

# Book Review: "The Macintosh iLife"

by David L. Davis, MACNJ President

How many times have you purchased a reference book or better yet, an instructional CD only to be disappointed in the quality of the content or visual presentation?

It happened to me recently, when I purchased a VTC set of CDs on Eovia's Carrara... the content was far from what I expected and the production quality was marginal to say the least. Having seen others by the same company, I was extremely disappointed. I kept them, feeling that since I had used them for a couple of weeks, I should not even try to return them and ask for a refund.

## Elation and excitement

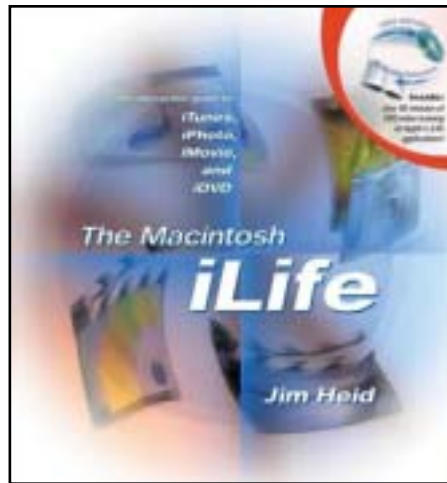
Imagine my delight when the opposite feeling, one of elation and excitement, resulted from my exploring the new release of *The Macintosh iLife* by Jim Heid. Not only is it informative, beautifully laid out and easy to follow, but it comes with a companion DVD of more than an hour and a half of beautifully shot and well produced instructional videos.

## DVD quality

Using the DVD format allows the inclusion of large video files which makes the CD type of presentation look meager and stilted. The crystal clear, full screen videos (this is a DVD, after all) compliment and enhance the written material, and the screen captures are large and details are easily seen.

## Watch... and read

Jim Heid's presentation is relaxed, sharp and beautifully planned. But, just when you might be tempted to simply watch the action on your computer screen, Mr. Heid prompts you to refer to



Published by Peachpit Press, "The Macintosh iLife" lists for \$29.95, but can often be found at a 20%-30% reduction online.

the book for specific, documented techniques. He also asks you to read the book for technical explanations and definitions.

I cannot say enough about this book. It is divided into sections geared to music, digital imaging, movie editing and DVD creation. The explanations and crisp graphics do great service to the content. Jim Heid really

points out the wonderful integration that this suite of Apple applications has going for it.

## Growing together

As iTunes, iPhoto, iMovie and iDVD were originally introduced, they did specific tasks in their areas, and have matured technically as each version has been released. The beauty of the iLife integration is that as you require one or the other elements to your project,

access to music, photos, or movie clips is a seamless flow. And the creation of a DVD can be just as straightforward.

The book opens with a two-page spread explaining how to use it and beautifully shows how the iLife apps can add to your productivity and enjoyment. Heid explains the basics of each application and gives plenty of guidance on their use. There is also a website [www.macilife.com](http://www.macilife.com) where you can learn even more!

## Consumer to Pro

And lest ye be lulled into thinking that there is no room for professional usage here, I can attest to having seen some pretty impressive promotional materials produced with these "consumer" applications! To say that this book should be a must for anyone using these iLife apps is an understatement.

My feeling is that if you are serious about learning and using the iLife suite of applications, you owe it to yourself to obtain a copy of this book. Published by Peachpit Press, "The Macintosh iLife" lists for \$29.95, but can be purchased at a 20%-30% reduction online. Go for it!

