

On the Docket for the
General Meeting
Thursday, October 21, 2004

Copyright Issues: For Photographers, Artists, and You

Technology is changing so fast that it is impossible for our legislators to keep up. As a result the law always lags behind the Internet and the gadgets we use. This seems particularly true in the area of intellectual property rights.

Recently, while filling out a copyright registration form, I called the US Copyright Office to ask if putting pictures on my web site was considered publication. I was told Congress had not decided and I should do what I thought was right. I called back several times and received this same answer from different people each time. It was hard for me to believe that an issue this basic has not been resolved yet.

Copyright Issues

Our speaker, Nancy Wolff, is the founding partner of Wolff & Godin, LLP, a law firm specializing in intellectual property law and new media law (www.wolffgodin.com). Nancy will give us an overview of copyright law and what it means to artists and everyone else.

Some of the issues Nancy will address:

- What is a copyright?
- How long does a copyright run?
- What can you legally do with printed and downloaded materials? What is "fair use"?
- What does an artist need to do to protect his/her work?
- What can you legally photograph? This is an artists' rights issue for the photographer and a privacy issue for the subject.
- What photographs can you sell?
- When do you need a signed release?
- What should you avoid doing?

This meeting is primarily intended for artists, photographers (amateurs and professionals), and people who use the web. Some of the concepts will be applicable to musicians and writers as well.

Our Speaker

Nancy Wolff is counsel for the PACA (Picture Agency Council of America), many stock photography libraries, professional photographers, authors, designers, graphic artists, and publishers. Nancy is a member and former Trustee of the Copyright Society of U.S.A., and served as Co-Chair of the Entertainment Law Committee—New York County Lawyers'. She is on the Steering Committee for the Copyright Society U.S.A.'s FAcE initiative to encourage copyright education.

A Valuable Meeting

There are few copyright books for artists, and most of them are out of date. If you are a photographer or artist, or you make use of printed or downloaded material, come to this meeting.

Laura Balsam, Chair, Photoshop SIG,
nypc@hookbuilt.com

You seldom see the thief
who steals your art!



Inside NYPC



Volume 11 issue 9
October 2004

General Meeting Info

- When:** Thursday, October 21st, 2004
- Where:** PS 41, 116 W 11th Street,
west of 6th Avenue
- Schedule:** 6:00pm Networking in Cafeteria
Meet the Geek: Q&A
Networking
6:45pm Announcements
7:00pm Presentation
- Subway:** A,B,C,D,E,F,Q,V to West 4th St
1,2,3,9,L to 14th St @ 7th Ave
(check with MTA)
- Path:** Take 33rd St line to 9th St Sta
- Hotline:** 212-643-NYPC, code 111,
code GEN

NYPC's General Meetings are free and open to the public. To check on the NYPC General Meeting or get up-to-the-minute details on speakers, go to our website, www.nypc.org, or call our Hotline (212) 643-NYPC and enter the code 111, then the code GEN. Note: You may interrupt any speech at any time by entering a 3-letter code.

President's Column:

E-Mail

As you know, we try our best to communicate with NYPC members regularly by e-mail. We send reminders of classes and meetings, changes and updates, and last-minute offers. Sometimes we even hear about jobs!

During the past month, we forwarded discount offers for the Digital Lifestyle Expo held on September 26, and a reminder about the deadline for PhotoPlus Expo; advice about Service Pack 2 for Windows XP, and other tidbits of useful information. We have been told that these e-mails are useful.

Lately, however, several e-mails have bounced back. Please let us know about any changes in your address by sending an e-mail to pres@nypc.org.

Please Help NYPC!

NYPC needs more members! Though our outreach efforts have brought in some new members, we need your help. (We'll provide the literature.)

- Tell your friends about us!
- Post our newsletter at your apartment or place of work.
- Forward some e-mails to colleagues.
- "Adopt" a store or library, after asking permission, and take our literature there.
- Tell Kathy Petruzzi about any ideas for new types of outreach.
- Remind your favorite SIG to promote NYPC.

NYPC is grateful for your membership and your help!

eBay Hacks: 100 Industrial-Strength Tips and Tools

by David A. Karp. O'Reilly, 2003

Book Review by Fred Kahn, eBay teacher/consultant, education@nypc.org

There are several problems with all books written about eBay, the most common of which is that any book on the subject of how to use eBay will be, in some aspects, outdated by the time it is distributed. This is due to the fact that eBay is constantly evolving. eBay makes changes to its interface, operation, rules and fees more often than Microsoft issues patches. This is usually a good thing for eBay users but it makes it difficult for writers to produce accurate references. Even the so called "Ebay Bible" written by their own guru, Jim Griffith, is terribly outdated.

