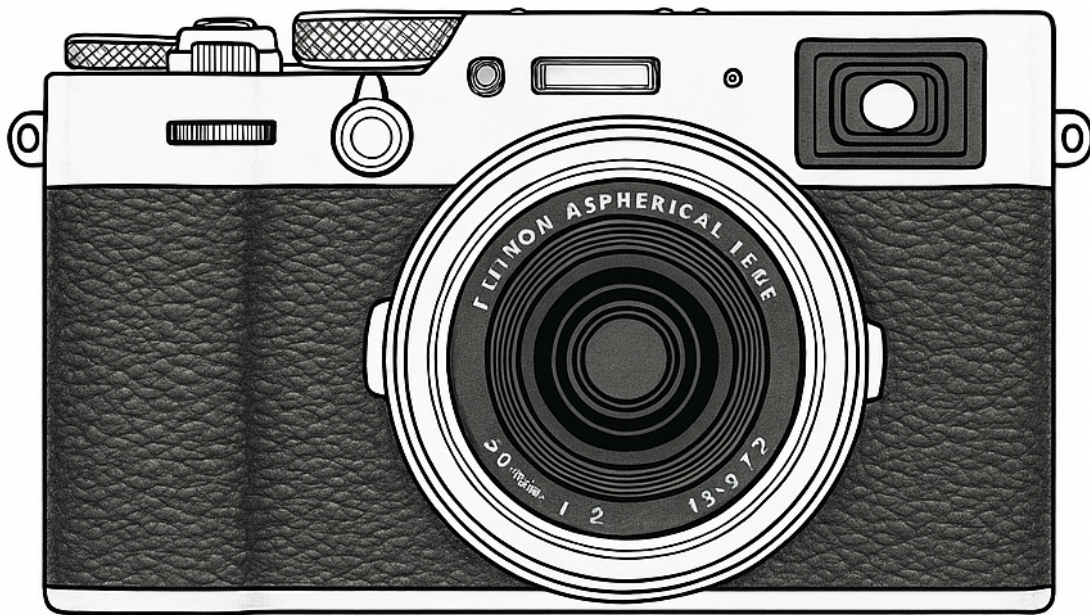


FUJIFILM X100VI

THE COMPLETE MASTER GUIDE



A Practical Handbook for
Photographers & Filmmakers

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V1.0 • 17-11-2025

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Legal Disclaimer

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Preface

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The Fujifilm X100VI is a unique camera.

It's compact enough to take everywhere, yet capable enough for serious work. It carries a sense of nostalgia through its design, but rewards its user with modern image quality, beautiful film simulations, and a shooting experience unlike any other digital camera.

Like all Fujifilm cameras, however, it can feel overwhelming at first. The X100VI is full of layers—dials, menus, autofocus modes, dynamic range tools, and color profiles that can deeply transform the look of your images. It is a camera that invites creativity, but also one that deserves a thoughtful approach.

My journey with the X100VI began after almost a decade of shooting primarily with Sony full-frame cameras for personal work (you can see examples at <https://www.instagram.com/lestudiochesterfield/> , <https://www.instagram.com/realbatsteek/> and <https://itakephotos.fr/>). In late 2025, I decided to invest in an X100VI—not to replace my main system, but as an everyday camera. I wanted a camera I could carry every day — fun, spontaneous, capable of producing beautiful, ready-to-use JPEGs, and even suitable for the portrait sessions I love, inspired in part by the work of Juan Pablo (@juansuponatime).

Check out Juan Pablo's videos on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@JuansuponatimePhotos>

Coming from years of Sony muscle memory, I quickly realized how different Fujifilm's philosophy really is. The dials, menus, exposure logic, film simulations, dynamic range tools, and color profiles all felt new and foreign. Instead of feeling liberated, I initially felt lost—drowned in tutorials, forum threads, and scattered sources of information that often contradicted each other or skipped the practical context I was looking for.

To make sense of it all, I started taking notes. I tested configurations, compared settings, and refined my approach through real-world shooting. Over time, these scattered notes evolved into something more structured: a personal reference designed to help me understand the X100VI deeply and use it confidently, both for everyday photography and for more intentional portrait or documentary work.

This handbook was created with a clear purpose:

to help you understand not only how the X100VI works, but why its design makes it such a powerful photographic tool—and to spare you the confusion I went through when switching systems.

You'll find explanations, practical setups, step-by-step configurations, and real-world examples drawn from everyday use. Whether you're coming from another Fujifilm body, switching from Sony/Canon/Nikon, or discovering photography more seriously through this camera, the goal is that the X100VI becomes a natural extension of your eye, your hands, and your creative intuition.

