

FUJIFILM
X
SERIES



SEE THE WORLD IN
BLACK & WHITE

WITH FUJIFILM X SERIES



TIME TO STIR THE GRAY MATTER

Many of the greatest photographs ever taken were shot in black & white. Ansel Adams, Paul Strand, Walker Evans and Margaret Bourke-White, to name but a few, were all masters of the color-free medium and their images are testimony to its inherent beauty and timeless qualities. While most of us now capture images in color, there is still a place in the world for black & white (or monochrome) imagery, and FUJIFILM X Series cameras are well equipped to enable you to capture the world in a million shades of gray.

Stripping an image of its color helps you concentrate on the more basic elements of composition – like shape, line and form. In black & white, tone, texture and lighting become even more important, so you'll need to seek-out subjects and situations that reflect this. And when you're photographing people, black & white can be a great choice to emphasize emotion, which is why it's regularly used by wedding, street and documentary photographers.

Rather than dismissing black & white photography as an outdated medium, FUJIFILM X Series cameras embrace it with features that not only help you 'see' in monochrome, but also mean you get the very best results with minimal hassle.

In this booklet, these features are explored in depth, and lots of hints and tips to help you create superb mono masterpieces of your own are provided.



MONOCHROME MARVELS

The good news is all FUJIFILM X Series cameras are suitable for great black & white images, sharing a selection of common features that make it simple to shoot in monochrome. Models purely with an electronic viewfinder (EVF) will preview the image in black & white, which may make it easier to see which subjects work best, while others may prefer to work with a hybrid viewfinder. And don't forget the GFX 50S, which brings superb quality mono to medium format.



X-T2

A great all-around tool, the FUJIFILM X-T2 is an ideal choice for the black & white photographer who likes to shoot a variety of different images. The lightning-fast autofocus system makes it easy to capture both moving and static subjects, while the eight monochrome Film Simulation modes, which include the latest ACROS option, give plenty of scope. The X-T2 also offers the Grain Effect mode, which has two strength levels to give images a film-like look. This works especially well on black & white images.

WHY IT'S IDEAL FOR MONOCHROME:

- Large electronic viewfinder
- ACROS Film Simulation mode for great quality results
- Grain Effect function
- Suitable for a wide range of subjects

X100F

The ultimate go-anywhere compact, the X100F is perfect for photographers who don't like to leave home without a camera. Small and pocketable, it's well suited to street photography or for keeping a low profile at weddings and other social events. Like the other models in the X Series lineup, there's a full range of black & white shooting options, plus the Advanced Hybrid viewfinder means you can choose to shoot with either the electronic finder to see in mono, or the optical finder to compose in color.



WHY IT'S IDEAL FOR MONOCHROME:

- Advanced Hybrid viewfinder
- Compact and lightweight; great for street photography
- ACROS Film Simulation mode for great quality results
- High-quality fixed wide-angle lens



X-Pro2

Like the X100F but with the added flexibility of interchangeable lenses, the X-Pro2 has an Advanced Hybrid viewfinder for multiple compositional options. The full suite of Film Simulation options makes it easy to capture a variety of black & white effects, plus there's the Grain Effect mode and – just as with other X Series models – the ability to change the strength of highlights and shadows. This is invaluable for mono work, enabling you to tailor the camera to deliver perfect results no matter what the subject or lighting conditions.

WHY IT'S IDEAL FOR MONOCHROME:

- 24.3-megapixel sensor
- ACROS Film Simulation mode for great quality results
- Discreet; ideal for candids and wedding work
- Highlight and shadow controls



ORIGINAL COLOR



ACROS



ACROS + YELLOW



ACROS + GREEN



ACROS + RED



MONOCHROME



MONOCHROME + YELLOW



MONOCHROME + GREEN



MONOCHROME + RED



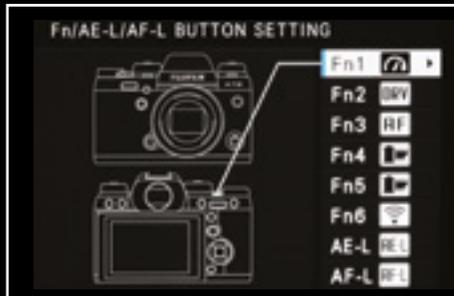
SEPIA

USING BLACK & WHITE FILM SIMULATION MODES

One of the easiest ways to start shooting black & white images with your FUJIFILM X Series camera is to use the Film Simulation modes. There are eight black & white options available, plus an antique brown Sepia option, all of which are accessed via the Film Simulation menu.

