



**EXPOSURE: GET IT *CLOSE*
IN THE CAMERA**

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SPRING, 2026

QUICK REVIEW

LAST TIME WE DEFINED

EXPOSURE

AS THE TRANSFER OF ENERGY TO A
SENSOR!

EXPOSURE = "QUANTITY"

***YOU DECIDE WHAT IS THE
"PROPER EXPOSURE" FOR
YOUR PHOTO***

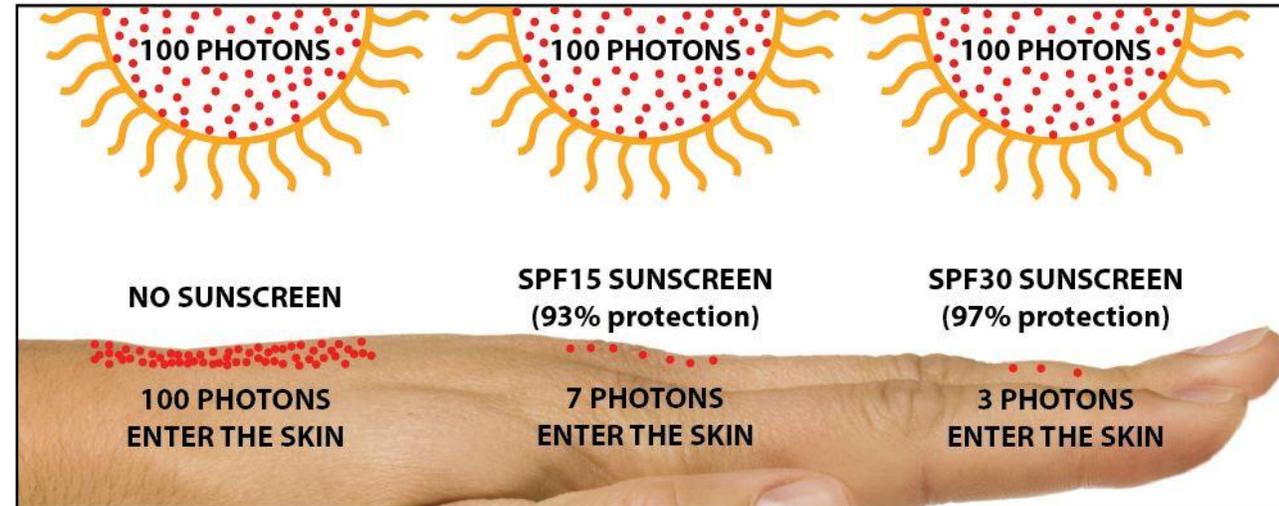
SUNBURN

1st Degree Burn



NATURAL SKIN COLOUR	Very fair, pale white, often freckled	Fair, white skin	Light brown	Moderate brown	Dark brown	Deeply pigmented dark brown to black
UV SENSITIVITY & TENDENCY TO BURN	Highly sensitive Always burns, never tans	Very sensitive Burns easily, tans minimally	Sensitive Burns moderately, usually tans	Less sensitive Burns minimally, tans well	Minimal sensitivity Rarely burns	Minimal sensitivity Never burns
SKIN CANCER RISK	Greatest risk of skin cancer	High risk of skin cancer	High risk of skin cancer	At risk of skin cancer	Skin cancers are relatively rare, but those that occur are often detected at later, more dangerous stage. Increased risk of low vitamin D levels.	Skin cancers are relatively rare, but those that occur are often detected at later, more dangerous stage. Increased risk of low vitamin D levels.

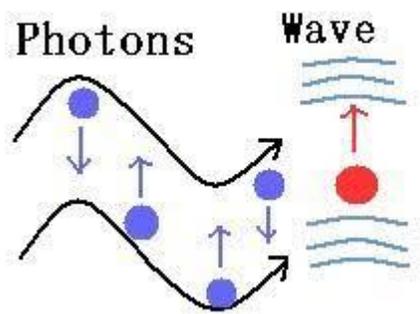
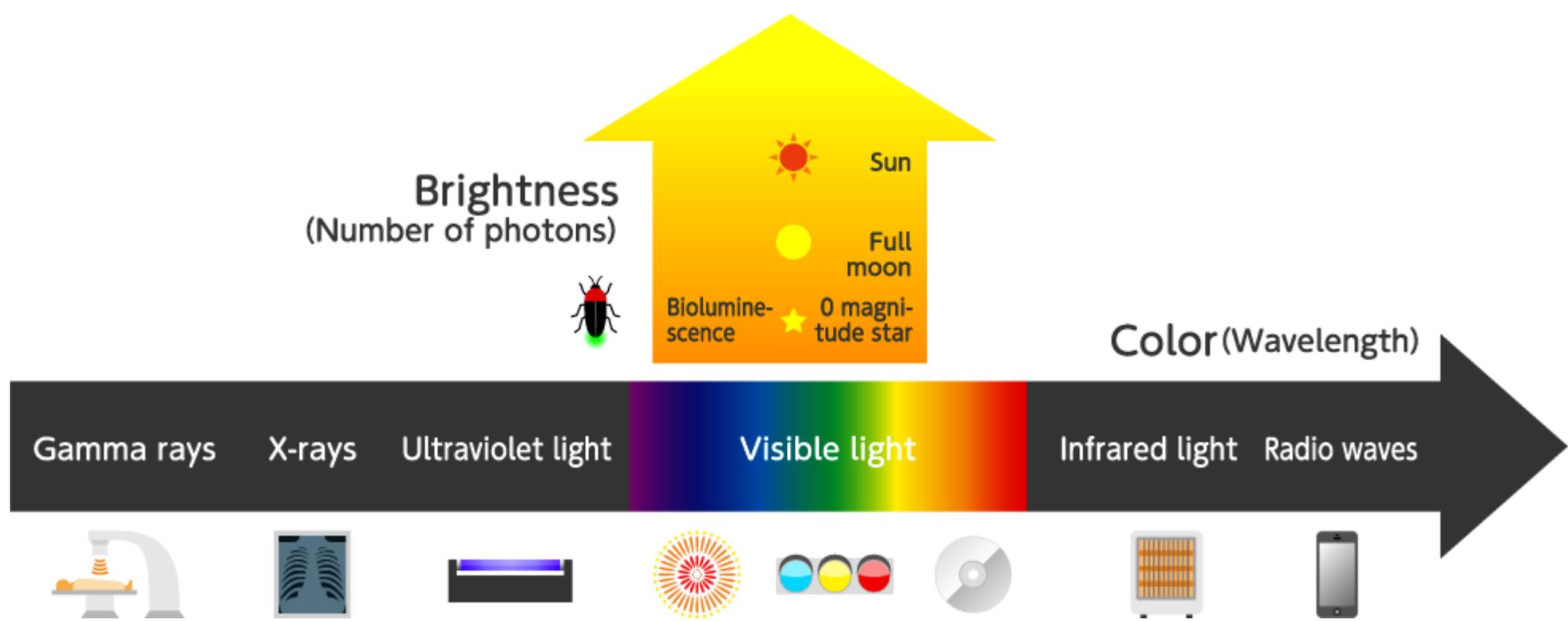
Skin Type Table adapted by SunSmart Victoria (2011) using Fitzpatrick Scale (1975). Images courtesy Cancer Research UK.