That caveat notwithstanding, I found this version of the "Hacks" series not quite up to the usual standards. For me—and this may be because I happen to be so familiar with the subject—this book could not seem to hold my attention. It certainly is not a book that should be read from front to back, but rather one should peruse the index and choose an area of interest to investigate.

I found it interesting that some of the reader reviews on Amazon.com found the material confusing and attributed their lack of understanding to their novice standing. I am certainly no novice; however, I too found some of the writing to lack clarity.

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laura@hookbuilt.com

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Rags6600@hotmail.com

This newsletter produced in Ventura. Design by Allison Moore/Database recipes by Robert Leuze.

NYPC Classes

To register or to request specific classes, phone 212 643-7005, x2 or e-mail education@nypc.org.

For complete descriptions, click on class name at <http://www.calsplus.net/nypcmeetings>.

Unless otherwise specified, classes are hands-on. We welcome walk-ins for seminars, but please phone to confirm that the class is being held. One advantage of NYPC computer training is our flexibility. If there's a topic you want to learn, let us know. If we have at least three students, we'll try to tailor a class to your needs.

Prices below are for NYPC members; if you are not a member, please add registration fee of \$45; as a bonus, you will receive a one year membership.

⇒ PHOTOSHOP for the Impatient

This class will introduce the novice to the world of image editing. Beginning with the interface and the tools, this class will cover areas that are common to all versions of Photoshop.

Saturday, October 16, 10:00am-4:00pm
1 session, \$99

⇒ Viruses, Hackers, and Worms—Oh My!

As some of our most careful members can tell you, a computer infection can make you feel as though you're lost in Oz! Viruses, worms, and spyware have become an ever-present danger for anyone who uses e-mail or the Web. Traditional defenses—regular backups, updated anti-virus programs, common sense in opening e-mail—are essential, but are now only the first line of defense as computer vandals become more and more clever. As part of NYPC's continuing attempt to help you compute safely, we are offering a hands-on course in preventing and dealing with computer intruders. The first session will deal with prevention: using anti-virus SW, firewalls, and antispyware to optimize your protection. The second session will cover what to do if your efforts fail.

Tuesday, October 19 & Thursday, October 28, 6:00-9:00pm
2 hands-on sessions: \$79

⇒ Audio Transfer Workshop

Do you have shoeboxes or cartons filled with old audio cassettes or LPs that you'd like to preserve and use?

Then come to this workshop! Mike Ostrowe, Co-chair of the Computer Passport SIG, will show how to digitize audio content and transfer it to CDs or DVDs (using Roxio's Easy Media Creator or Ahead Nero). Each participant will have the opportunity to transfer one item to CD or DVD, so bring a favorite family recording or piece of music. (Please observe copyright regulations.)

Sunday, October 24, 10:00am-3:00pm
Only \$78 for this full-day workshop.

⇒ Intro to Adobe PREMIERE Pro

A "crash course" in video editing with Premiere, starting with how to set up your computer, through capturing video and using the Premiere interface, to enhancing your video with Premiere's special effects. By the end of the 7 hours, you will be able to do simple video editing. Taught by Paula K. Poulafearh, whose biweekly cable TV show, "Manhattan Classical Opera and Concert Series," airs on alternate Sunday evenings at 7:30 PM.

Saturday, October 30, 9:30am-5:30pm Partially hands-on, \$99 with preregistration)

⇒ MS Word: Advanced Formatting and Page Layout

Automate your formatting with Styles and Templates. Use Tables to format text. Your documents will look better in less time!

Wednesday, October 20, 6:00-9:00pm. 3 hours, hands-on, \$39

⇒ MS Word: More Efficient Letters

Improve the appearance of your letters, and increase your efficiency! Learn how to use Mail Merge effectively. We'll also cover AutoText and AutoCorrect, Bullets and Numbering.

Wednesday, October 27, 6:00-9:00pm. 3 hours, hands-on, \$39

⇒ Photo Enhancement with Photoshop Elements

Though far less expensive and easier than Photoshop, Photoshop Elements offers considerable power in enhancing and distributing digital images. Take this opportunity to begin learning it.

Wednesday, October 13th, 1:00-4:00pm; 2nd session TBA
6 hours, hands-on, \$69

⇒ Build Your Own Small-Form Factor Computer

If you want small size and portability—plus a snazzy appearance—in your computer, consider a "Shuttle" small-form-factor PC! Under the expert direction of Mike Ostrowe, who teaches NYPC's A+ certification courses, you will be able to build one of these for yourself. This computer packs a lot of power into a small, attractive package. (Full-size desktop configuration also available.)

