



Unveiling Leopard

We take a walk on the wild side with a sneak peek at the best features of the forthcoming Mac OS X operating system



“APPLE LOOKS SET TO TAKE OVER AS DEFINITIVE OS LEADER WITH ITS FORTHCOMING RELEASE, LEOPARD”

It used to be as simple as cats or dogs. You were either a Mac lover or a PC lover, and that was that. However, with advances in both technologies, the lines have become somewhat blurred and creatives now swap between systems depending on their current needs.

2007 looks set to swing the balance in favour of Steve Jobs' Apple systems, though. Although Microsoft has announced its first upgrade to the Windows operating system in five years (Vista, due out next year after the completion of beta testing – see www.microsoft.com/windowsvista for more information on this) Apple looks set to take over as definitive OS leader with its forthcoming release, OS X Leopard.

Previewed at this year's World Wide Developers Conference, Bertrand Serlet, senior vice president of Software Engineering at Apple, compared their key OS X features with those recently announced in Windows Vista, and ended his presentation with a picture of an overweight Elvis impersonator. "If you can't innovate, I guess you must imitate. It's never quite as good as the original," he remarked.

Jobs himself was also present at the unveiling of the newest addition to the Apple family. Keen to prove to the gathered crowd of developers what a great leap forward for the Mac platform Leopard would provide, the Apple CEO made it clear that what we were being shown was just the tip of the iceberg. And with a wealth of new features yet to be

announced, Leopard certainly looks set to be the most innovative OS X yet – and may be just the thing to convince digital creatives to ditch their PCs once and for all.

A first look

With the promise of more secret and show-stopping features yet to be unveiled, you'd be forgiven for thinking the so-far disclosed could be just filler. However, even on the little we know, there's a lot to be excited about.

While we're sure there will be some drastic changes to look and feel of OS X Leopard, this is what we have to go on at the moment. There's definitely a brushed metal theme developing, but whether this will be

Feature

across the entire operating system or only on certain applications remains to be seen. The screenshot shown here also shows off some of the more colourful and extremely exciting elements of the OS, including Mail and the new HTML messages, and iChat with its awesome motion backgrounds.

That's not where the changes end in Mail however. In addition to the fabulous HTML email templates that can be customised with your own pictures and greetings, there's also some innovative integration with iCal to make keeping your diary updated even easier. RSS feeds will also be accessed from Mail, so up-

to-date news can be sent straight to your Inbox on demand in the same way Safari reads RSS feeds and displays them.

Elsewhere in Leopard, there will be changes, tweaks and updates to a number of applications. Boot Camp, which allows users to install Windows on their Mac, has received some nips and tucks to make it more user friendly, whilst Front Row, the media interface, will also be updated. Not content with all that, other features getting a facelift will include iCal and Photo Booth. iCal will see group calendars, event drop boxes and standard based CalDAV support.

If your main concern is security, Leopard has you covered too. New parental controls will allow you to set time limits and curfews to prevent your little one's eyes going square, as well as remote administration. Overall security will also be stepped up with Mail and Safari providing anti-phishing protection, as well as an automatic firewall.

But Macs have never been all work and no play. Half the fun is in the added extras and quirky apps. Widgets played a major part when OS X Tiger was released and the same will be true of Leopard, only this time end users can make them as well as use