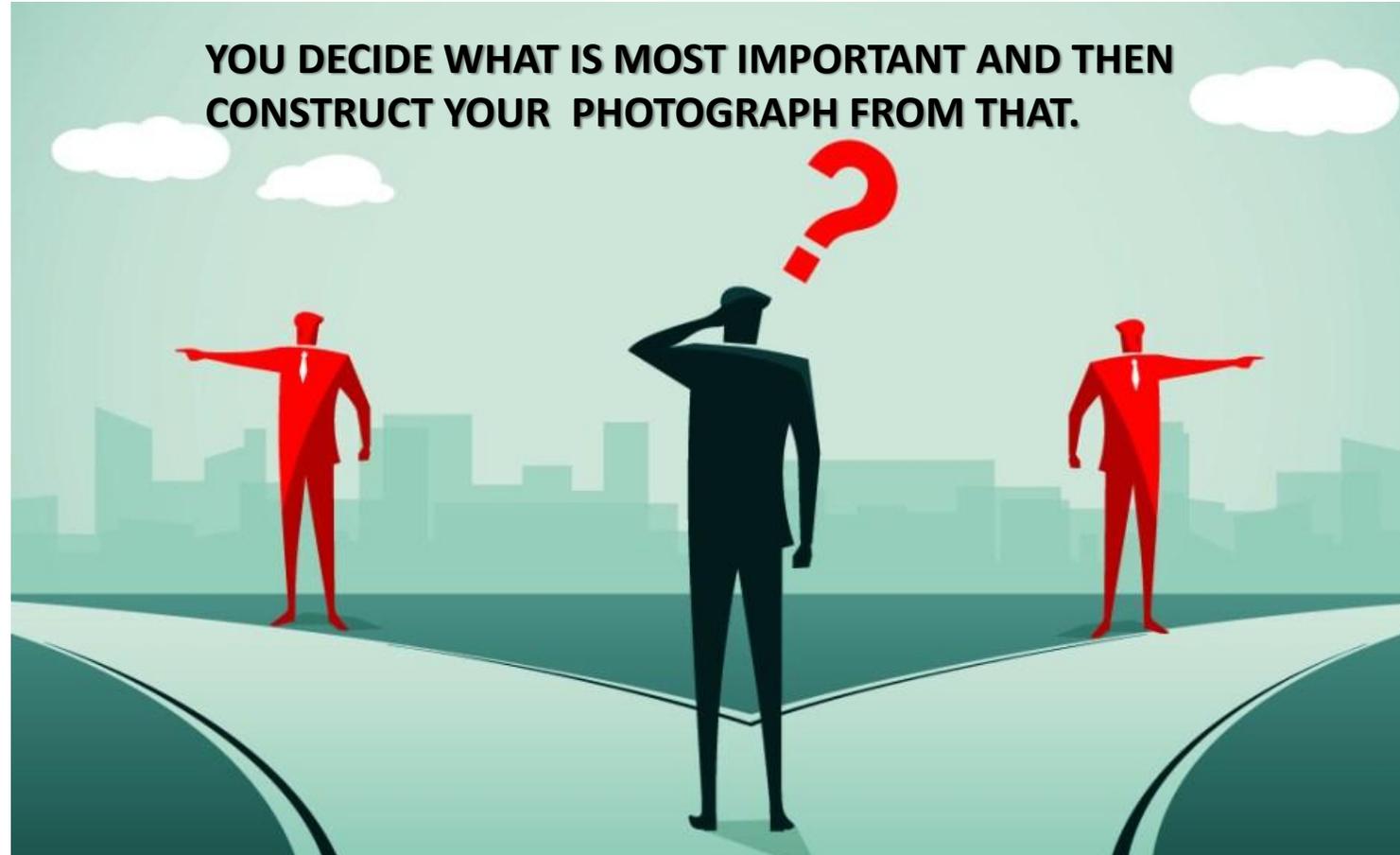
LIGHT

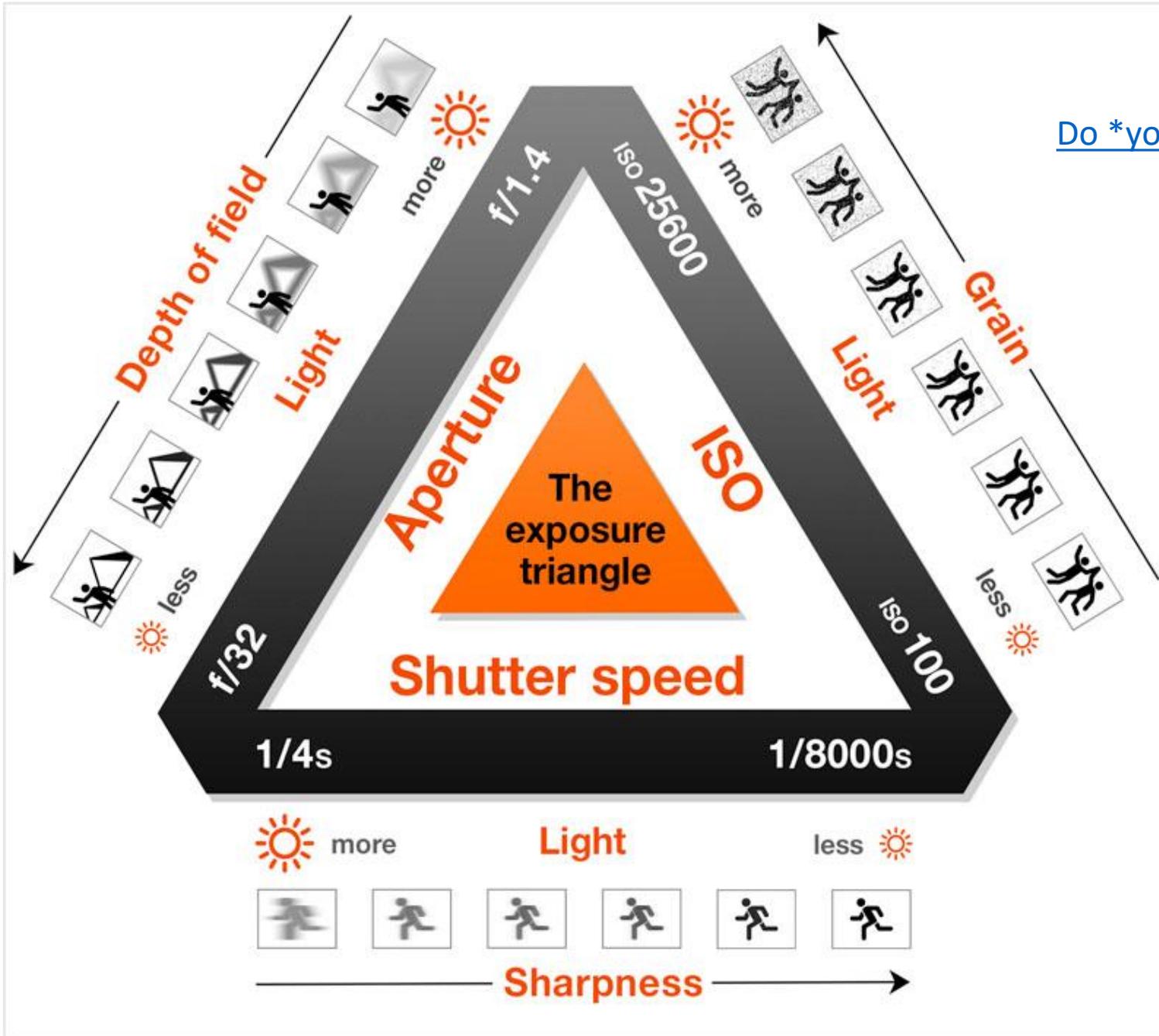
SEE DISCUSSION
OF QUALITY IN
THE SECOND
SESSION OF MY
VISUAL DESIGN
CLASS FROM
2020.





THOUGHT SHOTS OR SNAP SHOTS?





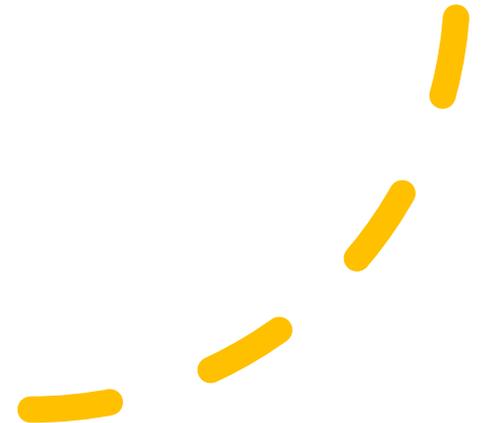
[Do *you* understand ISO?](#)

ANY
QUESTIONS?