X Series cameras offer a choice of Monochrome or ACROS, with ACROS offering greater tonal variety and improved sharpness. Both options can be used 'as is' or with a Yellow, Green or Red filter effect that mimicks the effect of a colored filter on the camera's lens.

Choose the filterless option for general image capture, or pick Monochrome or ACROS with a Yellow filter to subtly darken skies in landscape photography and improve skin tones in portraits. The Green filter boosts foliage in landscape images, while Red delivers the most dramatic effects, boosting contrast for dark skies with fluffy white clouds.



TRY THIS ASSIGN A BUTTON

You don't need to delve through menus to access the Film Simulation modes. By default, the left quadrant button on the back of the camera provides easy access – or press the Q button to access the Q menu. You can also assign a specific button.

To do this, press and hold the DISP/BACK button until the Button setting option appears on the LCD. Use the graphic to choose the button you wish to assign, press the right quadrant button and select Film Simulation. Finally, press the MENU/OK button to confirm your choice.

CREATE MONO MASTERPIECES IN CAMERA

If you prefer to shoot using the RAW file format, it's possible to change the image to black & white and add the Grain Effect, even if you've captured the original in color. This is done with X Series cameras using the in-camera RAW processing feature, accessed by pressing the MENU/OK button during image playback. Just follow this simple process.



1 Take a selection of shots and hit the Playback button to review them. Now press the MENU/OK button and choose RAW Conversion from the drop-down menu. A thumbnail of the image appears on the rear LCD.

2 Choose the Film Simulation options and select the black & white simulation of your choice. Press OK and, if you wish, add in the Grain Effect strength. Make any other changes through the other menu options.

3 Once you're happy with the look of the image, press the Q button to apply the changes. The camera will process the image and then give the option to store it as a separate JPEG – the original file is not affected.



TRY THIS

SHOOT A DIFFERENT FORMAT

Many of the great black & white images were shot using the square image format. This is easy to replicate using your FUJIFILM X Series camera. To choose it, press the Menu button, then select Image Size in the Image Quality Setting menu and then scroll down to the 1:1 setting. The rear screen and viewfinder are then masked to the square shape to aid composition.

ADVANCED FILTER OPTIONS

Along with Film Simulation modes, FUJIFILM X Series cameras also offer a series of Advanced Filters, which include the Partial Color option. Here, the camera picks out one color and changes all the others to black & white. This isn't necessarily one for serious black & white photographers, but can be great fun to try out! Images using Advanced Filters are only saved as JPEGs.



FINE TUNE YOUR MONOCHROME IMAGES

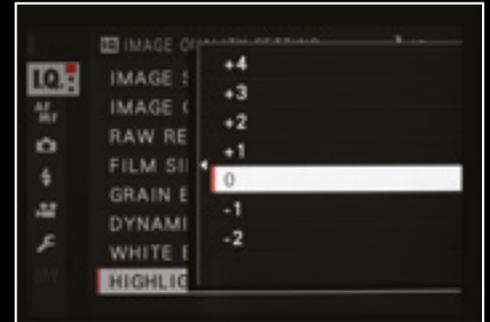
Arguably one of the real benefits of the X Series is the degree of fine-tuning control the models offer prior to image capture. As any experienced photographer will tell you, it's much better to get the image right in camera rather than trying to change it afterwards on the computer. With this in mind, X Series models offer two features that are available for shooting in color but are suitable for shooting in black & white:



GRAIN EFFECT

Accessed through the Image Quality Setting menu, Grain Effect does exactly what it suggests: adds grain to your images. This isn't to be confused with digital noise that appears when a high ISO is used; instead Grain Effect gives shots a film-like look. There are three options: Off, Weak and Strong. Try them to see which one suits your style best.

EXAMPLE IMAGE



TONE CONTROL

Available through the Image Quality Setting menu, FUJIFILM X Series cameras offer users the capability to control Highlight and Shadow tones. You may wish to boost or mute particular tones so the resulting images more accurately represent the scene as you see it. The key to this function is to experiment to see which settings suit your style the best.