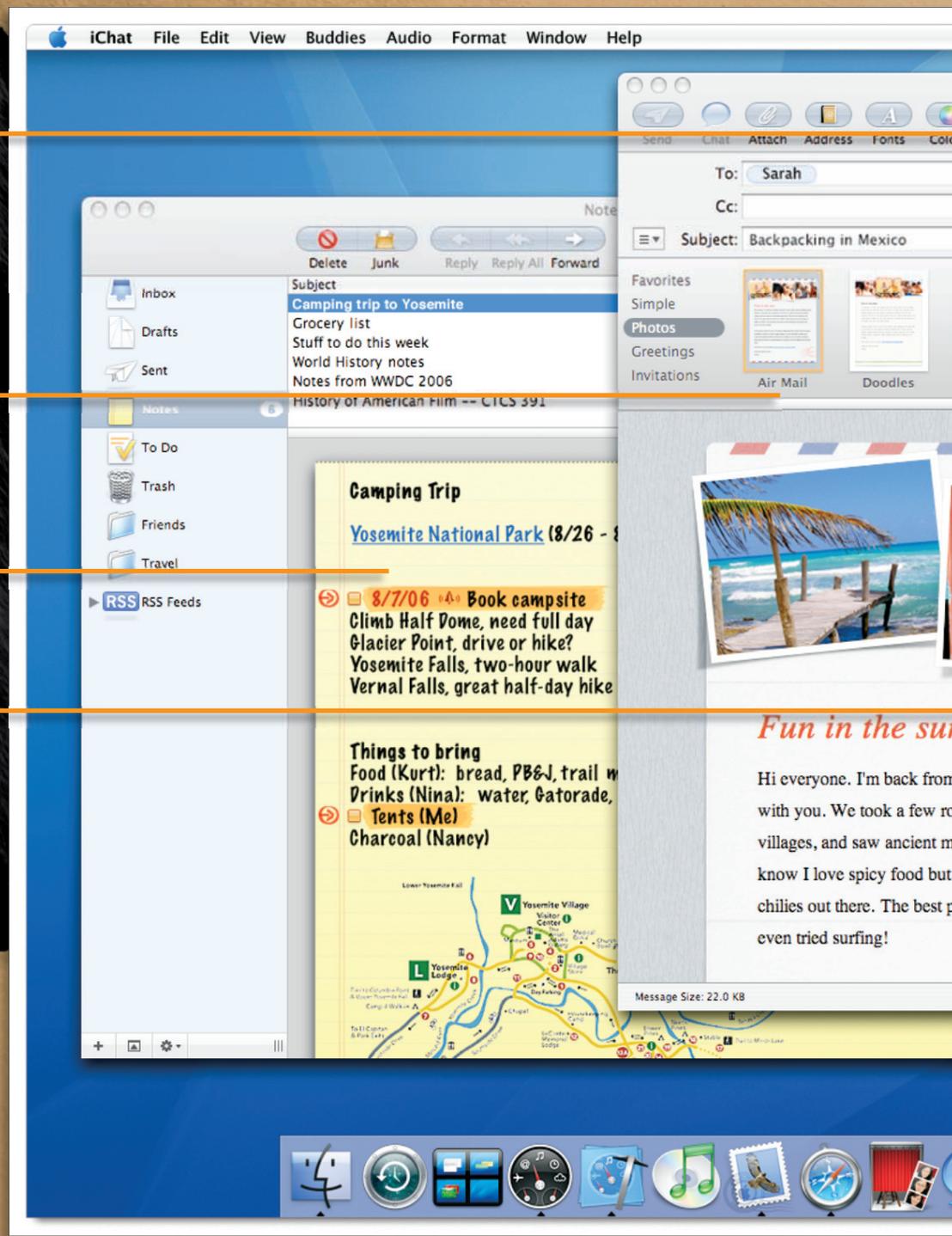
BUDDY LIST: If you want to lend a helping hand to a friend's latest iLife project, collaborating has never been easier. The new screen-sharing feature means that, as long as you have access to the Internet, you can work with a buddy sharing their screen and making changes right in front of them. You'll also be able to share movies and videos with the iChat Theatre with you as host in a small window.

NEW MAIL: With a new Mail stationary feature you can wave goodbye to boring emails. The new feature allows you to drop images into mail templates and they're easily changeable for you fickle types.

TO DO: Mail's new To Do feature allows you to turn parts of any email in to an instant iCal To Do list, saving you from copying over later on.

ICHAT VIDEO: If you like Apple's iChat feature then you'll love the improvements. Place yourself in any location with the new video backgrounds or use any of the effects from Photo Booth 'live'.

