

Histograms. What are these?

Almost every digital camera has the ability to display a histogram. A histogram evaluates all bright and dark areas of a captured scene.

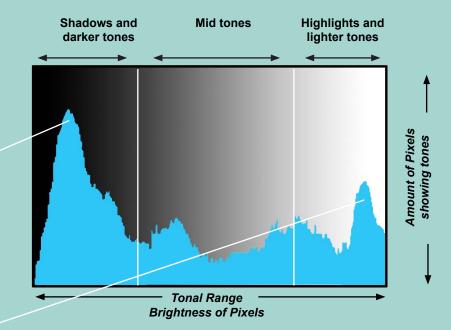
They give you an idea of your exposure accuracy and apart from seeing the reviewed image, it allows you to re-shoot the photo again and expose for either shadow, mid tone or highlight detail.

There is no right or wrong histogram. It simply displays the data taken from the captured photo.

The image below shows a couple against a dark background at their wedding. The histogram (right) shows larger peaked area on the left side, indicating a large amount of darkness in the photo.

The bride's dress also shows a peak at the right hand area of the histogram. There are less mid tones in this photo as indicated in the histogram.







Histograms in Other Programmes

The histogram is also displayed in post production programmes such as Adobe's Lightroom and Photoshop.

The two examples show how the peaks correspond to the actual tones in the photos.

The far right image is over exposed and the bride's dress is completely blown out. The histogram below this image shows a high peak at the highlight end of the display.

The left hand image has been corrected and the resulting histogram indicates a good range of mid tones along with the darker background being dominant.

The highlight areas have retained detail.



