Adobe After Effects CS5 – Classroom in a Book

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When After Effects opens you have the option of displaying one of the 286 random tips of the day.

One thing that I would have liked to see in this book is showing more keyboard shortcuts whenever possible.

I like the explainations, when they covered "adding an exposure effect" they explained this was simular to changing the f-stop of a camera. I always find these helpful since they relate to someone's personal experience with something other than a software application.

I am not colorblind; however, I did have a difficult time with the default color scheme given to the tools. The orange on the gray background does not have enough contrast to be easily viewed especially at a high resolution. It is possible to change the colors somewhat in the preferences even though you cannot change them to any color you want. I know this comment doesn't seem to have any thing to do with the book review but I included it to show how much information is in this book.

Every designer has experienced a type of "writers block" at some time or another. Fortunately After Effects has a Brainstorm feature to help out. You can select any layer or multiple layers and they select Brainstorm and you are given a screen with nine different variations of your selection.

Adobe has once again created a book that has instructions starting with how to open a project file to saving the video as a swf file so it can be easily viewed in a web browser.

After Effects has all of the options for editing a video plus the options for adding text and graphics and this book shows you all of them.