

# Book Review

## **“iPhoto 2 –The Missing Manual”**

For those of you unfamiliar with “The Missing Manual” series, here’s your chance to discover the “the book that should have been in the box.”

Understand three things: (1) I hate reading directions of any kind, (2) I want to be able to start using an application right away, and (3) like most of you, I feel that “Help” menus don’t help much. Needless to say, up until now, I had only skimmed the surface of iPhoto that comes with OS X. Truth be told, I had written it off as a lightweight application that didn’t deserve much attention. “iPhoto 2 – The Missing Manual” was a real eye-opener.

### **More Than An iPhoto Manual**

The first surprise came when I opened the book and learned that the first 69 pages were dedicated to a primer on digital photography. I welcomed the beginner lessons in composition and lighting. I had never taken the time to look into these basics in the past. Since I already owned a digital camera I’m happy with I didn’t bother studying the section on buying a digital camera, but a brief perusal showed me why it would be very valuable for anyone contemplating that task.

### **The Meat And Potatoes**

The second surprise came as I began to explore the rest of the book and learned how much I had missed by not digging deeper into iPhoto first time around. The new stuff I learned would turn this review into a book in and of itself, but here are a couple of examples:

- Choosing the “Film Rolls” option in the View menu creates the fastest and tidiest way of view photos in the iPhoto Library.
- There is a way to add long comments to photos, albums, or film rolls.
- You can add Keywords to photos to make finding photos much easier.
- Extensive cropping can seriously affect the quality of your photo prints because it lowers the resolution, hence the quality of the picture.
- In an earlier section of the book, the dangers of using redeye reduction were discussed. Later on, the mechanics of using iPhoto’s Redeye tool (which I had been misusing in the past) were explained for those cases where the red eyes happen.
- I had wondered about the relative merits of using the slide show option in iPhoto versus the same option in iMovie. The book offers a complete comparison that boils down to: “iPhoto for convenience, iMovie for control.”
- I learned a faster, easier way to e-mail photos (something which I do with great regularity.)

## **The Extra Stuff**

Beyond the “meat and potatoes” there is a wealth of stuff that makes iPhoto more fun and useful, stuff that I was not using or was underestimating before using the book.

I have a .Mac account and have done a couple of web pages, but I was missing a clear explanation of how to do editing of photos and text once the page was published. I found it here on page 191.

“iPhoto 2 – The Missing Manual” also has a section for more advanced stuff like creating custom screen savers and using AppleScript tricks.

Rounding off the package for me, were the predictable and invaluable appendixes on troubleshooting, menu-by-menu explanations, and other resources.

## **The Bottom Line**

All in all, this Pogue Press/O’Reilly book is a “must-have” for anyone who is into digital photography and has iPhoto.

My online search yielded sources to buy the book online for anywhere from \$12.50 (plus shipping) for a used book to just under \$20.00 (plus shipping) for a brand new copy. The cover price is \$24.95.