

the assigned survey of Southeastern Alaska. Thus, in one season a gigantic project, planned to extend into three separate photographic seasons, was completed by United States Navy Air Force, Patrol Squadron FOUR which had never before used an aerial camera.

A STANDARDIZED TONE SCALE AS AN AID IN PHOTO INTERPRETATION

Robert E. Daehn, Editorial Assistant, A. J. Nystrom & Co.

IN dealing with stereo vision of aerial photographs, whether as photo interpreter or photogrammetrist, a recognition key is held to be of paramount value. The key is usually made up of six fundamental factors: tone; texture; pattern; distribution; stereo appearance; and specific types. All of these factors excepting tone can be dealt with in concrete terminology. In the past, tone has been classified by words of such variable meaning as dark, medium or light. It is

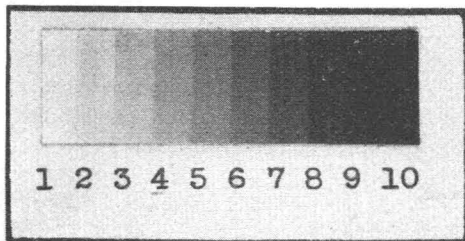


FIG. 1. Standard numbering from 1 to 10, progressing from white (1) to black (10).

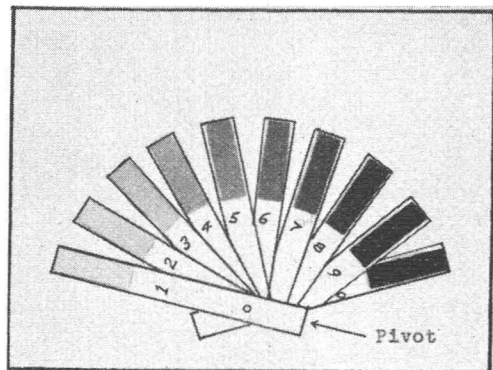


FIG. 2. Refinement of principle for use under a stereoscope.

obvious that what might be medium tone to one observer would not necessarily be so considered by a second observer.

By the substitution of the standard gray tone scale,¹ with numerical values of from one to ten, the haphazard guess work may be removed from tone classification. The author has used with success a contact print of a standard negative exposure guide found in most home darkrooms and procurable at a nominal cost from any good photo equipment dealer. Figure 1 shows such a print with the standard numbering from 1 to 10 progressing from white (1) to black (10).

A refinement of the above principle for use under a stereoscope is shown in figure 2. If the ten degrees of tone quality are cut apart and mounted on separate strips of light cardboard, comparison under a stereoscope is facilitated. If the ends are mounted on a pivot, such as a brass paper fastener, a handy tool is ever present that should become standard equipment with the aerial photo interpreter.

¹ TM 5-245 Map Reproduction in the Field, U. S. Government Printing Office, May 1946, pages 59 and 62.