

# Photoshop CS2 RAW

By Mikkel Aaland. March 2006, 206 pages. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly Media ([catalog page](#)). ISBN 0-596-00851-1 or 978-0-596-00851-2

Reviewed by Mike Morris

Front Range PC Users Group ([FRPCUG](#))

This book is eligible for the User Group discount from O'Reilly

Rating: Timberline\*

The title of this book is an accurate description, as you would expect, of its contents. It is specifically written for users of Adobe products: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Bridge and Adobe Camera Raw.

So, if your camera does not provide the RAW format, and/or you do not use Adobe products, should you buy this book?

This book is, obviously, going to be most useful for Photoshop users. However, I suggest there are several reasons why anyone who likes to edit digital images can benefit from the book, regardless of camera capabilities or image editing software preferences.

Chapter 1, Shooting and Importing RAW, has the best description that I have seen of the tradeoffs between the RAW and JPEG formats.

Chapter 5, Advanced Tonal Control, has examples of what can be achieved with a full-featured image editing application. True, the step-by-step procedures are unique to Photoshop, but seeing the results demonstrates—dramatically—the possibilities.

Chapter 6, Sharpening RAW Smoothly, contains very useful information on "When to Apply Sharpening." Information that is independent of software. To quote the author: "There is a lot of misunderstanding about when and how to apply sharpening." The examples provided effectively demonstrate the use of this software tool.

There is more—a total of 10 chapters. The printing quality is very high. I certainly recommend this book to Photoshop users, but others will find valuable information in this book as well.

\*Ratings Key:

- Sandpit—Avoid
- Small hill—Not recommended
- Foothill—Average
- Timberline—Excellent
- Fourteener—Must have