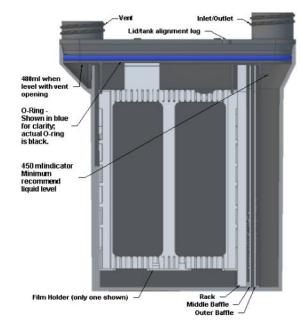
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#### Chemistry

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#### Film

Fomapan 100; 400 Shanghai 100

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# ZoneView 4



from Stearman Press llc

### **User's Guide**



Helping you visualize before you click!

**Introduction:** The ZoneView is a simple aid to help you visualize the image before you click the shutter!

Many photographers, (including Ansel Adams), have recommended using a black card with a rectangular cutout to help with composition. Ansel also carried a viewing filter (typically a Wratten #90) to help visualize the response of black and white film.

The ZoneView is an all in one solution that slips into a shirt pocket. The filter provides a spectral response similar to the #90 and the cutout matches the height:width ratio of  $4'' \times 5''$  sheet film.

**Calibration:** The ZoneView never needs calibration! However, since everyone's vision is unique, the photographer probably does...

**Getting started:** Find a scene with a variety of colors, bright highlights and deep shadows. Set up your favorite camera/lens combination on a tripod and compose a photo.

**Composition:** Now, look through the ZoneView and adjust the distance between the card and your eye such that the view in the cutout matches the view in your camera.

The Zone View window will provide approximately a 50° angle of view when held about 1" in front of your eye.

(Many people find that the end of their nose is just about the right distance.) Don't worry about getting it perfect, just get it close.

Here's a simple chart showing the approximate focal length of the lens needed to obtain a 50° AOV for various film formats. Remember, it's just a guide, your results may vary.

Format	Lens focal length for 50° AOV (mm)
35mm	44
120 (6x7)	90
4x5	165
8x10	320

Note that these calculations are based on the *diagonal* measurement of the film. Also, other formats have a height:width ratio different than 4x5, you'll have to compensate for the difference in height.

For longer lenses, just hold the ZoneView further away. For wide angle lenses... well, you'll have to use your imagination. (First, the cutout isn't wide enough. Even if it was, you'd have to shift your eye from side to side to take in the scene, awkward at best.)

Anyway, with a little practice, you can reproduce the proper position from memory, allowing you to quickly visualize the composition without setting up your camera.

**Black and White Visualization:** Now take a photo using your favorite film. Process the film normally and make a normal print (whatever *normal* is to you). You'll probably want to make it at least a 5x7 or even an 8x10.

Return to the location where you took the photo, preferably in similar lighting conditions as when the photo was taken.

View the scene through the ZoneView and compare it to your print. Study how the colors in the real scene are shifted to shades of gray on your print. Likewise, consider how the different brightness zones appear on the print.

Don't get too fanatical! The ZoneView is just a tool and will require some practice.

The goal of this exercise is to teach you to use the ZoneView to visualize how the film sees the world. It's up to you to figure out what impact that has on your exposures, processing and printing. So don't be afraid to experiment and develop your own techniques.

**Lanyards:** If you'd like to attach a lanyard, just punch a hole in one end of the ZoneView using a heavy duty paper punch.

**Care and Cleaning:** The ZoneView body is made of heavy cardboard with water resistant coating. You can clean it with a *barely* damp cloth.

To clean the viewing window, place the ZoneView on a thick, soft towel on a flat surface (this provides support to the filter material.) Gently clean the window with a cotton swap dampened with lens cleaner.

**Disclaimers:** The ZoneView is an inexpensive tool intended to help you visualize the photograph before shooting it. It will not instantly make you the world's greatest photographer. As with any tool, it will require practice to master, but once mastered, it can make you a better photographer.

Handle with care. To keep the cost down, the frame is made of cardboard and the filter material is plastic. It's designed to last for months, maybe even years, if you're careful with it.