TRY THIS CREATE A CUSTOM MODE



If you use your camera's Q Menu it's possible to set up a custom function with specific Film Simulation modes, Highlight and Shadow tones and more presets. The number of custom functions available varies from model to model. They can help greatly in speeding up your shooting when you want to give your images a trademark look you've spent time discovering.

PERFECT SUBJECTS TO HELP YOU MASTER MONOCHROME



LANDSCAPES

Great monochrome landscapes aren't simply a case of turning up and switching the color off. If anything, you need to work harder. A clear blue sky, for example, won't translate well to monochrome, so you need some cloud detail to add interest. Foregrounds should contain textural contrast to add dimensionality. Shooting a landscape with a strong neutral density filter is definitely one to try in monochrome as it avoids any color cast issues that you may have with shooting color. Try this technique on skies during a windy day, or when you're near moving water, such as at the coast or a river. In all cases, try the different filtered Film Simulation options to make sure you maximize the tones.

BUILDINGS

There's a whole range of images you can take when it comes to black & white photographs of buildings.

Try general street scenes, especially in low light and nighttime conditions. With the scene stripped of color, you are free to concentrate on highlight and shadow areas. If you live in a location where you can get up high, say a hill in the suburbs, skylines look great in monochrome. Then when you get back down to earth, fit a telephoto lens and pick out details on buildings. Both modern and older buildings are great for details. Experiment with different settings with the Highlight and Shadow tone options to make sure you get detail in all the right places.



WEDDINGS

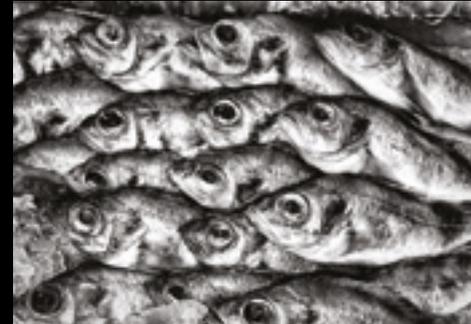


Generally speaking, weddings represent a huge outpouring of emotion, and black & white imagery is the perfect way to capture it. Before you start to photograph people, though, make sure you keep an eye out for details – the dress, shoes, table decorations, everything that many other people will forget to photograph. Then concentrate on the situations where people are showing emotions: the ceremony, the bride and groom meeting friends and family for the first time afterwards and, of course, the speeches. There's black & white gold to be found, make sure you seek it out!

STREET

Candid and street images instantly lend themselves to black & white photography as they add a timeless, documentary feel to your shots. Using an X Series camera with a hybrid viewfinder can be a real asset as subjects often don't realize you're taking their photograph. Alternatively, if you have a model with a tilting rear screen, use this to shoot from the hip. The electronic shutter enables you to shoot near silence, too. Pick your subjects carefully and if someone objects to you taking a shot, don't argue. Just move on.

For the less confident, look for street details such as road signs, reflections and street furniture.



CLOSE-UPS

Great mono close-ups are all about lighting and texture. Generally speaking, softer light works on more curvaceous subjects, while harsher light is better for harder-edged ones. There are always exceptions, though. Study your subject and pick out shapes that make for interesting compositions. Look for naturally occurring patterns and don't be afraid to make the most of the X-Trans sensor in the latest X Series models by cropping in on images during post-production for even more impact.

PORTRAITS

Give images of friends and family a classic and timeless look by photographing them in black & white. Make sure that clothing matches the mood, so plain clothes without logos are the order of the day as they'll prevent the images dating. If you're feeling more creative, try bold and abstract compositions like the one you see here, and don't limit black & white to just people – canine and feline friends look great in monochrome, too! Switch on Face/Eye Detection autofocus to ensure pin-sharp focus on every shot and consider using the Right/Left Eye Priority option if you're going in close.



ABSTRACTS

Not to be confused with close-ups, any subject matter can be turned into an abstract image, especially when the color is taken out of it. Buildings and other manmade structures offer plenty of options, but there's also abstract potential in nature and in portraiture. Often, the abstract part of the shot can come from how you take a meter reading. Selecting the spot metering option and exposing for a highlight area, for example, can cast other parts of the frame into the deep shadow, which can enhance the abstract feel.

Start looking at the world around you and you'll be amazed by what you can turn into an abstract photograph!





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