

BCA Photo Group

Handout for “Improve Your Printing”

Pip Shepley; shepleypip@gmail.com; www.pipshepley.com; http://instagram.com/pip_shepley

We will post on the BCA Photo Group web site (under <https://bcaphoto.org/technical-series/> under Pip Shepley)

RESOURCES

Your printer manual. These tend to get worse every year, often just online now. Will tell you how to clean the heads and align them (which could allow for bi-directional printing and halve your printing time).

“Digital Printing Quick Start Guide”, by John Paul Caponigro (free download, 58 pages): <http://www.johnpaulcaponigro.com/store/ebooks/digital-printing-quick-start-guide/> This offers a detailed, step by step guide to printing. You have to give him your e-mail address to download the file, but he has a wealth of information of all types, so you will probably stay subscribed. Note that he is sponsored by Epson, so the specific printer dialogs are Epson-specific, but the dialogs of other printer manufacturers like Canon are similar. He does great step by step instructions of both Lightroom and Photoshop commands to print (and why you are making each choice). He also details a step-by-step process for Softproofing to show your image side by side with what the softproof says the print will look like – so you can adjust the softproof to best match the image. This is the single best document I have found, and you can pick the parts you want, although everything absolutely applies.

A great book from a master printer who keeps it simple is Jim Mickelson’s **“Fine Art Inkjet Printing”** (2017, 231 pages) (\$45 list, \$30 on Amazon). Jim also teaches regularly at Maine Media Workshops.

TEST FILES (posted on BCA web site)

- “Desktop Grayscale.tif” If you use this as your desktop, you can immediately see when things go haywire – the screen should be neutral gray and the black to white gray scale should show all the way from pure black to pure white. Color casts tend to show most easily in the gray scale bar on the right.
- “Shadow Checker - scale of 256 steps.jpg” This shows how low your monitor can show shadow detail on a scale of 256 steps. Note that Photoshop typically uses 256 steps.
- Shadow Checker – percent.jpg” Same thing but in percentage steps, like Lightroom uses.
- “Printer Evaluation Image - Jack Flesher.jpg” and “Using the Jack Flesher Printer Evaluation Image.pdf” which explains the fine points to look for in this image. A bit techie, but a wonderful resource, even without the tech.
- And of course the lovely “Adobe Carmen Miranda.jpg”. Useful as it is challenging to print and you have (hopefully) no emotional attachment, so you will evaluate it without emotional attachment.

BCA Photo Group

Handout for “Improve Your Printing”

Pip Shepley; shepleypip@gmail.com; www.pipshepley.com; http://instagram.com/pip_shepley

WEB SITES (free):

- John Paul Caponigro has lots of info. www.johnpaulcaponigro.com (Mostly free, some to students only). Extremely detailed and comprehensive.
- Luminous Landscape <https://luminous-landscape.com>
- Lynda.com – free access through Boston Public Library membership (free to all Mass. residents) www.Lynda.com Has a huge amount of software training on an amazing number of software packages
- Julieanne Kost – www.jkost.com Adobe evangelist and great teacher. Free too.
- For learning the ins and outs of maintaining your Epson printer, like nozzle cleaning, cleaning the underside of the print head, the capping station, and the waste ink tank, Inkjetmall has a great series of videos. <https://shop.inkjetmall.com/About/Videos/> They also sell the exceptional Piezography B&W printing system. Like your car, your printer is a precise machine that needs some maintenance to perform well and last a long time.

WORKSHOPS

- New England School of Photography www.nesop.edu in Waltham has Digital Printing and Advanced Digital Printing, also Photoshop and Lightroom
- Griffin Museum of Photography now has a beginning Photoshop class <https://griffinmuseum.org/programming/?eventscat=education>
- Maine Media Workshops www.mainemedia.edu in Rockport, Maine has numerous courses, often one week long
- Santa Fe Workshops <https://www.santafeworkshops.com> has a variety of printing workshops in New Mexico
- John Paul Caponigro www.johnpaulcaponigro.com Week long workshops in Cushing, ME (near Rockland), predominantly in Photoshop with some Lightroom. Very intense workshops if you want to excel at image processing and printing. Extremely detailed and mostly one week long.
- Piezography www.piezography.com For very high end black and white printing solutions. Needs a dedicated Epson printer, and no fear of a science project. Spectacular results – many say equal to platinum printing. Best to learn at a workshop in East Topsham, VT and Santa Fe.

Happy printing!