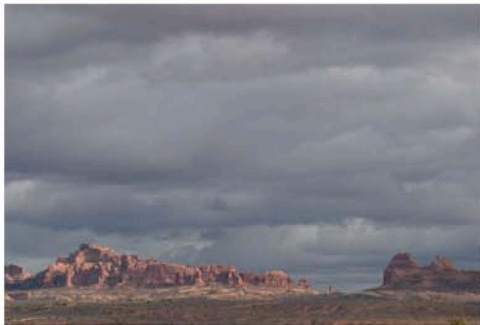


## Flat Image Enhancement Tutorial

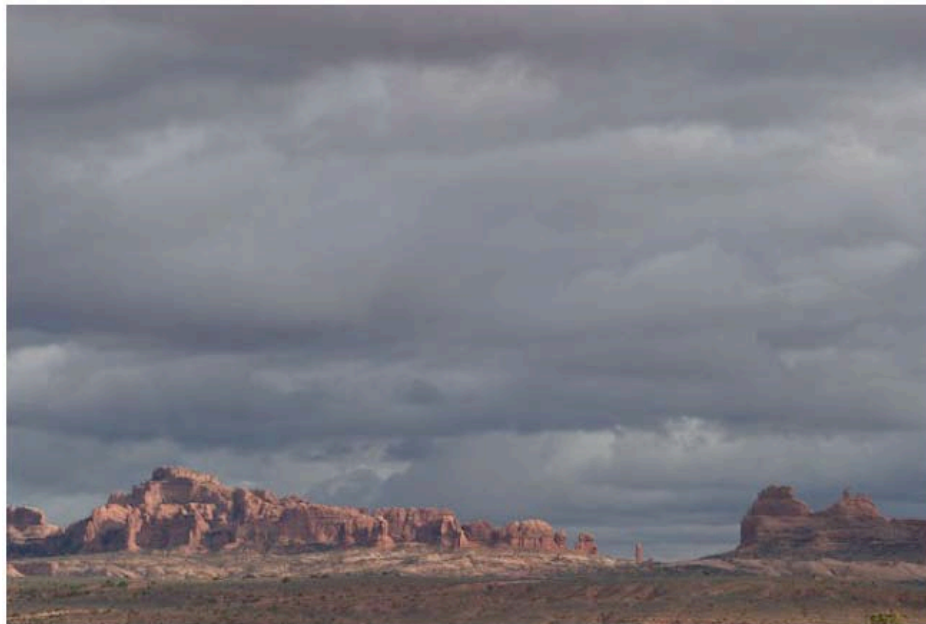


Before



After

This landscape image looks flat but can be dramatically enhanced in LightZone by manipulating its tonal range.



Original Image

Our objective is to enhance the image by increasing its global and local contrast, conquering the image flatness.

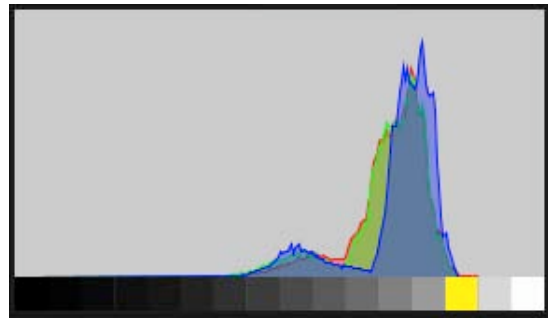
This tutorial demonstrates the use of the ZoneMapper, one of LightZone's core tonality control tools.

First, we switch to the *Histogram* tab in the upper right corner of the editor.

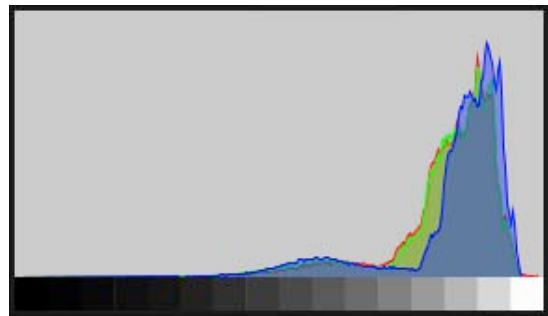
Looking at the histogram, we see that the brightness levels can be expanded. This is accomplished by applying a ZoneMapper tool and pushing the highlights to the right and the shadows to the left.

The highlights segment is found by hovering the cursor over the ZoneMapper until the yellow marker (at the bottom of the histogram) is closer to the right edge of the histogram. We then push that zone upwards.

The same can be done to darken the shadows by pushing the left edge of the histogram to the left.



The resulting histogram is much broader, describing an image with a larger global contrast.

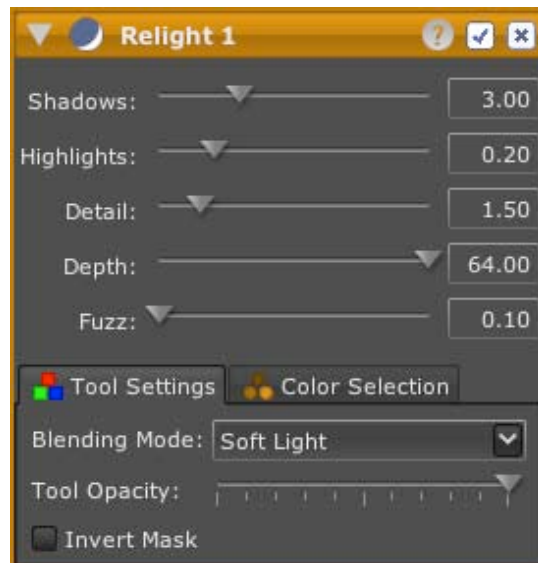




Intermediate Image

This intermediate image already shows a much wider tonal range and we can enhance the image further using just the ZoneMapper tool for additional local contrast adjustments.

But we are going to use the Relight tool to get us closer to our goal. Using the Relight Tool with the blend mode set to *Soft Light* further enhances the global and local contrast of the image. Relight tames the images dynamic range and enhances detail.



Finally, to boost up the color saturation we apply the Hue/Saturation Tool and raise the saturation level to 40.



The final image jumps from the screen with a wide tonal range and depth.



Final Image

Note: Photograph utilized in this tutorial is used with permission. Copyright 2006, Uwe Steinmuller.