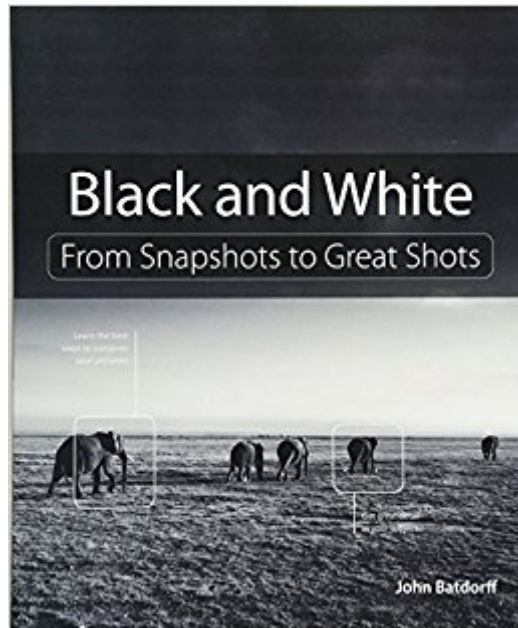




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# Black And White: From Snapshots To Great Shots



## Synopsis

Now that you've bought that amazing new DSLR, you need a book that goes beyond the camera manual to capture stunning images. For digital photographers interested in black and white, this guide will help beginning- and intermediate-level shooters conquer the fundamentals and take amazing shots. Pro photographer John Batdorff starts with the basics, including composition, light, contrast, exposure, and when to choose black and white. He covers all the key camera features (regardless of what type of DSLR you have) that affect your image, including the shutter speed's ability to freeze and convey motion, and the aperture's direct correlation with depth of field. Once you've captured those great shots, John takes you step by step through the color conversion process to black and white in Adobe Photoshop Lightroom using simple presets. He also covers the enhancements and features that can be added using Nik Silver Efex Pro software—from presets to control points using U-Point Technology. Follow along with your friendly and knowledgeable guide and you will: Learn to see in black and white by understanding contrast, texture, and lighting Understand all the best tricks and techniques for getting great black and white action shots, landscapes, and portraits Create your own digital workflow by understanding the basics of post processing in Lightroom, then go beyond the basics with Nik Silver Efex Pro Share your images and learn tips on printing and presenting your work online And once you've got the shot, show it off! Join the book's Flickr group, share your photos, and discuss how you use your camera to get great black and white shots at [flickr.com/groups/blackandwhite](http://flickr.com/groups/blackandwhite) fromsnapshotstogreatshots.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Now that you've bought that amazing new DSLR, you need a book that goes beyond the camera manual to capture stunning images. For digital photographers interested in black and white, this guide will help beginning- and intermediate-level shooters conquer the fundamentals and take amazing shots. Pro photographer John Batdorff starts with the basics, including composition, light, contrast, exposure, and when to choose black and white. He covers all the key camera features (regardless of what type of DSLR you have) that affect your image, including the shutter speed's ability to freeze and convey motion, and the aperture's direct correlation with depth of field. Once you've captured those great shots, John takes you step by step through the color conversion process to black and white in Adobe Photoshop Lightroom using simple presets. He also covers the enhancements and features that can be added using Nik Silver Efex Pro software—from presets to control points using U-Point Technology. Follow along with your friendly and knowledgeable guide and you will: Learn to see in black and white by understanding contrast, texture, and lighting Understand all the best tricks and techniques for getting great black and white action shots, landscapes, and portraits Create your own digital workflow by understanding the basics of post processing in Lightroom, then go beyond the basics with Nik Silver Efex Pro Share your images and learn tips on printing and presenting your work online And once you've got the shot, show it off! Join the book's Flickr group, share your photos, and discuss how you use your camera to get great black and white shots at [flickr.com/groups/blackandwhitefromsnapshotstogreatshots](http://flickr.com/groups/blackandwhitefromsnapshotstogreatshots).

John Batdorff is an award-winning landscape and travel photographer who splits his time between Chicago and Montana. He is the author of *Nikon D7000: From Snapshots to Great Shots* and a coauthor of *Composition: From Snapshots to Great Shots*. His black and white images have been featured in the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He also leads black and white workshops and mentors other aspiring photographers. John loves the outdoors and traveling, and sharing his images with others. See his work and read his popular photography blog at [batdorffphotography.com](http://batdorffphotography.com).