If you take the time to explore and experiment, this camera will reward you many times over.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

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This manual is organized to follow the way photographers naturally learn and progress with the X100VI:

1. Start with the essentials

You'll get familiar with the camera's handling, its philosophy, the controls, and the features that make the X100 series so distinctive.

2. Build a strong technical foundation

Exposure, autofocus, film simulations, dynamic range, image quality—each topic is broken down clearly, with explanations and examples that apply directly to real shooting situations.

3. Move into practical, real-world setups

Portraits, street photography, travel, documentary work, and everyday shooting are explored with recommended settings, workflow ideas, and teaching notes.

4. Learn how to configure the camera intelligently

Custom buttons, quick menu layout, and custom modes (C1–C7) are explained in depth so you can adapt the X100VI to your personal style.

5. Explore the camera's surprising video capabilities

There is an entire section dedicated to filmmaking with the X100VI—from beginner-friendly settings to advanced log workflows.

6. Use the quick-reference tools

At the end of the guide, you'll find printable checklists, recipes, templates, and a glossary. These are designed to help you shoot efficiently and confidently, without needing to search through menus in the field.

SECTION I — GETTING STARTED

A clear and practical introduction to the Fujifilm X100VI

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1. Introduction to the X100 Series

Since its introduction in 2011, the Fujifilm X100 series has earned a special place in the world of modern photography. It doesn't compete with interchangeable-lens cameras, nor does it attempt to be a traditional compact. Instead, it offers something different: a photographic experience built around simplicity, intention, and a deep respect for the act of creating an image.

The fixed 23mm f/2 lens encourages you to move, observe, and compose more thoughtfully. The hybrid viewfinder invites you to slow down or speed up depending on your subject. And the tactile controls—a hallmark of Fujifilm's design philosophy—keep your attention on the moment rather than on menus.

Each generation refined the formula.

The X100VI pushes it further than ever before.

It combines classic rangefinder-inspired styling with a powerful 40-megapixel sensor, in-body stabilization, improved autofocus, 6K video capability, and the unique hybrid OVF/EVF system that defines the series.

The result is a camera that blends nostalgia with modern performance; one that rewards curiosity and becomes more intuitive the longer you use it.

The X100VI in one sentence

A compact, beautifully crafted camera that encourages intentional photography and produces images with a timeless, personal character.

2. What Makes the X100VI Special

The X100VI is the most significant evolution in the series' history. It improves nearly every aspect of the X100V while keeping the spirit of the line intact.

Here are the upgrades and why they matter in real use:

✓ **40-Megapixel BSI Sensor (shared with Fujifilm's flagship X-H2)**

- Sharper fine detail
- More cropping flexibility
- Improved dynamic range
- Cleaner high-ISO files

In practice, this sensor elevates the X100VI to true *professional* territory.

✓ **6-Stop In-Body Image Stabilization (IBIS)**

A major leap for the X100 line.

It allows:

- slower shutter speeds without blur
- smoother handheld video
- easier manual focus

Many users describe IBIS as the upgrade that makes the VI the first X100 that feels “always ready.”

✓ **Advanced Video Capabilities (6.2K, 4K HQ, F-Log2)**

Fujifilm didn't design the X100VI as a cinema camera, yet it turns out to be a remarkably capable tool:

- 6.2K oversampled capture
- High-quality 4K HQ
- Internal H.265 4:2:2
- Built-in 4-stop ND filter
- IBIS for stable handheld shots

It's compact, discreet, and surprisingly cinematic.

✓ **Better Autofocus**

Fujifilm's newer AF algorithms offer:

- faster subject acquisition
- more reliable tracking
- improved eye detection

It's not Sony-level for video, but excellent for photography.

✓ **Classic X100 Features Preserved**

- Hybrid OVF/EVF
- Leaf shutter (silent, high flash-sync speeds)
- Beautiful film simulations
- Weather resistance with filter
- Compact and elegant design

✓ **New Film Simulations (including Reala Ace)**

Fuji continues to refine its color science, offering profiles that give organic, cinematic renderings straight out of camera.

3. Fujifilm's Controls & Philosophy

Fujifilm cameras feel different because they're designed around a simple idea:

“Physical controls first. Menus second.”

Instead of digging through settings, you shape your exposure through tactile dials and rings. This is both intuitive and creatively liberating.

The Three Controls That Matter Most

1. Shutter Speed Dial

Located on the top plate.

Classic, visible, and immediate.

2. Aperture Ring

Around the lens.

Lets you control depth of field with a flick of the fingers.

