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Fireworks MX Magic (Magic (New Riders))



Synopsis

Fireworks MX Magic has self-contained projects including step-by-step instructions, explanations, tips, and tricks. You can customize each project or use them as launching pads for their own projects. This book covers the functional upgrades and best practices of Fireworks with special emphasis on building web graphics, animation, navigation, and integrating Fireworks into the workflow. Macromedia's Fireworks allows users to develop illustrations, manipulate photos, and design layouts while offering integration with all professional web applications including Flash, Dreamweaver, and UltraDev. CD-ROM contains all files needed to complete projects in the book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This expensive book on Fireworks MX has a little over 200 pages covering 15 projects. It is assumed that you are a beginner wanting to move to the next level. The projects address important problems you will encounter on a daily basis and explain solutions in a simple step by step fashion. To give a preview of what to expect when you work through this book - you will learn how to create flashy buttons, understand the concepts behind large-scale link management, building the ultimate navigational bar, creating perfect pop-up menus, etc. There are a few advanced topics like using Fireworks extensions and collaborative workflow. All in all, this is an excellent book deriving its value from the project based approach (one project per chapter) written and reviewed by experts in the industry. The entire book is in black and white so the only color you will see is the little yellowish

orange on the cover. The book doesn't sit like a normal book on a bookshelf because of its unique dimensions (8x10 instead of 10x8). I personally didn't care too much for this format but it isn't bothersome either. The project files are on the accompanying CD-ROM. The book uses a two column format throughout whereby the text is aligned with the associated images. This provides faster understanding of the topic being discussed. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the chapters on how to build a very cool navigational bar and how to design a dynamic interface using rollovers etc. The chapter on flashy buttons was fun also. Beginners will not be confused by the writing style which is very direct and simple. I didn't find anything magical about this book as hinted in the title but it is a very practical book and useful to almost any Fireworks designer. Considering the tremendous background that the authors possess, they could have provided more tips and covered another 10-15 projects for the price of the book. But other than that, this is an excellent book on the path to becoming an Intermediate user if you don't mind the price. Enjoy!

I had a lot of fun going through this book learning how to use most of the tools Fireworks MX has to offer. The only improvement I'd make is color! I was surprised to find such a rich book in black and white. Overall, I recommend this book to anyone doing graphics for the web. This book is a great intro and Fireworks is a great tool.

These "Magic" books are very hit and miss and this one does more missing than hitting. While there are a few good sections, this book is more of a portfolio for a few selected graphic designers than a useful instructional guide. Fireworks Magic is divided into sections which deal with certain tasks, or techniques. In many of the "Magic" books this works because the techniques are useful, timesaving, or at least provide motivation and inspiration to create. That is not the case here. The problem with this particular book is two fold: The techniques illustrated are, in many cases, elementary in comparison to the book's focus. If you do not know how to blend a background together (a web technique used sparingly in modern design anyway) or proper exporting formats (jpg vs. gif), why would you spend hundreds of dollars on Fireworks which is almost exclusively a web design tool? This book has almost no instructional value so even if you were a designer and your firm was switching over to fireworks (something we did several years ago) this in no way reflects the type of book your boss would put on your desk to bring you up to speed. In other words, if you were reading this book, you probably already have fireworks experience but they want to show you how to blend a background or export a .gif? Not very well thought out. Secondly, the work presented in this book is, with a couple of exceptions, poor. If one of my designers presented something similar to the work

shown in most sections of this book, we would be having a serious talk about their need for retraining. In fact, there are many techniques used in this book which I truly question. In the very least, this book could have been a source of design inspiration. In the best case it could have been both an inspirational design book and have some good instructional content. In reality it has neither. With the exception of two sections, this book is a proverbial show and tell for mediocre designers.

I am disappointed with this book. A book with emphasis on web graphics should be colorful. What do I get: A book full of black and white graphics. Come on, are you kidding me!!!! I can't even see the difference, after applying a gradient!!! I tried to read the book, but I don't have fun at all. Check out "Playing With Fire" by Linda S. Rathgeber, really enjoyed that book!

Gives step-by-step, easy to follow instructions to use intermediate and advanced techniques to create or modify graphics. This book would be very hard for someone with little or no Fireworks experience to follow, as it assumes one knows where all the menu items and commands are located. But for those who are ready to dig a little deeper into the features and functions of Fireworks, this is a great tool. If you're looking for a beginner's book, try Macromedia Fireworks MX 2004 Training from the Source. It's excellent for those who have little or no knowledge of Fireworks.

If you're looking for the basics on getting started there are many others that will do the job. This book steps right into the heart of Fireworks and bends and stretches the tool we know as Fireworks. Excellent projects and if you don't have a need for the project, there are so many great tips and tricks buried in these books, that alone is worth the price. Excellent desk book to keep around.

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