

The Best and Easiest Way to Master Lightroom® 5

For learning Lightroom 5, you just can't beat the Laura Shoe Video Workshops.

And the best book for Lightroom 5 users – the only one you truly need, the indispensable reference – is **Victoria Bampton's** Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 5: The Missing FAQ

A PhotoSource International Review by **Fred J. Eckert**

Adobe Lightroom just keep getting better and better, so much so that for most of us it now makes having to use **Photoshop** unnecessary most of the time. **It's that good.**

Any professional photographer still using Lightroom 3 or earlier versions is well advised to upgrade to Lightroom 5.

While users of Lightroom 4 could pass on upgrading without any great harm to their efficiency, most would find it a good idea to go ahead and upgrade to the faster and better Lightroom 5 if for no other reason than the take advantage of its advanced non-circular healing brush feature.



For more detailed information on Lightroom 5 advances, click [here](#) and [here](#) .

In a review published here last April, I made the point that while skill with Lightroom enables us to make our images look about as good as we can possibly make them look and keep them well organized so we're also able to almost instantly locate just that right image that we know a photo buyer is searching for and nearly just as quickly make any cropping or other tweaks to that image to make it an even more perfect fit before we send it out -- mastering Lightroom is a whole lot easier said than done.

What had worked for me in my effort to learn how to take far better advantage of what Lightroom could do for my images, I reported in that review, was a two-volume DVD video workshop on Lightroom 4 by Laura Shoe – [click here](#).

Everything I said in praising her Lightroom 4 lessons as the best and easiest way to

master Lightroom is equally true of Laura Shoe's Lightroom 5 two DVD set video workshop. It's superb and a great value. Laura Shoe is a natural as a teacher with a gift for anticipating all likely questions and the ability to deliver explanations in a pleasant-to-listen-to, precise, easy-to-follow manner.

The lessons are well thought out, well organized and flawlessly executed. They're the next best thing to having a great expert at your side. It's so easy to learn at your own pace – simply pause a lesson, practice what you just learned and, if necessary, repeat until you've got it down pat. It's very easy to locate any particular topic anytime you need to refresh your memory. It's perfect for both beginners and intermediate level Lightroom users and will impress advanced users as well.

You can buy one or both DVDs. Here's a summary and how to buy at the best price:

[Lightroom 5: The Fundamentals & Beyond](#) – 61 video lessons covering importing, organizing and managing images, fixing and enhancing them, etc. Get best price (\$45.20) by [ordering from Amazon](#).

[Lightroom 5: Producing Great Output](#) – 57 video lessons about how to use Lightroom 5 for producing prints, photo books, slideshows and web galleries. Get best price (\$43.47) by [ordering from Amazon](#).



Ordering directly from Laura Shoe's website gives you the ability to purchase by download for immediate delivery and the ability to order both a DVD and a download together – [click here](#).

Each of these two DVDs contains more than 12 hours of training on high resolution (1024x768) MP4 tutorial videos playable on your PC or Mac with QuickTime, Windows Media Player, iTunes or any media player and are compatible with iPads, iPhones and any other mobile device that supports download and playing of MP4 videos. Sound is top quality, not always the case in instruction videos, and the images Ms. Shoe selects to illustrate her points are carefully chosen to help you learn more quickly and easily and never, as so often occurs in instruction videos, just to show off the instructor's work.

Readers who took my advice last year and ordered the Laura Shoe Lightroom 4 video workshop DVD set -- or anyone who feels comfortable with Lightroom up to version 4 level -- will be pleased to learn that for \$19.95 they can download from her website a 2+ hours package of video instructions covering what's new in Lightroom 5 and how to master its new features. ([Download here](#))

To watch sample videos of Lightroom 5: The Fundamentals & Beyond, [click here](#). To watch sample videos of Lightroom 5: Producing Great Output, [click here](#).

If my enthusiasm for the Laura Shoe DVD video workshop lessons on Lightroom seems so strong as to smack of too-good-to-be-true exaggeration, check out the [Amazon customer reviews by people who have purchased Fundamentals & Beyond](#) and the [Amazon customer reviews by people who have purchased Producing Great Output](#). Seems like pretty much anyone else who has tried this approach to mastering Lightroom 5 is as keen on it as I am.

If you are already highly skilled in Lightroom or if you are not yet ready to invest in

these video workshops, you would still benefit from bookmarking [Laura Shoe's website](#) and regularly checking out her Lightroom tutorials and tips. I also recommend signing up for her email updates.

...And here's absolutely the best book to get to go with your Lightroom® 5

If you opt to master Lightroom 5 using video lessons or if you are already fairly well versed in it, then there's really only one book you truly need to go with your Lightroom 5 -- Victoria Bampton's Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 5: The Missing FAQ. This is the indispensable reference.