3. ISO Dial

Integrated into the shutter dial (lift, rotate).
Once understood, it becomes second nature.

These controls communicate exposure at a glance—no need to check menus.

Modern Flexibility Built In

Fujifilm also allows hybrid or fully modern operation:

- Set shutter to **T** and adjust speed with the front or rear dial
- Set ISO to **C** and control it electronically
- Set aperture to **A** and shoot in Program or Shutter Priority

You can mix traditional and modern workflows as you prefer.

Understanding Fujifilm's Design Priorities

The camera is built around:

- direct access
- intentional decisions
- clear visual feedback
- the joy of operating a well-crafted object

If you come from Sony, Canon, or Nikon, the X100VI will feel refreshing—less menu-driven, more “hands-on.” Once you settle into Fujifilm’s logic, it becomes not only fast, but deeply enjoyable.

4. Holding, Handling & Using the Hybrid Viewfinder

The hybrid viewfinder is the soul of the X100 series. Fujifilm is one of the few manufacturers to offer a system that combines the charm of optical viewing with the precision of digital tools.

OVF — Optical Viewfinder

- Clear, lag-free view of the world
- See outside the frame (great for street and documentary)
- Minimizes distractions
- Excellent in bright light

EVF — Electronic Viewfinder

- Exposure preview
- Film simulation preview
- Focus accuracy
- Works in low light
- Perfect for precise framing

ERF — Electronic Range Finder Mode

A small EVF window appears inside the OVF.

Best of both worlds:

- optical view of the scene
- digital confirmation for focus or exposure

Handling Tips

- Switch between OVF/EVF depending on mood and subject
- Keep the camera close to your body for stability
- Use the rear screen minimally—this camera shines when used through the finder
- Experiment with ERF for portraits and street scenes

The hybrid finder isn't a gimmick.

It deeply shapes how you perceive and anticipate moments.

5. Out-of-the-Box Setup

This quick guide gets your X100VI ready for real-world shooting as fast as possible.

✓ Step 1: Set Image Quality

- **JPEG:** High quality, Fujifilm color science at its best
- **RAW:** For heavy editing
- **HEIF:** Efficient, but avoid for bursts

A safe starting point:

JPEG Fine + RAW

(You can drop RAW once you trust your film sim workflow.)

✓ **Step 2: Select a Film Simulation**

Start simple:

- **Reala Ace** → natural, modern
- **Classic Chrome** → cinematic, muted
- **Provia** → default neutral

Your film sim affects how you see light through the EVF—pick one that inspires you.

✓ **Step 3: Set White Balance**

Good starting points:

- **Daylight** for consistent color
- **Auto White Priority** for indoors
- **Cloudy** for portraits

✓ **Step 4: Assign Key Buttons**

A strong, clean professional layout:

- **Fn1** → Face/Eye Detection toggle
- **Fn2** → ND Filter
- **AEL/AFL** → White Balance
- **Joystick press** → Reset AF to center
- **Rear Dial** → Auto ISO preset
- **Control Ring** → Digital Teleconverter (optional)

✓ **Step 5: Boost Mode & Performance**

- Boost ON for responsiveness
- Boost OFF for battery life

✓ Step 6: Display Adjustments

- Turn off unnecessary icons
- Use a minimalist overlay
- Enable histogram
- Experiment with OVF/EVF balance

Once these steps are done, the X100VI is ready for serious shooting—and the rest of the manual will help you push it much further.

SECTION II — CORE SKILLS

Mastering exposure, focus, color, and image quality on the X100VI

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1. Understanding Exposure on the X100VI

Exposure on the X100VI is built around physical controls that give you a direct connection to the light in front of you. Instead of working through menus or abstract values on a screen, you interact with real dials and a real aperture ring. It's one of the reasons the X100 series feels so engaging to use.

The Exposure Triangle on the X100VI

Aperture (controlled on the lens)

- f/2 → shallow depth of field, more light
- f/4 → balanced sharpness, classic street look
- f/8 → everything in focus, ideal for landscape

Shutter Speed (top dial or T-mode)

- Fast (1/500–1/4000) → freeze action
- Slow (1/30–1/125) → smoother motion, brighter indoors
- Very slow (1/2–1/15) → creative blur, tripod recommended

ISO (dial or electronic via ISO-C)

- Lower = cleaner image
- Higher = more noise but useful in low light

The X100VI's sensor handles ISO remarkably well. ISO 1600–3200 is perfectly usable for everyday photography.

