

24a

Photogravure of the grayscale exposed four different times.

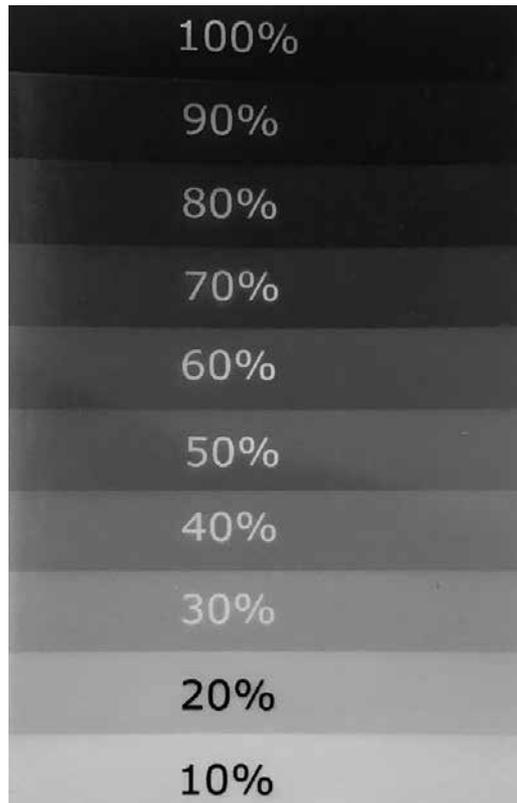
STEP 5:

The final calibration of the photogravure

Now that you have found the optimal exposure times, it is time to do the final test. As a starting point use a perfect positive with as many gray tones as possible. For this purpose, I will use the photo "Glyptoteket," (**ill. 25**), which I have supplied with two grayscale bars, to give a better overview to the reproduction of the different shades of gray in the image.

You can download the image for your calibration tests from my website under the item "Downloads". You can also copy a representative part of one of your own photos and paste it between the grayscale bars in Photoshop, or simply download the grayscale and paste it into you own image.

In **ill. 25a** on **page 52** you can see the result of my final test of a part of my image "Glyptoteket" with the grayscales. **ill. 25b** shows the photogravure in its full size. After printing the photogravure let it dry completely and compare the original image on the screen with the print.



24b

Compare the intaglio print (**ill. 24a**) with the positive here and decide the optimal exposure time.

➔ If your positive prints too dark, it must be exposed a little longer and if it prints too bright, it needs a shorter exposure time.



Once you have found the final exposure time, it will be the one that applies to the set-up you will use in the future. If the image does not appear as you would like it to be, it is probably not the exposure time you need to adjust, more likely you need to adjust the midrange slider as described in step 4 on page 27. If you are still not satisfied, you can choose to start over again and fine-tune the Curves further with new Input/Output values. Call your tests "PHP engraving test 1, 2, 3, etc." and save the curve settings so you can "load" them when needed. Again, once you have found your favorite setting, then this is the one you should use as a starting point in the future.

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You can download this positive from my website and use it for your calibration tests.

25a

Here is the printed test version of the photogravure "Glyptoteket" from the positive **ill. 5, page 51**. The perfect separation of the tones in the reproduction of the gray tone scales shows that the image is exposed for the optimal time. A longer exposure time would mean an inferior tone separation in the brightest areas, while a shorter exposure time would result in an inferior separation in the darkest areas.



25_b

Here is the final version of the photogravure "Glyptoteket", Copenhagen 2019 without the grayscales. For aesthetic reasons I have chosen to increase the contrast in the positive as compared to the gray tone scales in **ill. 25a**. This correction does not affect the tonal range.

