

Proof that the Zone System Works

Take a bright white piece of foam core, large sheet of bright white poster board, or the side of a bright white house (not cream colored!) and place it in open shade (or go to the north side of the house on a bright day). It must be not curved, bent, or anything other than flat and 90° to the sky. Guilt trip a friend into helping you by holding their hand flat in one corner, then set up a tripod with your camera on it so the hand fills only 1/4 of the frame. Make an Indicated Meter Reading off the white part (ie, not the shadow between rows of vinyl siding, your friend's hand, or the tape holding your board up) Make the following exposures:

1. What the meter says (This is the Indicated Meter Reading) This will make the wall look like it was originally in **ZONE V**.
2. Add four stops to the original Indicated Meter Reading (MORE TIME or BIGGER (SMALLER NUMBERED) APERTURE, MORE EXPOSURE; 12 clicks) This will make the wall look like it was originally in **ZONE IX**
3. Add three stops to the original Indicated Meter Reading (MORE TIME or BIGGER (SMALLER NUMBERED) APERTURE, MORE EXPOSURE; 9 clicks) This will make the wall look like it was originally in **ZONE VIII**
4. Add two stops to the original Indicated Meter Reading (MORE TIME or BIGGER (SMALLER NUMBERED) APERTURE, MORE EXPOSURE; 6 clicks) This will make the wall look like it was originally in **ZONE VII**
5. Add one stop to the original Indicated Meter Reading (MORE TIME or BIGGER (SMALLER NUMBERED) APERTURE, MORE EXPOSURE; 3 clicks) This will make the wall look like it was originally in **ZONE VI**
6. Original Indicated Meter Reading, From Step 1 **ZONE V**
7. Subtract one stop from the original Indicated Meter Reading (LESS TIME or SMALLER (LARGER NUMBERED) APERTURE, LESS EXPOSURE; 3 clicks) This will make the wall look like it was originally in **ZONE IV**
8. Subtract two stops from the original Indicated Meter Reading (LESS TIME or SMALLER (LARGER NUMBERED) APERTURE, LESS EXPOSURE; 6 clicks) This will make the wall look like it was originally in **ZONE III**

9. Subtract three stops from the original Indicated Meter Reading (LESS TIME or SMALLER (LARGER NUMBERED; 9 clicks) APERTURE, LESS EXPOSURE) This will make the wall look like it was originally in **ZONE II**
10. Subtract four stops from the original Indicated Meter Reading (LESS TIME or SMALLER (LARGER NUMBERED) APERTURE, LESS EXPOSURE; 12 clicks) This will make the wall look like it was originally in **ZONE I**
11. Original Indicated Meter Reading, From Step 1 **ZONE V**

Depending on the brightness of your board or wall, both the board or wall and your friend's hand will look the best using the exposure made metering with Zone IX or Zone VIII (the second and third exposures)

**LIGHT METERS ARE DUMB.
YOU MUST DO THE
THINKING!**

ZONE SYSTEM PROOF NOTE SHEET

Please make sure to fill in each of the blanks, then bring this in for final evaluations.

EXPOSURE
NUMBER

SHUTTER
SPEED

F STOP
(APERTURE)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.
