

The Adobe Photoshop Lightroom Book The Complete Guide for Photographers by Martin Evening

Around 2003, Martin, a long-standing professional photographer and published expert on Photoshop and photography, was invited to join the the alpha test program for a new Adobe development, Shadowland. After three years of development, including 2 name changes and over a year of public beta testing, Photoshop Lightroom has been released. As well as contributing his experience and ideas to the development of the program, Martin has assembled an extensive tome of some 336 pages of detailed knowledge of the scope of Photoshop Lightroom, and revised it many times as the features were revised over the years.

Looking at other people's experience in using this book, you may find that you either love it or hate it; and I can see why. Nothing comes for free, and you do need to sit down and work your way through the material to gather the knowledge that is available. The rush to be first to press is apparent with a few points that missed the final revision, and with the omission of differences between the Mac and PC versions of the program. Also the lack of a detailed index prevents this book from becoming your well-thumbed reference - sorry, but 5 pages is just not enough for a book of this scope.

With the problems behind us, let's have a look at what there is waiting for us. The book is divided into 6 chapters and a technical appendix for the more expert user. The chapters are: Introducing Adobe Photoshop Lightroom, Importing, Managing the Library, Image Processing, Printing, and Presenting Your Work. Each chapter is divided into multiple subsections, copiously illustrated with detailed labeled illustrations (captured from a Macintosh, of course). The text is loaded with detailed information and hints. To get the best results, you will need to start at the beginning and work your way through the book, page by page. You do not need to try to follow everything on the computer as you go; in fact you are probably better off not trying that. But with perseverance, you will get an excellent grounding in Photoshop Lightroom, and in storing, managing and processing your digital photographs.

All in all, I found this a book that would have been very useful while I was using the beta test versions of the software. It would have saved my hours and enabled me to get much more from the software. Now I just need to be able to afford the official release of Photoshop Lightroom.

This Adobe Press book is published by Peachpit, a division of Pearson Education, and has a recommended price of us\$40.00.