

Sams Teach Yourself Adobe®

Photoshop CS4 in 24 Hours

Ed Dunn,

This is essentially a how-to kind of textbook for the beginner through intermediate user of *Photoshop CS4*. The initial portion of the book covers the fundamentals of the *CS4* software interface such as menus, files, selections, etc. Simple adjustments and procedures follow and then the more complicated manipulations are addressed.

The book has seven general subject areas: Getting Started, Painting With Pixels, Power Tools, Filters, Text and Special Effects, Enhancing Photos, and Publishing Your Pictures. Each of these areas is divided into segments called "hours." Each of the hours is presumed to be the amount of time necessary to cover the specific material in the subdivision of the general topic. As the complexity of the procedures increase in a general area, more

of the subdivided hours are used. Cleverly, the total number of subdivisions adds to 24!

Each of the hours has its text generously populated with figures to illustrate the procedures being discussed. Many of the figures are before-after photos to visually enhance the specific task.

Other figures show the expected screen areas and/or dropdowns to be selected. Many sketches and tips are added in the outside margins to further aid in understanding the

topic. At the end of each hour's subdivision text, a three/four questions and answers page is included and a short multiple choice quiz is provided to reinforce the concepts. As in school... quiz answers on the following page!

The layout of the individual one hour study sessions is realistically useful and is about the amount of information that can be absorbed at one sitting. Some of the initial sessions are easy to cover and some of the later ones may take considerably longer. One frustration noted was that in some of the more complicated manipulations, references were made back to previous sessions which could cause backtracking if material had not been thoroughly retained.

There were sufficient details presented to enable an intermediate level photographer to use the *CS4* program effectively. This is especially true if the suggested exercises were performed at the end of each hour section.

Some of the source images are available from the publisher's web site to be used in the exercises. There was no attempt made to cover all of the program capabilities, such as RAW image processing, since that was beyond the stated scope of the book.

About: *Sams Teach Yourself Adobe® Photoshop CS4 in 24 Hours*

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