

## Review: iPhoto '09 The Missing Manual

*SDMUG Review by Quelda Wilson*

David Pogue has done it again, this time with the very able assistance of J. D. Biersdorfer. This latest book in the “Missing Manual” series, iPhoto '09 The Missing Manual, published by O'Reilly Media, is an equally valuable resource for those new to the Mac and/or iPhoto as well as for those who have used iPhoto for many years.

Part One, iPhoto Basics, covers everything from getting photos from the camera into iPhoto to organizing, and editing them once they are there. Particularly helpful is the chapter on the newest organizing features, introduced in iPhoto '09, Faces and Places. Using the face recognition method is fairly straightforward, while manually geotagging photos is more challenging. Pogue's step-by-step guidance makes it easy. The section on editing photos is so thorough and revealing that even novices can produce professional-looking results with ease. Those who shoot in RAW will find the advice in that section particularly helpful.

Part Two, Meet Your Public, guides the reader in the making of prints, web galleries, DVD slideshows and more, including publishing to Flickr and Facebook. Detailed instructions for using iPhoto to make and order books, calendars and cards is included. Using the information provided saves not only precious time but also can save money while assuring good results that will wow family and friends.

Part Three, Photo Stunts, is devoted to designing and building Screen Savers; finding prewritten AppleScripts, and developing Automator Actions that add new and timesaving features to iPhoto. Methods for managing the thousands of photos that eventually populate iPhoto by burning them to disc or backing them up to an external disk is explained. iPhoto '09 The Missing Manual explains how to create, swap, and merge iPhoto Libraries and the pitfalls to avoid.

Part Four, Appendixes, though brief, is packed with very important and helpful information. The first section, on Troubleshooting, can save the day when things go awry. How to retrieve photos using Time Machine is worth memorizing. iPhoto '09 Menu by Menu explains in useful detail every one of the menu items included in the program.

Although those coming from using other photo management programs (e.g., Picasa) might wish for more in this book to ease their transition to iPhoto, the information in this book will shorten their learning curve while providing a series of confidence-building successes.

As Pogue himself says, the Missing Manual books are “entertaining [and] unafraid to state when a feature is useless or doesn't work right.” The indispensable information contained in this book is delivered in an easy-to-understand, witty, and engaging way. Even those with years of experience with previous versions of iPhoto will learn new tricks. And everyone will benefit from keeping iPhoto '09 The Missing Manual as a handy reference book and valuable resource.