

“

If you don't have an oil well, get one! You'll love doing business with Western.

”



Photography Metering

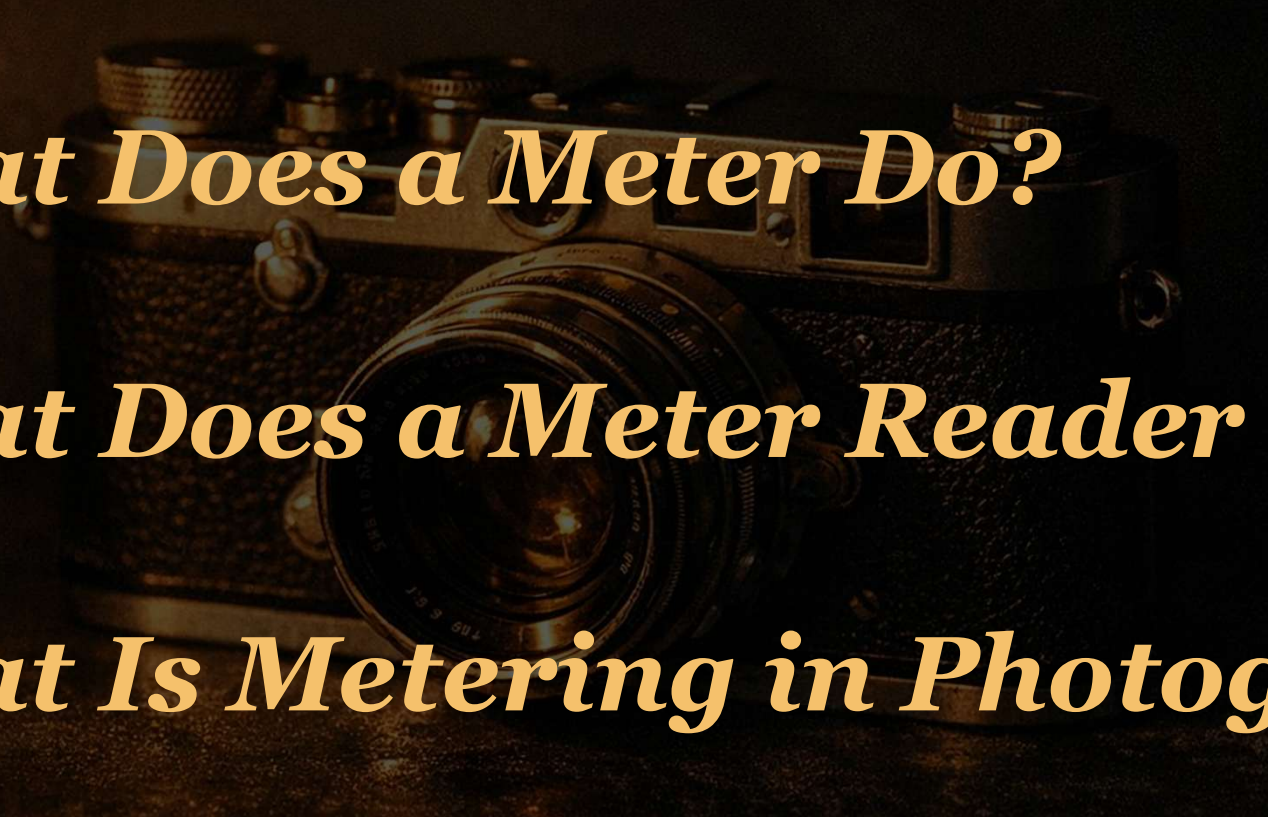
A vintage camera with a textured body and a large lens, set against a dark background. The camera is positioned horizontally, with its lens pointing towards the left. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the camera's details against the dark background.

If You Are Not a Meter Reader Yet?

...You Are About Be?

