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Mastering Black-and-White Photography: From Camera To Darkroom



Synopsis

Mastering Black-and-White Photography is an introduction to the techniques of black-and-white photography and a thoughtful exploration of how to use those techniques effectively to develop creative skills. Twenty-five illustrated chapters explain practical and artistic matters in a friendly style, from cameras, lenses, and film to developing, to printing, light, and aesthetics. This invaluable resource helps to understand the nuances surrounding the art and technique of black-and-white photography and to use that understanding to create better photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I don't know whether this is the best book to start learning photography. It had the correct level for me, and it is written in a very nice and easy-going style. I like it so I recommend it. It got me on track and quickly resulted in my converging towards a very acceptable standard of exposing, developing and printing my shots; that's what the book promises, and that's what it did.

This is the first book I bought after I bought a non-point&shoot camera. Bernhard takes the reader from the basics of how to operate a camera to film development, and then to printing. The style is easy to read and understand, and the information is wonderfully accessible. This is a wonderful primer for a budding photographer before moving on to the Ansel Adams series. This book should be the first book for someone who wants to be highly knowledgeable and skilled in photography.

I have been doing b+w photography on again and off again for years. I found many of the current

books frustrating because they all give the same shallow coverage of the same basics. Mr. Suess does a great job of giving you multiple levels of information that you can easily access as you want. I browsed it for a quick refresher and got right back into the swing of things. But I went back and got a much deeper understanding of the technical issues that the other books ignore. The book is current and immediately useful. It is full of good examples and practical tips. It is specific to b+w, but that is what I wanted. He clearly explained the differences between papers, films, techniques, and let the reader come to his own conclusions. I found his style easy to read and appreciated that he didn't push his opinions as facts. Instead he encourages you to experiment and form your own. His book is a good balance of the technique and art. I enjoyed how he explained the history behind some of the technology, i.e. where our current RC papers and modern films come from. It presents a richer world of photography than just the latest and greatest. I have never reviewed another book on before. This book just helped me so much that I wanted to say thanks!

This book, as reviewed by others, is not for first time photographers but is a first class help to those who wish to advance into something a little more technical, but essentially "on the ball" photography. I found the book to be thoroughly comprehensive, sometimes over technical and needing real concentration to understand these basic principles, but well worth the cost of the book. It is a first class addition to any black and white photographer's library. I wish this sort of volume was available when I first started black and white photography 50 years ago!

I have used this text in my introduction to black and white photography course for just over a year. Student response has been universally positive. We have all found it thorough, well written and easily understood by intro students. My only "wish" is that the author had included a section on negative faults such as found in Horenstein's: Black and White Photography: A Basic Manual.

Best material in Black and White photography. The text is perfect. The pictures and the print quality have a lot to desire. This is a book you will not buy for its looks. But, the content is fantastic. For all your answers to necessary techniques in B&W you will not find a better more concise text. After reading the book cover to cover I have to say that the worst (print/looks) is insignificant when compared to the material and information covered. I wish the book is reprinted in higher quality. Five stars for a book that delivers what its title claims.

Because I am a novice photographer and do not have my own darkroom, I found this book too

complex and technical, and therefore, returned it. However, with that said, it appeared to be a good book for those who do have a dark room and are more interested in the technical aspect of black and white photography. It has few photos and its basic outline is that of a textbook. Giving the book only three stars is MY rating but probably doesn't accurately rate the book. Take time to preview the book on line to see if it meets your needs.

As i stated on my review for Bernie Suess' other book "Creative Black-and-White Photography:i had Bernie Suess for a photography instructor at Northampton Community College. He was an excellent instructor and his teaching and books were very helpful to me in learning traditional photographic technical skills and techniques. He often used excerpts from the book as part of the course ware (charts, graphs, not-taking for assignments). It's too bad that NCC didn't value adjunct professors as highly as full-time professors, but there was a lot of political trouble at that school at the time and this is a common feature in higher education.This book is full of more advanced topics. If you have a personal interest in the medium, and the ability to do basic math, you shouldn't find anything difficult in here. Of course, i don't know who really does film and chemical processing any more (i can't seem to sell my enlarger and associated equipment).

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