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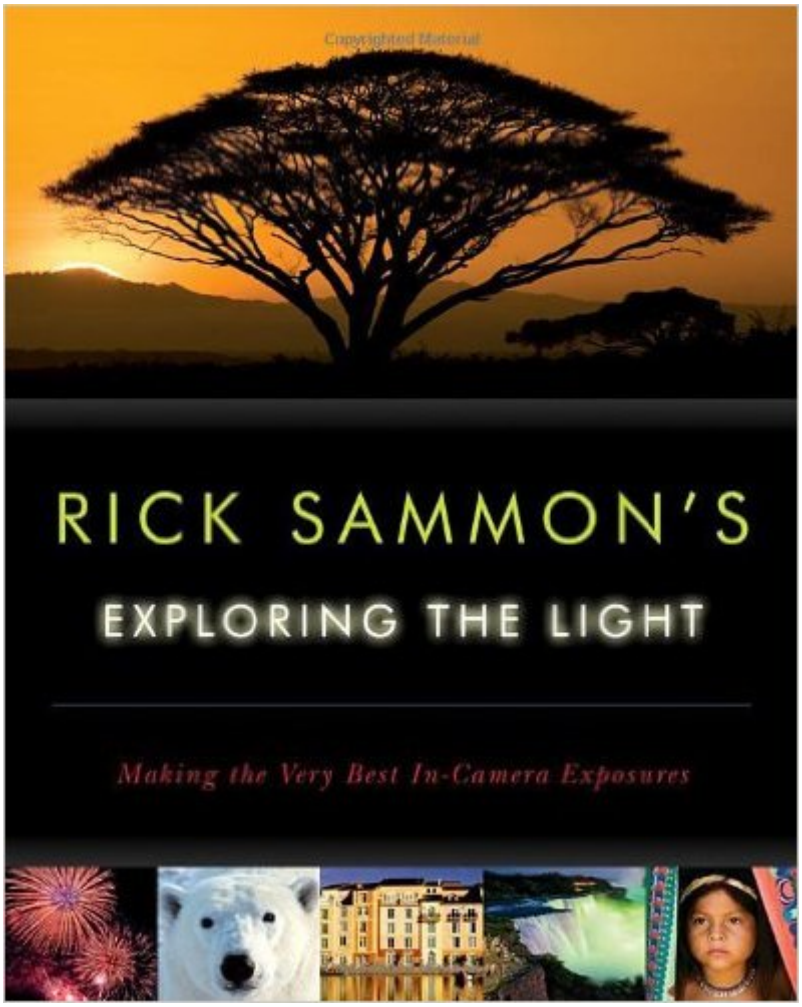
Rick Sammon's Exploring The Light: Making The Very Best In-Camera Exposures



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Synopsis

How to capture and control light to make the best digital photographs.Light is the essence of photography. Follow master photographer Rick Sammon at dawn in Kenya or nighttime in Miami as he demonstrates how to achieve the best composition with the available light, which camera settings are best suited to existing conditions, and how to obtain the best exposures in challenging situations. Sammon shows how to make photographs instead of just taking them, providing the tools necessary to take artistic command of the images you create. Drawing on intuitive analogies and technical tips, his in-depth lessons on light apply to every style and subject of photography.In this beginner-to-intermediate-level guide, Sammon also teaches how to "rescue" potentially imperfect exposures with the resources available to the digital SLR camera owner. Technical exposure information images where relevant. 428 color photographs

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages
Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company (September 29, 2008)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0393331237
ISBN-13: 978-0393331233
Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.7 x 10 inches
Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (21 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #859,230 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #199 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Lighting #1943 inÂ Books > History > Europe > France

Customer Reviews

I have been impressed with all of Rick Sammon’s books and this one is no exception. He is a good writer and has a very good editor. All of his books are clear, yet provide excellent information. He does not assume prior knowledge so he starts with the basics and moves into the more advanced techniques.As an old film photographer I am accustomed to making a near perfect in-camera exposure. I am amazed at the sloppiness of today’s digital photographers who shoot raw and then spend hours on photoshopping their images. This is all very unnecessary if you do everthing correct in the camera itself. It is better, and more expedient to take a few extra seconds before pushing the shutter button and saving hours later on. Not only that, but you end up with a better picture.