And for some people just beginning to learn Lightroom – not most, just some -- it might even be the **only** resource needed.

It's a mistake to think of Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 5: -The Missing FAQ merely as an excellent reference work or merely as an excellent instructional book.

It is the best and **most comprehensive reference work** on the subject as well as an excellent instructional book – but it's also so much more.

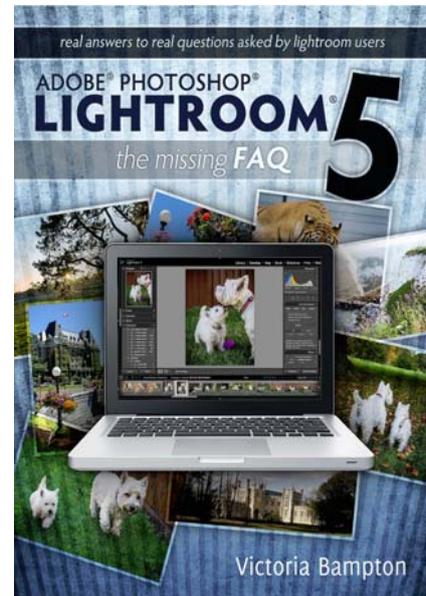
It's a bundle of goodies and sort of an enrollment in an **on-going educational course** – plus it's an exceptionally good value.

[Order this 532-page high-quality softcover book at Amazon.](#)

The **\$37.89** you pay for this thick volume is in the range of what you would expect for such a work as a stand-alone – but here's what makes this particular choice such a great deal: When you receive your book from Amazon, it comes with a code you use for registering at the Victoria Bampton's website, [The Lightroom Queen](#), a nickname bestowed upon her by Lightroom forum fans.

Simply register and immediately at no additional charge you are able to download an eBook version of the full book in color in each of the three most popular eBook formats. So besides having **the best Lightroom 5 reference book** in a thick volume on your desk or in your library you also have it on your Kindle, Nook, iPad, on your desktop or laptop computer, etc. Having it in eBook format gives you the ability to quickly search for any given topic or keyword, make bookmarks, etc. Mind you, one of these three Free eBook versions would normally sell for roughly a dollar less than the thick softcover book.

This is an extraordinarily well-organized, **well-written, easy-to-follow book**. Victoria Bampton has a gift for making things that other authors make difficult to grasp easily to understand. Anyone new to Lightroom, or anyone needing a bit of a refresher, will find her Quick Start Essentials chapter highly informative and very helpful. The rest of the book makes for quite a comprehensive course of



instructions.

No other Lightroom book I've ever examined seems as **intuitive** as this work. It seems so much easier to find what I'm looking for in this book than in any of the others.

[Buying Victoria Bampton's Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 5: The Missing FAQ](#) even if this were not part of the package would still be a terrific value, but making it all the more so is this: When you register that code that comes with your Amazon book purchase at her [The Lightroom Queen website](#), besides receiving the **Free eBook** versions you also become a Lightroom Queen Premium Member, the benefits of which include a Help Desk, access to a members only Knowledgebase and forums, the ability to submit and receive answers to Lightroom-related questions via email Ticket submission, deep discounts on future orders and free updates of eBook versions made to keep current with any latest enhancements Lightroom adds to version 5.

On top of everything else Victoria Bampton encourages her Lightroom Queen members to email her directly with any particularly difficult problems or questions – and she means it! She answers them surprisingly quickly. Amazon customers who purchased her work write rave reviews and some mention this in amazement.

I tested it – and it's true. Gives a whole new meaning to customer service.

You might want to bookmark [The Lightroom Queen website](#) as a resource for tips and tutorials. For a Free copy of Victoria Bampton's Lightroom 5 Quick Start Guide, [click here](#).

A perfect combination...

The combination of Laura Shoe's superb video lessons and Victoria Bampton's outstanding reference volume is, in my view, the easiest and best way to master Lightroom 5, a perfect combination. You really don't need anything else.

Each is an Adobe Certified Expert in Lightroom and has been awarded the Adobe Community Professional designation which is bestowed upon only a select few highly skilled users who excel at assisting others master Adobe products. These are **two experts** who are exceptionally skilled at helping others learn how to become expert in Lightroom.

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Fred J. Eckert, a retired former US Ambassador and Member of Congress, is author/photographer of three coffee table books, a published novelist, and has written feature articles for such national publications as Reader's Digest, Outdoor Life, Family Weekly and The Wall Street Journal. His travel articles covering all seven continents, illustrated with his images, have appeared in more than 100 major newspapers. His images have appeared throughout the world in books, magazines, advertisements, postcards and major travel company and tourist board brochures. Fred@EckertImages.com