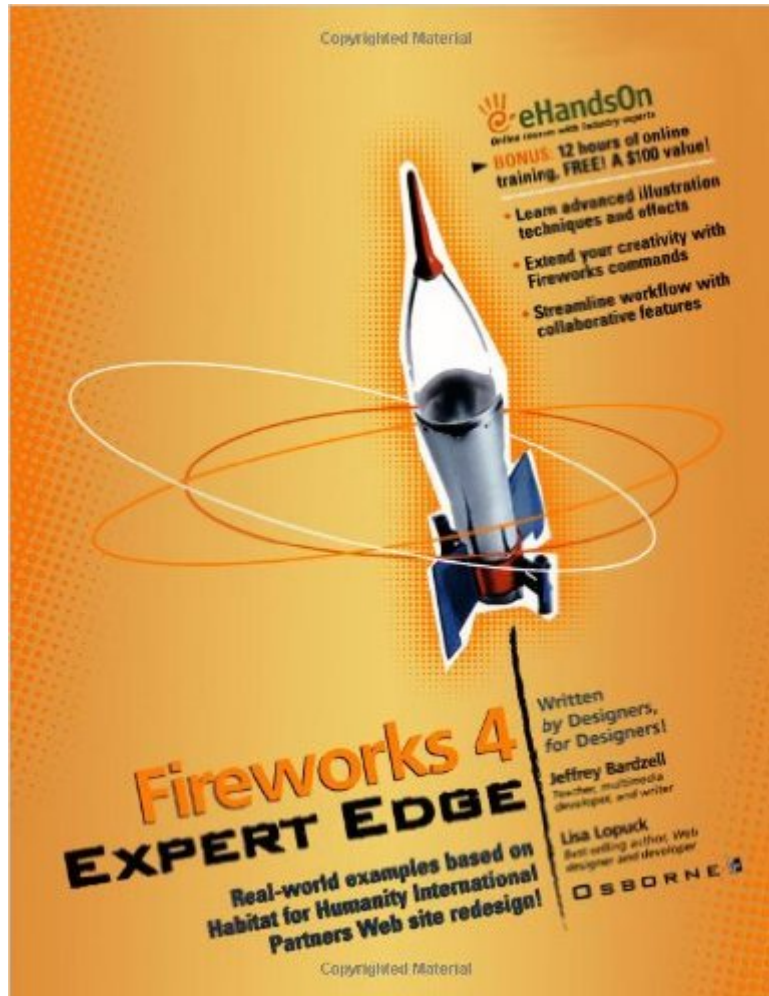


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# Fireworks 4 Expert Edge



## Synopsis

Gain the "expert edge" with this guide written by designers, for designers! Based on the design of the Habitat for Humanity International Partners Web site, this professional how-to guide follows the entire workflow of an internationally renowned team of

## Book Information

Series: Expert Edge

Paperback: 404 pages

Publisher: McGraw-Hill Professional (July 16, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0072131462

ISBN-13: 978-0072131468

Product Dimensions: 8 x 1 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #10,803,165 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Digital Audio, Video & Photography > Adobe > Adobe Fireworks](#) #13346 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Graphics & Multimedia](#) #14030 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Web Development & Design > Web Design](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book is written by experts on Fireworks for web designers who have experience with Fireworks. It is not a book for beginners to Fireworks. There are plenty of other books on the market for beginners. Go through the basic tutorials on Fireworks first. However, if you want to use Fireworks to its greatest potential, you will want this book on your reference shelf. Peppared with lots of examples, you will learn how to turn an everyday web page into something spectacular. You will learn about optimizing your graphics to minimize download time, how to create commands to save you design time on repetitive tasks, as well as integrating with Dreamweaver, and much more. Furthermore, the book has many examples of Fireworks in the real world. Along with the detailed tutorials, you can not go wrong with this book. Well worth the investment if you want to design incredible sites.

I wanted to rate this book higher. It is well written, high quality, and I still have it not far from my reach. Unfortunately, I just felt like there was a general lack of cohesiveness and flow. It started off

great. Chapters 1-4 were excellent in covering project work flow and design approaches (and SOME Dreamweaver integration). Then, just as I was thirsting for more detail, I was hit with chapters on vector graphics, optimization, flash, etc.. Finally, in some later chapters, I discovered there was more detail on the issues I was struggling with from the first chapters. When I jumped to those chapters, I felt I missed some info in between. Any book I review at 3 stars or higher, I recommend to others. I still think it is worth the money. Even though it doesn't have a disc (they are often worthless anyway, and only add cost to production), it is a pretty good deal...

Fireworks 4 Expert Edge is one of the best books I have read this year. I typically devote my web development time to coding database-driven web pages, and as such I have not developed much expertise in the area of graphical design. Thanks to this book, I am developing my skills in that area now. I am about half-way through Expert Edge, and feel I have learned quite a bit about designing web sites with Fireworks. The book picks up wonderfully where the Fireworks tutorials leave off. The included online tutorials are wonderful as well. They really helped me to gain practical insight into what I was reading and solidify my learning.

Tired of other books that just repeated what was in the user manual, I gave this book a try. Wow, is it different! Instead of covering each of the tools one by one, it shows you how to use tools together to get real work done. It also has a heavy emphasis on collaboration with others, including some clever strategies I hadn't thought of. Two chapters on working with vectors and working with bitmaps will help artsy users be more creative. The latter half of the book really gets into topics that aren't covered well in some of the other, more beginner-oriented books: doing whole page designs in Fireworks, working with Fireworks HTML, integrating with Dreamweaver, and a great chapter on working with Fireworks and Flash. There is an entire chapter on working with commands--a topic I never thought I would attempt, but the book had me creating commands in a matter of minutes. As for the online training, I am not sure when it came back online, but it is online now. Honestly, the book's approach is so unique, I would have rated it with 5 stars even without the training, but it IS available, contrary to some of the other book reviews. The multimedia lessons just add more value to an already great book.

I am very happy to have "Fireworks 4 Expert Edge" in my graphic/web design library. I agree with Michael S. Boardley's review when he alludes to the fact that this book is better suited to those with intermediate to advanced skills in using Fireworks and Dreamweaver together. I enjoyed "Building a

CD Illustration" which melds several Fireworks techniques into a single lesson. The results were pretty cool. The chapters on Flash integration, Dreamweaver integration, and automating Fireworks are also very insightful. For those concerned that the companion web site was shut down and the online tutorials are now unavailable, you can find the downloadable chapter files at the URL that is mentioned numerous times throughout the book. The authors of the book are also working to get the online tutorials up and running on the previously mentioned URL. All-in-all, this is a very worthwhile book to own.

I've got shelves and shelves of books on designing, coding and creating websites but few of them go into methods and techniques to shorten up your development time.

This book is truly awesome! I am well versed in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, FLash and Dreamweaver. This books shows you how to complement them all into your daily workflow. This book gives the designer that extra insight on how a professional workflow and website are organized. In response to the first review which was negative, this book is partly for beginners, It shows you drawing techniques, but does not show you how to use the pen tool. So This book is great for people who are already familiar with Illustrator, Corel Draw or Freehand. You can learn without rehashing the same old stuff. This book will help you be more productive and efficient at building websites. Fireworks is an awesome tool and this book will show you how to get the most out of it. ... .

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