Sammon shows you how to do this. I myself generally shoot in JPEG and use Photoshop Elements, mostly just to crop. I know I am biased, but I think my images are as good, if not better, than the photographers who manipulate everything in Photoshop.I am an experienced photographer (40 years) but am still relatively new to digital (5 years. Even so, I learned much from this book. Sammon shows you how to take full advantage of all that an automated digital camera offers, even when you are using it in a semi-automated or manual mode. I would not recommend it for beginners, but it is an excellent resource for those who have mastered the basics.

I can’t quite decide if this is a great educational book on photography and light that would make a good coffee table photography book -- or a great coffee table book that teaches about light. There are a lot of lighting hints that will help the novice or intermediate photographer -- and many photos to back up the tips and techniques. Really beautiful photos! I’m not sure that an experienced photographer will find much new in this book, but he/she will still find it a great value as a wonderful book for the coffee table. As in all he does, Rick Sammon’s enthusiasm shows on every page.

I loved this book. The K.I.S.S. (keep it simple, stupid), sets of instruction with numerous right/wrong examples makes the principles easy to understand. They also inspire you to run right out and try it yourself, which completes the hear/see/do cycle of leaning. Rick Sammon is like your favorite teacher in high school. He makes learning fun.

The comparison photos showing exactly what the writer is talking about is worth twice the price of this book.So many books leave out this important aspect of learning what effect these settings and techniques will do.Both camera settings as well as Photoshop techniques are included.Helpful ideas on getting very good photos through out the book, one of the most helpful books on how to.

Rick Sammon has a clear and succint style. The pictures aptly display the ideas his words convey.A short phrase expresses the ideas and concepts behind his lessons in an entertaining manner. I’m a long time hobbyist that is getting more serious about photography & I have learned much from this book & continue to gain more from Rick’s latest title - Creative Visualization for Photographers.I highly recommend Rick’s books.

Not only is the information excellently presented and clear, but it is also supported by pertinent reference images that speak as clearly as the words. The scope of the information is wide, the

depth of each explanation is perfect for an avid amateur or semi-pro photographer: not too detailed or technical, but informative. Everyone can get something out of this book that will improve his photography and make a difference in how he approaches a subject.I am particularly impressed with the photographs. Not only does Rick Sammon demonstrate that he is an excellent photographer (who leads an exciting and travel-filled life) but he also chooses them carefully and uses them to best effect to illustrate the points he is trying to make in his text. It is very helpful to, not only see what a photo will look like when your exposure is set correctly, but also what happens when it isn't.So why isn't this a 5-star rating with exclamation points? Because the book is hard to read. Not because of the language--that couldn't be clearer. It is because it is so randomly organized. Except for the final three chapters (two of which deal with post-processing in Photoshop), the rest of the book seems to flow in no particular order other than chapter titles broken up by multiple relevant headings with short paragraphs following. This makes the flow is awkward, as if the photos were selected arranged first (as in a scrapbook) then the text added to refer to them (instead of having been written first, then supporting photographs selected).But, overall, it's a must-have book if you want to understand and feel comfortable with your camera settings, and break away from using Program mode or point-and-shoot settings. Although he is a Canon shooter, his information is equally useful to any make of DSLR camera and to any photographer who wants to take a little creative control.

I am an intermediate level amateur photographer. My comments are ordered from that perspective.One of the ways we improve our photography skills is to look at other peoples' photographs and hear how they got them. Sammon does this pretty well. I enjoyed the photographs and they helped me in thinking about how my shots might be redirected in some cases.This book is basically an introduction to digital photography for an average amateur who is a rapid learner. It is not pedantic and therefore is not overly elementary and yet it covers material at a very basic level while introducing elements of somewhat higher order. The things I found most helpful was a good analysis of how you have to intelligently approach the automatic exposure functions in your camera. This particular facet, which would apply to everyone from your basic point and shoot equipment to the best of on the market, was well done. The second thing I liked was the casual manner in which he spoke about the many pictures in the book. They weren't magic, nor were they mere happenstance, and he lets us in on some ways of getting similar shots.That said, he does go at things in a bit of a round about manner sometimes and his introduction to Photoshop is a bit too simplistic, at least for me.

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