Sunday, October 31, 10am-5pm

\$99 plus cost of parts. E-mail Mike Ostrowe for details and help with configuration: mjostrowe@earthlink.net.

Early registration is **essential** in order to get components.

⇒ Access

Learning Access Intensive Weekend, plus Advanced Access: Saturday-Sunday, November 6-7; Sun., Nov. 21, 10:00am-5:00pm

Hands-on, \$99/day; \$175/2 days; \$260/3 days

Taught by Mahesh Chhatfani, dynamic leader of NYPC's XML SIG.

Fundamentals of Access

For participants with minimal database knowledge

Intermediate Access

The next step in developing Access databases

⇒ Learn Corel Painter with an Artist! Artistry Corel Painter Retreat

Taught by artist Karen Sperling, author of several Painter manuals and books. It will show you art techniques and Painter tools to turn your portraits and landscapes into true paintings and not just photos with brush strokes.

Not an NYPC course, but held at NYPC

Monday-Wednesday, October 18-20, 10:00am to 4:00pm

Monday: Overview of Painter basics: \$89*

Tuesday-Wednesday: Art concepts and Painter steps: \$400*

*NYPC member price

For more information and to ask questions about this Artistry Painter Retreat, including fees, and to register, please e-mail Karen: ksperling@aol.com, or phone at 818-981-2803. See Karen's website at www.artistrymag.com.

NYPC Meetings, Seminars/Classes & Other Events **October 2004**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4 Access	5 NYPC Board	6 DeLUGE Visual Basic Palm	7 C++/Java Gen Mtg Passport	8 Investment	9
10 Photog Trip	11 Photo & Graphics	12 Photoshop ODK Excel LINUX	13 PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS Alpha Internet	14 Beg Java MetaStock	15 LINUX Study Group: Beginners	16 PHOTOSHOP
17 <i>Family History Fair</i>	18 PAINTER Accounting Ventura	19 PAINTER Perl VIRUSES (1)	20 PAINTER Speech Recog MS WORD	21 NYP C General Mtg Database C++/Adv Java	22 Macromedia Studio	23
24 AUDIO Workshop	25 ODK Adv Tech & Tech Hardware Streaming	26 Photoshop Embedded Wireless	27 MS WORD	28 Enterprise Windows Flash VIRUSES (2)	29	30 PREMIERE Pro
31 BUILD COMPUTER	November 1 Access	2 Genealogy NYPC Board	3 Palm Visual Basic DeLUGE Adv. Metastock	4 C++/Java Gen Mtg Passport	5 LINUX Study Group: Beginners	6 ACCESS Beg

Calendar Legend

Plain = SIG Meeting
Bold = NYPC Class
Black background = General Meeting
Italics = Special Event

The calendar shows the events that were scheduled at press time. Sometimes there are last minute changes, so please call the NYPC Hotline, 212-643-NYPC (6972), then enter the 3 character SIG code to confirm meeting details. Our online calendar at www.calsplus.net/nypcmeetings is also kept as up-to-date as possible. If the SIG meeting you want to attend is not listed, call the Hotline, contact the SIG chair, or check our web page, www.nypc.org. **Always confirm meeting information by calling the Hotline and entering the 3-digit character code from the listing on the following pages or check the online calendar.** See page 3 for Seminars/Classes. See pages 5 and 6 for SIG meetings.

Location Legend PS41 116 West 11th Street, west of 6th Avenue MS Microsoft, 1290 6th Ave. (51st/52nd Str), 6th Floor
 IBM IBM, 590 Madison Avenue NYPC NYPC Office, Hotel New Yorker, 481 8th Ave, Suite 1560

SIG Directory

The calendar shows the events that were scheduled at press time. You can find detailed information about many SIG meetings by going to the Events Calendar via the NYPC website, www.nypc.org, and clicking on the SIG of interest. Details will appear in a pop-up. Updates—changes, or cancellations, or specific topics to replace TBA—are announced here as well as on the hotline, 212-643-NYPC.

If we have your e-mail address, we will also send you occasional meeting updates and reminders.

AXS Access

Claire Chase, (212)691-3577, M-F, 9am-5pm
Monday, October 4th, November 1st, 6:30 PM
Location: MS
Access Annoyances

ACC Accounting (New SIG!)

Len Ginsburg, LenGinsburg@earthlink.net
Monday, October 18th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Organizational Meeting: QuickBooks and beyond. Bring your wishes & ideas.

