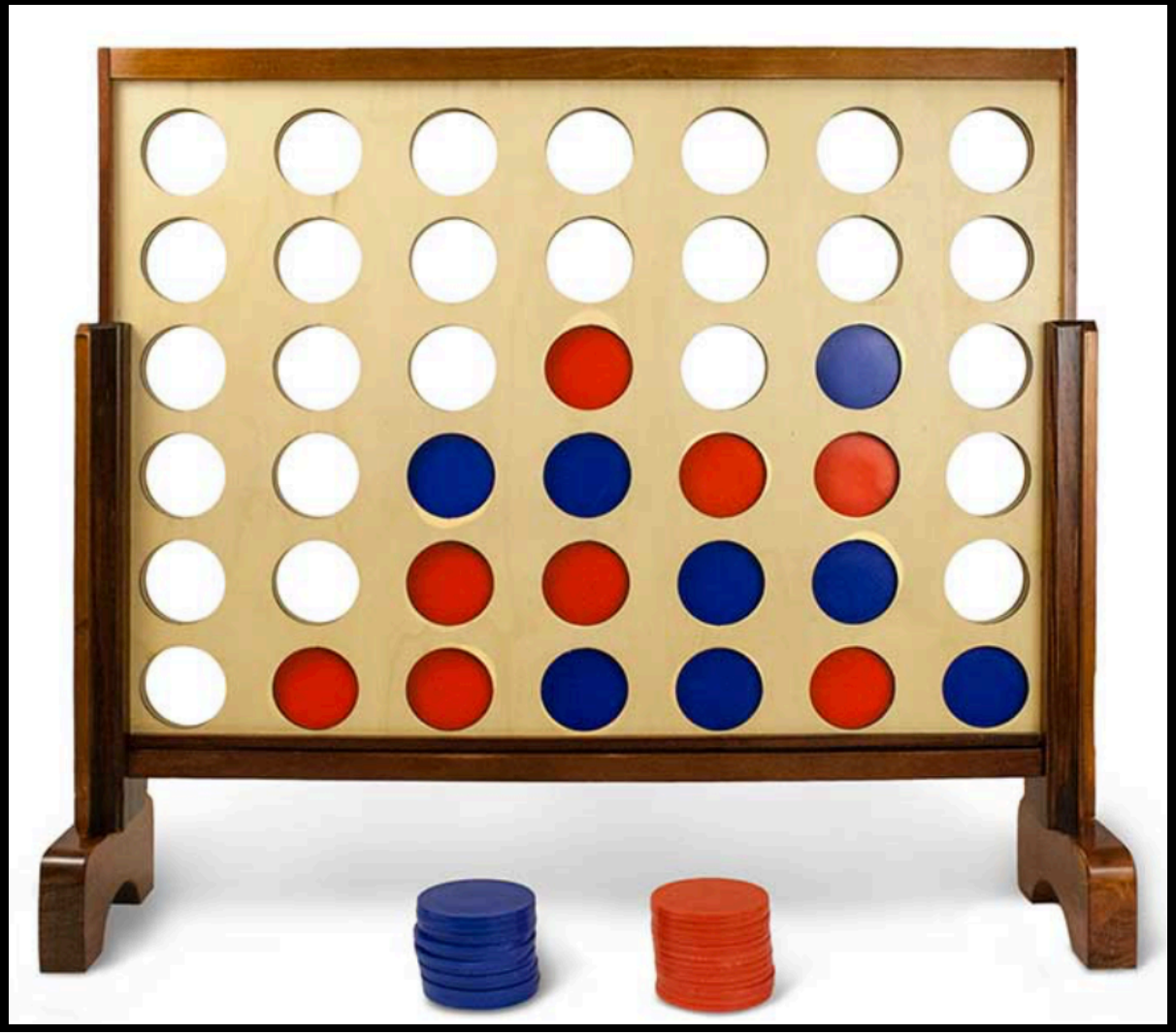
Understanding Histograms

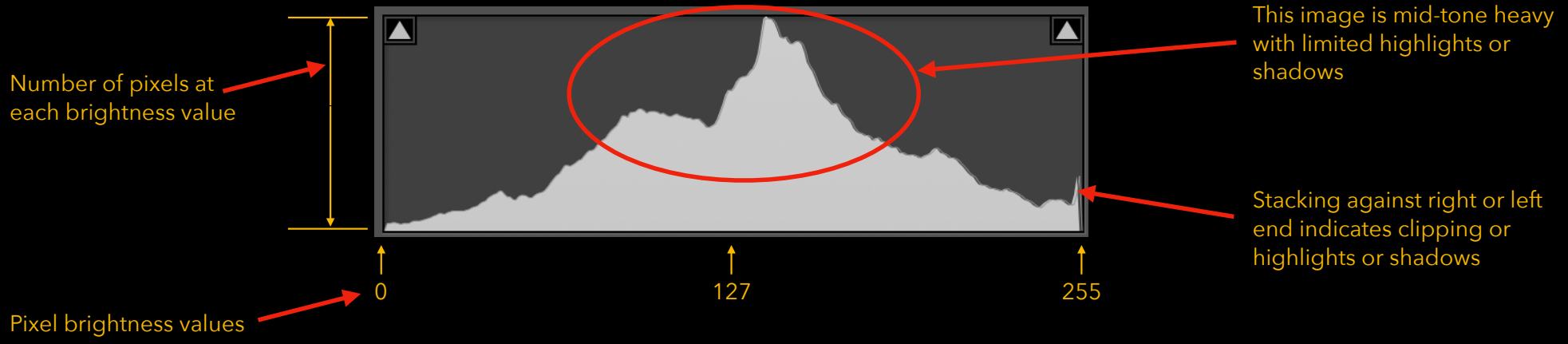
Understanding Histograms

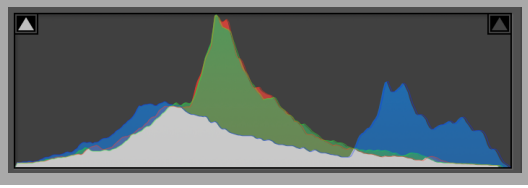


Understanding Histograms

A Histogram is a graph that maps each pixel according to its brightness value from 0 (off) to 255 (full bright). The horizontal axis is divided into 256 sections (0 to 255). Pixels are stacked in each section according to their brightness values. The heights of the stacks indicate the distribution of pixels across shadow, mid-tone and highlight regions. The larger the number of pixels in a section / region, the taller its stack.

It's not important to precisely measure pixel counts. The Histogram is only intended to show relative concentrations of pixels in tonal ranges and to warn against clipping shadows or highlights.

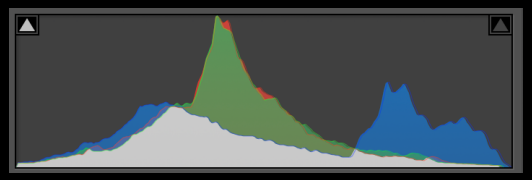


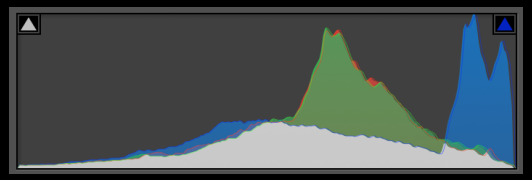