Working With the Dials

The Aperture Ring — Your Primary Creative Tool

The X100VI's 23mm lens makes the aperture ring incredibly influential:

- f/2 → portraits with gentle background separation
- f/4–f/5.6 → ideal for street and travel
- f/8+ → maximum clarity

Shutter Speed Dial vs T Mode

The top dial is great for quick decisions.

But **T-mode** unlocks fine control from the command dial, especially useful when:

- shooting action
- adapting to fast light changes
- working in video

ISO Dial vs ISO Command Mode (C)

The mechanical ISO dial looks iconic but is slower to operate.

Switch to **ISO C** for:

- fast documentary shooting
- indoor events
- dynamic situations

Exposure Compensation

This is one of the most important controls on the X100VI.

Use the compensation dial to adjust brightness **without touching aperture or shutter**.

Typical uses:

- **-0.3 to -1.0** outdoors for beautiful highlights
 - **+0.3 to +0.7** indoors to brighten skin tones
 - **0** for neutral environments
-

Using the ND Filter

The built-in 4-stop ND filter is a secret weapon. It allows:

- wide-open shooting in bright sun
- flash photography outdoors
- smoother video exposure

We go deeper in Section III, but here remember:

👉 When it's bright and you want f/2, **turn the ND On**.

Practical Exposure Workflow

A simple method that works in 90% of situations:

1. Choose **Aperture** based on creative intent
2. Let the camera choose shutter (A mode)
3. Use **Auto ISO** for flexibility
4. Adjust **Exposure Compensation** as your final refinement

This keeps exposure intuitive and fast without compromising quality.

2. Autofocus Deep Dive

The autofocus system on the X100VI is powerful, but understanding how it behaves in real situations is the key to mastering it. The goal isn't simply to set AF correctly—it's to make the camera predictable.

AF Modes

AF-S (Single)

Locks focus once.

Use for:

- still subjects
- landscapes
- controlled portraits

AF-C (Continuous)

Tracks subjects as they move.

Best for:

- portraits
- street
- pets
- kids
- everyday life

This is the mode most photographers should use **90% of the time**.

MF (Manual Focus)

Useful when:

- shooting through glass
- low contrast scenes
- focus needs to stay exactly where you set it
- video requiring controlled focus pulls

AF Area Modes

Single Point AF

Most precise mode.

Excellent for portraits and detail work.

Tip:

Set the box “one size larger” than the smallest square for the best balance of precision and reliability.

Zone AF

A small cluster of points that tracks movement inside the zone.

Great for:

- kids
- dogs
- mild action
- walking subjects

Wide/Tracking

Best when:

- subject moves unpredictably
 - you can't recompose quickly
-

Face/Eye Detection

One of the strongest features on the X100VI.

Use it when:

- photographing people
- shooting lifestyle / documentary work
- working with shallow depth of field

If it becomes unstable:

- switch to **Single Point AF-C**
 - avoid subjects with sunglasses, masks, or extreme backlight
-

AF-C Custom Settings

Important for action or movement:

- **Tracking Sensitivity: High**
 - **AF Speed: 3–4**
 - **Zone AF** for moving subjects
 - **Face/Eye ON** whenever relevant
-

Common AF Mistakes (and how to fix them)

- **Too small AF box**
→ Widen it slightly.
- **Using AF-S for moving subjects**
→ Switch to AF-C.
- **Low-light hunting**
→ Use Zone AF or switch to MF with peaking.
- **Backlit scenes confusing subject detection**
→ Add exposure comp or disable face detection.

Autofocus isn't about technical mastery—it's about knowing which mode will behave predictably.

Manual Focus, Zone Focus & Hyperfocal Techniques

The X100VI is excellent for manual focus thanks to the EVF, peaking tools, and ERF hybrid mode.

Manual Focus Tools

Focus Peaking

Outlines edges in color when in focus.

- Red → highest visibility
- White → most precise

Split Image

Simulates classic rangefinder focusing.

Fun and surprisingly accurate.

Magnification

Push the rear dial to zoom in for critical focus.

Zone Focusing (Street Photography Secret Weapon)

Set:

- **Aperture: f/5.6–f/11**
- **Focus Distance: 1.5–3 meters**
- **ISO: Auto**
- **Shutter: $\geq 1/250$**

This allows you to shoot instantly without waiting for AF.

Perfect for:

- street scenes
 - fast moments
 - shooting from the hip
 - crowded environments
-

Hyperfocal Distance

Use this when you want maximum depth of field:

- landscape
- architecture
- travel scenes

At **f/8**, focusing around **2–3 meters** keeps almost everything sharp.

3. White Balance, Color & Film Simulations

Color is one of Fujifilm's superpowers.