ATT Advanced Technologies and Techniques

Jessie Shereff, shereff@cs.nyu.edu
Monday, October 25th, 6:30 PM
Location: MS
General discussion of PC technology

ADB Alpha Database

Barry Rochford, brochford1@comcast.net
Wednesday, October 13th, 6:00 PM
Location: NYPC
Daniel Weiss: several nice techniques and useful functions

BEG Beginners SIG

Mary Ginsburg, lm_ginsburg@earthlink.net
On hiatus. Contact Mary if interested.

CSG C++/Java Gen'l Mtg

<http://www.cppsigs.org>. Dario Laverde, dario@escape.com
Thursday, October 7th, November 4th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Topic TBA

ODK C++/JAVA: Object Data Knowledge Management

Carlos Jerome, cjinterf@panix.com
Tuesday, October 12th, 5:30 PM, Place TBA
Monday, October 25th, 5:30 PM, NY Pub Library, Seward Park Branch
Continuing development of constituent directory & communication systems, using J2EE, LDAP, & CRM-focused unified process

BJG C++/JAVA: Beginners' Java

Shera Katz, sherak180@yahoo.com
Thursday, October 14th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Head First Java: chapters 15, 16 & 17

CSG C++/Java: Advanced Java

Dario Laverde, dario@escape.com
Thursday, October 21st, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Advanced Java topics. See <http://nycjava.org>
Also join us at our yahoo group: [nycjava_org](http://nycjava.org)

PAS Computer Passport

Kathy Petrucci, kathypetrucci@hotmail.com;
Michael Ostrowe, mjostrowe@earthlink.net
Thursday, October 7th, November 4th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Topic TBA

SEQ Database/SQL

<http://www.thelinuxsociety.net/dbsig.html>
Dario Castellanos, jdcnyc@compuserve.com
Thursday, October 21st, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
A Look At Oracle

LUG DeLUGE (Desktop Linux UG)

<http://www.delugeny.org>. Mark Halegua, phantom21@mindspring.com
Wednesday, Oct. 6th, November 3rd, 6:30 PM
Location: IBM. PLEASE RVSP to Mark to be placed on IBM's SECURITY list. Please also bring a picture ID.
KDE 3.2

PHT Photography and Digital Graphics

Mary Ginsburg, lm_ginsburg@earthlink.net;
Tony Holley, tholley@cititech.cuny.edu
Sunday, October 10: Field Trip to Jamaica Bay. E-mail Tony to reserve ride
Monday, October 11th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Your Camera and You: making the most of the controls on your camera, from point-and-shoot to high-level.

EMB Embedded Systems

Lee Thalblum, lee_t@bigfoot.com
Tuesday, October 26th, 6:15 PM
Location: NYPC
Further introduction to AVR hardware

EWN Enterprise Windows

Bill Zack, wzack@compuserve.com; Tony Iams, tony@dhbrown.com
Thursday, October 28th
Location: MS
MOM (Microsoft Operations Manager)

EXC Excel

Al Vachris, Excel1Star@cs.com
Tuesday, October 12th, 6:00 PM
Location: MS
Topic TBA

ART Fine Arts

Melody Reed, Webdesign@melodyreed.com
On hiatus. E-mail Melody with your interest

FLA Flash

Mary Ginsburg, lm_ginsburg@earthlink.net;
Tony Holley, tholley@cititech.cuny.edu
October 28th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Further lessons in using Flash

FPX Front Page

If you'd like to see this SIG continue, please let us know at pres@nypc.org.

GFH Genealogy

<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~metrony/>
David Kleiman, roots@heritagemuse.com
Sunday, October 17th, 12:00-5:00 PM
Location: NYPC
Family History Day at CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue at 34th St. Free Admission. Details: <http://www.nycarchivists.org/fhf.html>

HRD Hardware

<http://www.smartgroups.com/groups/hugnypc>
Kevin Raguette, Rags6600@hotmail.com
Monday, October 25th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
More circuit board design with Geda, etc.

NET Internet

Tony Holley, tholley@cititech.cuny.edu;
Laura Balsam, nypc@hookbuilt.com
Wednesday, October 13th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Alternate Browsers: Opera, Mozilla, more

INV Investment

Phyllis Pawlovsky, PGP106@cs.com. SIG follows the investment principles of the National Association of Investment Corp.
Friday, October 8th, 6:15 PM
Location: MS
Your Favorite Financial Websites

LNK LINUX

<http://www.thelinuxsociety.net> Dario Castellanos, jdcnyc@compuserve.com
Tuesday, October 12th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Topic TBA

LNK LINUX Study Group: Beginners

Friday, October 1st, 15th, Nov. 5, 6:15 PM
Location: NYPC
Beginners' Linux Admin Study Group

WMM Macromedia MX Studio

Melody Reed, Webdesign@melodyreed.com
Friday, October 22nd, 6:15 PM
Location: NYPC
Challenges of migrating from FrontPage to Dreamweaver

MTA MetaStock

Barbara Scheiner, bscheiner@nyc.rr.com
 Thursday, October 14th, Wednesday,
 November 3, 7:00 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Topic TBA

BRD NYPC Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 5th, November 2, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Members are welcome to attend, but we'd
 like to know ahead. Please e-mail Mary
 Ginsburg at pres@nypc.org.