All sunshine makes a desert

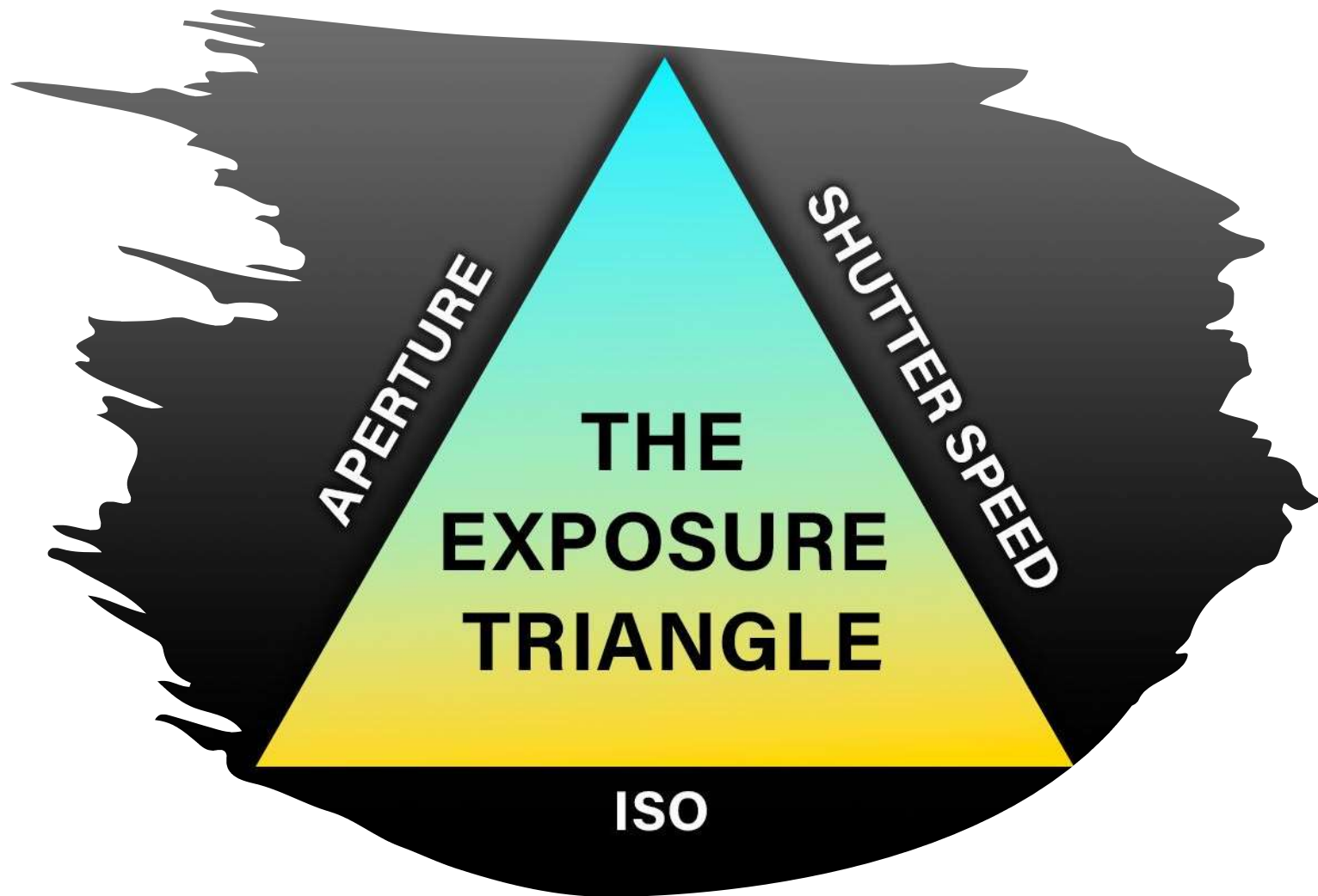




What Does a Meter Do?