The X100VI includes an impressive set of tools to craft your look straight out of camera.

White Balance Basics

Daylight (recommended)

Clean, consistent, predictable color.

Ideal outdoors and for film simulation work.

Auto White Balance (White Priority)

Balancing mixed light indoors.

Great for portraits and events.

Cloudy / Shade

Adds warmth.

Excellent for skin tones or cloudy weather.

Kelvin Mode

For precise, repeatable color across a series.

4. Film Simulations (What They *Feel* Like)

Reala Ace

Modern, neutral, polished. Excellent for portraits.

Classic Chrome

Muted, cinematic, slightly desaturated. Great for travel and street.

Classic Neg

Strong contrast, nostalgic color shifts. Perfect for urban scenes.

Eterna

Cinematic video look. Soft contrast, beautiful tones.

Acros

One of the best digital black-and-white profiles available.

When to use which film simulation

- **Classic Chrome** → travel, documentary, portraits in soft light
- **Classic Neg** → gritty streets, bold atmosphere
- **Reala Ace** → people, natural light
- **Acros** → storytelling, minimalism
- **Provia** → neutral everyday shooting

Film simulations aren't filters—they're a color science philosophy.

5. Image Formats: JPEG, RAW & HEIF

Understanding the available image formats is essential for building an efficient workflow on the X100VI. Each format offers specific advantages depending on how you shoot, edit, and share your work.

This chapter explains **how each format works**, when to use it, and how it affects color, dynamic range, and storage.

JPEG — Fujifilm Color Science at its Best

JPEGs are processed in-camera with Fujifilm's color science, which is one of the strongest in the industry. They deliver rich colors, excellent film simulation rendering, and consistent results straight out of the camera.

Advantages

- Small file sizes
- Best film simulation output
- Great for social media or quick delivery
- Fast workflow, no computer needed
- Excellent color consistency

Limitations

- Less dynamic range than RAW
- White balance baked into the file
- Limited recovery in shadows/highlights
- Changes after shooting are harder

Use When

- You rely heavily on film simulations
- You want immediate results
- You are traveling and managing storage
- The lighting is consistent and predictable

RAW — Maximum Editing Flexibility

RAW files preserve the sensor's full information, allowing much deeper editing flexibility.

They don't include baked-in sharpening, film simulation curves, noise reduction, or white balance.

Advantages

- Maximum dynamic range
- Precise highlight and shadow recovery
- Detailed color grading
- Flexible white balance adjustments
- Ideal for high-contrast scenes

Limitations

- Larger files (40MP RAW can be heavy)
- Requires editing software
- More storage and backup needed

Use When

- Shooting in challenging light
 - You want full control in Lightroom / Capture One
 - You need maximum tonal latitude
 - You're doing professional work requiring accuracy
-

HEIF — High Efficiency, High Quality

HEIF is a modern replacement for JPEG, offering better compression and more color depth.

The X100VI records 10-bit HEIF files, which offer smoother color transitions and improved highlight handling.

Advantages

- Higher quality than JPEG at smaller file sizes
- 10-bit color depth
- Great for phone or tablet workflows
- Ideal for long trips where storage is limited

Limitations

- Compatibility issues with older software
- Not ideal for burst photography
- Still carries the limitations of processed files (like JPEG)

Use When

- You need efficient, high-quality output
- Your workflow uses modern devices (iPhone, Mac, recent software)
- You want the best color depth without shooting RAW

Recommended Everyday Workflow

For most photographers using the X100VI:

→ **JPEG + RAW**

This gives the best of both worlds:

- JPEG for beautiful, ready-to-share images
- RAW for difficult lighting or selective editing

Once you fully trust your Film Simulation settings, you may transition to:

→ **JPEG Only (Advanced Fuji Workflow)**

Many experienced Fujifilm shooters rely exclusively on in-camera JPEGs.

Or for travel efficiency:

→ **HEIF Only**

Small files, beautiful color, modern workflow.

Summary Table

Format	Best For	Pros	Cons
JPEG	Everyday shooting, Fuji color lovers	Beautiful color, small files, fast workflow	Limited editing latitude
RAW	Professional work, difficult light	Maximum flexibility, best DR	Large files, requires editing
HEIF	Travel, mobile workflows	High quality at small size, 10-bit	Compatibility varies

Practical Advice

- Shoot **JPEG + RAW** until you understand how each reacts to your film simulations.
 - Switch to **JPEG-only** once your look is consistent.
 - Use **RAW** for important projects or high-contrast scenes.
 - Choose **HEIF** when storage matters and you don't need huge flexibility.
-

6. Dynamic Range (DR100/200/400 & D-Range Priority)

Dynamic Range is one of the most misunderstood settings on Fuji cameras. Used well, it protects highlights without hurting image quality.

