Foundation Fireworks CS4 (Foundations)

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**Synopsis**

Are you a web designer who is looking for a new and quicker way to prototype and create for the web? Perhaps you are a programmer who finds most design tools to be overkill for what you need to get done. Or, maybe you're an old Fireworks pro, who wants to get up-to-date on the changes in Creative Suite 4. Either way, this book has something for you. Coverage of all that's new and powerful for the Web designer and developer in Fireworks CS4. Targets developers who want design tools that don't get in their way and designers who want development tools that don't constrain their creativity. Do all your website and page prototypes and comps in one tool and learn how to take them straight to Dreamweaver to implement your designs. What you'll learn: Why Fireworks vs. any other graphics Web design tool. How to use Fireworks as a compliment to web development. How to integrate Fireworks into an enterprise environment. How to master a tool that boasts extreme versatility. Who this book is for: Code savvy designers, or web developers who want to refine their design sensibilities. Either way, the individual(s) will be those who want to enhance their work-flow with a graphics tool that allows them to quickly get things done, rather than getting in their way.

**Book Information**

File Size: 5668 KB
Print Length: 303 pages
Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1430216182
Publisher: friendsofED; 1 edition (March 26, 2009)
Publication Date: March 27, 2009
Language: English
ASIN: B00267STKS
Text-to-Speech: Enabled
X-Ray: Not Enabled
Word Wise: Not Enabled
Lending: Not Enabled
Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled
This is not a beginner's guide to Fireworks, nor is it an advanced reference. Instead, it is a selection of various topics about Fireworks. Early sections that present an overview of the various Fireworks bitmap and vector tools are rather straightforward, but with creative examples. Later sections, such as creating Flex skins and AIR applications are for more advanced users. The fact that the book has several authors is rather evident as you read the somewhat disjoint topics in each chapter. However, even with this variability between the different chapters, there are plenty of "gems" hidden in this book. I've used Fireworks for many months, and I still didn't completely understand how some of the different tools worked until I saw some of the excellent examples in this book. One problem with Fireworks is that some very important features are often hidden within extensions in the Commands menu, or hidden in some far-off panel that needs to be enabled. This book helped me discover some of those hidden gems within Fireworks. This is not intended to be a Fireworks reference book. But as a stroll through various features of Fireworks (especially those features that make it unique compared to Photoshop or Illustrator), it was a pleasant journey. Reading this book while Fireworks is open so you can try some of the interesting examples will help you better appreciate the features that the authors are trying to highlight. If you just read the book without trying the examples, you will be missing much of the fun. One downside with this book is that the various images were obviously intended to be published in color, but they are only in black-and-white in this book.

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