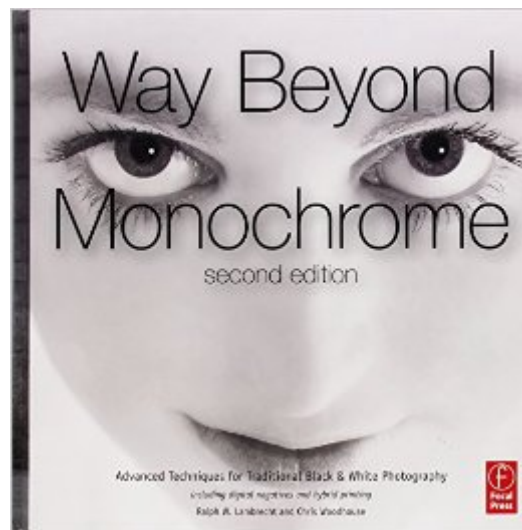


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# Way Beyond Monochrome 2e: Advanced Techniques For Traditional Black & White Photography Including Digital Negatives And Hybrid Printing



## Synopsis

Photo Techniques Magazine stated: "All our readers need to know about this very useful book." Indeed, there is no other compendium that is as in-depth as this for the beauty and magic of fine-art black-and-white photography. With 560 pages and over 1,000 illustrations, *Way Beyond Monochrome* starts with conceptual lessons of composition and takes you through image capture, exposure, controlling tonality, variable-contrast paper, archival printing, mounting, framing and presentation with simple concepts to an advanced level. This new edition has been completely revised and heavily expanded, adding over 250 pages to the original edition with new chapters on print mounting, spotting, framing, digital negatives, utilizing digital technologies for alternative processes, and fabulous do-it-yourself projects. Overall, the authors have created a thoroughly researched, technologically sound yet aesthetically pleasing, inspirational bible for monochrome photography. New to this edition: almost double the content a new section discussing the path from visualization to print, illustrating the interaction between eye and brain, explaining the rules of composition and when to break them to produce photographs with impact a new section on presentation including hands-on mounting, matting, spotting, and framing image capture has a more in-depth focus, now covering pinhole photography and digital capture now includes making and printing with digital negatives a new section discussing the pros and cons of typical image-taking and image-making equipment plus new do-it-yourself projects, including many darkroom tools and an electronic shutter tester a useful collection of templates, to copy, cut-out and take with you in your camera bag or use in the darkroom an appendix with all the recipes to make your own darkroom chemicals from scratch all illustrations improved and updated improved index with 1,400 references

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Disclaimer: I am casually acquainted with one of the authors (R.L.) via a photography forum, and one of my images is included in this book. However, I feel that neither of these issues preclude me from offering an honest critique. I was at first struck by the size of this book: with 500+ pages, it is an encyclopedia! But the volume of this book is appropriate for its broad, technical scope. The book addresses the physiological aspects of seeing, and the refinement of print tonality... and everything in between. Consistent with the modern context, the reader will also find a thorough treatment of all the digital, hybrid, and traditional tools. With a strong emphasis on clarifying techniques, this book is *\*very\** thoroughly illustrated. Hardly a page is without an example, an illustration or a graph. In addition, numerous tables and templates are found in an appendix. It's literally impossible for me to locate a technical topic that wasn't appropriately described. Yes, MTF, dry down, transmittance etc. are all given full schriff! The risk that the authors take with this book is to overwhelm the reader with the technical scope, with insufficient treatment of the creative aspects that must always drive the successful craft. Indeed the book contains ~90% technical content. There is a small section on visualization, and a larger "On Assignment" section with narrated examples, but the reader will not find much discussion of fundamental issues such as: what distinguishes black and white photography as an art form; why black and white is effective in some cases for which color photography is not; and the special role of certain abstract graphical elements in the black and white craft.

This is clearly not a book written for beginners. There are plenty of books for beginners with how-to and step-by-step instructions. However; once one graduates from such books, one is hard pressed to find anything that takes him/her further. Sporadic information are available in books and internet but nothing concise that presents these information in relevant manner. This book does just that. Please note, this books is all about film photography. Digital photography is mentioned but only in relation to analog photography. If you are not interested in film, this is not a book for you! Way beyond monochrome is written in a format of college textbooks for advanced scientific/engineering fields. It starts out slowly but soon, pages are filled with advanced topics and discussions, charts, graphs, and formulas. One can comprehend the topic but good understanding in early college level

mathematics help immensely. Some chapters are independent and some flows into more advanced methods/topics in following chapters - very much like college textbooks. This book is unusual in a way that while it is a book for art, photographic art, but the approach is very scientific. When many photography books might say something is a "bit darker", in this book, it is said  $1/3\text{EV}$  darker, for example. Elsewhere, author shows what  $1/3\text{EV}$  difference looks like in prints, explains  $1/3\text{EV}$  is understood to be a "significant change" and how much change in contrast and exposure is needed to achieve this change. In fact, there are charts and formulas to explain how this all comes together.

This is a review for the 2nd edition of this book. This book just arrived today, and I have been joyously flipping through its pages all afternoon! I'm an amateur photographer, having been bitten by the bug in college, and have a hobby darkroom set up in my house. I have never taken it too seriously, it's enough for me to simply enjoy the peace and solitude of the darkroom and to geek-out on all of the technical aspects of traditional black and white printing. Of course I'd like to be more confident in the darkroom, and so much of my good work feels like it came about more by accident than by actually knowing what I was doing. I'd like to think that this book is going to help me in that. This book is not recommended as a beginner's text. It assumes you know your way around the darkroom and know a bit about shooting and processing film. There are plenty of books to start you on the basics (Ansel Adams' book series, also Henry Horenstein's book "Black & White Photography, A Basic Manual"), but this book really takes it a step further by guiding you through the more advanced, nuanced areas of expert shooting and printing. Some of the topics covered in the book include creating unsharp masks, digital negatives, paper and print contrast, split-grade printing, paper flashing, print bleaching, print retouching, and all kinds of other tips and tricks and projects. I can't believe how well laid out this book is, and many of the techniques I was completely unaware of. The actual production quality of the book is amazing, too. There are hundreds of illustrations, examples, diagrams and graphs to help clarify the topics. The photographic examples are extremely well done, and the print quality is very high.

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