MACS HAVE NEVER BEEN ALL WORK. HALF THE FUN IS IN THE ADDED EXTRAS.



Fun in the sun

Hi everyone. I'm back from with you. We took a few ro villages, and saw ancient m know I love spicy food but chillies out there. The best p even tried surfing!

them. Web Clip is a new feature that allows for a segment of a web page to be transformed into a live updating Widget, while DashCode (another newbie) offers a suite of Widget creation tools with a variety of Dashboard elements, including Photocast Widgets. Another new feature is Time Machine, a revolutionary new way to automatically back up and restore everything on your Mac.

What it means for 'Shop

In the past Adobe and Apple have worked harmoniously side by side. When Apple announced

their plans to use Intel chips it all its Macs Adobe execs were pleased. "We think this is a really smart move on Apple's part and plan to create future version of our Creative Suite for Macintosh that support both PowerPC and Intel processors," urged Bruce Chizen, CEO of Adobe.

With Adobe yet to catch up with Apple in terms of Intel, CS3 will be a turning point for their relationship. Whether they work in harmony or take opposite roads, one thing is for sure: these two companies look set to stay giants in their own arenas for many years to come.



websites

In the world of the digitally obsessed, there's a wealth of websites available for your every need

YouSendIt

Web: www.yousendit.com

“We’re a bunch of fun folks trying to solve a vexing problem in the digital world – how to ‘get it there’ every time, in the easiest, simplest, most reliable way. We drive and thrive on challenges – like delivering large files to the people you need to get them to.”

So says the website. And, in practice, the site does exactly that. Allowing you to send large files via the Internet, YouSendIt is a quick, efficient solution to emailing mega files.

Started in 2003, YouSendIt allows you to get big files to other people without the limits of email, firewall constraints, esoteric FTP or other problems. Don't worry about security either as the site's all password protected. A first rate solution to full up inboxes. ■

Rating: **5/5**



Mister Clipping

Web: www.misterclipping.com

For those of you still mastering the basics, or if you're simply not getting to grips with the Pen Tool, there's Mister Clipping.

Enabling you to upload an image and then to download it within 48 hours complete with a clipping path, Mister Clipping is ideal for the imageer with no time. Prices start from around £2.66 per image depending on the complexity of the task.

This is a service that any *Advanced Photoshop* user should not need, although if you are working on a large commission or are branching out into magazine production, a helping hand with a large volume of images can only be a good thing.

If there truly is a need for this service, maybe AP has just discovered the newest digital business – cutting paths. ■

Rating: **3/5**



Dafont

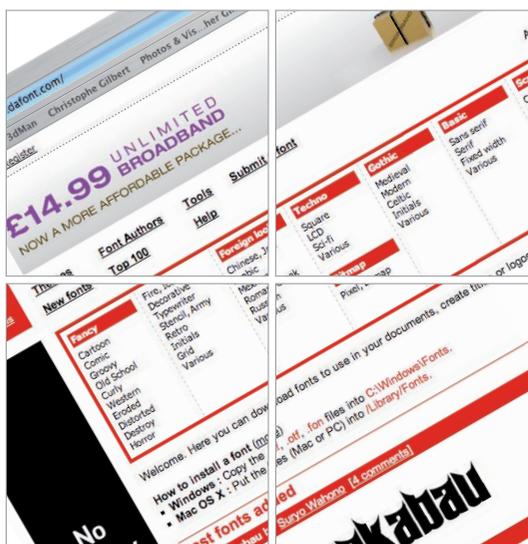
Web: www.dafont.com

If you're looking for a new font, first stop should be Dafont.com. A veritable one-stop online shop for all things typographic the site is easy to navigate, clear to view and, most importantly, free.

Whatever you're looking for it's here. Sci-fi stylings, oriental scripts, basic typefaces, or the weird and wonderful world of dingbat, are all included on the site. If you're not sure what you're after then check out their Top 100 fonts. Then, once you're inspired, the typographer in you might just want to donate a font or two as well. Not sure how? The site can help you there too.