The book *Black and White: From Snapshots to Great Shots* is well written and lacking the usual

acronyms you may find in forums and blogs. It took me weeks to figure out what OOF and IQ meant. Regardless, I know there were complaints about how this book (and DVD) were geared toward Lightroom and Nik Silver Effects Pro and their complaints are justified. However, I use both of them as well as Adobe Elements 10 and a few Topaz Labs plugins so I don't have the same complaint. John Batdorff presented the use of this software with some of his own images which he also described how he captured them and I thought he did it very well in both the book and the DVD but it helps if you are familiar with this type of software. My only complaint about the book and DVD is too much time is spent on 'whats in my camera bag'. I have one other book from PeachPit press that does the same thing and it's a waste of time. One thing I don't use Canon or Nikon gear, I use Pentax. In fact I have a Pentax K-5 and a K-7, along with a number of lenses that I have acquired over the past several years and I'm very satisfied with them. And I have no intention of switching to CaNikon because this sort of thing is at best a promo and that also includes the type of software being used. Finally, if you don't have this software this book and DVD won't do you any good. Personally, I like both software packages very much but don't go out and buy it because it's recommended. You will have to determine what your needs are and to have both packages will cost several hundred dollars, something to consider. Lots of stuff out there, do research!

I bought this book in Kindle format and I wish I'd gotten the actual book. One of the great features in Batdorff's book is the analysis of some of his own shots, helping you to actually see his techniques in action. It was difficult to see them in the Kindle version, however the book is a great resource for improving your black and white skills from the moment you click the shutter release to the time you walk out of a store with the print in hand. It is not overly technical and is illustrated every step of the way. For some the section on using Photo Shop will be a great addition. For those of you (like me) who do not have it, it is difficult to wade through trying to apply it to the program you do have. I am an exception to the "rule" and if there was a way to put four and a half stars up there, I would have. Black and White: From Snap Shots to Great Shots is an excellent book to have on the shelf if you're interested in improving your black and white photography.

I own a LOT of photography books, and I mean A LOT! This is the first one that I have read cover to cover.....twice! I still use it as a reference on a pretty ongoing basis. The book is very clearly written and progresses in a logical manner covering everything from the what and why to convert images to black and white, to a detailed work flow for getting the look that projects your vision. The book is quite easy to read. The volume contains enough basic information for the novice and

enough detail and tips to engage an experienced amateur. I found the chapters on how to "see" in black and white particularly useful, especially when this is coupled with the technical data for the sample photographs. John presents his workflow in a concise, logical manner. He carefully lays out not only what he wants to achieve and how to achieve that, but also why he takes a particular path with a given image. Check out his website [...] to see some of spectacular images he has created that appear as examples in his book. If you are at all serious about honing your skills in black and white photography, you must have this book! If you will use this book as much as I have, you should consider taking it to an office supply store for spiral binding. For a few bucks, they'll slice off the glued binding, punch the holes and snake through a spiral binding that will allow you to lay the book flat and significantly decrease the wear and tear on it!!

Believe it or not, this is the book that got me off my butt and back out taking photos... I even upgraded to the SONY A7. That's how inspirational this book was for me. Love it... it's practical, no BS, to the point, and enjoyable to read. Very practical which means you can get out there straight away and start using the advice in this book. Use it or lose it!

I'm very interested in landscape and street photography and will surely be making many images black & white. Not only did this book cover aspects of B&W photography but also exposure and thoughts about how to think up your images.

The author shares his experience in didactic and humble way. Found very useful instructions and tips about composition, post processing and printing.

As the title of the book suggests, this is a good book for someone new to Lightroom as well as Nik Silver Efex 2. The author covers the whole workflow from capture to printing, and has advice on equipment selection as well as basic photography skills like composition and exposure. This will give someone stepping up from a point and shoot, or someone not familiar with doing their own post-processing and printing, a solid foundation. The book is mostly well written, and easy to understand.

A great book for the serious photographer. I am self-taught and serious about it; I expect this book will help me get even better in my "work." Highly recommended.

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