photoshop elements 6 book for digital photographers*

Carol Andrews

This is a step-by-step how-to book that doesn't believe in capitalizing its title. It does not cover theory and is not an introduction to *Elements*. It is a cookbook, but a gourmet cookbook. The book is organized around the goals you want to accomplish and not the tools you use to do so. The chapters are:

1. Managing Photos Using the *Organizer*
2. Processing Your Images Using Camera Raw
3. Resizing and Cropping Your Images
4. Color Correction for Photographers
5. Digital Camera Image Problems
6. Selection Techniques
7. Retouching Portraits
8. Removing Unwanted Objects
9. Special Effects for Photographers
10. Sharpening Techniques
11. How to Show Your Work
12. How to Make Presentations with Your Photos
13. Step-By-Step Printing and Color Management

These are actually both sub-titles and Chapter titles. Each of these chapters also has a "clever" title named after a song. For instance, Chapter 4 is titled "Color me Badd." The author then does a page of silly comments (meant to be entertaining, I suppose – I found them annoying). But it's easy to ignore that first page of the chapter and appreciate the capabilities of the authors in their subject if not as comedians.

Scott Kelby is Editor, Publisher, and co-founder of *Photoshop User* magazine and President and Co-Founder of the National Association of *Photoshop* Professionals (NAPP). Matt Kloskowski is joining Scott for the first time as an author in this series of books. He is the author of seven books on *Photoshop* and *Illustrator* in his own right, and has created many videos and podcasts on *Photoshop*.

When I picked up the book, I looked for the "What's New in *Elements 6*" chapter. There was none. I was disappointed. I've used *Elements* since its introduction so I thought I'd cut to the chase and find out what was new. It turns out it's a good thing there was no such chapter, because I learned a lot more by going through the book page by page.

I made one mistake. I didn't immediately download the photos from the website and work on the same photos they were using as illustrations. I used my own photos but learned a lot more when I started using their downloaded photos. With their photos, when they said to set a tool to a certain percentage I could see the exact effect they were looking for. This is really necessary. While the book's quality of print is excellent, you just can't see the subtleties of a photo correction in a small printed picture the way you can see it when you have it up on your screen. I particularly appreciated their use of keyboard shortcuts in the instructions and now find I am much more comfortable using them.

This is an attractive book of 488 lovely, 8" x 10" pages in quality color. Each page is laid out with photos and screen shots along the bound edge of the page and accompanying text on the outer edge. At the end of each section there is a before-and-after comparison of the photos.

The size of the screen shots and photos are fairly small so it's important to be doing the steps on your own computer as you go, otherwise a correction that is clear on your screen is sometimes too subtle to be obvious on the printed page. I wish they had been more consistent in highlighting the mouse position on the screen prints. When they did highlight it with a red circle, it was much easier to find the item they were describing in the text.

This is an excellent book. I learned many interesting techniques that are like slick little professional secrets. I am sure I will refer to the book many times in the future.

It is not a book for beginners. As they say in the introduction "I tried not to put things in this book that are already in every other *Elements* book out there." So there is no introduction to the *Elements* tools, the various palettes, layers or the concepts of *Elements*. If you're looking

to start using *Elements*, try one of the *Missing Manual* series. Once you're comfortable with *Elements* and want some really slick techniques, get this book.

**About:** *the photoshop elements 6 book for digital photographers*

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