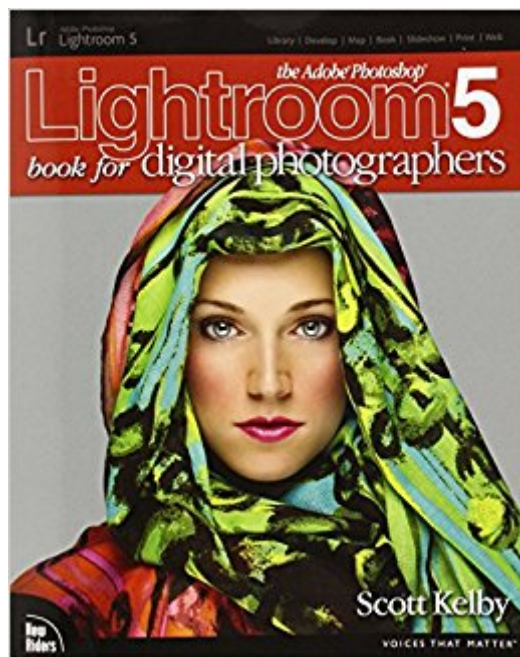




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The Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 5 Book For Digital Photographers (Voices That Matter)



Synopsis

Since Lightroom 1.0 first launched, Scott & Kelby's The Adobe Photoshop Lightroom Book for Digital Photographers has been the world's #1 best-selling Lightroom book (it has been translated into a dozen different languages), and in this latest version for Lightroom 5, Scott uses his same award-winning, step-by-step, plain-English style and layout to make learning Lightroom easy and fun. Scott doesn't just show you which sliders do what (every Lightroom book will do that). Instead, by using the following three simple, yet brilliant, techniques that make it just an incredible learning tool, this book shows you how to create your own photography workflow using Lightroom: Throughout the book, Scott shares his own personal settings and studio-tested techniques. Each year he trains thousands of Lightroom users at his live seminars and through that he's learned what really works, what doesn't, and he tells you flat out which techniques work best, which to avoid, and why. The entire book is laid out in a real workflow order with everything step by step, so you can begin using Lightroom like a pro from the start. What really sets this book apart is the last chapter. This is where Scott dramatically answers his #1 most-asked Lightroom question, which is: "Exactly what order am I supposed to do things in, and where does Photoshop fit in?" You'll see Scott's entire start-to-finish Lightroom 5 workflow and learn how to incorporate it into your own workflow. Plus, this book includes a downloadable collection of some of the hottest Lightroom Develop module presets to give you a bunch of amazing effects with just one click! Scott knows first-hand the challenges today's digital photographers are facing, and what they want to learn next to make their workflow faster, easier, and more fun. He has incorporated all of that into this major update for Lightroom 5. It's the first and only book to bring the whole process together in such a clear, concise, and visual way. Plus, the book includes a special chapter on integrating Adobe Photoshop seamlessly right into your workflow, and you'll also learn some of Scott's latest Photoshop portrait retouching techniques and special effects, which take this book to a whole new level. There is no faster, more straight-to-the-point, or more fun way to learn Lightroom than with this groundbreaking book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Scott Kelby is the world's #1 best-selling author of books on photography, as well as Editor and Publisher of Photoshop User magazine, and President of the National Association of Photoshop Professionals (NAPP). He's the co-host of the highly acclaimed webcast The Grid (the weekly photography talk show), and teaches digital photo and imaging workshops around the world. Scott is an award winning author of more than 50 books, including The Adobe Photoshop Book for Digital Photographers, The Digital Photography Book (parts 1, 2, 3 & 4), Light It, Shoot It, Retouch It, and Professional Portrait Retouching Techniques for Photographers Using Photoshop.

As night follows day, so a Scott Kelby publication follows the release of another version of Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 5 (LR5). I have previously reviewed several Lightroom books by Kelby and right up front I have to tell you that this version just seemed to me to have more meat on the bones than any of its predecessors. I am not sure if it is because Lightroom itself has become a more robust program (which it is) or whether the author felt the urge to go into more depth. As evidence of this, I must note that this book is almost fifty pages longer than the previous version (LR4). So let's get into the guts of this version. First the hard facts. It is a soft covered tome of 533 pages measuring 8 inches wide by 10 inches long (hmmm - 8 X 10, a popular printed photo size, coincidental?). As of the writing of this review, it was available on .com for \$36.55 for the paper version and \$23.99 for the Kindle version. This book follows the same format as previous versions in that the text flows side-by-side down the page with the illustration referring to that text. I find it the most convenient arrangement because the reader is not forced to look back or ahead for the illustration to which the text is referring. Also, the size and structure of the book makes it easy to keep it open to a specific page while referencing a subject without having to weigh it down with another book. The book is

