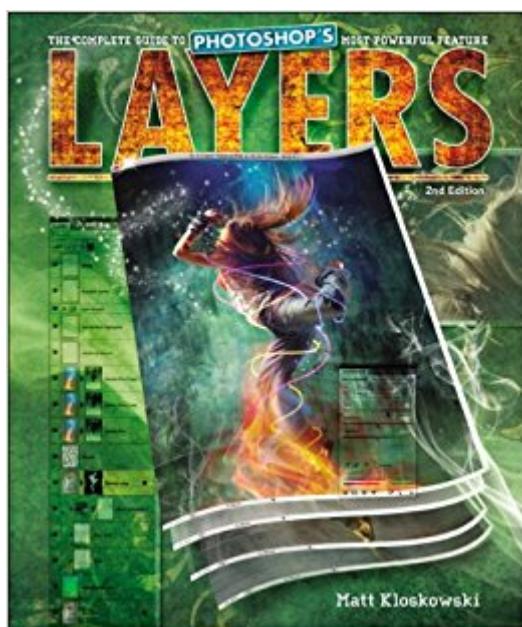


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# Layers: The Complete Guide To Photoshop's Most Powerful Feature (2nd Edition)



## **Synopsis**

In 2008, Adobe Photoshop pro and best-selling author Matt Kloskowski broke new ground teaching Photoshop by focusing on the one thing that makes Photoshop the amazing (and sometimes difficult to understand) program it is: layers. Now, Matt returns with a major update that covers layers in Photoshop CS5 in the same concise, easy to understand way that's made him so well known in the field of Photoshop training. When asked about the original version of this book, Matt said, "I wanted it to be the Photoshop book that I wish was around when I was first learning." This update improves upon that concept. Within these pages, you'll learn about: Working with and managing multiple layers in Photoshop CS5 Building multiple-layer images Blending layers together Layer masking and just how easy it is Which of the 25+ layer blend modes you really need to know (there are just a few) Using layers to enhance and retouch your photos All of the tips and tricks that make using layers a breeze Plus, a new chapter on advanced layer techniques and compositing to help take your work to the next level If you want to fully understand layers in Photoshop CS5, this book is the one you've been waiting for!

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

When Photoshop guru Matt Kloskowski was asked why he wrote this book, he replied, "It's simple: I wanted to write the Photoshop book that I wished was around when I was learning Photoshop." You've always known that layers were the key to understanding Photoshop, and now you have a resource to show you exactly how. With Matt's clear, easy-to-follow, and concise writing style

readers will learn about: Working with and managing multiple layersBuilding multiple layered imagesBlending layers togetherExactly which of the 25+ Blend Modes you need to worry about (there's just a few)Layer Masking and just how easy it isUsing layers to enhance and retouch your photosAll of the tips and tricks that make using layers a breeze.This book is the one that anyone who wants to finally understand layers in Photoshop has been waiting for!

Matt Kloskowski is a Photoshop Guy whose books, videos, and classes have simplified the way thousands of people work on digital photos and images. Author of several best-selling books on Photoshop, Matt teaches Photoshop and digital photography techniques to tens of thousands of people around the world each year. He co-hosts the top-rated videocast Photoshop User TV, as well as the photography videocast D-Town TV. He's built a massive library of videos that appear in DVDs and online training courses, and has written articles for Photoshop User magazine. You'll find Matt teaching for the Kelby Training Live seminar tour, as well as at the world's premier Photoshop event, the Photoshop World Conference & Expo.

An outstanding book that was basically ruined by the publisher! The Kelby Training site not only fails to correct errata as other reviewers have stated, but the excellent videos (on how the cover was created, for example) abruptly END in the middle of the author's tutorial! The author also wasn't involved in the web site, because he states in every video "If this video is the first on the page, thanks for buying the book." He obviously lost not only editorial control with Kelby, but also control of the very important web material.Publishers need to become more aware that if they charge a LOT for a thin book, they BETTER make the web complement outstanding! Buyers of this book DESERVE a good web experience to complement this expensive a purchase, and especially this important and specialized a title (there are over 1,000 books on Photoshop and hundreds of Lynda videos, but this is rare coverage of a key and difficult topic-- layers. If a publisher wants to compete with the thousands of videos on Youtube and other educational sites (for example, O'reilly and Pearson both do outstanding web additions to many of their software titles), they really have to do a better job of extending web tutorials to purchasers of books like this, and then doing them with enough quality that the reader can actually finish the video.BTW, the parts of the videos that DID make it to Kelby's site are by the author and are outstanding!

Layers really covers the various layers, in photoshop. Matt made the images in the book available to download so that the reader can follow along which is very useful as most readers would not have

all the types of images readily available. The book is easy to follow along. Many of the operations are covered in Matt's book "Photoshop Compositing Secrets" however I still learned new techniques from "Layers". If you were only going to buy one book the "Photoshop Compositing" would probably be more useful but I would recommend reading both.

This is a well written book with easy to follow step by step instructions on using layers. I worked along with the samples and for the first time since I have started using Photoshop layers made sense. Mind you, I have purchased other books from other authors about using Photoshop and none have explained layers as well as this book. Definitely recommended!

Great book! Matt is an exceptionally talented teacher besides being a great photographer. I teach in a computer lab and appreciate someone who knows how to teach this material. He has worked a lot with live audiences and knows the questions and confusions that people have about photoshop. He is not afraid to repeat directions to reinforce learning, he shows all of the steps. He tends to teach based on workflow and process. He is not one that starts off by explaining what every button does, when you don't even know how the program works. Matt has a lot of great teaching videos out there as well.

The toughest thing of Photoshop, any version, is how much there is to learn! And most books don't make it easy for you. This one does - it introduces Layers, and quickly puts you thru the paces to get to learn what all you can do with Layers. I daresay you should start with this book, and you may not need any other - once you go thru this, you should be proficient enough to become a master all by yourself. A word about versions - this book was written for CS3, and I've found it works great with CS4. The next edition is for CS5, which I have not read. If you are on CS3 or CS4, this book should do very well.

I LOVE this book. It is easy to read, easy to understand, and easy to keep reading. How many of these technical manuals do you own, where you read a few chapters and have abandoned the book? I have many, and the reason being is because they are so encompassing, they turn into reference material, and not a read all the way through book. This book is enjoyable, and does a fantastic job of teaching you layers. Lots of pictures with screen shots for every step, pointing out the little things one needs to understand. I only use Elements, and this works well with that product, as well as full blown PS of course.

New to Photoshop I wanted to get the most out of the program and learn how to use Layers. Watching Matt Kloskowski on D-Town TV helped make up my mind on this is one of the books that would help me. And I was not disappointed. The book is easy to read and easy to follow along with. As other reviews say there are some instances where I had to go back and read the directions a couple of times to make sure I understood what was going on. But part of that may have been because I was so eager to get on to the next step. You can download the majority of the photos used in the book to follow along with the instructions. Which makes it much easier to learn as many people learn by doing. As you do each step you see the results and how they all fit together. There also two bonus videos that you can watch on some Photoshop basics which are not 'covered' in the book but are very helpful. For me the explanation of the blending modes was one of the most helpful things. He goes beyond saying this mode does this, but how they work and why. The whole book is full of useful tips, tricks, hints and knowledge in general. If you want to learn about layers in Photoshop this is a great place to start.

If you have cs5, I'm sure this could be a great manual. If you're like me, New to Photoshop, and using cs6 or cc, this book leave you with as many queries as it does answers. Some of the information translated well and is still relevant in the newer versions, but others are so drastically different that it makes no sense.

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