SESSION #2

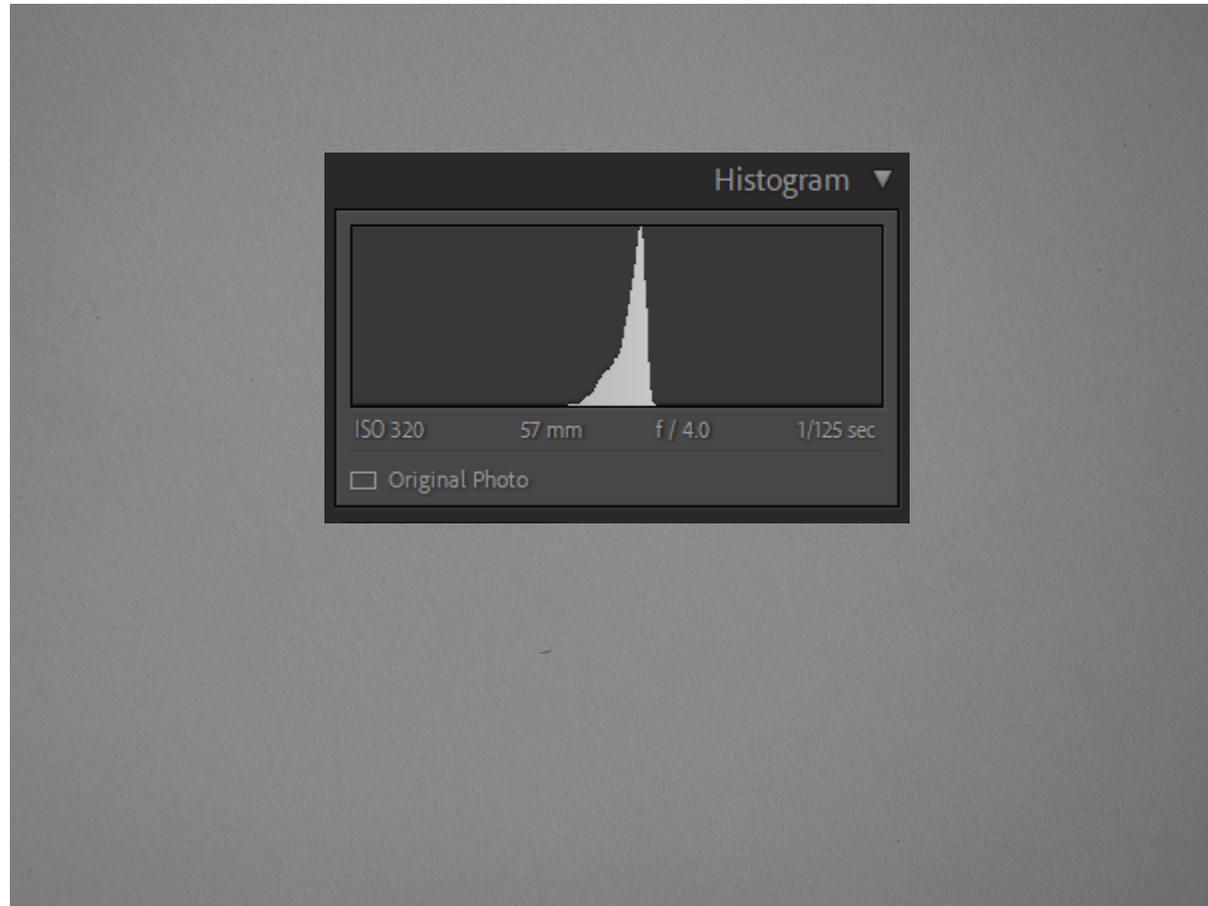
- HOMEWORK DISCUSSION
- DISCUSS HISTOGRAMS, BLINKIES, EXPOSURE COMPENSATION
- *EXPOSE TO THE RIGHT, "ETTR"*
- NEW HOMEWORK