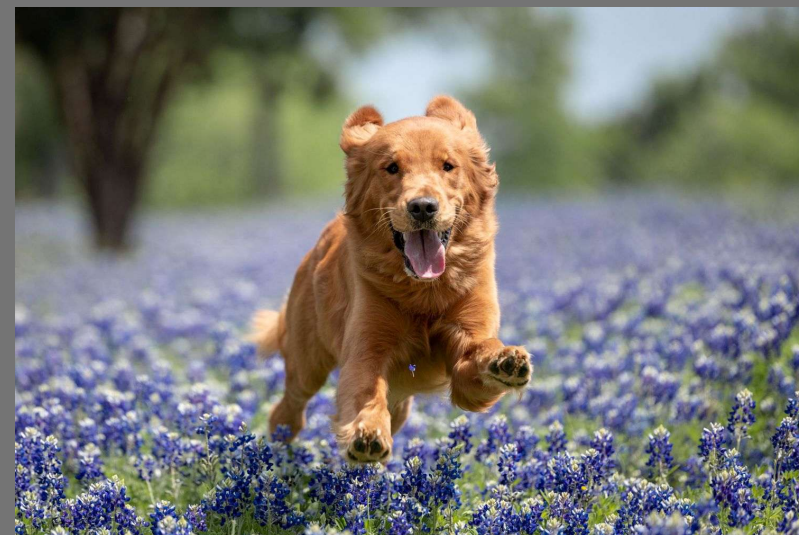
What Does a Meter Reader Do?

What Is Metering in Photography?