Note: Some Histograms display the pixel distribution of red, green and blue channel separately. Generally, you can ignore the individual channels and evaluate the overal shape of all the channels together.

Reading Histograms

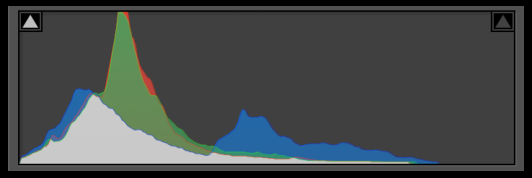
- Evenly exposed (pastoral, cloudy, low light)
- Mid-tone heavy
- Minimal highlights / shadows
- No clipping of highlights / shadows
- Possibly flat image

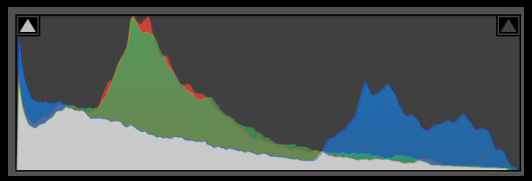




- Upper-mid to light tone heavy
- Bright image with limited shadow tone
- Main highlights clipped (no recovery)
- Overexposed image

- Lower mid- to shadow heavy
- Dark image with no highlights present
- Shadows not clipped
- Underexposed image





- Lower mid- to shadow heavy
- Little or no highlights present
- Shadows clipped (no recovery)
- Underexposed image w/out highlight interest

- Evenly exposed image w/ blown highlights
- Mid-tone heavy
- Very little shadow tone present
- Some highlights clipped (no recovery)