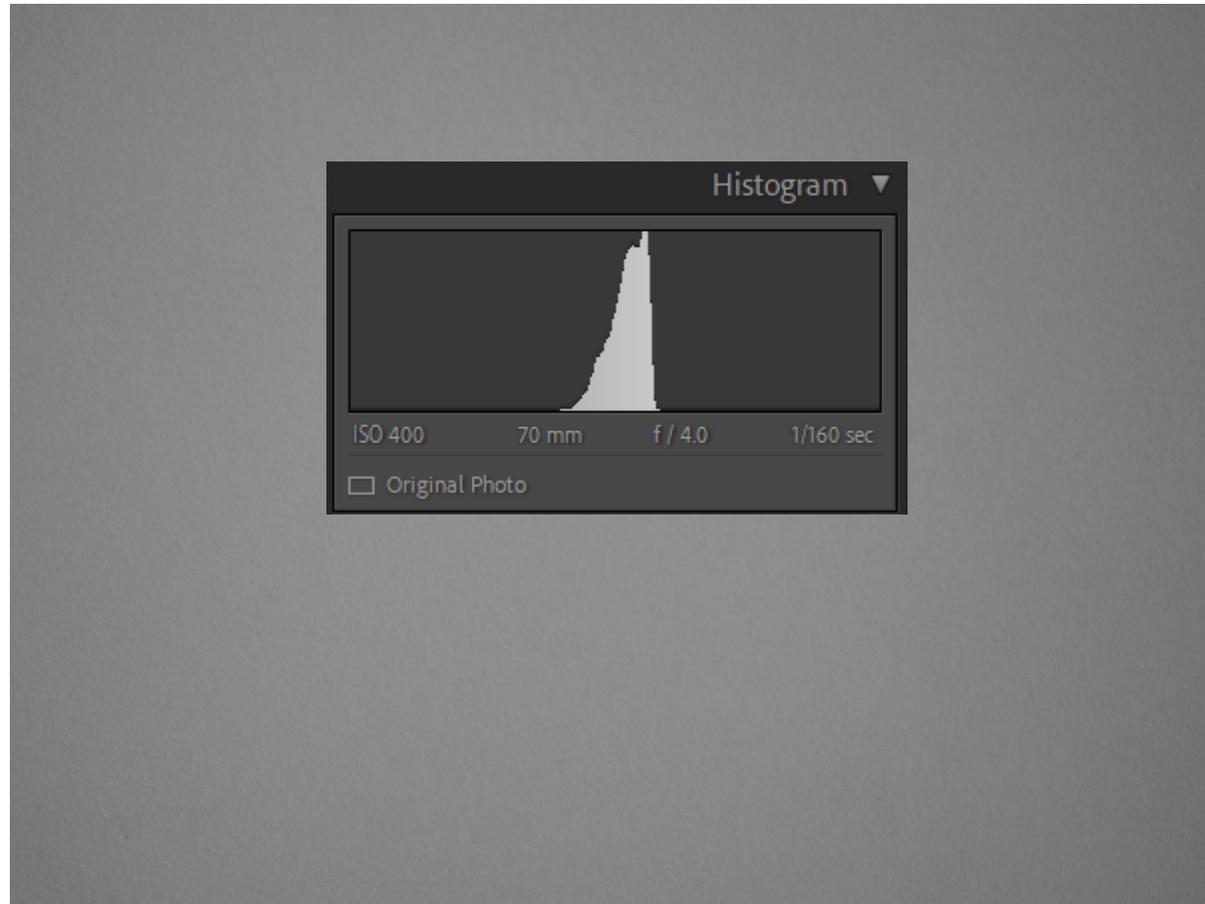
HOMework



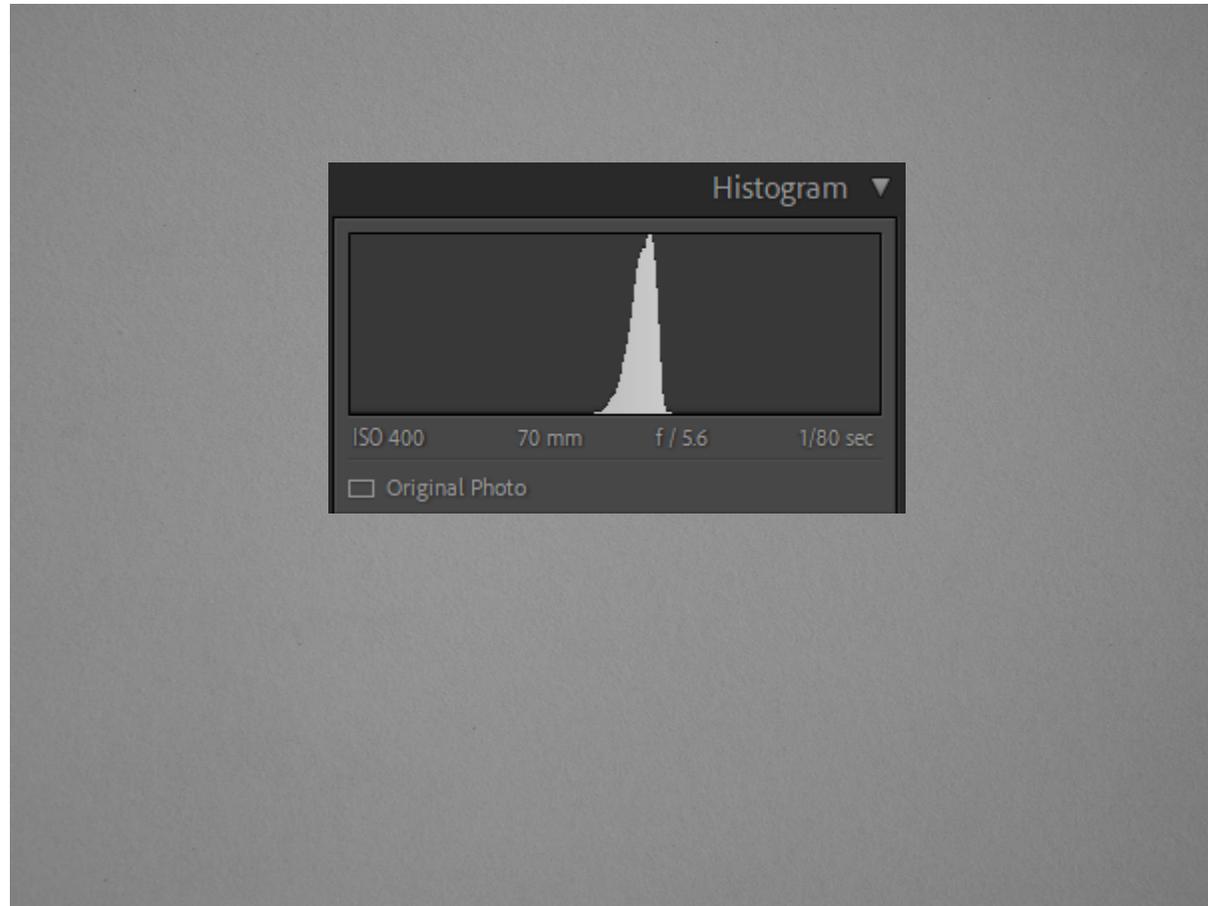
AUTOMATIC



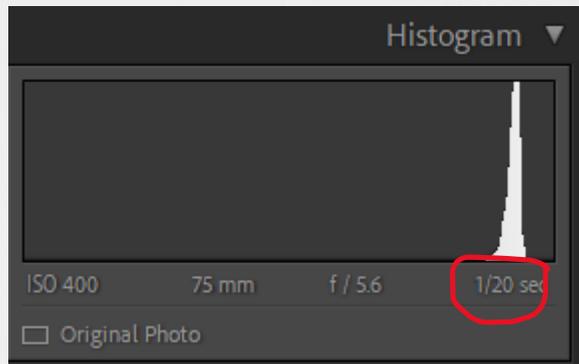
PROGRAM



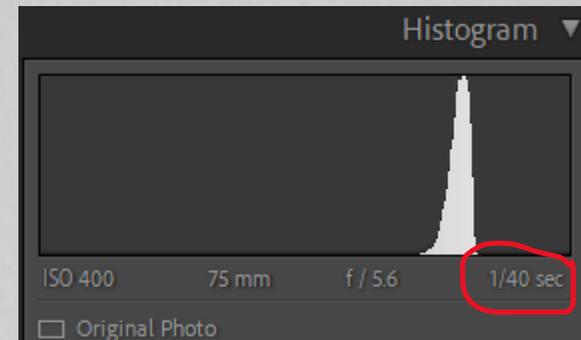
APERATURE PRIORITY



AP WITH EXPOSURE COMPENSATION

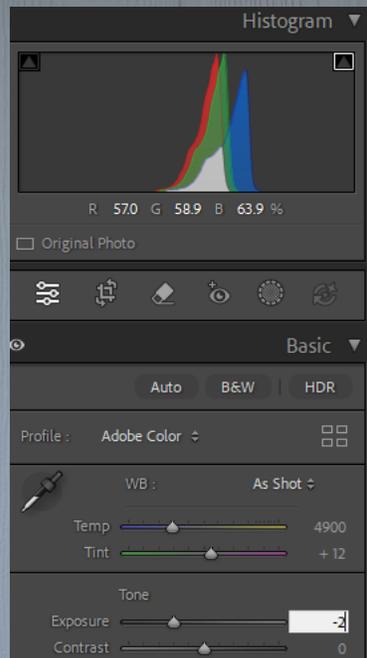
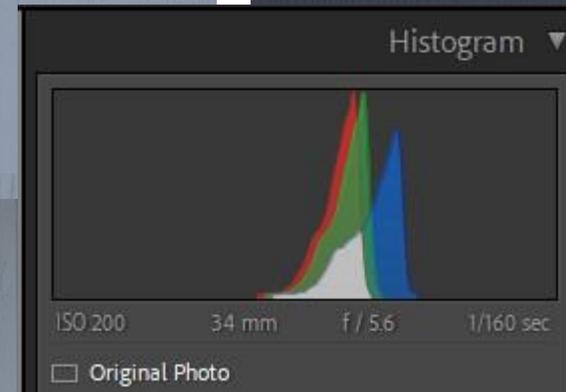
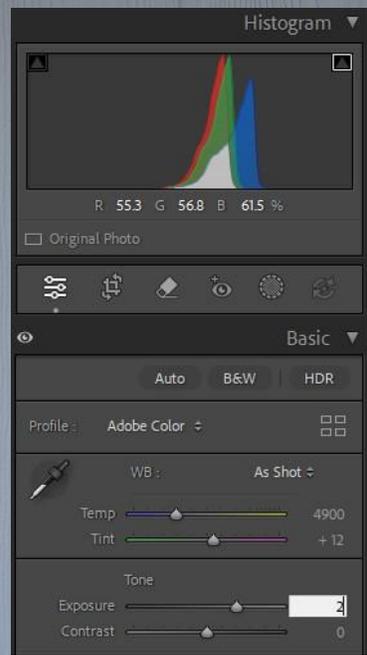


Plus 2



Plus 1

DYNAMIC RANGE TEST



HISTOGRAMS

“Exposure used to be the single most difficult technical problem in photography, but digital cameras have made this thorny issue much easier. Does that mean you can now just turn on Program mode and turn off your brain? Sorry! Thought and care are still required. The basic problems of exposure have not changed. The only difference is that you can see right away whether you got it or not.”

“Don’t judge the exposure by how it looks on your LCD screen.”

(Michael Frye)