*Puppy
Bouncing in
Bluebonnets*





Light Meter

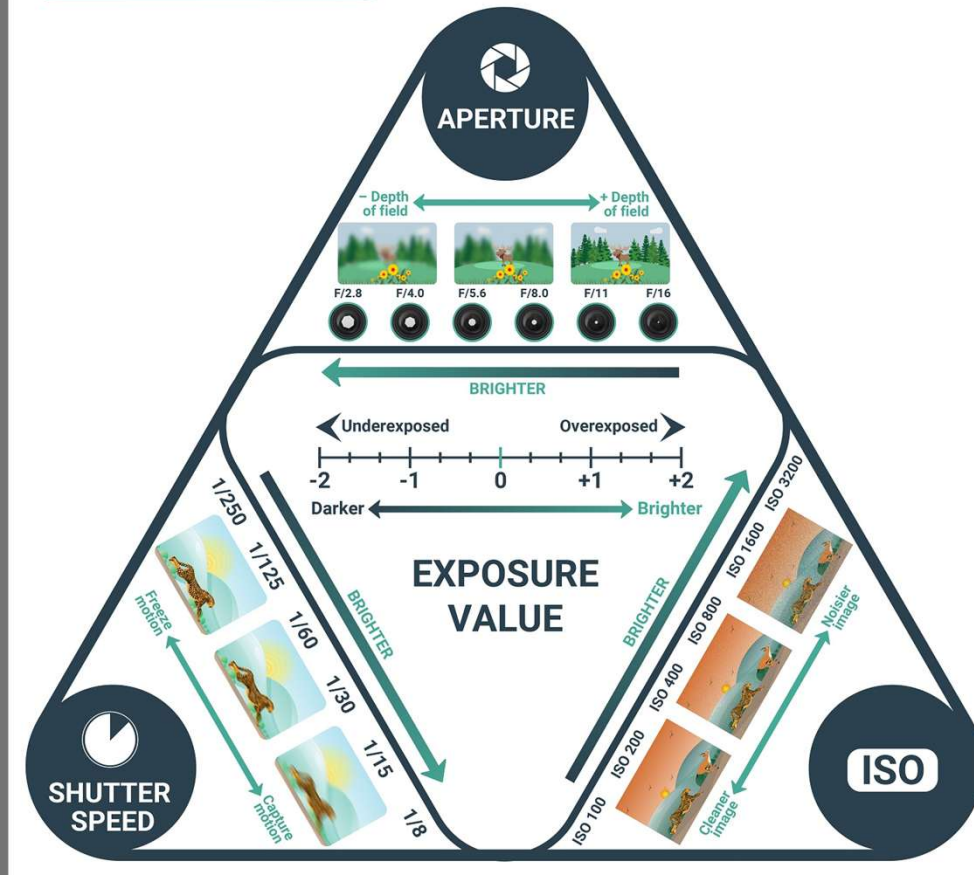
125 16 -2 1 1 1 2 ISO 200

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