DR100

Default.

Use it indoors or in low-contrast scenes.

DR200

Best for outdoors.

Protects bright skies and brighter skin tones.

DR400

Maximum highlight protection.

Ideal in:

- harsh sunlight
- beach/snow scenes
- reflective environments

Requires ISO 640 minimum.

In low light, ISO 640 base may add a trace of grain in RAW, but JPEG/HEIF output remains extremely clean. so DR400 is best reserved for bright outdoor scenes.

D-Range Priority (Weak/Strong)

Applies:

- highlight recovery
- shadow lift
- global tonal compression

Use carefully—it can flatten images.

DR modes (100–400) are safer and more predictable.

When DR-P is ON, Highlight and Shadow Tone adjustments are disabled.

7. Understanding the Leaf Shutter

The X100VI's **leaf shutter** is a rare and powerful feature.

Advantages

- Nearly silent
- No rolling shutter
- The leaf shutter allows unusually high flash sync speeds — up to 1/2000 s or even 1/4000 s depending on aperture and flash duration (t0.1), not the flash model..
- No shutter shock

This allows creative flash work impossible on most cameras:

- overpowering sunlight
- dramatic outdoor portraits
- extremely clean studio lighting

Video uses an electronic shutter, but still benefits from stable exposure thanks to the ND filter.

8. Recommended Image Quality Settings

A strong, flexible starting point:

- **Noise Reduction:** -2
- **Sharpening:** -2
- **Clarity:** 0
- **Grain:** Off or Weak
- **Color Chrome Effect:** Strong (for Classic Chrome)
- **Dynamic Range:** DR200 outdoors, DR100 indoors

These settings give clean, organic images without over-processing.

9. Grain, Clarity, Sharpness & Noise Reduction

Grain

- Off → clean, modern look
- Weak → subtle analog texture
- Strong → stylized film mood

Clarity

Adds micro-contrast.

Use sparingly; it slows down writing to card.

Sharpening

Keep low (-2) for a natural look.

Increase in post rather than in-camera.

Noise Reduction

Fuji's NR can overly smooth details.

Set between **-2** and **0** for best results.

10. Working With Lightroom & Capture One

Adobe and Capture One both support Fuji RAW files, but with different strengths.

Lightroom

- Good profiles (Camera Classic Chrome, etc.)
- Excellent workflow integration
- Great for batch editing

Capture One

- Better fine detail
- More film-like rendering
- Superior color control

If you love Fuji color, Capture One often gives the cleanest results.

11. Storage, Backup & 40MP Workflow Tips

40MP files can be large. Good habits will keep your workflow fast and safe.

Use Fast Cards

- V60 minimum
- V90 ideal for bursts or video

Back Up Immediately

A solid routine:

- SD card → internal SSD
- SSD → cloud or external drive
- Keep original card unformatted until triple-backed-up

Optimize Lightroom

- Use Smart Previews
- Enable GPU acceleration
- Culling in Fast Mode

Archive Smartly

Store:

- RAWs of important shoots
 - JPEGs for simpler work
 - Video files separately
-

SECTION III — EVERYDAY USE

Practical setups, fast configuration, and real-world operation of the X100VI

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1. Everyday Setup: A Clean, Reliable Baseline

Most photographers benefit from having a simple, stable setup they can rely on every day — something that works in nearly all lighting conditions and doesn't require constant adjustments.

Here is a proven, flexible baseline for the X100VI:

Exposure & Color

- **Aperture Priority (A mode)**
- **Auto ISO** with a smart max ISO (usually 3200)
- **Shutter minimum:** 1/125
- **Film Simulation:** Reala Ace or Classic Chrome
- **White Balance:** Daylight or AWB White Priority

Autofocus

- **AF-C**
- **Single Point AF**, medium size
- **Face/Eye Detection:** **ON**, unless unreliable light

Display & Behavior

- **Boost Mode:** Normal (Battery Saver when traveling)
- **Histogram:** Enabled
- **Clipping Warning:** Enabled
- **Preview Exposure:** ON (except studio flash work)

Buttons & Dials

- Exposure Compensation Dial → active
- ISO in ISO-C mode → assigned to rear dial
- AEL/AFL → White Balance or AF Mode
- Control Ring → ND Filter or Digital Teleconverter (your choice)

This layout keeps the camera fast, minimal, and consistent. After a few days of use, it becomes instinctive.