All the content on Dafont is freeware, shareware or demos so always check the author's notes to ensure you're not violating their copyright. ■

Rating: **5/5**



What's on the web

Portfolios.com

Web: www.portfolios.com

Every artist in the digital age needs an online portfolio.

Whatever medium of design you're into, a strong online presence will help you gain commissions and get your name known to the people that matter.

Portfolios.com is a great site as it allows you the option of a free portfolio – so you can test the water – or a paid-for one, allowing you to show off more images, more details and come up earlier in searches.

Whatever site or package you go for, a portfolio site is a must-have. ■

Rating: **4/5**

Stock XchnG

Web: www.sxc.hu

Want instant access to over 200,000 stock images? Then log on too Stock XchnG and view the wealth of images donated by budding photographers for your use.

Whether you want a desktop design, a photo to base some new artwork on or simply looking for inspiration, this site is for you.

A clear and easy to navigate site the images here are free for non-commercial use and it's always worth checking their terms and conditions just to be on the safe side. As well as the abundance of top quality images, you'll also find a strong online community via their forum. Great stuff. ■

Rating: **5/5**

Price Runner Comparison

Web: www.pricerunner.co.uk

Digital imaging can start off fairly inexpensive – working on the uni computer, using work's paper and ink, and benefiting from the cheaper educational versions of Adobe Photoshop.

However, once you've decided to take your imaging career seriously, you'll find it can be a very expensive one.

Price Runner, and other sites like it, take some of the hassle out of finding the best online deals for you. Whether you want a new Mac, an A3 printer or some printer cartridges, just type it in and watch the options come up. Be warned however, read the small print as cheapest doesn't always mean best! ■

Rating: **3/5**

What's on the web

The Plugin Site

Web: www.thepluginsite.com

There are a vast amount of websites out there offering plug-ins. Whether they're freeware, shareware or paid-for, these plug-ins amount to thousands and it can be hit or miss whether the one you're downloading is worth the time or money.

The Plugin Site not only provides you a place to download but also allows you to look up reviews of products so you can have a better idea what you're getting. There's also a directory of Photoshop plug-ins and a discussion board – so you can get the real dirt on a product. ■

Rating: **4/5**

Photoshop help

Web: www.photoshop-help.com/

For help with basic Photoshop troubleshooting or simply to get the free monthly Photoshop crosswords, this site is a great visit.

Giving you tips and trick on making montages in the Adobe app or running through the basics of layer adjustments, the Clone Stamp Tool or the Selection Tool, there's a wealth of information at your fingertips.

Although most of the tips on here are aimed at newbies to the app, there's still a lot of great extras – like the personal help section and the Photoshop slang explanations. ■

Rating: **3/5**

Advanced Photoshop

Web: www.advancedphotoshop.co.uk

No listing of essential Photoshop sites would be complete without a nod to our own budding page.

Although still in its fledging stage, our forum has a bustling community where you'll find a warm welcome and lots of people willing to critique your work or answer your queries. On the main site page you'll find all the info on the latest and upcoming mags, as well as finding all the info on ordering back issues, subscriptions and contacts for help.

So whatever your question or query when it comes to Photoshop and related topics the *Advanced Photoshop* forum should be the first place that you visit.

Without a doubt, the finest Photoshop website about! ■

Rating: **5/5**



Courier Vault

Web: www.couriervault.com

Your online Post Office'. Courier Vault's moto could make you feel warm, fuzzy and secure or it could leave you in a cold sweat that your digital post could go the same way as your regular.

Allowing you to send large files without the restrictions of email sizes, firewalls or making users subscribe to the service, Courier Vault offers a practical solution to a oft-occurring problem. However, unlike some of their competitors, Courier Vault do charge per transaction, so this could cost you a lot. Prices start at £2.20 for a 20MB file, up to £4.60 for 700MB.