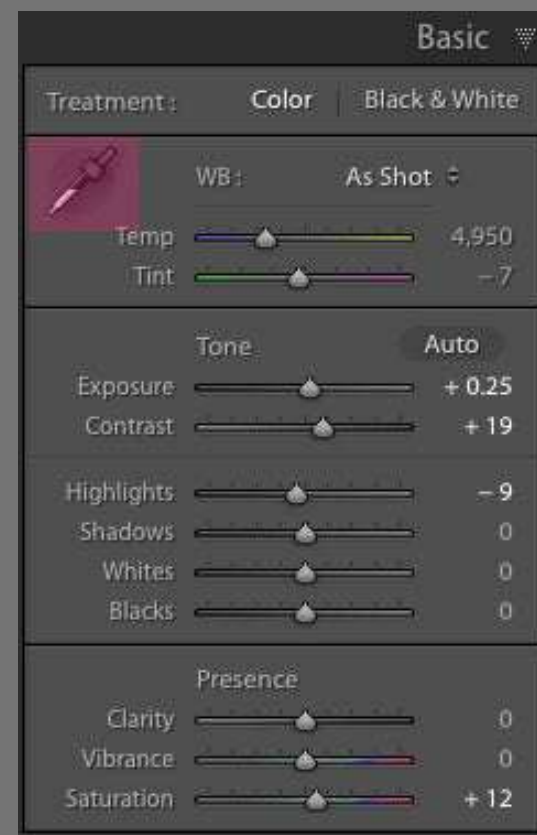
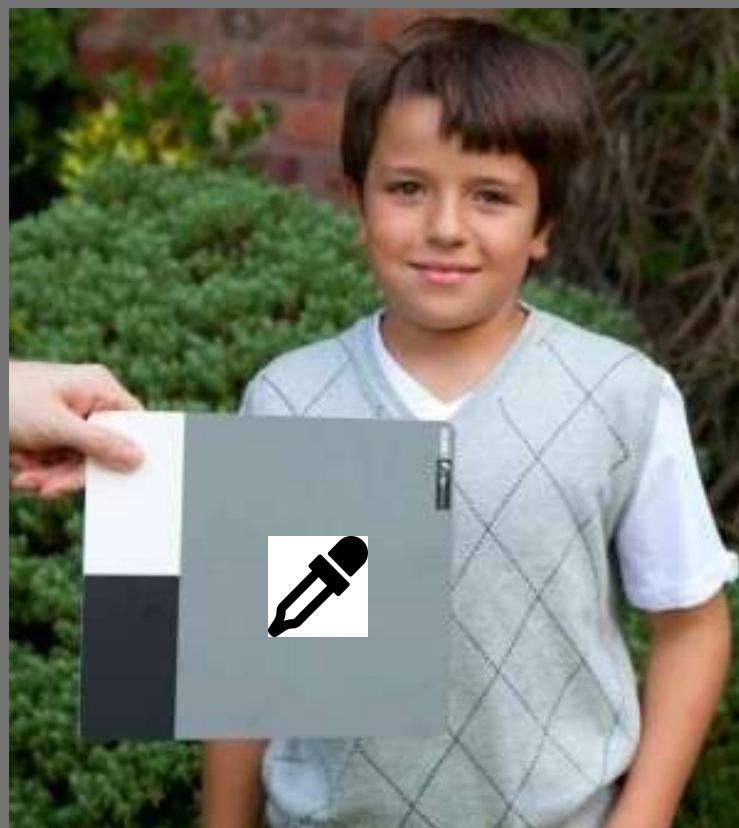
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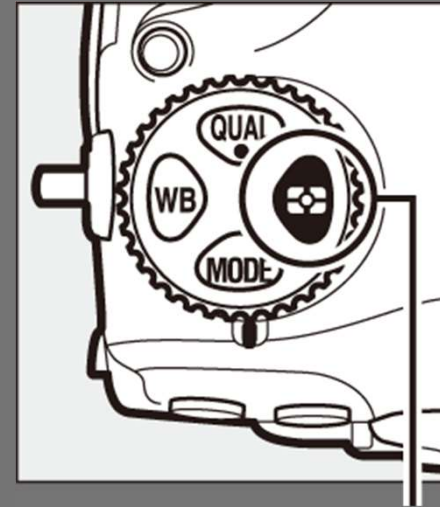
EXPOSURE TRIANGLE

