

## **SCUM Book Review**

### **”Scrapbooking With Photoshop Elements”**

**By Lynette Kent**

Reviewed by Lois Johnson, SCUM

Although I am an avid scrapbooker one does not need to have that hobby to find this book interesting. The first half of the book discusses the principles of basic design, all you need to know about digital cameras, scanners, ink-jet printers and photo preservation. This information is presented in an easy to understand format with plenty of illustrations and examples.

Now, we come to the good stuff: I can't tell you how much money I have spent on special papers, inks, pens, glue, scissors with scalloped effects. The last half of the book is filled with creative suggestions that make all that equipment obsolete, from printing your own fancy background pages, incorporating your own photos and producing a professional looking product.

There is a thorough discussion of the Toolbar. I have used just a few and had no idea what the rest of those tools could do. It is great to have a quick reference to all 46 tools. Anyone could understand the part about image size and resolution, how to retouch blemishes in your photos and other helpful skills.

Some of the special effects you can use to create designs would be difficult or impossible with traditional scrapbooking tools. Making a painted drawing from a photograph is a very unique effect. Colorizing a black and white photo would be a great help in archiving old photos. Some of these special effects extend to text, using text creatively can help set the mood of the page.

Throughout the book, there are tips and suggestions all printed on a yellow band to highlight a special point. This is very helpful as you follow the detailed steps to achieve a "look".

I would recommend this book to anyone who uses Photoshop Elements, not just the scrapbooker. There is a lot of useful information to be found there. Especially, the scrapbooker will be delighted with the creative suggestions. Last but not least, at the end of the book, there are cards, with exact directions on how to achieve the right effect.

“Scrapbooking with Photoshop Elements,” the creative cropping cookbook, by Lynette Kent. 175 pp. Sybex, 2005. \$29.95 Also available from Amazon Books