



The Hidden Power of Blend Modes in Adobe Photoshop

By Scott Valentine

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The Hidden Power of Blend Modes in Adobe Photoshop By Scott Valentine

This definitive resource on using Adobe Photoshop blend modes, features dozens of hands-on examples to give you an edge in technical, personal, and commercial projects

Blend modes are an essential, if somewhat mysterious, tool for photographers and digital artists. They can be used to for a wide range of imaging effects and challenges, such as noise reduction, working with high dynamic range (HDR) images, compositing, graphic design, and digital painting. Although blend modes can be easy to use, they aren't always easy to understand. Scott Valentine translates the technical elements into every day language and demonstrates techniques using real-world examples.

Whether you're a professional or hobbyist, there's something here for you. Beginning and intermediate users of Photoshop will learn how blend modes work and get up to speed on the most common techniques. The book will also feature power tips and blend mode techniques from industry experts, including Katrin Eismann, Matt Kloskowski, and RC Concepcion. Advanced and technical users will find indispensable references along with powerful enhancements and corrections. More than just a collection of effects and recipes, *The Hidden Power of Blend Modes* explains why the techniques work and how to tune them for your own specific needs.

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Editorial Review

From the Author

**NB: There have been a few comments about the choice to use screenshots of the Photoshop layers panels, specifically that they're too small to read. While I can't do anything about this edition, this is at the top of the list for a 2nd edition, should I be lucky enough to write one. In the mean time, please feel free to visit my Facebook ([fb/photoscott](https://www.facebook.com/photoscott)) page and post questions, comments, and other suggestions. Thanks for taking a look!*

-Scott

I had a blast writing this book. From digging up obscure Photoshop knowledge to interacting with rock stars of the digital imaging world, there is not much that could have gone better in the process.

Part of the reason I chose blend modes as a topic was because they are used all the time, but not really described well on their own. I'm a huge fan of 'basics' - not in terms of the simple, but of the deepest core understanding, the fundamental elements that let us grow our understanding. With that in mind, I tried to present blend modes in that fundamental way.

Most of the techniques you'll find are not very complex by design, but lay the foundation for your own knowledge and techniques. Almost everything can be combined in some way, which to my mind is the real power: building up of the basic pieces. The more you truly understand the behavior of a given tool, the freer you are to wield that tool without limits. I've also tried to explain why a given effect works when possible, and to describe a few variations.

Additional materials and techniques are available on my website, but I strongly encourage you to experiment and keep notes. Write down what works, what doesn't, and ask yourself why. My goal is to have you set my book aside when you are done, and simply 'know' what you want to accomplish and how to get there. I hope you will become something of a blend mode Jedi :)

Thanks for taking a look - my contact information is in the book, or you can find me online if you have questions or comments. I hope you find *The Hidden Power of Blend Modes* useful and enjoyable.

Kind regards,

-Scott

About the Author

Scott Valentine started with Photoshop working on optical and electron microscopy images, becoming a Subject Matter Expert at a national laboratory. With a degree in Physics and dual minors in Music and Theater, he has a unique perspective on balancing the technical with the artistic. This is reflected in Scott's teaching and presentation style, along with an understanding of how users approach the creative process and the tools they use.

Scott has been a featured presenter for RetouchPRO and several Adobe user groups. He's also a User Group Manager and Adobe Community Professional helping users get the most out of Photoshop for nearly ten years. When not at a keyboard, he enjoys backpacking, playing hockey, and playing guitar.

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David Shetler:

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