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Clouds Second

For my second clouds image, I wanted to capture something with more color, and more clear cloud definitions, rather than the dark and blending tones of my first. I saw these clouds over US 36, and immediately found the bright blue sky behind this blanket of Stratocumulus eye-catching. This image was taken on an relatively clear afternoon, save for these cloud bands, heading east towards Denver on March 22, 2018 (stopped in traffic near Federal Blvd).



Figure 1: Final Image

With very little wind below 5000m (0-30 kts.), and nothing in the way of weather systems, the standing wave clouds from the mountains were likely able to propagate

quite a ways before dispersing into the large bands of blankets that were visible. This was one of several, and continued well beyond the photo, with intermittent patches of bright blue as pictured. There were also some possible cirrostratus clouds in the bottom right. This was a part of a larger structure, so it isn't clear if it is the tailings of a lower Stratocumulus.

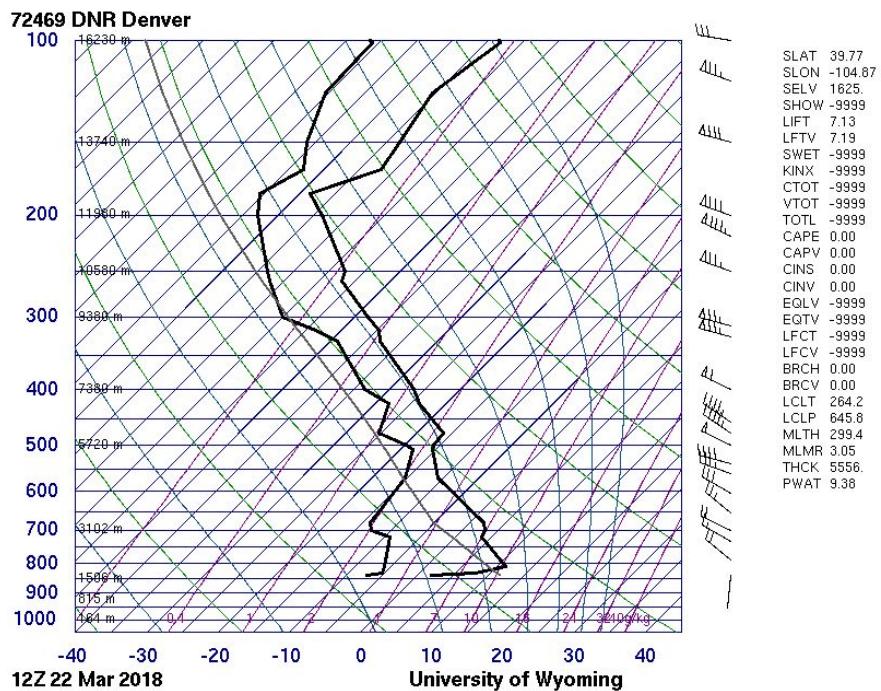


Figure 2: SKEW-T

The SKEW-T is very compact, which indicates that the system was not undergoing significant change over time, and shows a stable atmosphere with fairly uniform, low speed winds. Since the image was taken close to Denver, and only a few hours later. It was also quite warm this afternoon (mid 70's, I believe).

Again, I did not have my camera with me. This was taken on a Samsung S8 through a relatively clean windshield, an ISO of 50 and shutter speed of 1/5504 s. The sun was nearly overhead, as it was midday. It would have been nice to have captured this from a more clear vantage point, with an actual camera, as the depth and texture in the clouds is part of what I most liked in person.

I made some changes to the photo, which I like and dislike. I cropped out the road and car ahead, as that's not great subject matter, then removed a small streetlight near the bottom. I really like the singular streetlight, as it stands out and opens it up for interpretation. I also increased the brightness and saturation, which I will likely tone down somewhat, as it removes much of the detail from the clouds, and washes out some of the blue. If I were to take another cloud image, I definitely want to use my actual camera, as I keep being disappointed that the images are not the real thing. Though, i suppose that will always be the case.