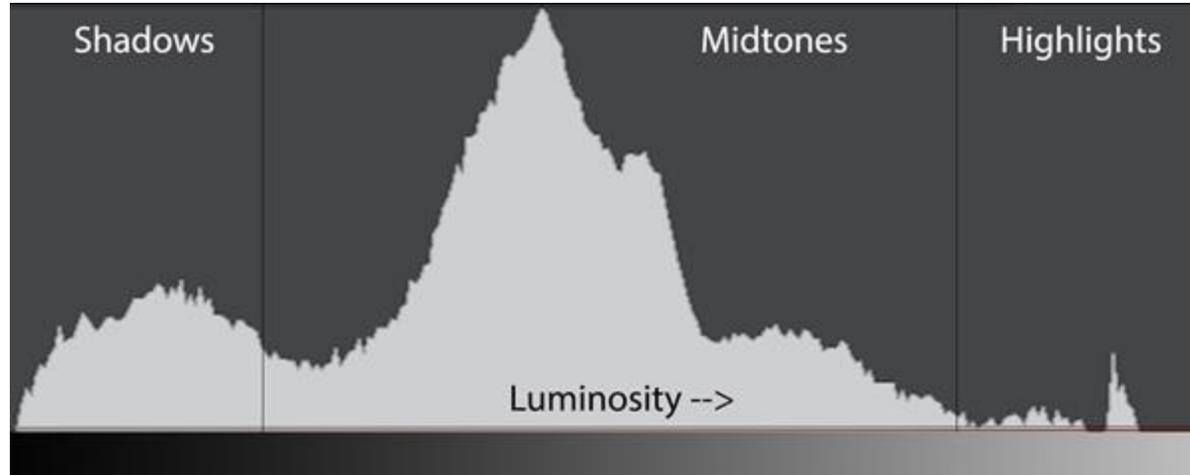
The Zone System



ANSEL ADAMS &
FRED ARCHER, 1940

HISTOGRAMS

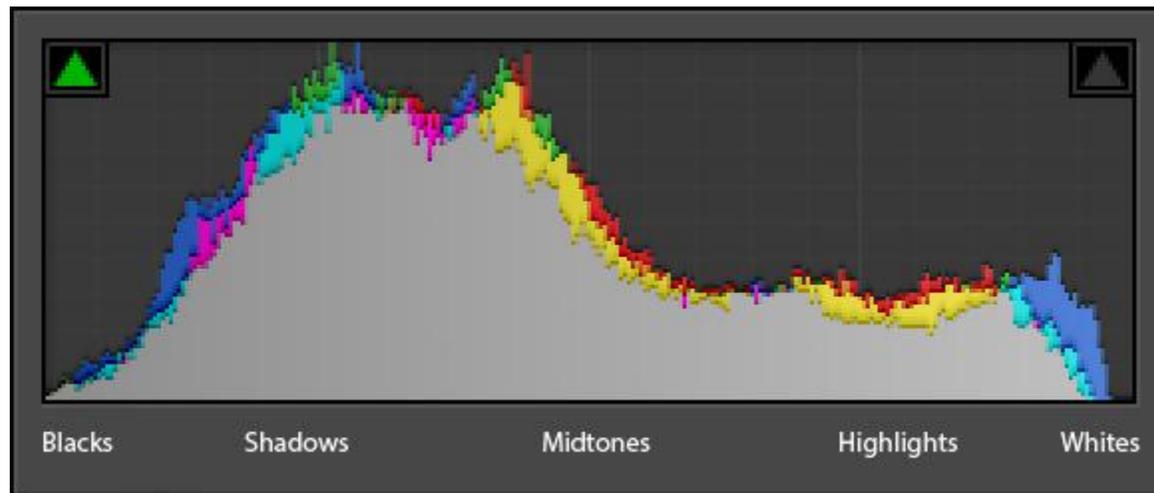
LUMINOSITY IS THE “PIXEL BRIGHTNESS”



THE HISTOGRAM IS A “BAR GRAPH” THAT SHOWS THE TONAL VALUES IN AN IMAGE ON A SCALE OF 0 TO 255.

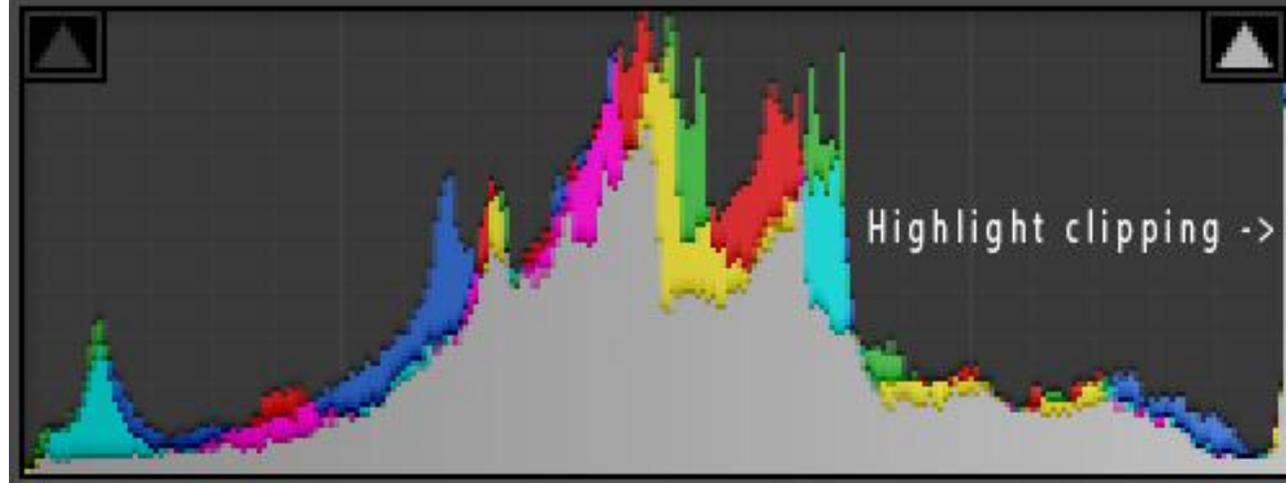
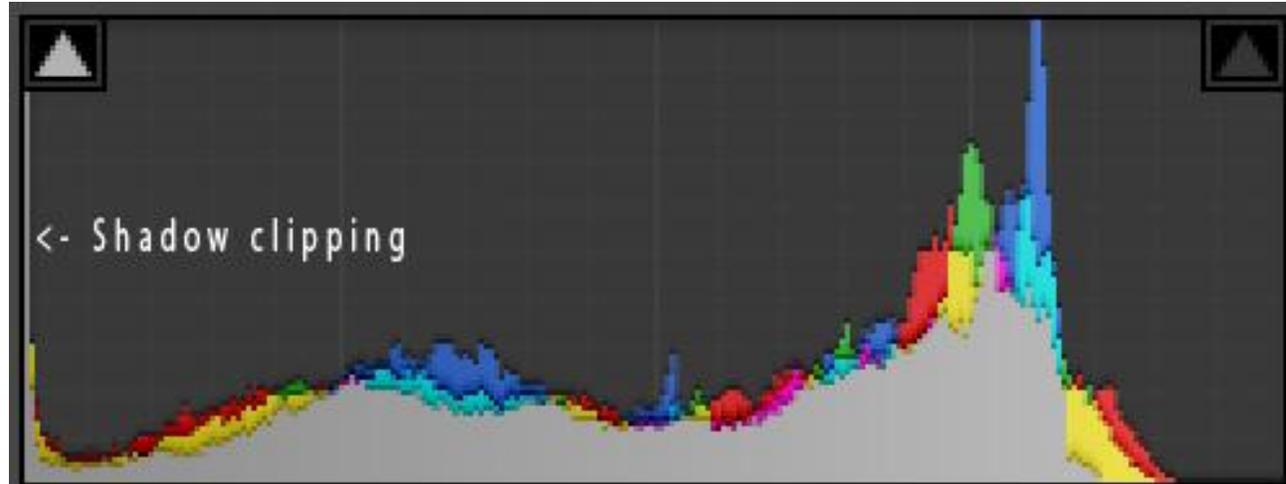
0 IS PURE BLACK