rated at an intermediate to advanced user level. Also up front I will put in my pet peeve with Kelby's books. The author prides himself on his ability to produce "jump in anywhere" books. Yes, he advises the new Lightroom user to follow the flow of the book because it is laid out in the order that the reader will probably use the program. However if you are a veteran of Lightroom, you probably would like to quickly look at the sections on any new Lightroom features or improvements in this version. But how do you know what they are so that you can "jump" to them? I, for one, would appreciate a page or two in the beginning of the book that let's the seasoned user know what's new and where it is. As now constructed, the veteran Lightroom user must gather that knowledge from other sources or skim through the book looking for new Lightroom features. Let's move on from that slightly negative aspect to a feeling of the book's worth. First, because of his constant contact with photographers via his training programs and his long association with anything that begins with 'Adobe', he is well qualified to know what these folks want to know about a program. And that knowledge shows up in the text and illustrations. Most of the photo-type illustrations are available for downloading so that the reader can follow along on his or her computer if that makes learning easier. A web site is provided to get the photos. The illustrations that show screen shots of LR5, or a portion thereof, are usually very clear. In short, it is a well illustrated book. Kelby also provides two other information sources; one concerning the Lightroom Web module which he explains has not been revised in the last three versions and the web site of a bonus video on creating identity plate graphics with transparency. As stated previously, the chapter layout follows a typical Lightroom workflow. It, of course, starts with getting the photos from your camera into Lightroom. It continues with an in depth description of the Library module and how to organize your photos. Now Kelby looks at customizing your way of working with Lightroom. The next several chapters get deep into the Develop module where all of the image adjustments are done. Having adjusted images, the reader is then instructed on ways of exporting the images including getting them over to and back from Photoshop. After all of the image tweaking is done, Kelby leads the Lightroom user in ways to creatively use those images such as in photo books and slideshows. Other chapters include working on movies taken with a DSLR camera and printing your photos (including some very sophisticated print layouts). As an added bonus, Kelby provides a web site where the reader can download 24 presets that can be used in the Develop module of LR5. These presets can save considerable time and give the LR5 user a number of development options that may not occur to the user. The book ends with a section wherein Kelby describes his step-by-step process from shooting to printing a portrait; in other words, his portrait workflow. At the end of each chapter, the author provides a page or two of Lightroom Killer Tips, short blurbs that refer to the previous

material but which may save effort or furnish a short cut in the use of the program. The style of the book is informal. As with his other books of this type, it is very task oriented. By that I mean the reader can have a specific task in mind for LR5 such as sharpening photos. A perusal of the Table of Contents shows a section on that specific topic. The reader can then go to the pages indicated and find a five page dissertation on exactly how to accomplish sharpening in LR5. That will be the only subject in those five pages with text and illustrations to aid the reader. Each part of the book is built on that concept of task orientation relieving the reader of the chore of trying to remember previous lessons leading up to this point in the book. The Table of Contents is a very useful tool in and of itself. When using this book as a reference volume, the TOC makes it easy to get to a specific subject. As I stated at the beginning of this review, I think that this book on LR5 represents Scott Kelby's best effort in this series. Each chapter and section is chock full of useful information. The flow of the book is reasonable in that it follows a normal Lightroom workflow thus keeping things in a logical perspective. I would recommend this book to the new Lightroom user as well as the veteran who has several versions of Lightroom in his or her past. Because of my pet peeve stated previously, I would give this book 4.5 stars out of 5.

This is really 3.5 stars. I got Lightroom 5 several weeks ago - first Lightroom product; wanted a physical product I could refer to while trying to figure it out. This fits the bill and has indeed helped me learn some of the techniques and tweaks that are possible with the program. The explanations are clear; the instructions mostly spot on. My problem with it is that there is a LOT of flipping back and forth in the book. For instance, you can be on (say) page 40 and on step 2 of what Kelby is trying to describe. He then says, go back to xx page, or go forward to xx page. And, in the first three or four chapters, this happens every page or so. Fortunately, I have tons of post-it-notes and spent a bit of time writing on them and using them as bookmarks. But, by chapter 6, I had so many little notes sticking up from the book, it became hard to follow. All that said, it is an instructional book and if you read it, it could likely make this part of your workflow easier. Perhaps in his next iteration, Kelby could come up with a way to understand not all of us started with Lightroom 1 or 2 and make some page flipping less needed.

Overall, I think that Mr. Kelby did a good job. I read and applied as I moved forward in setting up my photo files. I was most disappointed in the lack of technical support by Adobe--with its lack of "hands on" technical instruction that can be understood. If it had not been for Scott Kelby, I would not be as far along as I am. Not to say that I have been able to accomplish all that Kelby has written

in his Lightroom 5 publication. But I have been able to follow Kelby's thoughts and suggestions. The thing that I liked most about Kelby's presentation of materials was the step-by-step approach for beginners like I. I have never before used a Photoshop product, and Kelby's detailed description concerning "how to get started" was very helpful to me. Kelby's book is laid out in a very logical sequence of what-to-do first, and best of all Kelby then describes the successes and problems he has encountered and what he has settled on as a solution. He gives, in most situations, the full picture of what can be done and then points out specific problems that he may have encountered in so doing. I tried to apply all of the recommendations that he made, and the only one that I may try to change is the naming of folders. Kelby uses a date-sequence number that is preset and adds a short descriptive name and a lot of key words. However, Kelby cautions that this may not "fit" everyone, but it is the best for his own personal needs. And I can certainly understand that. But for my volume--maybe 20,000 pictures per year--I think (I may be wrong and time will tell) need a more descriptive folder with the date. I don't need a sequential preset numbering for all photographs. But, that is minor, and Kelby points out that organization of folders is largely personal. One suggestion for others who may be working with Lightroom for the first time is that Scott Kelby has also published a book for Photoshop (The Adobe Photoshop Book For Digital Photographers). I have found that the book for Lightroom leaves a lot unsaid in the practical application of Lightroom and Photoshop. The two programs complement each other. Kelby's Lightroom publication identifies the Photoshop publication and there is some discussion of the overlap of Photoshop. However, I would not recommend that anyone rely solely on Kelby's discussion of Lightroom. The book on Lightroom ought to be a chapter in one book on getting started with Adobe's Photoshop. There is a lot of overlap between the two books and that overlap is not fully addressed in either book. You need to read both books before committing to how to set up your computer and file system. Because I have a Mac computer my decisions were complicated by i-photo. But because I am now shooting mostly RAW, I plan to process all photos with Adobe Camera Raw and store them with Lightroom. I am still having problems with the Adobe Photoshop, but I assume that those problems will too be resolved. I credit Scott Kelby with what I do know about Adobe Lightroom. I recommend both publications to all who are venturing into the Adobe world.

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