

Causes of Flat Negatives:

1. Flat scene
2. Flat lighting
3. Under development
4. Fast film
5. Soft developer
6. Insufficient agitation in developer

Some Solutions for flat negatives:

1. Contrast filters on taking lens
2. Less exposure coupled with longer development
3. Slower film
4. More active developer
5. More agitation during development
6. Develop at higher temperature

Developer Activity:

- D-23 + water bath (Softest)
D-23
D-76 1+3
D-76 1+1
HC 110 1+15
D-76 Straight
HC 110 dilution B (1+7)
HC 110 dilution A (1+3) (Most active)

Note that these are only three of the many developers which are available.

Printing flat negatives:

1. Use higher contrast paper or printing filter
2. More active print developer
3. Split filter printing
4. Condenser enlarger
5. Less exposure plus longer development

What kinds of scenes may appear contrasty when, in fact, they may be flat?

1. Desert scenes
2. Beaches, except for harsh shadows
3. Distant landscapes
4. Most scenes on cloudy days
5. Portraits which are not flatly lit.

Some general comments concerning a photographic palette:

1. After you have used your first box of 100 sheets of film, it may be time to begin to learning the traits of a different film in order to expand your palette. Obtain 25 sheets of the slowest film you can find and, following the manufacturer's recommendation for development, use it. You will probably find you need to use an EI 1/3 stop slower than the recommended one.
2. Experiment by making two exposures of the same scene, one with the fast film and one with the slow one. Print them and see which suits you best.
3. The next step is to try each film with a different developer, or developer dilution.
4. It does not take a lot of this type of experimenting to discover that you have built quite a diverse palette which is capable of handling most situations.