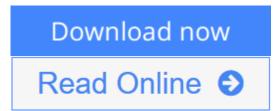# Grokking the GIMP

By Carey Bunks

Grokking the GIMP By Carey Bunks

"Grokking the GIMP" is for the serious user of the GNU Image Manipulation Program, a premiere digital image editing and painting program. It covers the GIMP in depth, and complex tasks are intuitively presented and explained using an interactive approach. In addition to emphasizing the theory and core concepts of image manipulation, "Grokking the GIMP" beautifully illustrates the practical aspects of working with digital images. This fully 4-color book presents nine major projects and a collection of many smaller ones that illustrate the core and advanced uses of this powerful open-source application. Numbered steps and an abundance of color images walk the reader through real-world examples of color correction, image enhancement, collage, photo montage, rendering, and Web-graphics creation.

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Grokking the GIMP By Carey Bunks Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
The excitement described by Carey Bunks when he first beheld the GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP) in 1996 is palpable when you hold Bunks's new book in your hands. The phantasmagoric image on the cover of *Grokking the GIMP: Advanced Techniques for Working with Digital Images* melds a photograph of the moon's surface from a high orbit with an apparent solar eclipse by the earth. A penguin floats discretely in a hot air balloon between sun-earth and moon. Is the sun-moon-earth image a bit of the penguin's imagination? Is it a piece of GIMP artist/developer Tuomas Kuosmanen's imagination? Maybe it is really a credit to the visionaries at New Riders who have produced an art book to suit the computer how-to market.

"Grokking" is a Robert Heinlein-ism for "appreciating," and docent Bunks takes us through the museum of computer art and method as he demonstrates the features of the freely redistributable package. The contents follow that path set down by many other how-to tech book authors: tutorial, a taste of image theory, working with the independent features of GIMP (layers, selections, masks, and colorspaces) before advancing to compositing and rendering, and ending with a short review of Web-based applications of image manipulation.

The book's strengths are Bunks's obvious passion for his subject, his mature didactic style, and the wonderfully spacious design and breathtaking color-on-every-page strategy that allows him to beautifully frame GIMP features at their best. The most notable of his many case studies is the "Panorama" project that glues a series of laterally overlapping narrow-view photographs of an architecturally interesting room into a single, stunning, wide-angle panorama of the whole. Bunks documents each step in the transformation and describes the required geometrical, hue, and brightness adjustments needed to warp and blend them together.

Look again at the cover, but not literally. Ignore the unphysical details. Rather, imagine the mind's capacity for juxtaposition and GIMP's power for actualizing this visual synthesis. In form and content, Bunks and New Riders have shown that the possibilities for the tech book are far broader than previously imagined. This is an eye-opening contribution, indeed. *--Peter Leopold*

Review
I learned quite a bit from this book. It provides powerful explanations for how to do advanced tasks. It goes beyond the glitz and flash of the latest whiz-bang image filter and provides invaluable, fundamental concepts of image manipulation and correction. *-- Zachary Beane--GIMP developer and creator of the GIMP News Web site*

Problem solving requires the right tools and know-how for the job. Although the GIMP has long been the right tool for digital image manipulation, until now there has been no serious guide describing the right way to use it. "Grokking the GIMP" changes that; it is the first book to really explain how to use the GIMP. *-- Guillermo Romero*

From the Author
A conceptual and practical guide to the GIMP

Dear Reader,

When I first discovered the GNU Image Manipulation Program, a.k.a. the GIMP, I was stunned. What a

fantastic graphics application program! I was amazed by the number of tools and functions it provided for digital editing and painting of images -- over 300!

However, the sheer number of tools in the GIMP presents the novice user with a quandary. With so much built-in power, it can be difficult to see the proverbial forest through the trees. Which tools are best for enhancing a photo or color-correcting an image? What is the right technique for cleanly making a selection? It is practical questions like these that arise for many, if not most, image editing projects. For this, a book describing the GIMP's core tools is needed, one that highlights the tools that are the most powerful and most often used. Voila, why I wrote this book.

In "Grokking the GIMP" I have strived to intuitively explain the fundamentals of image manipulation, while simultaneously covering the practical aspects of doing it with the GIMP. My goal has been to explain the useof the core tools, but not by presenting a loose collection of tips and tricks. Rather, my vision is to explain these tools from a solid conceptual foundation. In reading this book you will learn much about the GIMP's most powerful tools, and, more importantly, how to use them effectively. Indeed, many professional image editing techniques are described here, some for the first time in any book.

In addition to its conceptual approach to image manipulation, "Grokking the GIMP" also presents nine major projects. These are invaluable aids in illustrating how the GIMP's tools are used to accomplish more sophisticated image editing tasks. They also give a clearer picture of how tools interact and should be used together.

Oh, by the way...if you are wondering about the word "grok", it is used by computer coders to signify a deeper, even metaphysical level of understanding. My hope is that "Grokking the GIMP" will help you do just that -- to better understand the GIMP and to better exploit its vast capabilities.

Enjoy, and happy GIMPing,

Carey Bunks

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Aaron Powers:

The book Grokking the GIMP make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem using your subject. If you can make reading through a book Grokking the GIMP being your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about many or all subjects. You could know everything if you like wide open and read a e-book Grokking the GIMP. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this reserve?

Jerry Orosco:

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don't would like do that. You must know how great as well as important the book Grokking the GIMP. All type of book are you able to see on many methods. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

Sam Hasse:

Often the book Grokking the GIMP has a lot info on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was compiled by the very famous author. The author makes some research before write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can get the point easily after looking over this book.

Lois Hutter:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Grokking the GIMP, it is possible to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

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