

## BOOK REVIEW

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### Review of: *Practical Digital Imaging—Applications and Techniques*

**REFERENCE:** Jones P. *Practical digital imaging—applications and techniques*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group, 2011, 376 pp.

*Practical Digital Imaging—Applications and Techniques* by Patrick Jones is another edition to the CRC Series created by Vernon Geberth, retired commander of the New York City Police Department. Digital imaging is a good complement to the criminal and forensic investigation series.

The author, Mr. Patrick Jones, is the forensic science laboratory director at Purdue University. He also teaches crime scene investigation with one of the courses being forensic digital imaging. Mr. Jones has 21 years of law enforcement experience, 11 years as a crime scene investigator, and many hours of in-service training. Additionally, Mr. Jones has qualified as an expert witness in the area of forensic photo-imaging.

The textbook has 25 chapters and covers every area of crime scene investigation where documentation with a camera is necessary. Chapter 1 illustrates the importance of documentation and provides a breakdown of the components of a digital camera. A little history of ancient film cameras is also addressed.

In the next few chapters, there is much discussion on the transfer from 35-mm-film cameras to the world of digital photography. There is a simplistic explanation of cameras and scene photography fashioned so that difficult and technical aspects are easily understood especially in the education of jurors.

Chapters 4–7 dwell again on the basic steps of digital photography emphasizing proper lighting, filters, and the use of macro/micro lenses. There is more redundancy, but I found the repetition helpful in explaining the critical points. In Chapter 8, the book makes a sudden departure into an analysis of the rules of evidence as it applies to expert testimony. My suggestion would be to place this chapter at the end, because it appears out of place for the reader. This is a “How to Book” in the beginning and should have continued in that fashion.

Chapter 9 picks up the area of image enhancement and “doctored” enhancements. Software programs are discussed on how to protect the images with specific guidelines and standard operating procedures. The worksheets and photograph logs help the reader better understand the organization of digital photographs.

Chapters 10–22 cover scene photography and every possible crime scene ranging from car thefts to burglaries to homicides. Autopsy photography is included. These chapters are fundamental to one newly assigned to crime scene investigation. Once again, the redundancy is helpful for the reader to recognize how failure in one of these areas could result in the loss of critical evidence.

The concluding chapters cover ultraviolet and infrared imaging. I would like to have seen a fuller development in these areas because it is a highly technical area. Additionally, because ultraviolet and infrared imaging are new to most crime scene investigation personnel in the field, the information would have proven to be particularly useful.

Chapter 24 emphasizes digital imaging with a microscope as it relates to laboratory analysis. Unfortunately, the discussion of handheld microscopes utilized in the field was only minimally addressed. A fuller discussion would have been ideal.

The last chapter introduces the reader to the FBI’s sponsored scientific working groups. The Scientific Working Group Image Technology (SWGIT) is discussed at length. The advantages of SWGITs and standardization are nicely discussed.

The bibliography and glossary conclude the book. The bibliography draws very little from other sources, because the book is based upon the professional and personal experiences of Mr. Jones. The bibliography sources listed primarily deal with the legal aspects of Chapter 8.

The book is full of photographs that help the reader better understand difficult areas of crime scene photography. Additionally, I found the foreword helpful that was written by Marcus K. Rogers. He stated that the book is an invaluable reference for a novice or a seasoned veteran looking for a source of information on digital photography. I agree with Rogers that the book is a “How To” text, simplistic in nature yet thorough in covering highly technical material.

If I were to address any fault with the book, other than Chapter 8 seeming out of place, it would be the series editor’s note on page xvii at the beginning. If you look, you will find in the second sentence the word “homicide” is misspelled. Maybe this is good because you will be tempted to find the error, thumb through the book, and add it to your library. Check it out. You will not regret it.

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