

Photoshop Elements 7: The Missing Manual

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Series: [The Missing Manuals](#)

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Review by Ron Walters

As a member of the Computer Operators of Marysville and Port Huron I am allowed to participate in a program from O'Reillys Books. This program allows user group members to get books at a discount and allows the club to review books for them. I have been given the opportunity to review Photoshop Elements 7 the Missing Manual. I have read a couple of other books from O'Reillys including Photoshop Elements 6 the Missing Manual. I find the missing manual series to be extremely well written. A number of computer books are written by computer people who know computers but not how to write. The Missing Manual Series is a welcome change because it is written by people who know how to write as well as know computers.

In today's fast paced software development cycle and tight budgets most software programs regardless of how complex don't have much in the way of printed documentation. Almost everything is in the help file or in some form of electronic documentation. This is not always easy to work with it is hard to switch back and forth between the documentation and the program. This is why a manual is important but it would significantly impact the software price. This is why the Missing Manual Series is so popular. This book is the manual that should have been included with the program.

This book starts out on a very elementary level and scales to provide information for even the more advanced users of Adobe's Photoshop Elements 7. I have been using Photoshop Elements since version 2.0. I have taught myself how to use some of the basic features of the program but never really got all the value out of the program. I was impressed by the content in Photoshop Elements 7 the Missing Manual. The chapters were laid out in an orderly fashion. It started with the basics and then went into more advanced concepts. I found the first couple of chapters a little simple for me because most of those concepts I already knew. I did however learn some new concepts.

The examples in the book as well as the pictures were extremely helpful. Along the way there were tips that pointed out time saving

steps or better ways of doing things. The tips made sure that really important information was highlighted. The book was broken up to cover the two main components of Photoshop Elements 7. This book stresses the importance of the organizer and as a previous version user I know the importance of using the organizer. The organizer is a well integrated part of the program and it would be difficult to use the program with out it. The Missing Manual makes it clear that you can use the program with out the organizer but it is very difficult.

The book is divided into six sections and a total of nineteen chapters. As the book progresses it covers more advanced topics. By the time I finished reading the book I felt I could really use Photoshop Elements 7 to the fullest. I liked the fact that along the way it gave you the opportunity to get samples to work with from their website. The two seem to work hand in hand and made understanding the concepts a lot easier.

Throughout this book they stressed the importance of a photoshop.com account. The account gives you the ability to backup your photos, load photos to your collection from anywhere you have an internet connection and allows you to share them with friends. There is a whole section near the end of the book that covers the ability to share your via email and the web. It covers things like creating projects, albums and slideshows.

I would highly recommend this book and any others in the series to everyone. This book is easy to read and very helpful. There is information for both the beginner and advanced user. The more advanced concepts were delivered in a clear and concise way. Anyone who has purchased Adobe's Photoshop Elements 7 should get this book to get the most out of the program.