

Other histogram shapes

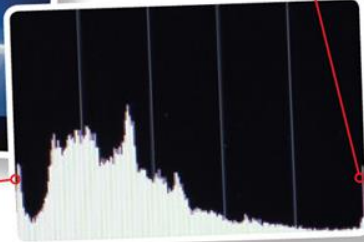
Four graph types that are worth getting to know...

High contrast



Graph squashed up on left – shadows clipped

Graph squashed up on right. Highlights clipped



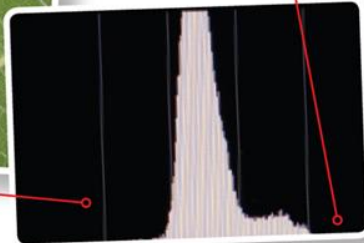
Some scenes have a greater tonal range than your SLR can cope with. A gradient filter, or shooting at a different time, can help reduce the contrast. Or just reshoot so highlights aren't clipped.

Low contrast



No dark shadows

No bright highlights



Some subjects contain no highlights or shadows. Ideally these should be re-exposed so the graph is as far to the right as possible, known as 'exposing to the right'.

White background



High-key subject means no visible shadow values

Huge peak on right matches large expanse of white in image



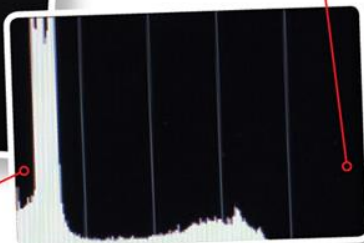
In some shots, it is perfectly acceptable for areas to be burnt out, and recorded in pure white. An extreme example of this is when shooting against a white backdrop in a studio.

Black background



Peak on left matches dark black background

Low-key subject means no visible highlights show on graph



Dark scenes will mean that the graph will peak on the left side. Clipped shadows may not be a problem, if you want some areas of the shot to appear jet black in the image.