Aimed at both the business and the personal user, Courier Vault allows you to send images that will be received the same day – a feat never achieved by Royal Mail! ■

Rating: **3/5**



PhotoBox

Web: www.photobox.co.uk

If you've done a piece of artwork to be proud of and want it displayed, or are simply looking for a place to print your photos, PhotoBox should be your first stop.

Britain's first online photo service, PhotoBox, delivers photo printing from 5p per print, or more bespoke items like canvas art, cushions, etched glass and mouse-mats.

Using PhotoBox, you're able to place all your photos online for your friends and family to view or place them all on to CDs – an end to the vast mountain of photos stored under your bed and never looked at.

There are a wealth of sites, based all over the world that offer similar services, so it is worth shopping round to find the best one for your needs. ■

Rating: **3/5**



Trevor Morris

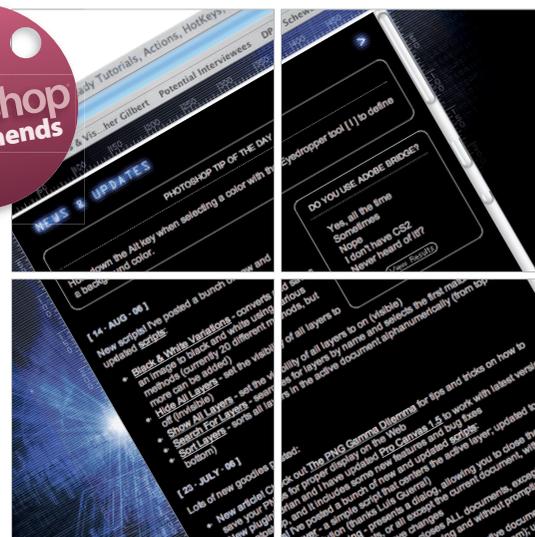
Web: <http://user.fundynet.net/morris/>

Regular readers of the magazine will know Trevor Morris – our *Insider Info* writer – and have probably already taken a tour of his website. For those of you that haven't yet, drop what you're doing and do it now!

Packed full of everything the Photoshop user could need to know, there are tutorials, tricks and tips. Complement last month's Photoshop shortcut feature with Trevor's full list of keyboard commands, as well as his extended hotkeys – helping you work smarter in Photoshop. And it's not just for CS2 users, all variants of the Adobe app are catered for here.

For those of you after a more light-hearted browse, check out the Easter Eggs and see what's hidden inside Photoshop. ■

Rating: **5/5**



books

If your passionate about pixels, let it show and stack your bookshelves with Photoshop volumes

Photoshop CS2 Gone Wild

Author: Sherry London

Publisher: Wiley

Price: £22.99 / \$34.99

ISBN: 0764598139

Web: www.wiley.com

For those who want to go a little further than just removing red eye or a spot, there's *Gone Wild*. A book packed full of 50 Photoshop tutorials – each step by step accompanied by an image and detailed rubric.

Although some of the workshops are a little childlike – painting zebra stripes on faces and the like – the techniques you'll learn within the steps will transfer to other tasks and will ultimately make you a better imageer. Other tutorials contained within the volume, including Warhol-esque images, letterformed portraits, photo montage and more.

If you do invest in this book try to think of it more in terms of techniques than the tutorial as a whole, though. By doing this you'll quickly realise this book can teach you to master knockout and clipping masks and not just teach you how to paint a portrait to look like a clown!

