

Get serious about Photoshop training

Contributed by King TuT
Wednesday, 14 November 2007

Jumping into Photoshop without Photoshop training can be a frustrating experience. I had my first "hands-on" experience with Photoshop in 1995. It was one of the most rewarding and frustrating experiences in my life. I was producing a feature-length animated film for our independent start-up company in Merida, Mexico. We were developing this project with amazing talent-that was the rewarding part of the experience.

I had never been part of a project that relied on digital editing and compositing. Some of the people I worked with and got to know at that time were major talents in the world of high-end digital solutions-people who had risen to top positions at Apple Computer and Silicon Graphics. And then there were the whiz kids just out of college who could do anything you could imagine on a Macintosh computer running Adobe Photoshop. Just watching them use Photoshop to color animation frames in a fraction of the time it would have taken to paint the frames by hand was a great learning experience for me.

I had the opportunity to watch people with amazing talent do amazing things with Adobe Photoshop. But when I sat down and started playing around with Photoshop, trying to emulate the simplest effects I had seen others create so effortlessly, I quickly ran into trouble. I didn't take the time to seek out any sort of Photoshop training; I learned to get by with simpler design software.

I did what I needed to do for my text presentations, but I gave up dreaming that I'd ever be able to do anything myself with Photoshop. Like many people, I decided that Photoshop was too deep for me-I wasn't a graphic designer or visual effects artist anyway, so I saw no need to sign up for Photoshop training. And like most people, I thought that Photoshop training was only for those who wanted to turn their Photoshop skills into a career path. I didn't have time for it, I didn't really need it, so I crossed "Photoshop training" off my wish list and went on to other things. That was a big mistake.

Not long ago, I was forced to realize-after all these years-how badly I need to learn enough digital editing and compositing to create better graphics and videos for the Internet. Just a hobby to begin with-I told myself-but something that has been in the back of my mind ever since I crossed "Photoshop training" off of my wish list. I had mastered the simpler software and gotten as much out of it as I was going to get. There is only one program in the world that can let me do what I want to do with photos and video-Photoshop. It's time for me to get serious about Photoshop training.

I hope you'll decide to get serious about Photoshop training, too. It's one of the best investments you can make-even if you only want to get the most out of your photos and Internet videos.