255 IS PURE WHITE



HISTOGRAMS

NO SHADOW DETAIL

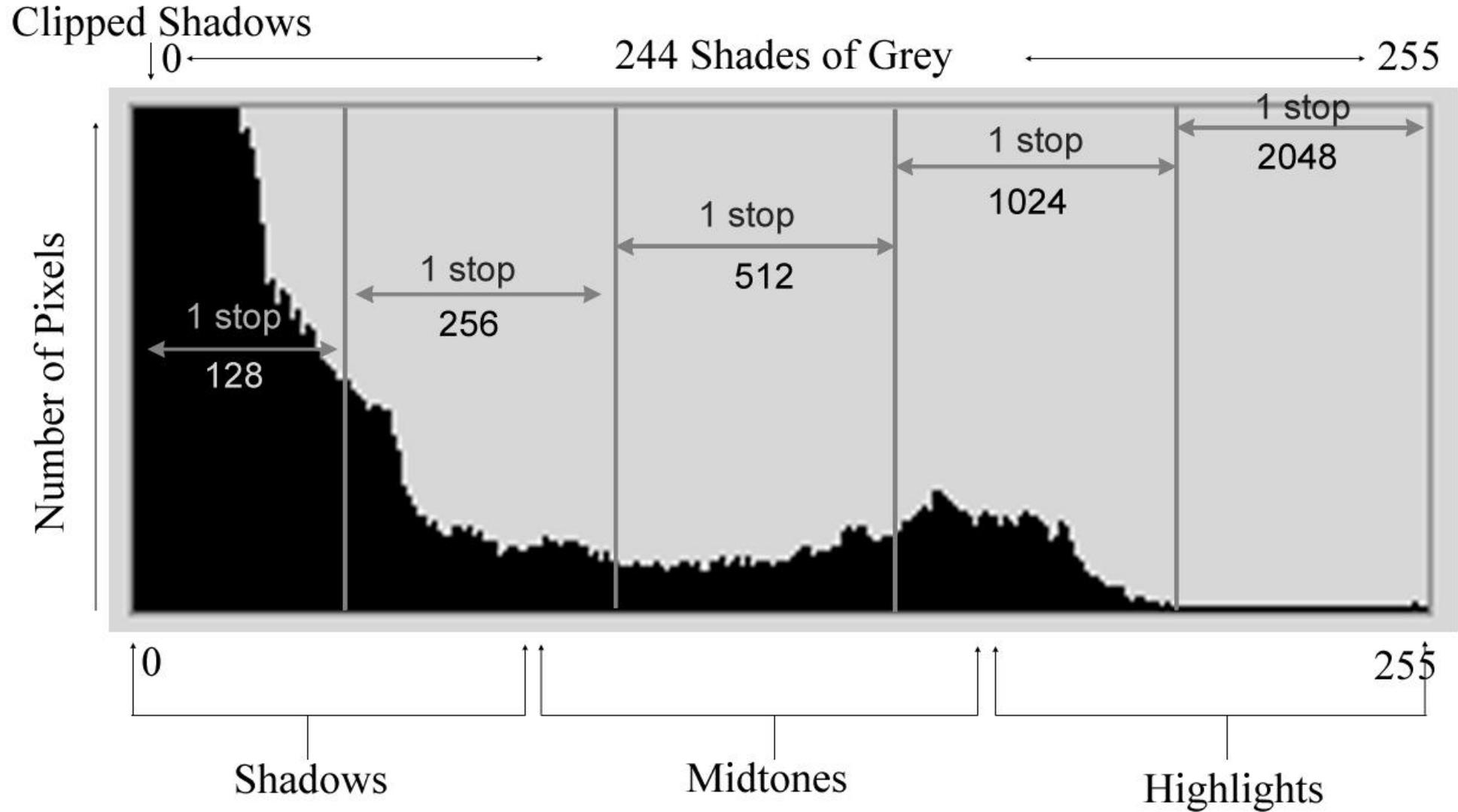


NO HIGHLIGHT DETAIL

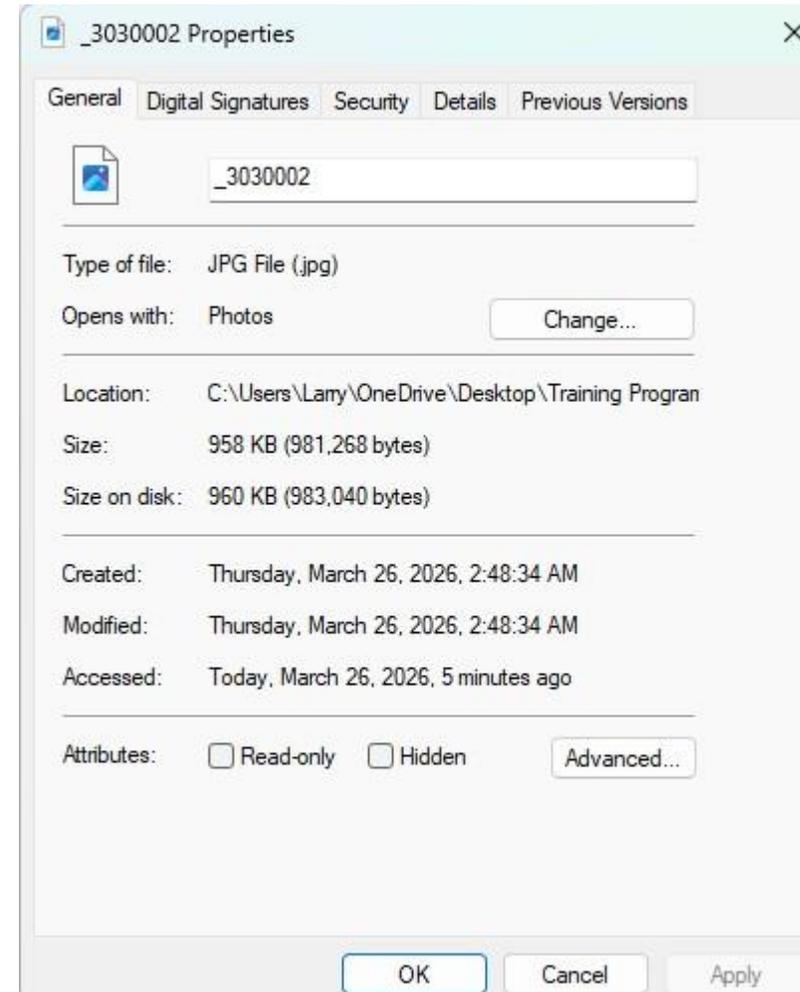
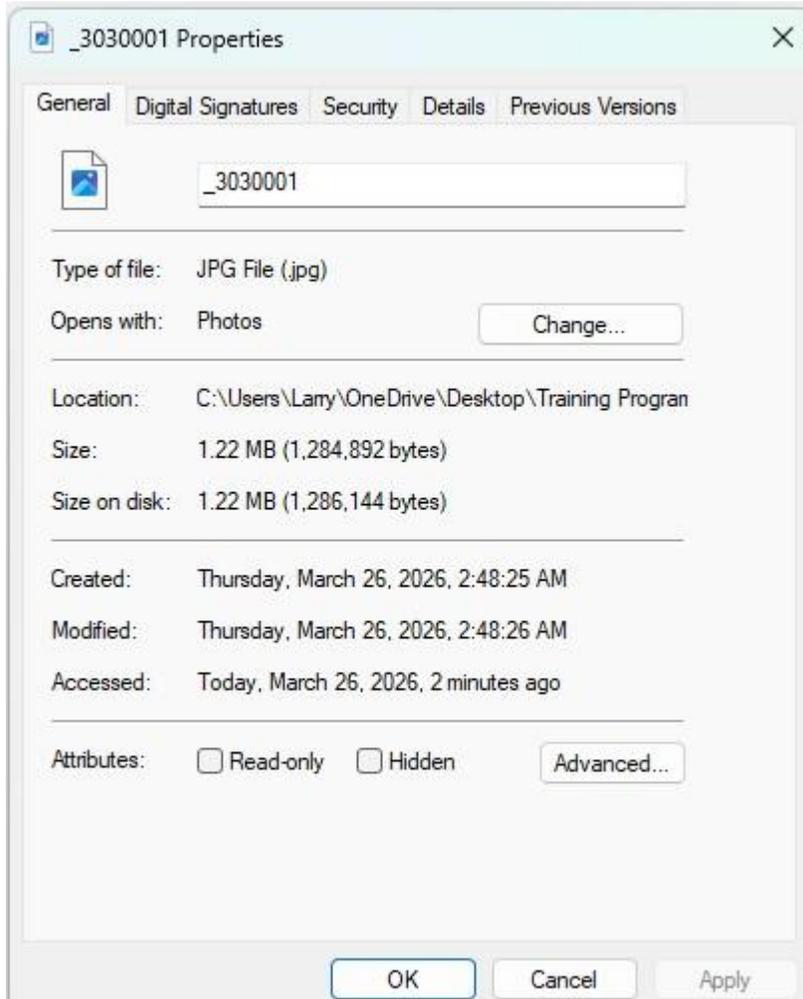
HISTOGRAMS

“All digital camera sensors capture light in a linear fashion, starting from black to white (left to right on the histogram). This means they capture fewer levels of information in the shadows, and the maximum number of levels in the highlights, just before clipping. In other words, the sensor is much more sensitive to brighter levels of light than darker ones.” Robert Rodriguez, Jr.