EXPOSURE TRIANGLE CHART



18% Gray Card





Matrix



Center-weighted



Spot



Highlight Priority



Highlight Priority



Highlight-Weighted



Matrix metering;
exposure mode **A**: 1/100 s; f/5.6



Highlight-weighted metering;
exposure mode **A**: 1/320 s; f/5.6

Center-weighted



Center-Weighted



Spot Metering



Center Weighted Average



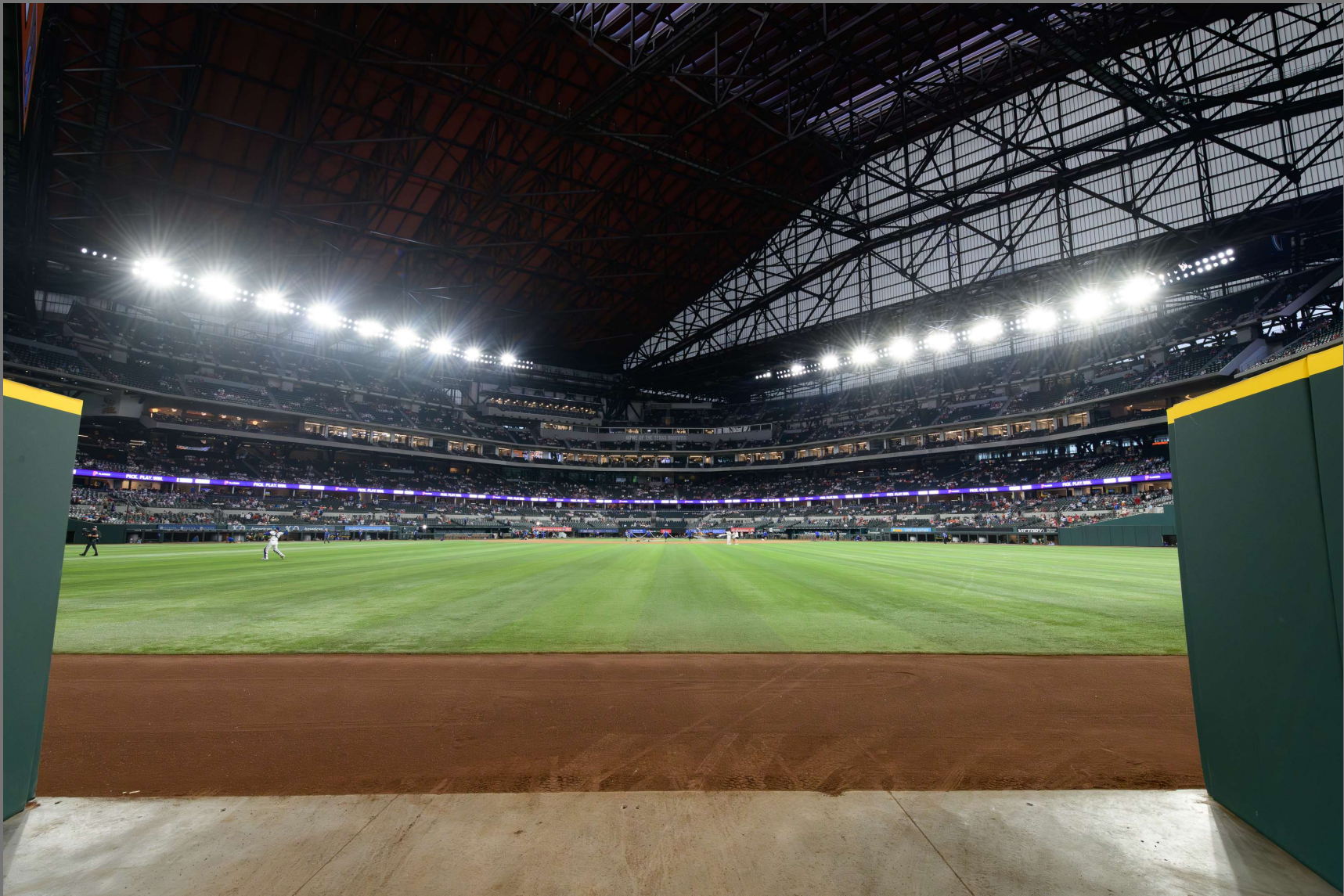
Spot



Spot Metering









Matrix



Matrix Metering





Recommendation

Cameras		Description\Qty	
Reset	D850	[starting lens]	
(Initial Set)	Dual Chips Formatted	Yes \ Reloaded	
	Manual Mode	Wide Open - Speed MMx2 f/stops	
	White Balance	Auto A1	
	Exposure "+/-"	Zero	
	HDR\BRKT	BRKT Off	
	ISO	Auto	
	ISO Cap	25,600	
	Metering	Matrix	
	Quality	Raw	
	Bay II	Overflow	
	L-Bracket	D850	
	Clean Image Sensor		
	Minimum Shutter Speed	Respicol	
	Emergency Reset SD		

Bonus



Are You Still With Me?







-2.0 EV



-1.0 EV



0 EV



+1.0 EV



+2.0 EV

EXPOSURE COMPENSATION

Quick Start Guide

+2.0 EV	WHITE ON WHITE	Snow, sand at noon, white walls — render bright instead of gray
+1.0 to 1.7	LIGHT SUBJECTS	Blonde hair against sky, light skin in soft light, fog
+0.3 to 0.7	BACKLIT SUBJECTS	Compensate for matrix dragging exposure toward the bright background
0.0	AVERAGE SCENE	Mid-toned subject, balanced lighting — the meter is right
-0.3 to -0.7	DARK SUBJECTS	Dark skin, evergreen forest, black clothing — preserve density
-1.0 to -2.0	BLACK ON BLACK	Coal, asphalt, theater audience — keep the blacks black

