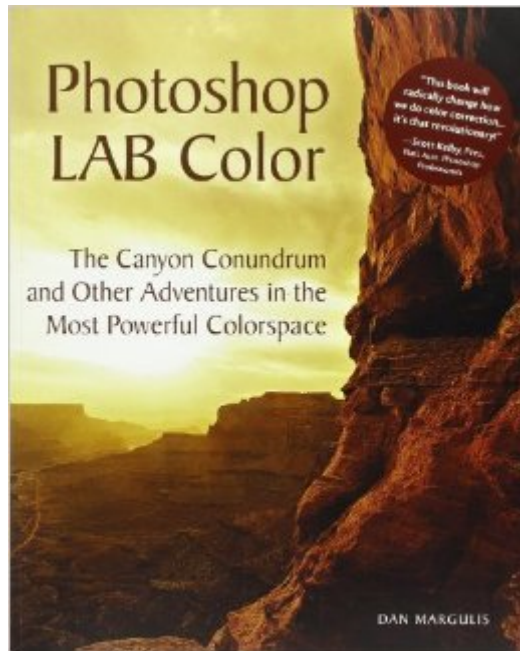# Photoshop LAB Color: The Canyon Conundrum And Other Adventures In The Most Powerful Colorspace

Synopsis

With a mantra like â œThere are no bad originals, only bad Photoshop operators,â • you know best-selling author Dan Margulis is serious about exposing people to the magic of Photoshop. Nowhere is that magic more apparent than in its LAB color processing capabilities, which can make even the subtle canyon colors of rock, sand, and dirt come to vivid life. However, you may be wary of taming the complex beast. Hereâ ™s your guide! In these pages, Dan shows that you can derive enormous benefits from just a few simple tools and techniques. He also demonstrates that you can take these techniques as far as you wish, employing the power-user features he describes in later chapters. Starting with canyons and progressing to faces, you will see just how quickly you can begin improving your images by following the â œrecipesâ • included here. Each chapter includes a sidebar with review questions and exercises as well as a â œCloser Lookâ • section that examines some of the principles behind the techniques. A CD includes exercise files.

Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Peachpit Press; 1 edition (August 18, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0321356780

ISBN-13: 978-0321356789

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.8 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (103 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #675,430 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #277 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Digital Audio, Video & Photography > Adobe > Adobe Photoshop   #278 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Software > Design & Graphics   #1165 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Graphics & Multimedia

Customer Reviews

Photoshop LAB Color is targeted at photo editing/correction using a method that is either completely unknown to most Photoshop users, or is at least only slightly familiar. If you think you already know all about LAB, don't buy this book. If you know nothing about LAB and you use Photoshop as your photo editor, this book will be a revelation to you. It's chock-full of excellent info and real-world examples of problem-photo corrections using LAB, and it explains in detail why LAB is often a better color space to work in than RBG (or CMYK).Also, this isn't an absolute beginner's book but it

doesn't pretend to be, and warns you that this can be a subject that requires a lot of thought to grasp completely.Here are a few pluses and minuses as I see this book:Positives:1. The author has a sense of humor, and most of the time he's funny. This is well-balanced and the book doesn't rely heavily on humor to get you through it. If you prefer dry manuals full of bland statistics and dusty white-page explanations on theory and history, though, this ain't a book for you.2. IMO this book is well-organized. The author starts with the basic concepts of LAB color, using simple changes to photos using LAB and shows you the differences between changes to the same photo using the RGB and CMYK color spaces. As the book progresses, the examples of problems become more and more complex so the solutions also become more complex.3. The author uses lots of photos to show you what he's talking about, and they often take up lots of room on the pages. This book is about photo editing in LAB color, so this shouldn't be a big surprise to most people, and it's a definite benefit to SEE what the author is talking about.4.

Developed in 1976, the LAB color space is a means to expedite color conversions to an industry standard. Photoshop gets LAB values from pantone, Inc., that enable it to construct the PMS (Pantone Matching System) colors that are the defacto standard in the graphics industry."Photoshop LAB Color" by Dan Margulis is a highly technical work that can be intimidating at first. However, if you work with digital images in Photoshop or other similar software that support the LAB color space, then I believe this book is indispensible for increasing your understanding of how to make superior color corrections that are not otherwise possible using RGB alone.Note that this book is not intended for Photoshop Elements users because Elements does not support the LAB color space.Although the book can be challenging, Mr. Margulis has thoughtfully organized it so that both novice and expert can and will benefit from using the LAB color space.The first six chapters of the book are organized so that the first half of each chapter can be used by those who are not yet expert Photoshop users. He skips most of the technical jargon, describing only the necessary steps to use the techniques. In chapter one, for example, learn to use the LAB color space with surprising results in just a few easy steps.The second half of the first six chapters take the reader into more technical discussions for a greater understanding of the use of colors and the LAB color space.Chapters seven through sixteen are more advanced, and I would recommend that you be comfortable with using most of the common editing features of Photoshop before delving into this part of the book.

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