GEN NYPC GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, October 21st, 6:30 PM
 Location: PS 41, 116 W. 11th St., W of 6th Ave
 Copyright Issues

PDA Palm Pilot

<http://nypc.org/palm.htm>. Ted Cohn and
 Grace Lee, nypcpda@yahoo.com
 Wednesday, October 6th, November 3rd,
 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Discussion of possible new Palm devices

PRL Perl Seminar NY

James E. Keenan, jkeen@verizon.net; Alex
 Gill, alexgill@nyc.rr.com
 Tuesday, October 19th, 6:15 PM
 Location: NYPC
 A Perl Smorgasbord

PHO Photoshop

<http://www.hookbuilt.com/nypc/stsig.html>
 Laura Balsam, nypc@hookbuilt.com
 Tuesday, October 12th, 26th, 1:00 PM
 Location: NYPC
 10/12: Image Clinic & Video Training;
 10/26: Customizing Photoshop Web Galleries
 & Corel KnockOut

Join us at noon in the Tick Tock Diner for
 socializing prior to the meeting.

SUG Smalltalk

<http://www.ocit.com/stug>. Charles Monteiro,
 charles@ocit.com
 Check with leader

SPR Speech Recognition

<http://www.out-loud.com>. Laura Miner,
 76233.3413@compuserve.com; Leftonred
 Atanycorner, vp@nypc.org
 Wednesday, October 20th, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Topic TBA

STR Streaming Media

Ashod Kassabian, stream-1@earthlink.net;
 Edwin Woo, edwinwoo@consultant.com
 Monday, October 25th, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Topic TBA

VPI Ventura

Allison Moore, amoore@nyc.rr.com
 Monday, October 18th, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 More on Starting a flyer from scratch

BAS Visual Basic

David Kulick, dgkulick@hotmail.com
 Wednesday, October 6th, November 3rd,
 6:15 PM
 Location: MS
 10/6: DotNetNuke

WFI Wireless — New SIG!

Ted Cohn, TedCohn@earthlink.net;
 Leftonred Atanycorner, vp@nypc.org
 Tuesday, October 26th, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Wireless Security: First in a series on this
 important topic

XML XML/Web Services

Mahesh Chhatlani and Lori Mogol,
 nypcxml@hotmail.com
 Date TBA
 Location: NYPC
 Web services education project, continued

Other Organizations

NPC Non-Profit Computing

John L. German, 212-759-2368
 Includes:

JOB Career Development Group

Tuesdays, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 16, 30, 4:00 PM
 West-Park Presbyterian Church, 86th &
 Amsterdam
 Facilitators include:
 Susan Werbin, 212-799-6111
 Mort Trachtenberg, 212-769-TRAC

**Thanks to
Our Hosts!**

The following companies provide
space for many of our meetings.
We would like to take this
opportunity to thank them.

Microsoft

IBM



continued from page 7

Topic Areas

A list follows of the six broad topic areas found on the CD
 and the 33 lessons they contain. It includes a number of les-
 sons that I did not mention in my review but which I found
 generally useful and well executed.

- Organize (three lessons) covers the improved file
 browser and camera RAW plug-in.
- Correct (eight lessons) covers levels, curves, the new
 shadow/highlights filter, and three ways to eliminate a
 color cast.
- Repair (nine lessons) covers cropping and straightening
 images, two ways to remove red-eye, sophisticated
 ways to reduce grain and color noise, sharpening an
 image, and cloning out unwanted objects.

- Portrait Retouch (three lessons) includes fixing faces,
 teeth, and eyes.
- Enhance (four lessons) includes converting to black and
 white using the channel mixer, a technique to add a
 glow to portraits, simulating a sunset using the new
 match color filter, changing faces in a group image by
 cutting and pasting.
- Special Effects (six lessons) includes a simple way to
 simulate painterly effects, two ways to remove an object
 from its background (including the use of the extraction
 filter), a simple way to add edges to a photo, changing
 the depth of field using the using new lens blur filter,
 and stitching together a number of images using the
 new photo merge feature.

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Please support these merchants who have chosen to support NYPC! Dollar signs (\$) indicate supporters offering discounts or extras to NYPC members. Present your membership card (or newsletter with membership number) to exercise these discounts.