Instead of trying to teach you Photoshop, this read shows you how to use your knowledge to complete projects and apply techniques in new ways. Use the CD-ROM that accompanies the book to copy the step by steps directly, or use your own images for an individual twist. ■



Rating: **5/5**

Photoshop CS2 Savvy

Author: Stephen Romaniello and Matt Kloskowski

Publisher: Sybex

Price: £24.99 / \$44.99

ISBN: 9780872144260

Web: www.sybex.com

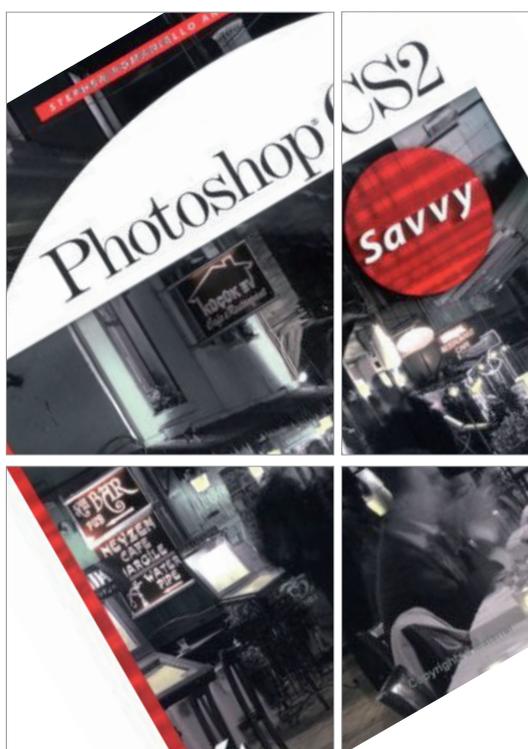
This book's one big drawback is quite simply its lack of colour photos. Although the read is packed full of useful tutorials, hints and tricks to perfect your Photoshop images, the majority of pictures are black and white and thin on the ground.

There are some colour images that are put to good effect – showing the start image and the end result should you follow the tutorial. However these would be better placed by the actual tutorial instead of clumped together in the middle of the book.

That said, this book isn't all bad. The premise is great. A volume aimed at revealing the complexity of Photoshop's power to prove that knowledge of the theory behind the app will help you create better images.

It's not just Photoshop contained within the pages either. Giving you the gen on Illustrator and ImageReady means you'll benefit from a rounder knowledge of Adobe apps.

Written by Romaniello – a writer, artist ad educator - and Kloskowski (the Educational and Curriculum Developer at the National Association of Photoshop Professionals), the book comes complete with a CD with all the files you need to complete the hands-on tutorials, along with Maya PLE 3D software and links to additional resources. ■



Rating: **4/5**

Further reading

Hacking Photoshop CS2

Author: Shangara Singh

Publisher: Wiley

Price: £19.99 / \$29.99

ISBN: 0764597884

Web: www.wiley.com

If you thought you knew how to get the most out of Photoshop, then think again! Claiming to be able to help you bring out the hidden power of the app, this book is an aid to optimising performance.

It is written by Singh, a Photoshop ACE (Adobe Certified Expert) who has written and co-written study aids for Photoshop before. Within the book you'll find tips to customise your workspace, enhance the use of palettes, pick your preferences and automating tasks. Although it's all basic stuff for old hands at the app, newcomers could benefit from some of the tips. ■

Rating: **3/5**

The Art of Game Worlds

Author: Dave Morris and Leo Hartas

Publisher: Ilex

Price: £17.95 / \$25.99

ISBN: 1904705340

Web: www.ilex-press.com

If you've read the interview, feature or masterclass on game art this month and decided you'd like to know a little more about the skill, then there's a wealth of books to aid your quest.

This one – *The Art of Game Worlds* – is a little older but an informative and interesting read. It contains not only an illustrated guide to modern computer games but interviews with the artists and game creators behind top products.

There's also a comprehensive historic and thematic coverage that reveals the references behind the art. Great looking and a good read – highly recommended. ■

Rating: **5/5**

Communicating with Pattern: Stripes

Author: Keith Stephenson and Mark Hampshire

Publisher: Rotovision

Price: £15 / \$25

ISBN: 2940361150

Web: www.rotovision.com

This is a book aimed at anyone interested in the thinking behind the art. Looking at the use of stripes in modern and traditional design, this book takes in everything from the advent of the Adidas trainer to the design of the familiar American flag.

Looking beneath the aesthetic, this read tries to unearth the meanings communicated through patterns used in textiles, architecture, graphics and product design.

