

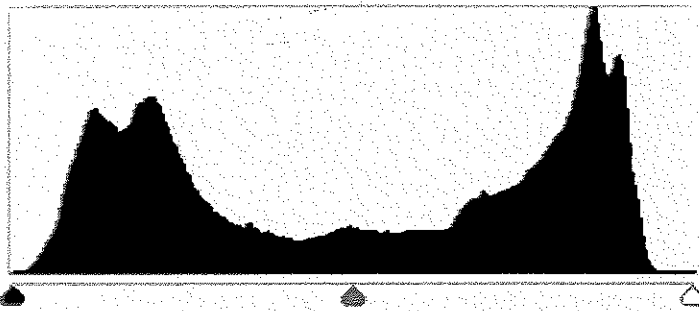
Using Photoshop to Evaluate an Image

The Histogram

A histogram is a graphical display of the distribution of pixels in an image. It shows how many pixels there are at each level of luminosity. A glance at the histogram will tell you whether you need to brighten an image to make better use of the whites, or darken it to get rich blacks in deep shadow areas, or both.

Photoshop has a permanent histogram palette which allows you to view the distribution of pixels for each colour RGB channel, simultaneously.

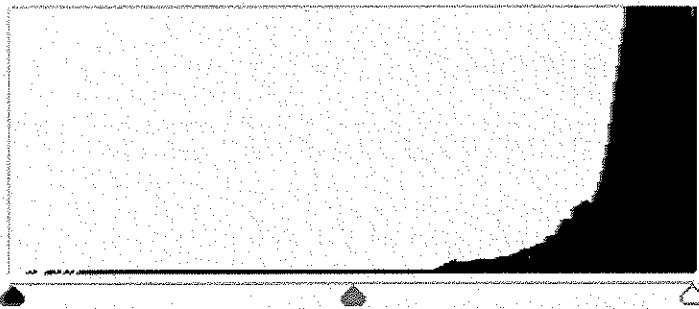
A histogram is also displayed in the **Levels** Dialogue box, the principal tool for managing brightness of images.



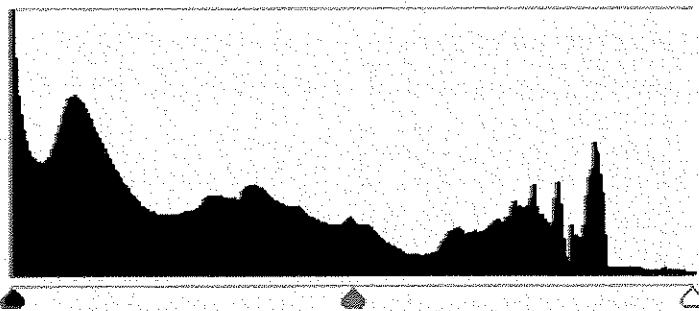
around the dark and light quarter tones but relatively fewer pixels in the middle.

This histogram shows that there are very few pixels that are completely dark (no peak on the left edge). There are very few pixels that are completely white (no peak against the right edge)

This image has a substantial number of dark areas and a substantial number of light pixels concentrated



This image has a lot of pixels concentrated hard up against the right edge – blown out highlights. However it has small numbers of pixels spread all the way from the brighter quarter almost but not quite to the darkest end of the range.



range. There are a few pixels that are white or close to white.

This image has a number of pixels that are completely black – blocked shadows – shown by the spike against the left edge.

There are more pixels in the darker half indicating that this is a generally dark toned image.

There are no large white areas – there are few pixels in the top 15% of the

The first and the third images show that pixels exist throughout the brightness range, and since there are substantial numbers of pixels concentrated at both the dark and the light ends of the range, contrast will be acceptable. The second image is completely over exposed. The pixels that have been blown out are pure white. There is nothing you can do to recover any detail or tonal gradation in the highlights.