CONSULTING SERVICES

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LHG Consulting: Leonard Ginsburg
718-828-9547; LeonardGinsburg@earthlink.net
QuickBooks consulting: set-up, training, maintenance. Help with accounting-related problems in computerized bookkeeping. A QuickBooks ProAdvisor.

Metis Group LLC Certified Public Accountants: Steven Fromer, President
14 Penn Plaza, Ste 1800, NYC 10122;
212-643-0099x137; fax: 646-304-6312;
SFromer@metisgroupllc.com;
www.metisgroupllc.com

- keeping your taxes to a minimum
- satisfying recordkeeping requirements
- using financial reports for business decisions
- maximizing success in your business \$

❖ ADVERTISING

Murray Strelitz
212-691-7788; MStrelitz@bigfoot.com
Advertising agency financial management software ["Adman" consulting & training].
Review of various vertical software packages. \$

❖ COMPUTING SERVICES

Fred Kahn
88-21 69th Rd.; Forest Hills, NY 11375;
718-263-2041; brooklynbridge@att.net;
www.FredKahn.com
Consulting on computer purchasing, set-up, repairs. Ebay trading assistant. \$

❖ DATABASE

Software Pundits, Inc: Mahesh Chhatlani
516-205-4709; Mahesh@SoftwarePundits.com;
www.SoftwarePundits.com
Over 20 years' experience helping businesses achieve success through technology. Clients range from small business owners to Fortune 500 companies. No-obligation consultation. \$

❖ EDITING/PROOFING

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631-422-6804; fax: 631-422-1170;
Claire-M@att.net
Are your letters, websites, and business materials free of grammar and spelling mistakes? Let us make **you** look good. \$

❖ INTERNET

Software Pundits, Inc: Mahesh Chhatlani
516-205-4709; Mahesh@SoftwarePundits.com;
www.SoftwarePundits.com

Over 20 years' experience helping businesses—small to Fortune 500—achieve success through technology. No-obligation consultation. \$

❖ ORGANIZATION

Annika Ginsberg
646-645-1118; Annika@chilitech.com
Personal Assistant/Professional Organizer.
Quicken set-up and maintenance, organization of workspace, home, and more.
Available for long-term and per diem projects.

❖ PROGRAMMING

Software Pundits, Inc: Mahesh Chhatlani
516-205-4709; Mahesh@SoftwarePundits.com;
www.SoftwarePundits.com
Over 20 years' experience helping businesses achieve success through technology. Clients range from small business owners to Fortune 500 companies. No-obligation consultation. \$

❖ SOFTWARE

Metis Group LLC Certified Public Accountants: Steven Fromer, President
14 Penn Plaza, Ste 1800, NYC 10122;
212-643-0099x137; fax: 646-304-6312;
SFromer@metisgroupllc.com;
www.metisgroupllc.com

- keeping your taxes to a minimum
- satisfying recordkeeping requirements
- using financial reports for business decisions
- maximizing success in your business \$

Software Pundits, Inc: Mahesh Chhatlani
516-205-4709; Mahesh@SoftwarePundits.com;
www.SoftwarePundits.com
Over 20 years' experience helping businesses—small to Fortune 500—achieve success through technology. Call for no-obligation consultation. \$

❖ TAXES

Tierney Associates
315 E. 72nd St., Apt. 5L, New York, NY
10021-4627; 212-535-0261; fax:
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Taxes—Federal, State, City—Individual, Corporate. Review previous returns: \$15

❖ TRAINING

Mary Ginsburg
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Patient training in computing basics. Training in Internet use, emphasizing effective searching. Help with advanced searching; specialty: medical/health topics. \$

COMPUTER VENDORS

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Adobe Photoshop CS one-on-one

by Deke McClelland. Deke Press/O'Reilly Media, 2004.

Calling something “perfect” is not something I do easily—if at all. However, I am strongly tempted to call Deke McClelland’s book “pedagogically perfect.” It integrates video overviews with text-based instruction in a manner that facilitates learning of Photoshop CS, which McClelland calls “a vast and complicated program with scores of redundant functions..., all devoted to the seemingly prosaic task of changing the color of a few pixels.” The author clearly describes each step of the image manipulations he’s chosen to teach, enhancing his words with illustrations that leave no doubt about what to do. His use of colored text and call-outs is consistent and well-organized, adding to the learning experience rather than detracting from it. The book makes learning Photoshop enjoyable, rather than bewildering.



This book is aimed at beginning to intermediate users of Photoshop CS, the premiere image editing application from Adobe. It begins with the basics—yet skillfully introduces techniques not generally found in books for beginners.