Also available in the same series is *Communicating with Pattern: Circles and Dots*. Written by the same authors this series looks to uncover the complete vocabulary behind pattern used as visual communication. ■

Rating: **4/5**

typography

Add a textual element to your Photoshop work with these sites

The Font Site

Web: www.fontsite.com

If you're interested in typography as a subject and not just looking for a free font, then you should stop by The Font Site. As well as featuring fonts for sale and fonts for free, this site also offers a little more.

There's a style guide, a production artist survival guide and a helpful feature on the rules of typography. This feature offers guidelines for things to avoid, or include, when designing fonts. There's also a great bookstore with a huge selection of reads on typography and design.

Although free fonts here are a minimum, the wealth of extras means it's the perfect hang out for anyone who wants to know a little more about type than just its name. ■

Rating: **5/5**



Advanced Photoshop Recommends

Fonts

Web: www.fonts.com

Offering a wide variety of typefaces, easily searchable either by name or via the classification, designer or new release. There's also a top ten section that could come in useful if you have no firm idea what font you're after.

Similar to The Font Site, Fonts.com has an interesting 'About fonts' section where you'll find news, articles, help and FAQs alongside some designer profiles to inspire budding typographers out there.

With a range of packages available, there's sure to be something to suit most pockets and there's even a monthly contest where you can win a new font. For discounts simply sign up for the e-newsletter and you'll get special offers as well as news and info on all the latest fonts. ■

Rating: **4/5**



Larabie Fonts

Web: www.larabiefonts.com

Ray Larabie launched Larabie Fonts in 1996 and it has remained a top-ranked freeware font site since. In 2001, Ray began creating fonts for a living and launched Typodermic, his commercial font site.

But his initiation into the world of fonts came much earlier. In the early Seventies his grandmother gave him sheets of Letraset transfer lettering. Ray became so familiar with typefaces that by the time he was 17 he could identify hundreds of fonts. He began creating typefaces with pen and paper and later on his first computer, a TRS-80. The Larabie Fonts Font Collection is now available on CD or as a download. With 384 to choose from, there are typefaces to suit every purpose. The collection is a great resource anyone who enjoys fonts. ■

Rating: **4/5**



Fonts on the web

Font Garden

Web: www.fontgarden.com

You'll probably recognise this site, as they kindly donate to your free CD every month and make sure you're well stocked with free fonts.

If you haven't stopped by the site to see what else is on offer, now's the time. Having recently had a bit of a facelift, the site is looking brighter, bolder and more bubbly than ever before.

Scout over to the site and you're sure to fall in love with the handwritten fonts – perfect for adding that handmade feel to digital work. The 'Today's font' is also worth a look to keep your finger on the pulse. ■

Advanced Photoshop Recommends

Rating: **5/5**

Font Freak

Web: www.fontfreak.com

Claiming to be 'one of the largest and most visited freeware font archives on the net' Font Freak is worth a visit for its bold colours and great logo typeface alone.

With thousands of fonts available for both Mac and PC users you're sure to be able to while away a few hours here. However the pop-up screen linked to sections like 'Top 20 fonts' can get tiresome. The fonts are also simply categorised by alphabet so if you don't know the name of your desired font, you could be there a long time.

When you first navigate to the site you are asked whether you want to download the entire collection in one go, or whether you want to go through them individually – which at least gives you a good option if you need a lot of fonts fast. ■

Rating: **2/5**

The Free Site

Web: www.thefreesite.com/Free_Fonts/

If you've been to every other site and still not found what you're looking for then check out The Free Site.

With hundreds of links to other sites – including a hyperlink and small rubric on what you can expect to find at each site – for fonts, graphics and a wealth of other resources, this is one page you should definitely bookmark. Among the sites mentioned here are 1001 Free Fonts, Font Face, Urban Fonts and Acid Fonts. A bland site to look at but you can't knock its functionality. ■

Rating: **3/5**