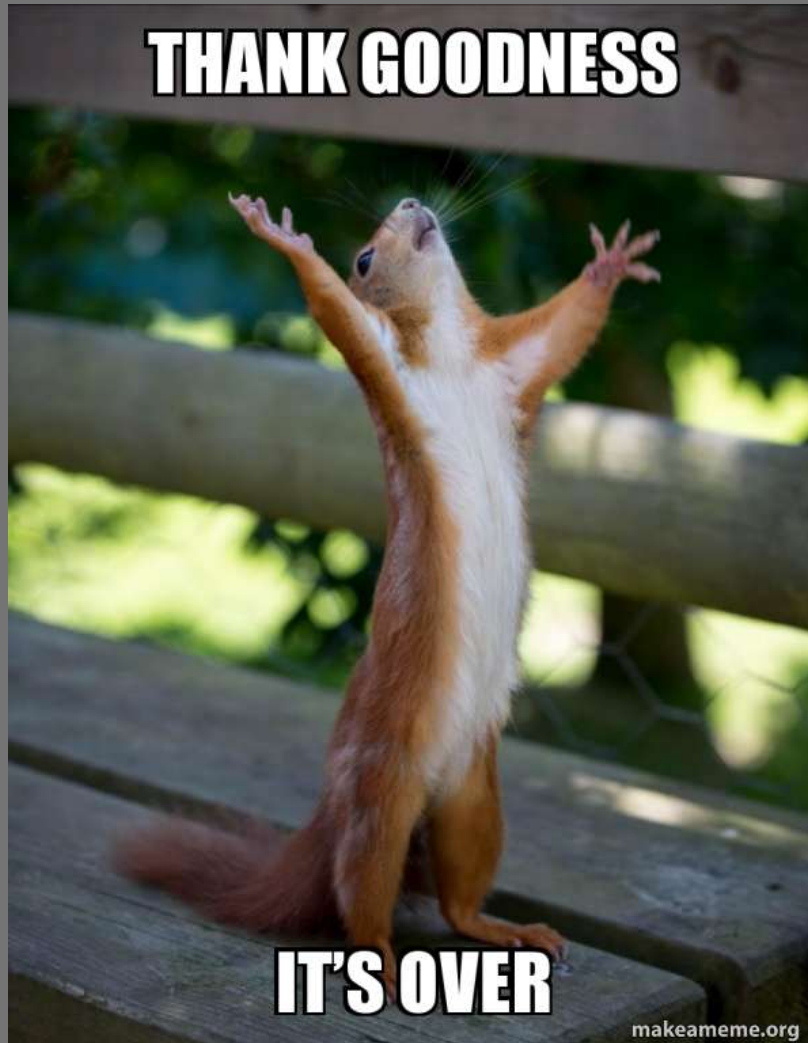
**TO CHIMP
OR NOT TO
CHIMP?**



How to use the Histogram



THANK GOODNESS



IT'S OVER

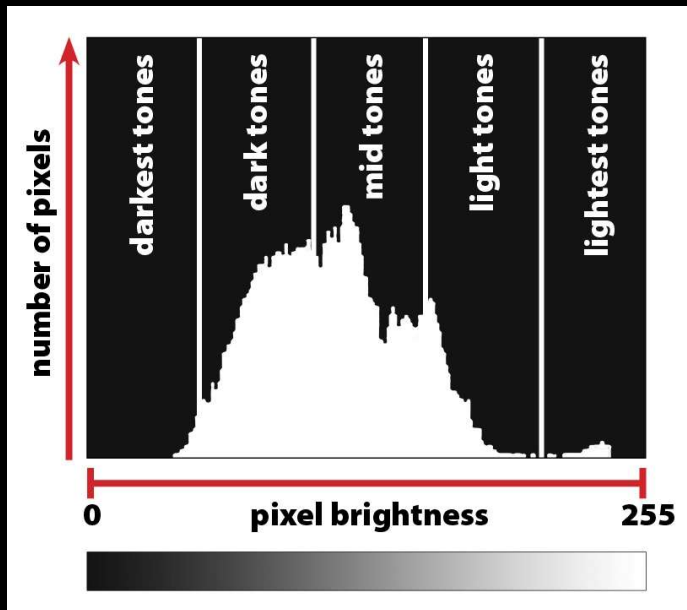
makeameme.org



That's all Folks!

Emergency Slide – if Claude Brings Up RGB Histogram

Reading the post-capture meter



The histogram is the only honest read of what the sensor recorded. But not all histograms are equal.

LUMINANCE HISTOGRAM

A weighted RGB combine. Hides per-channel clipping — a red flower can blow out while luminance looks fine.

RGB HISTOGRAM

Three separate channels. The only reliable indicator for saturated subjects — saturated reds, neon signage, skin in warm light.

JPEG vs. RAW

Most cameras display a histogram derived from the embedded JPEG. RAW headroom is typically 0.5–1.5 stops more than the histogram suggests.

BLINKIES

Highlight warnings are useful but tuned to JPEG. Trust them as an early indicator, not a verdict.



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