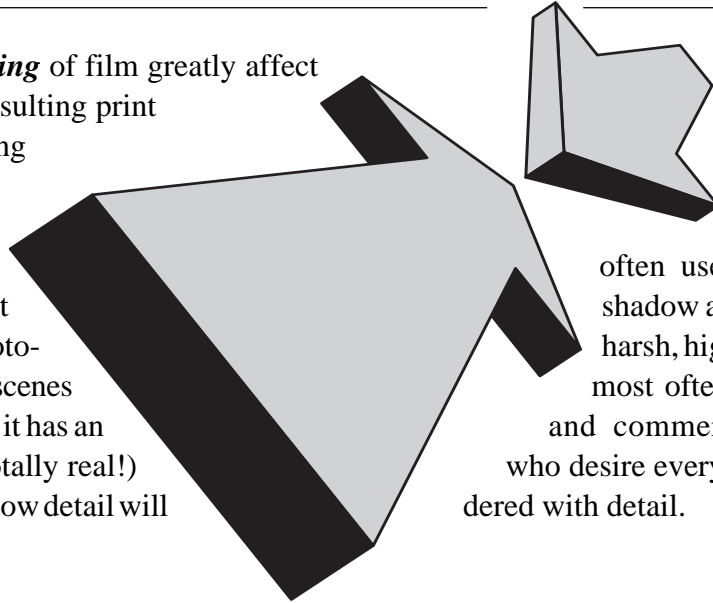


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# Push/Pull Evaluation Exercise

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*Pushing* and *pulling* of film greatly affect film contrast and resulting print appearance. Pushing increases contrast and is often used to “snap up” otherwise flat scenes. It is used also by photo-journalists to record scenes in dim light because it has an apparent (but not totally real!) ASA increase. Shadow detail will



be sacrificed if used to record normal or high contrast range scenes.

Pulling of film is often used to get maximum shadow and highlight detail in harsh, high-contrast light. It is most often used by landscape and commercial photographers who desire every part of a scene rendered with detail.

## Test Summary

Expose one roll of film at the “push” ASA that you found in the previous test to an even-toned surface in one-stop intervals from 6 stops below metered exposure through 5 stops over metered exposure. (Note: If you use an incident light meter, you must use a standard grey card for the test target.) Shoot the remaining frames of any subject, but try to include some high-contrast scenes and some flat (low contrast) scenes. These should also be shot at the “push” ASA/ISO. Develop 150% of normal time, as you did before.

Expose another roll of film at the “pull” ASA that you found in the previous test to an even-toned surface in one-stop intervals from 6 stops below metered exposure through 5 stops over metered exposure. Again, shoot the remaining frames of any subject, but try to include some high-contrast and some flat scenes. This whole roll should be shot at the “pull” ASA/ISO setting found in the previous exercise. Develop 60% of normal (80% if you use T-Max film), as you did before.

Finally, expose a third roll at your normal ASA to the same surface from -6 to +5 from metered. Develop this roll normally.

Make proper proofs of each roll. Compare the range of grey steps to the grey steps made for the “normal” roll.

Make enlargements of 1) a high-contrast scene and 2) a flat scene from the pushed and pulled rolls (total 4 enlargements). Use a grade 2 filter for all enlargements in this test. Identify and compare.

## Notes

As usual, note ASA’s used, indicated meter readings, exposure settings for all step exposures, developer, dilution, time, temperature, paper used, etc. You should be able to recreate or troubleshoot any exercise by following your notes. Draw conclusions about contrast based on the stepped gray-scale. How many stops of scene contrast are recorded in the normal, the pushed, and the pulled rolls? Discuss your evaluation. Examine the differences between the enlargements and discuss.