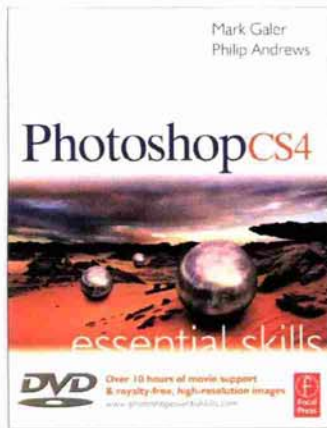


Book Reviews by Peter Bauer



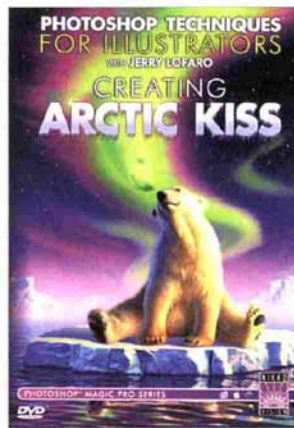
Photoshop CS4: Essential Skills

BY MARK GALER AND PHILIP ANDREWS

Perhaps the biggest benefit one can gain from this book is the hands-on experience that can be earned from working through the numerous exercises ("foundation projects"). The written material is generally helpful, and work files are found on the DVD. Additionally, the DVD contains 10 hours (according to the cover) or 8 hours (according to the Intro) of training movies. You'll find that the movies are primarily video representations of the book's paper content rather than additional information. A beginning Photoshop user might find the organization of the book a bit difficult, with some complex concepts presented in the early pages. Photoshop users of all levels might find the book a bit redundant, with the same material rephrased and re-presented in different areas. This updated version of the book does provide a much greater focus on shooting and processing RAW images. The coverage of Adobe Bridge concentrates on the interface.



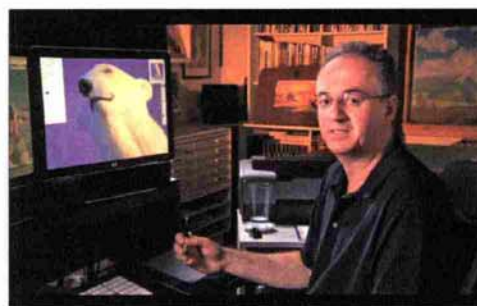
Publisher: **Focal Press** Pages: 464 (with DVD)
 Website: www.focalpress.com
 Price: \$39.95 Rating: ◆◆◆◆



**Photoshop Techniques for Illustrators
 Creating Arctic Kiss (DVD)**

BY JERRY LOFARO

World-class illustrator Jerry Lofaro (you've probably seen his work, even if you don't know the name) walks you through the creation of a single project, telling you how he works in Photoshop. In addition to showing his monitor, the artist often appears on camera to explain a point. Keyboard shortcuts also appear onscreen as the artist switches tools or opens dialogs using the keyboard. There are a few places where "Take 2!" might have been worthwhile, and navigating with the chapter links often pops you right into the middle of a sentence, but generally speaking, the production values are pretty good. If you want to learn how to use Photoshop for illustration, keep this disc in mind. You'll see how one of the top illustrators works his magic. But unless you're interested in the sort of illustration featured on the DVD's cover, skip it. It's not for Photoshop beginners!



Publisher: **Nikko Vision** Time: 135 minutes
 Website: www.airbrushaction.com
 Price: \$39.95 Rating: ◆◆◆◆

