CALIBRATION
CALIBRATING YOUR METER TO YOUR CAMERA

This is a step by step procedure to calibrate your meter to your camera. The best way to perform this test is in an indoor environment with studio lights so you can lock down the exposure and the color temperature of the light source.

1. Set your meter and camera to the same ISO setting.

2. Set your light or lights so that the exposure value of the Zebra card is an even value such as f5.6 or f8, metering at the center of the card.

3. Do a custom white balance before making any exposures.

4. Make your first exposure at the selected f/stop.

5. Evaluate the histogram for correct exposure using the histogram pallet in Photoshop.

Set the Channel mode to RGB
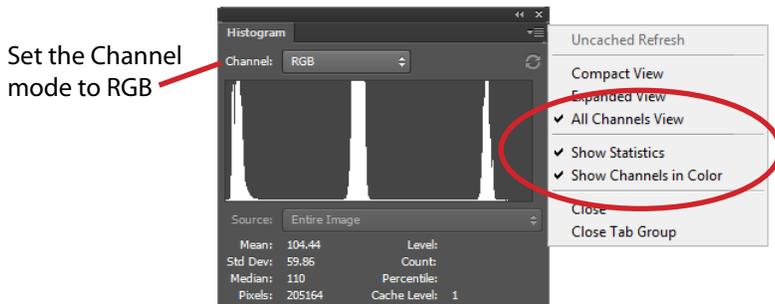
On the histogram flyout menu, make sure the 3 circled items are checked.
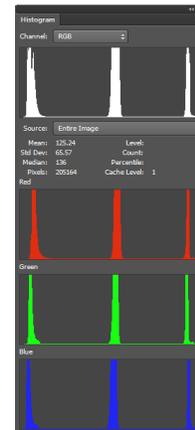
Viewing the channels in color is a great way to evaluate your white balance. The spikes on each of the 3 colors will line up when the white balance is neutral.

Use the marquee tool to select center area for evaluation as shown by the red box above.
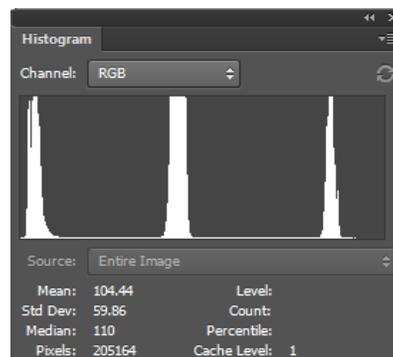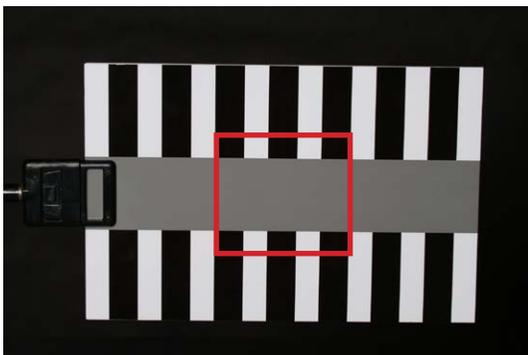
All 3 spikes are shifted to the left indicating underexposure.

6. Since the last image was under exposed, we need to increase the exposure on the card. Don't change any camera settings - just do this by increasing the power of the flash or moving it closer. You don't need to re-meter, just estimate the amount of increase in exposure. Take another exposure.

7. Evaluate the histogram in Photoshop for proper exposure.
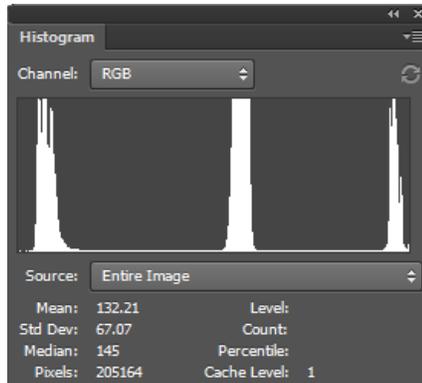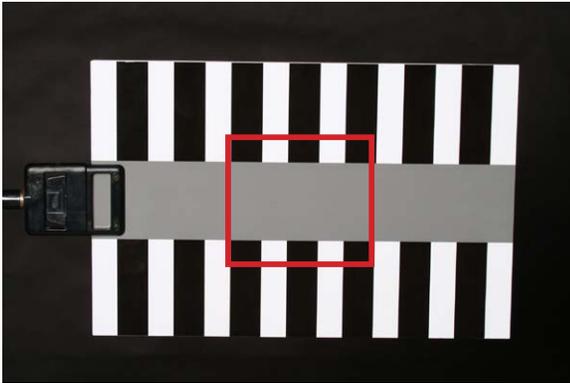
All 3 spikes are shifted to the right indicating overexposure.

8. Decrease the amount of exposure on the card and take another exposure. *Do not change any settings on the camera.*
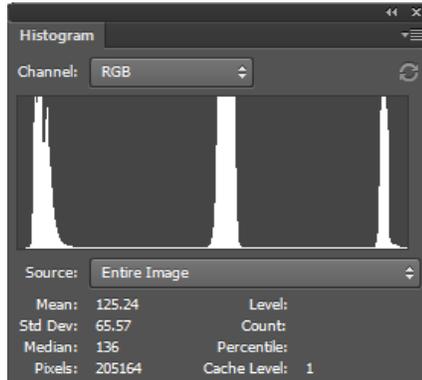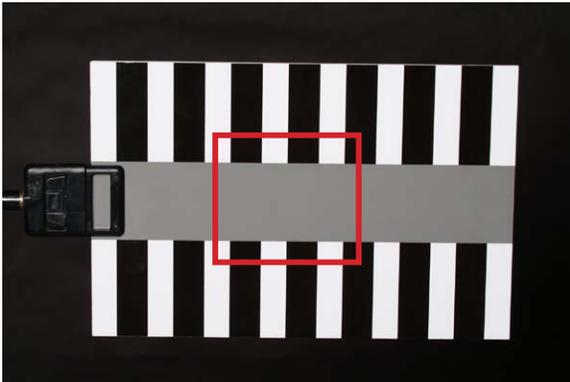
Perfect exposure is determined by the left hand spike and the right hand spike being an equal distance from the outside edge of the histogram. The left side represents 0 and the right side 255.

Now you can calibrate the meter to the camera.

10. Re-meter the new light value at the center of the Zebra card.

11. Ajust the sensitivity of the meter to match the fstop of the lens. (in this case f 8) Refer to the owner's manual for your meter for instructions.

Now the meter is calibrated to the camera.