HISTOGRAMS

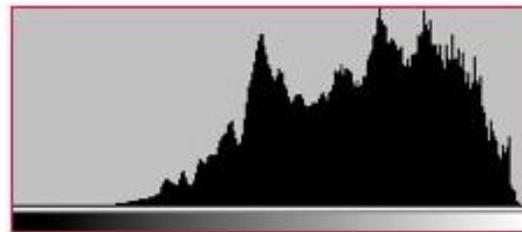
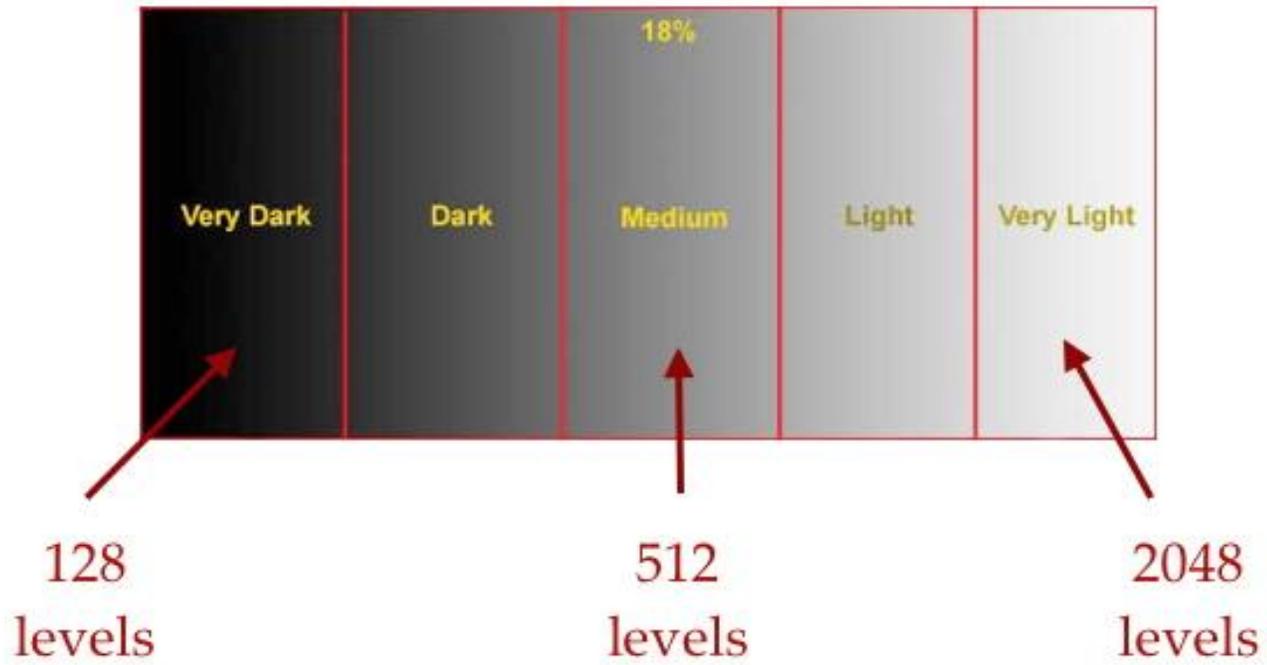


EXPOSURE AND FILE SIZE



HISTOGRAMS

12-bit RAW file



HISTOGRAMS

“This is the main reason why we see digital noise in the shadows and not the highlights. The “signal to noise” ratio is much higher in the highlights, therefore noise can only rear its ugly head in the shadows where this ratio is much lower.”

Robert Rodriguez, Jr.

Why You Should Use a Histogram with an EVF on a Mirrorless Camera — Thomas Fitzgerald Photography



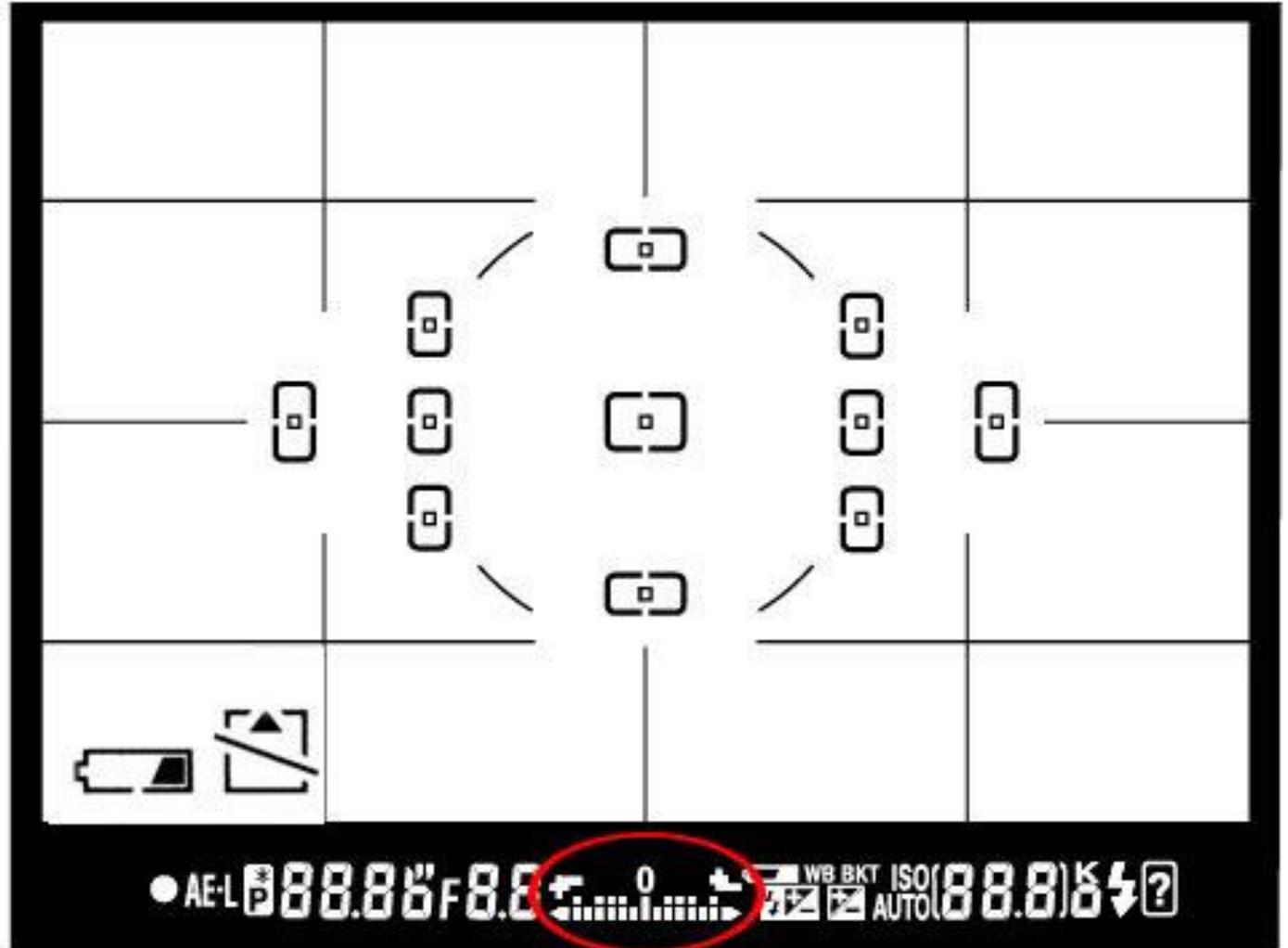
EXPOSURE COMPENSATION



EXPOSURE COMPENSATION

“Exposure Compensation allows photographers to override exposure settings picked by camera’s light meter, in order to darken or brighten images before they are captured.”