2. Auto ISO Strategy: The Heart of a Fast Workflow

Auto ISO is one of the most powerful tools on the X100VI. Used correctly, it allows you to work quickly without sacrificing image quality.

Why Auto ISO matters

The 40MP sensor performs so well that ISO is no longer something you should micromanage. Letting ISO float freely means you can focus on composition and moment instead of constantly adjusting your exposure triangle.

Recommended Auto ISO Settings

Auto ISO 1 — Indoors / General Use

- **Base:** 125
- **Max:** 3200
- **Min Shutter:** 1/125

Perfect for everyday shooting, portraits, cafés, events.

Auto ISO 2 — Outdoors / Bright Light

- **Base:** 125
- **Max:** 1600
- **Min Shutter:** 1/250

Keeps images extremely clean while avoiding motion blur.

Auto ISO 3 — Action / Active Moments

- **Base:** 125
- **Max:** 6400
- **Min Shutter:** 1/500 or 1/1000

Great for children, pets, moving subjects.

When to override Auto ISO

- When using flash (ISO 125 fixed is best)
 - For long exposures (manual ISO control)
 - When shooting video (use fixed ISOs for consistency)
-

3. Using the ND Filter in Everyday Life

The built-in 4-stop ND filter is one of the X100VI's most underrated features. It allows you to shoot at wide apertures in bright light without overexposing your image.

What the ND filter is used for

- **Bright sunlight + f/2 portraits**
- **Creative motion blur**
- **Video exposure control**
- **High-sync-speed flash outdoors**

Everyday ND workflow

- Assign ND Filter to a button (Fn2 is ideal)
- Turn it on whenever shutter speed approaches 1/4000
- Use it instinctively, just like sunglasses for your lens

ND + Flash

The ND filter pairs beautifully with the leaf shutter:

- Use f/2 outdoors
- Sync flash up to 1/2000–1/4000
- Create dramatic, stylish portraits in midday sun

This is one of the X100VI's signature creative advantages.

4. Display Setup & Shooting Interface

A clean interface helps you focus on the scene instead of the screen. The X100VI's display options are flexible, but a minimal approach works best.

Recommended Display Settings

- **Histogram:** ON
- **Exposure Preview:** ON
- **Grid Lines:** 3×3 or OFF
- **Electronic Level:** Optional (helpful for horizon work)
- **Clipping Warnings:** Enabled
- **Icons:** Minimal

Why keep it minimal?

You shoot faster and compose more intuitively when the viewfinder is free of unnecessary information.

EVF vs OVF in real use

- **EVF:** best for color, precise focus, and exposure control
- **OVF:** best for anticipation, street photography, and reducing distractions

Switch based on mood — both modes influence how you see.

5. Custom Buttons & Quick Menu: A Professional Layout

The X100VI becomes dramatically more efficient once the buttons are arranged logically. Below is a configuration designed for speed, clarity, and real-world work.

Recommended Button Mapping

Fn1 (Top Plate): Face/Eye Detection

→ Quick ON/OFF toggle depending on lighting

Fn2 (Front Button): ND Filter

→ Instantly switch to f/2 outdoors

AEL/AFL: White Balance

→ Adjust color temperature on the fly

Rear Command Dial: ISO Control (ISO-C)

→ Fastest way to adjust ISO

Control Ring:

- **Option A:** Digital Teleconverter (35mm/50mm crop)
- **Option B:** Film Simulation switch
- Choose depending on how you shoot

Joystick Press:

Reset AF point to center — extremely useful.

Quick Menu (Q Menu) Layout

A clean, well-organized Q menu:

1. Film Simulation
2. White Balance
3. Dynamic Range
4. Highlight Tone
5. Shadow Tone
6. Color Chrome FX
7. AF Mode
8. Face/Eye Detect
9. ISO Setting
10. ND Filter
11. Boost Mode
12. Shutter Type

Arrange items you use daily at the top left; rarely-used controls go bottom right.

6. Custom Settings (C1–C7): How They Work on the X100VI

Unlike other camera systems that treat C1–C7 as complete shooting modes, the Fujifilm X100VI uses these slots exclusively for image-quality presets, commonly called Film Simulation Recipes.

They determine how your JPEG/HEIF files look, but they do not control autofocus behavior, exposure mode, Auto ISO rules, ND filter, or shutter type.

C1–C7 should therefore be understood as visual profiles rather than as full custom modes.

