

The Digital Zone System: Taking Control From Capture To Print



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Synopsis

There is an ongoing debate among photographers whether digital photography processes will ever be able to reach the pinnacle of image quality and tonality achieved by Ansel Adams decades ago. The Digital Zone System (DZS) is an innovative methodology for editing digital images that mimics the Zone System created by Adams. With this book, author Robert Fisher presents a practical guide for editing digital images with a level of control previously unattainable without significant manual work. He walks the reader through the background of Adam's original Zone System and points out similarities to current digital processes including Expose to the Right (ETTR) and high dynamic range imaging (HDRI). Learn to use luminance masks to separate an image into "one-stop" zones of brightness, similar to the zones in Adams's Zone System, that can be worked on individually or in groups. This makes the DZS a powerful tool for converting color images to black and white. You will also gain tremendous control over how color is adjusted in your images by learning to isolate and adjust color in specific targeted areas. These DZS processes are quicker and simpler than the tedious work of using global adjustments and painting in layer masks to isolate the effects of an adjustment layer. In this book, you will learn how to use the Digital Zone System for editing color images, converting images to black and white, and tone mapping HDR images. Also included are brief discussions of color management, setting up Photoshop, printing, and exposure for digital images. The book is richly illustrated with step-by-step screenshots and stunning example images that show the benefits of the Digital Zone System over commonly used digital editing methods. Once mastered, the DZS will allow you to produce a higher level of quality in your images, at a faster pace and with greater ease than ever before.

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Customer Reviews

Review"I know there are people who will absolutely love this degree of control and fine tuning for their image creation..." -Keith Cooper, Northlight Images, link toÂ full review:Â northlight-images.co.uk/article_pages/books/dzs-fisher.html

A Google Hangout about the book,Â youtube.com/watch?v=krEwUNZCltw

So many books on the Zone system, most rightfully targeted on black and white sheet film (where each neg can be exposed AND processed individually to optimize the exposure and print); and most giving an extraordinarily complex description of Adams' methods. Applying the zone system to digital isn't as straightforward as one might like, but Fisher does a fine job of showing where exposure technique for BW film and digital color do -- and don't -- overlap. I've purchased (or read samples) of many current books on zone system/digital and concluded that this book provided the best and clearest explanations and guidance. In addition, there are no pages wasted on bare-bones basic stuff like "what is an f-stop," or "1/2 sec at f8 gives the same exposure as 1/4 sec at f5.6" and so on.

Excellent book. Some may want to read Ansel's series of books to further understand WHY and HOW one can fine tune his/her before pressing the shutter button. But if you have not yet READ and studied your camera manual like the majority of "new photographers" this will be a tuff read for you. Think of your camera as a marine recruit does his rifle. When you know what all the functions and settings can do, with your eyes closed, then you are ready to go to the next level.

As an old zone system user back when I shot film, I was looking for something that would help me adapt it to digital photography. This book does it and does it well. It is well organized, well illustrated, and gives numerous examples to guide the reader through the process. The book is aptly subtitled, "Taking Control from Capture to Print," because, if followed, it gives the user just that - control. I recommend it highly for any serious photographer who uses the digital medium.

While there is some great info, there is almost nothing about how to actually adjust an image using the Zone System.

Extremely well presented, with a wealth of information. If you are serious about learning the zone system as it applies to digital photography, this is a must read.

This book does not help you with applying the zone system while shooting in color, nor while post processing color images. The zone system means knowing which colors fall into which zones. This first step is crucial as it informs all the next steps, but the book doesn't explain this at all. Then the zone system helps us understand what the camera does, when we spot meter off a color (the book does explain that it makes it a zone 5, and explains that whites will be underexposed by 2 stops so we have to overexpose by 2 stops, and the opposite is true for blacks. But no word on what it does to the rest of the colors.) Then the zone system explains that we have the option of remapping the colors before we take the shot, if we want to go brighter or darker for artistic purposes (the book doesn't mention this at all). Lastly, the zone system helps in determining the post processing we want: do we want "correct" tones, or "artistically correct" tones? (again the book doesn't explain this at all). In a nutshell for those unfamiliar with the zone system: it is very helpful in determining correct exposure and artistically correct exposure while shooting and while post processing. Btw, it will by its own not help if the dynamic range of the scene exceeds the dynamic range of your camera. What this book brings to the table is a very thorough explanation on printing, and luminosity masks so that the 10 zones can easily be separated in order to be manipulated separately in PhotoShop. But manipulated into what? Into whatever we want, with no guidance by the author. Armed with knowledge of the theory of the zone system this book does give you, you can search the net for "zone system color", there you will find information on which colors fall into which zones. This information is useful, however it is informal, it is an approximation. I bought this book believing that I would learn as exact as possible which colors belong into which zones. I was led to that belief by the picture on the cover showing various step tones next to the color image, and thought that the author would map the colors into their corresponding zones. He didn't.

Very useful book and an interesting read. Will definitely use the techniques.

This book goes into detail on how to achieve specific outcomes, using the zone system for post processing. It will take some time to really grasp all the potential here. The author has done a good

job organizing info and how to.

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