Structured for Effective Learning

From the Table of Contents through the Index, the book promotes learning of Photoshop CS. The Preface takes nothing for granted! It gives careful instructions on using the enclosed CD and explains why it is important to install and use Deke’s own Photoshop Preferences. Like a true college textbook, it gives an overview of the book’s structure and conventions, including not only a list of topics covered but also a summary of what is NOT taught.

Hefty but very readable, the book comes with a CD containing exercise images and video instruction. Each video overview lasts about 10 to 15 minutes and consists of demonstrations of the techniques covered in the corresponding chapter. Unlike many video tutorials, these invite you to sit back and watch, without scrambling to try to perform the exercises. In fact, the demos use different images than in the exercises in the book. The author’s suggested approach works very well: First, watch the video overview; then read the corresponding chapter and perform the exercises.

Deke covers all of the basic adjustments needed to enhance a photograph and often goes beyond them with some advanced hints. Each chapter focuses on a specific type of adjustment procedure or tool, such as color balance or focus adjustments. A project orientation adds to the enjoyment of the learning process. For each chapter, an “About This Lesson” introduction states which concepts and techniques will be explored. A project takes the reader through every step of a technique or procedure, with clear descriptions and abundant photos of the results of each step. (The instruction on using curves for image enhancement may be the best I have found.) Conversely, many projects take advantage of more than one technique or tool.

The twelve chapters take the learner in logical sequence from using the Browser to Printing. In between are: bright-

ness/contrast; color balance; selection; resizing, transforming, cropping; painting and retouching; masking; focus; layers; text and shape tools; layer styles and adjustment layers.

Many tools are introduced as an integral part of the projects. Scattered throughout the text are additional tidbits of information (“Pearls of Wisdom”) and “extra-credit” exercises.

Additional Information

Rather than simply describing what to do, Deke adds interesting comments on why he is proceeding in just this manner. Technical points glide smoothly into the narrative, so that the user effortlessly grasps, for example, the correspondence between a spike on the blue (channel) histogram and the appearance of the image to be corrected. Deke explains one color correction as follows: “The sky and mirrored windows of the building are trending distinctly toward purple. My sense is that they would look better if they trended toward blue.” He shows corrections gone astray, and explains why—and how to correct them.

Geared to the intellectually curious, the book is replete with sidebars explaining the science behind the program or other technical aspects of imaging. These include a very clear description of “The Nature of Channels,” an explanation of how auto commands work, instructions in reading histograms, details about what layer comps can and cannot save, and many more. By placement near to, but apart from, the main instructive text, they add information without detracting from the flow of activities.

Shortcuts are introduced in the video overviews, reinforced in the text, and summarized in the Video Lesson box at the beginning of each chapter. Because it has an excellent index, the book can also be used as a reference. My only real quibble is the lack of references, either print or web-based. It would be a terrific addition if Deke were to add, for example, “If you want more information about color, some good resources are x, y, and z.”

Highly Recommended

The book is very enjoyable to read. Deke has a subtle sense of humor, which he uses as an enhancement rather than a distraction. He is also a true artist, not only with a camera and Photoshop, but also with paint.

Having worked as a developmental editor for college textbooks, I was impressed by the organization, consistency, and style evident on every page. The use of colors, illustrations, and sidebars is superb. Every aspect contributes to learning this challenging program. I highly recommend this book for the person who is either getting started with Photoshop or progressing into intermediate usage.

Mary Ginsburg, pres@nypc.org

Every aspect of the book contributes to learning this challenging program.

Photoshop Secrets for Digital Photographers:

A Video Tutorial with Colin Smith

Reviewed by Leonard Lowell

The rapid growth of digital photography has been accompanied by the need to edit and retouch the resulting digital images. While basic adjustments may seem easy to do, one quickly learns that programs such as Adobe Photoshop CS can do much more than that and in many different ways. Even for simple adjustments there are tricks that can save time or produce better results.

Photoshop's strong emphasis on graphics tools, including its ability to produce a graphics image without a photograph at all, is mostly irrelevant for image correction but adds substantial baggage to the program. This bi-polar composition is also reflected in after-market educational books and videos, which may not focus enough attention on the special needs of the photographer. This has changed in the last few years with the emergence of specialized titles aimed at photographers.

Photoshop Tutorials for Photographers

One video tutorial falling into this category is Colin Smith's *Photoshop Secrets for Digital Photographers*. A Photoshop designer and trainer, Smith is also the author of numerous Photoshop books and founder of the popular PhotoshopCAFE web site. The video runs three hours, covering not only basic and intermediate topics but one or two advanced tricks and techniques as well. To fully benefit from this video, the viewer should have some basic exposure to Photoshop, including familiarity with the various selection tools and layers.

