

Book helps you make the most of Photoshop Lightroom 3

Book: The Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 3 Book for Digital Photographers,

By Scott Kelby, Published by New Riders

ISBN-10: 0-13-262947-X, \$49.99

Rating: ★★★★★

This book on Lightroom 3, an Adobe photo editing program, is written for intermediate to advanced users. Lightroom 3 is a full-blown professional users program for editing, organizing, labeling, and categorizing photos in a catalog database.

This program stands alone, but “Ctrl+E” opens Photoshop or Photoshop Elements for further editing and saving. When you save a photo to another hard drive, it tracks where the photo is.

Every edit you make to a photo is recorded as an instruction, not a permanent change. This “non-destructive edit” is the beauty of Lightroom. You can edit all you like and not damage the original

file. You can even make virtual copies of a file and non-destructively edit and compare them.

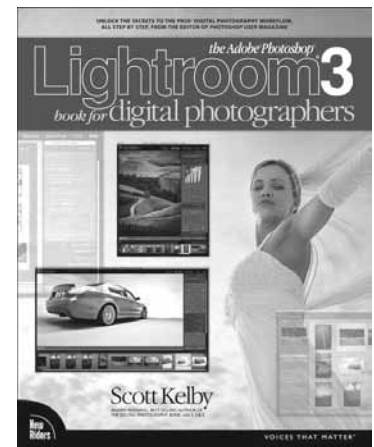
The author, Scott Kelby, is a well-known author and instructor on Photoshop and Lightroom. He is also the president of NAPP (National Association of Photoshop Professionals) and Training Director for the Adobe Photoshop Seminar Tour, and published *The Adobe Photoshop CS5 Book for Digital Photographers*.

The text is readable. It reads like a mystery as it explains, step by step, how Lightroom 3 is structured and how it works. In fact, each paragraph remains a mystery since it has no subheads. You have to read the paragraph to find out what is in it, which leads to a lot of underlining by the reader.

I do have a complaint about the constant use of photos of Lightroom Panels to demonstrate points, which are printed in small white letters on gray. I find them hard to read in the program and doubly hard to read as text.

The organization of the book is logical for someone trying to master Lightroom and each chapter gives plenty of detail. It begins with how to get your photos into the program and the library and how it works. Then it progresses to the Develop part of the program and explains how to use it to edit photos.

Scott Kelby developed his own seven-point system for working with a new raw file. It starts with choosing a camera profile, adjusting the white balance, adjusting the overall exposure, adding contrast, local adjustments to exposure with the adjustment brush, adding punch, and enhancing color and finishing effects. These steps are all found on the Develop panel module.



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(Lightroom, cont. on page 11)

Lightroom, cont. from page 10

Other chapters cover: Creating Slideshows, Printing, Web Galleries, Portraits and Problem Photos, Black and White Conversions, and Jumping to and from Photoshop.

As a former Camera Raw user in Photoshop, I wondered if this program was going to be useful. This book has convinced me that Lightroom 3, indeed, offers much.

- I like the more sophisticated ways I can make a Quick Collection when working on a few pictures as a group.
- I like the way the sharpen tool works with the noise reduction and still conserves detail.
- I like the new adjustment brush that can adjust any single area of a photo, mask it automatically, and allow me to paint in more light or dark or saturation, or luminance or sharpness, etc.
- I like all the shortcut letters for controlling the program. I noted a full page of them. Too bad the author did not devote a page to list them all. There is a page at the end of every chapter of Lightroom Killer Tips that does remind readers of shortcuts.


Scott Kelby's website, www.kelbytraining.com/books/LR3 offers several free short videos. The one on editing a fashion portrait is particularly instructive. Copies of the photos used in the book for exercises are also available there.

All in all, I like the book and will use it until the next one comes along. Kelby has written three books on Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 3 and makes us all converts.

—By Barbara Hansen, GGCS



Barbara Hansen added drama to this photo taken at high noon by using the Adjustment Brush in Lightroom to darken and lighten select areas in the bay and the sails.



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