The Adobe Photoshop CS4 Dictionary
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Author’s dedication

Always for Kassy-Lee and my great kids Adrian and Ellena.

Cheers to Peter Bargh for all his hard work making this title the success it already is and my thanks to him for allowing me to carry on the tradition he started.

Thanks also to the staff at Focal Press including Ben Denne, David Albion and Lisa Jones and cheers to Melissa Read for crafting my writing efforts.

My appreciation goes to Bryan O’Neil Hughes at Adobe for his support, technical advice and Peter Eastway, photographer and publisher for his Foreword. And thanks once more to Adobe for bringing image enhancement and editing to us all through their innovative and industry-leading products, and the other hardware and software manufacturers whose help is an essential part of writing any book of this nature. In particular I wish to thank technical and marketing staff at Adobe, Microsoft, Canon, Nikon, Sony, and Epson. Also to Manfred “Grids Rule!” Huber for his design guidance.

And finally my thanks to all the readers who continue to inspire and encourage me with their generous praise and great images. Keep emailing me to let me know how your imaging is going.
The Adobe Photoshop CS4 Dictionary

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Photoshop has been through some amazing changes since we first looked at it on a tiny Apple Macintosh screen last century. It quickly asserted itself as the de facto image editing standard and its feature list grew so extensively that there aren’t enough options on our keyboards to make shortcuts for all of them. Adobe has also addressed fundamental issues like speed, color management and workflow, refining them to such an extent that Photoshop today can be an unnoticed extension of the creative process – assuming you know how to drive it.

What identifies a skilled Photoshop user is their knowledge of what is possible. Everything we do creatively is limited by what we know or believe can be done. Extend our knowledge of processes and immediately more possibilities arise. Nowhere is this more evident than when you’re sitting down at your computer and looking at your images in Photoshop.

Fortunately, by the time we get to play with Photoshop the rocket science is hidden behind a system of clean menus and a few mouse clicks, but even so, it’s essential to have a clear understanding of what you’re doing and why.

This is where a book like this comes in handy. No matter how thorough Adobe tries to be with its documentation, it’s still a matter of translating the documentation into a practical reality. And this is where a skilled photographer and writer like Philip Andrews comes in.

I have worked with Philip for several years on Better Photoshop Techniques magazine and I am constantly amazed at the breadth and extent of his knowledge about all things Photoshop. Not only does he know how to fix or alter something, he has half a dozen options to tempt you creatively.

There are a lot of great Photoshop users in the world, but finding one who is able to explain things in a way that everyone can understand and relate to is an invaluable skill. Philip Andrews stands tall among the best Photoshop educators in the world and I know you’re going to enjoy reading his book.

And expanding your range of creative possibilities with Photoshop CS4.

Peter Eastway G.M. Photog.
Co-Publisher
Better Photography Magazine
Better Photoshop Techniques Magazine
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Introduction

Now in its eleventh release Photoshop is undoubtedly the King of photo-editing software and, considering the host of new and revamped features included in the CS4 version of the program, its position at the top of the heap is assured.

The software is so popular with photographers, designers and illustrators that it is truly hard to recall a time when we didn’t have Photoshop at the center of our creative endeavors. With the massive upsurge of digital camera owners there is now a host of new photographers who are just discovering the pure editing and enhancement power afforded by the program.

Given the success of previous editions it would have been easy for Adobe to sit back and bask in the reflected glory of the program’s popularity but instead Adobe has been hard at work improving what was already a great product. The CS4 version, just like the releases before it, is a state-of-the-art image-editing program full of the features and functions that digital photographers and desktop image makers desire the most.

In fact, the program has become so comprehensive that producing an illustrated A–Z book like this one is not just a nicety, but has become a necessity. The software covers so many areas that Photoshop users needed a quick ready-reference guide to all the major tools and features. Peter Bargh, in the first few editions of this text, provided just such a comprehensive guide to the program and here I add to his excellent work. As was Peter’s approach, I haven’t stopped at simply describing the tool or feature; I accompany the text with illustrations of the software in action together with before and after pictures of the applied changes.

All entries include shortcut keys, menu locations and are cross-referenced to other Photoshop features that relate. Many features also include step-by-step guides to their usage and extended visual examples of the effects of using different settings on your pictures and just as with the last edition I have included a special techniques section that outlines key techniques that you can use with your images.

Keep this ready reference handy for all those occasions when you ask yourself ‘What does that do?’

But most of all keep enjoying your digital image making!

Philip Andrews
How to use this book...

In order to make the most of this book, take a couple of minutes to read the following. This will let me introduce a few of the special features that I have included to help you find the information that you need fast. Apart from the basic A–Z structure that lists the topics, features and tools alphabetically, I have also used the following design devices to make ‘search and locate’ missions speedier and more productive.

Each feature and tool entry is headed with a summary table that details the menu where the feature can be found, any keyboard shortcuts associated with the tool, the version of Photoshop that contains the feature and any other features that are linked to the feature.

The before and after examples illustrate how features, tools and techniques can be used to change the way that your pictures look.

The colored edge tabs change for each letter section. They can be used in conjunction with the contents page to quickly thumb through the book to locate a particular group of entries.

Important ideas and techniques are highlighted with the Remember icon and the tips and tricks used by working professionals are noted with the ‘Pro’s Tip’ ticked box.

There is a completely new step-by-step section at the back of the book designed to demonstrate how to use major tools and features. These mini-tutorials can be used to extend your understanding as well as build your editing and enhancement skills.

The entries detailing new or substantially changed or revamped features in Photoshop CS4 are highlighted in red.