(photographylife article)



CAMERA METERED EXPOSURE (APERTURE PRIORITY)

f/1.4	f/2.0	f/2.8	f/4.0	f/5.6
1/1000	1/500	1/250	1/125	1/60

APERTURE PRIORITY, -1 EV EXPOSURE COMPENSATION

f/1.4	f/2.0	f/2.8	f/4.0	f/5.6
1/1000	1/500	1/250	1/125	1/60

APERTURE PRIORITY, +1 EV EXPOSURE COMPENSATION

f/1.4	f/2.0	f/2.8	f/4.0	f/5.6
1/1000	1/500	1/250	1/125	1/60

CAMERA METERED EXPOSURE (SHUTTER PRIORITY)

f/1.4	f/2.0	f/2.8	f/4.0	f/5.6
1/1000	1/500	1/250	1/125	1/60

SHUTTER PRIORITY, -1 EV EXPOSURE COMPENSATION

f/1.4	f/2.0	f/2.8	f/4.0	f/5.6
1/1000	1/500	1/250	1/125	1/60

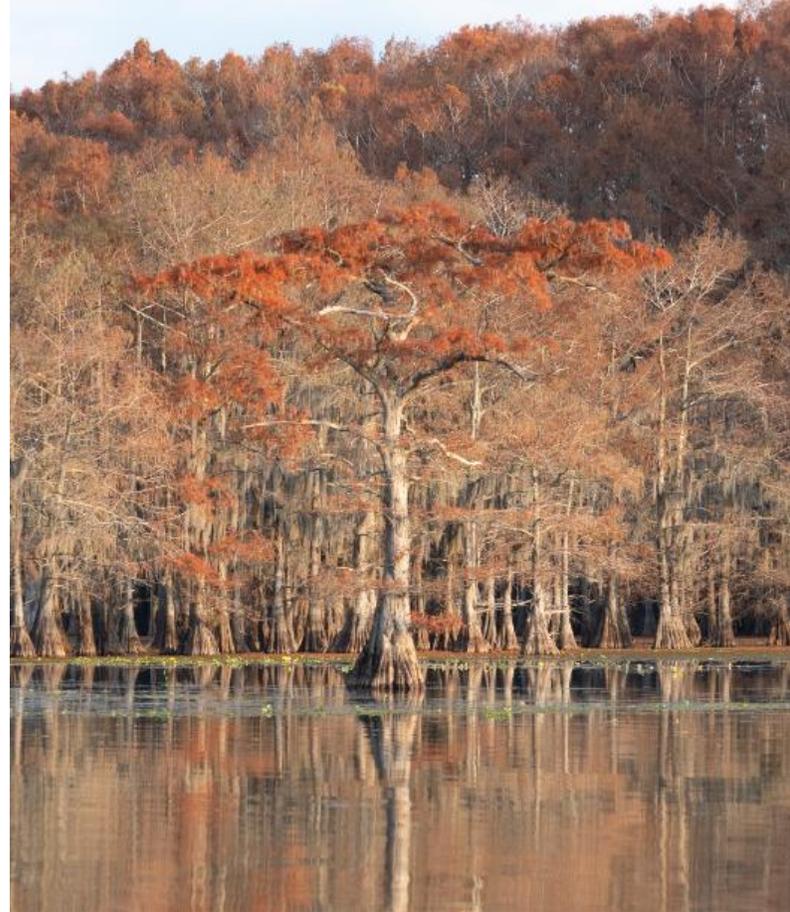
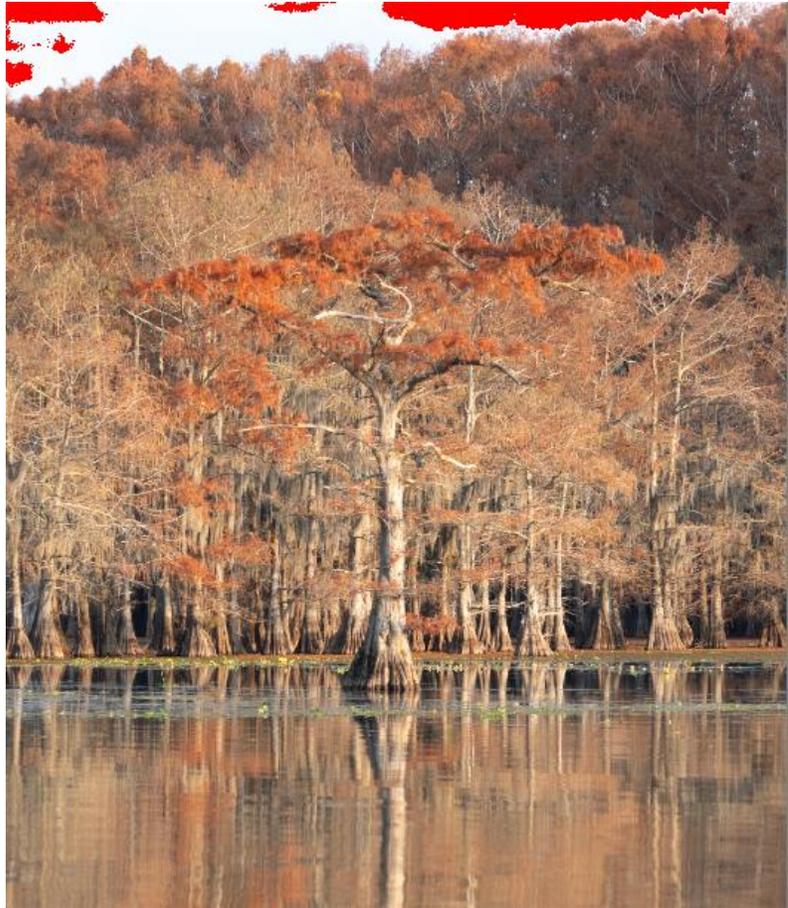
SHUTTER PRIORITY, +1 EV EXPOSURE COMPENSATION

f/1.4	f/2.0	f/2.8	f/4.0	f/5.6
1/1000	1/500	1/250	1/125	1/60

BLINKIES (EXPOSURE WARNINGS)



BLINKIES (EXPOSURE WARNINGS)





BLINKIES



BLINKIES



EXPOSE TO THE RIGHT (ETTR)

The basis of ETTR is simple: optimize your exposure, and get the highest-quality image possible. Most people expose a scene so that the image looks how they want — and, at face value, this makes sense. Optimum exposure is different, though. Instead of exposing the scene “correctly”, it is better to expose a scene to be as bright as possible, without blowing out the scene’s highlights and losing all of that data. Then, in post-processing, you darken the image so that it looks how you want. (Spencer Cox, [Exposing to the Right Explained \(photographylife.com\)](http://photographylife.com))

EXPOSE TO THE RIGHT (ETTR)

By darkening an exposure in post-processing, you are effectively using a lower-than-base ISO. It brings similar benefits, too — **a decrease in image noise, richer colors, and a greater dynamic range**. Images exposed using ETTR are more malleable in post-processing, making it easier to produce the photo you have in your mind's eye.

(Spencer Cox, [Exposing to the Right Explained \(photographylife.com\)](http://photographylife.com))

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- **Histograms in Photography: A Guide**
<https://petapixel.com/histogram/>
- **Exposure Compensation: An Easy Guide**
<https://www.lightstalking.com/exposure-compensation-easy-guide/>
- [Exposing to the Right Explained \(photographylife.com\)](#)
- <https://photographylife.com/exposure-value>
- Henry Carroll. *Read This If You Want To Take Great Pictures*. 2014, Laurence King Publishing.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWSvHBG7X0w> What Does The ISO Setting Mean?
- [Want To Improve The Dynamic Range In Your Photos? Check Out These Very Simple Ways | Light Stalking](#)
- [Here Are Some Advanced Guides To Understand Exposure Better For Creative Photography | Light Stalking](#)
- [Aperture, Shutter Speed And ISO - Understand The Exposure Triangle For Better Photos | Light Stalking](#)
- [5 Camera Settings That Actually Matter | Fstoppers](#)

HOMework (YOU MAY NEED TO CONSULT WITH YOUR OWNER'S MANUAL)

The purpose of these exercises is to gain a better understanding of exposure compensation and “Expose to the Right” (ETTR).

1. Compare and contrast photographs of the same scene at an exposure set by your camera to exposures above and below the camera settings.
2. Take a shot using any metering mode you wish and then repeat it as an under exposure and again using ETTR. Process the over and under exposures to look like the exposure your camera suggested and compare the image quality of the three images.



PHOTOGRAPHY = WRITING WITH LIGHT

PHOTOGRAPHY IS SO EASY
ANYBODY CAN DO IT

**BUT, MAKING A GOOD
PHOTOGRAPH TAKES PRACTICE**



Any

Questions

