

Book Review by Robin Pentecost
Title: Photoshop CS4 Down and Dirty Tricks
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The purpose of this book review is to give readers a non-bias viewpoint as to why they should or should not read Photoshop CS4 Down and Dirty Tricks. In order to accomplish this task, I would like to state both the pros and cons regarding this publication. Hopefully, this review will help anyone wanting to take a closer look at Photoshop CS4 for a variety of reasons.

Most people I know would prefer getting any critical news out of the way first. This is why I decided to start with the few cons I experience working my way through this book. I would first like to say the following comments are meant to provide corrective criticism. I disagree with the claim that this publication is best suited for the beginner to intermediate audience. After completing several exercises, I would deem this book to be geared more for an intermediate to advance level Photoshop user. The reason I say this is because a majority of the projects require a multitude of steps which leaves room for errors. Sometimes a fairly complex exercise can lead to frustration because the project somehow gets lost in the translation. Such challenges are not as great for the more advanced user because they are able to rely on other skills to accomplish the same effect, better known as workarounds.

Moving on to the pros of the publication, I liked the fact the introduction provides nine quick steps on how to use the book. Step two, gives the reader an email address in which they can download all the images for the projects. This approach is an excellent example of going green while leaving a smaller footprint on our planet. The book is designed to “not” follow any particular order so, I like that the chapters are color coded for easy navigation. Last but not least, the element that most attracted me to this book was the screenshots of the layers panel for all the projects. This visual approach was the most helpful aspect of each exercise.

In conclusion, I would recommend this book for those of you who are ready to push the envelope with your Photoshop projects. This book is definitely gear towards complexity with an emphasis on detail. This is a good thing if you are up for a challenge. Best wishes with all of your Photoshop endeavors.

Sincerely,