The limitations of a three-hour CD mean that only a few areas of Photoshop can be treated comprehensively, with the rest given a brief overview. The CD is strongest in the area of correction techniques, where particular attention is given to the levels and curves functions. Smith goes over the correct way to use these tools to fix photos that are either too dark or too light, or that lack contrast. Setting the white point with levels is also explained. Smith's demonstration of how to use curves to correct parts of a photo, while leaving the rest untouched, is a simple technique that can be a great timesaver.

Removing a color cast is also a frequent problem encountered by photographers. However, the three, relatively simple methods outlined by Smith will not necessarily fix complex problems caused by a mix of lighting temperatures, nor do they deal with the much more common problem of the need to change a specific color, for which Photoshop has a multitude of controls. There is, for example, no discussion of the best ways to change a red object to a blue object. This is the only significant omission on the CD that I encountered.

A feature covered very clearly is the use of the extraction filter to remove an object from its surroundings. This can get tricky, if not impossible, when trying to isolate wispy strands of hair from a complex background. The tutorial on the CD covering this subject will get you going in the right direction but

good results will still require considerable time and effort, just the opposite of the impression left by the easy example given by Smith.

Digital noise, whether the noxious color type or the less objectionable, monotone "grain," can be a nasty problem. Noise may appear in dark areas and tends to worsen as you turn up the ISO setting on your camera. Smith has different, rather sophisticated solutions for each type of noise involving blurring channels in either RGB or LAB mode. These techniques greatly reduce noise while retaining the edges and detail of the image. The results look as good as or better than what can be achieved with one of those dedicated noise-reduction applications. Of course, don't expect miracles with your camera's ISO turned up all the way.

Finally, some of the less comprehensive but competent lessons on the CD cover such areas as portrait retouching (which could easily consume an entire CD of its own), the mystical world of sharpening (which for every five Photoshop mavens seems to elicit 10 solutions), and converting a color photo to monochrome. For this latter lesson, Smith favors the use of the channel mixer, but quite a few other, easier (or more complicated) solutions exist which he omits. Smith also provides lessons on some of the new features of Photoshop CS, including the very important shadow/highlights filter, which Smith justifiably argues is itself worth the price of the program, and the new match color filter.

Special Effects

I'm happy to report that the final group of lessons on special effects (FX for the cognoscenti) really doesn't get into the subject very deeply. Volumes could be, and have been, written on the subject. Smith is an FX expert but essentially limits our exposure to a light treatment of how to produce painterly effects and to an introduction to the world of digital photo frames.

A Useful Product

Even though I am familiar with many of the subjects on the CD, I found the product generally useful because of Smith's special insights and techniques. The lessons did not get bogged down with a discussion of selection tools or layers, and thus seemed more suited to my level of expertise. For just under \$50, *Photoshop Secrets for Digital Photographers* should fit the needs of many photographers who desire to deepen their knowledge of the digital darkroom. Those who need a more basic exposure should look for an aftermarket product that provides a comprehensive overview of Photoshop essentials.

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October 2004

Address Correction
Requested

First Class Mail

Volunteer to Help NYPC

Once again, we're planning to wrap gifts at Barnes & Noble bookstore on the Upper West Side during the holiday season. This gives us an opportunity to promote NYPC.

Please contact Len Ginsburg if you may be able to donate a few hours: LenGinsburg@earthlink.net. Although we don't yet know when we'll be there, let him know what hours are best for you.

In this Issue: SIGs

- Revived Accounting SIG! (Not just QuickBooks) Monday, October 18, in the NYPC office. E-mail Len Ginsburg with your ideas: LenGinsburg@earthlink.net
- The Embedded Systems SIG is going to be experimenting with the Atmel AVR processor, learning both hardware interfacing and software development. Come to the meeting on Tues., Oct. 26.
- The Wireless SIG is starting a series of meetings on the very important topic of security. Do YOU know who's accessing your service?
- Even WQXR has mentioned the safety value of using Mozilla instead of IE. Come to the Internet SIG to learn about alternate browsers.

coming attractions

We've got some great general meetings coming up...



Thursday, November

Hyperthreading, demonstrated with NYPC's new 3.06 GHz Pentium 4, built from a chip and board donated by Intel

We're working on:

Macromedia products

Let us know what you'd like to see! Send an e-mail to Bill Ginsberg, wzg128@aol.com.

Family History Day

Seminars and Exhibits to help you research your roots

Free Admission

October 17th, 12:00-5:00 PM
CUNY Graduate Center,
365 Fifth Avenue at 34th St.

Details: <http://www.nycarchivists.org/fhf.html>