6.1 What C1–C7 store

- Film Simulation
- Dynamic Range (DR100/200/400)
- Highlight and Shadow Tone
- Color
- Sharpness
- Noise Reduction
- Clarity
- Grain
- Color Chrome FX / Blue
- White Balance and WB Shift (within model limitations)
- Image format (RAW / JPEG / HEIF)

6.2 What C1–C7 do not store

These settings are not recalled when switching between custom slots:

- AF mode (AF-S / AF-C / Zone / Wide/Tracking)
- Face/Eye Detection
- Exposure mode (A, S, M)
- Auto ISO presets
- ND Filter state
- Shutter type (MS / ES / MS+ES)
- Button assignments
- IBIS behavior
- Video settings
- Q Menu layout
- Manual Focus distance or peaking options

For this reason, select a C-setting for its visual rendering, then operate the camera using your preferred exposure and autofocus workflow.

6.3 Recommended Film Simulation Recipes (C1–C7)

The following recipes provide reliable, versatile looks for most photographic situations.

Each includes the stored aesthetic settings followed by recommended usage guidelines to apply manually.

C1 — Reala Ace / Modern Neutral

A clean, balanced profile suitable for everyday photography.

Stored Recipe

- Film Simulation: Reala Ace
- DR: DR200
- Highlight: 0
- Shadow: 0
- Color: 0
- Sharpening: -2
- Noise Reduction: -2
- Clarity: 0
- WB: Daylight or AWB White Priority
- Color Chrome FX: Strong

Recommended Use

- Aperture Priority
- Auto ISO 125–3200
- AF-C with Single Point

Suitable for

Everyday shooting, natural color, travel, balanced portraits.

C2 — Classic Chrome Documentary

A muted, cinematic rendering inspired by photojournalistic color.

Stored Recipe

- Classic Chrome
- DR200
- Highlight: -1
- Shadow: +1
- Color: -2
- Grain: Weak
- WB: Daylight (optional WB Shift R-1, B+1)
- Color Chrome FX: Strong

Recommended Use

- Zone AF or AF-C
- Slight underexposure (-0.3 EV)

Suitable for

Street photography, travel, reportage, documentary color palettes.

C3 — Portrait Soft / Reala Warm

A warm, low-contrast look optimized for flattering skin tones.

Stored Recipe

- Reala Ace
- DR200
- Highlight: -1
- Shadow: 0
- Color: +1
- Noise Reduction: -1
- Grain: Off
- WB Shift: R+2, B-1

Recommended Use

- AF-C with Face/Eye Detection
- Aperture f/2 to f/2.8

Suitable for

Portraits, lifestyle imagery, soft natural light.

C4 — Classic Neg Urban Grit

Strong contrast, stylized colors, and pronounced tonality for urban environments.

Stored Recipe

- Classic Neg
- DR200 (or DR100 for stronger contrast)
- Highlight: +1
- Shadow: +2
- Color: -1
- Grain: Weak
- Color Chrome FX: Strong

Recommended Use

- Zone AF
- Minimum shutter: 1/250
- Underexposure between -0.3 and -0.7 EV

Suitable for

Street, neon lighting, urban contrast, graphic environments.

C5 — Eterna Cine (Stills)

A low-contrast, cinematic look based on Fuji's video color science.

Stored Recipe

- Eterna
- DR200
- Highlight: -1
- Shadow: -1
- Color: -1
- Grain: Off
- WB: Daylight

Recommended Use

- Aperture Priority
- Stable exposure for maximum tonal smoothness

Suitable for

Cinematic stills, mood-driven scenes, low-contrast storytelling.

C6 — Acros Black & White Documentary

A high-quality monochrome recipe with strong tonal structure.

Stored Recipe

- Acros (Yellow suggested, Red optional for deeper skies)
- Highlight: -1
- Shadow: +2
- Grain: Weak
- Sharpening: -2
- Noise Reduction: -2

Recommended Use

- DR100 for stronger contrast
- DR200 for bright daylight scenes

Suitable for

Black-and-white street photography, portraits, documentary work.

C7 — Travel / Everyday Chrome

A versatile and consistent recipe for mixed lighting situations.

Stored Recipe

- Provia or Classic Chrome
- DR200
- Highlight: 0
- Shadow: 0
- Color: 0
- WB: AWB White Priority

Recommended Use

- Auto ISO 125–3200
- AF-C
- Minimum shutter 1/125

Suitable for

General travel shooting, landscapes, casual everyday use.

6.4 Important Notes

1. Disable “AUTO UPDATE CUSTOM SETTING”

This prevents the camera from silently overwriting a recipe when settings are adjusted during shooting.

2. Use C1–C7 for the look only

Exposure behavior, autofocus mode, Auto ISO, and the ND filter must be set manually each time.

3. Rename your C-slots for clarity

Examples:

C1 – Reala Neutral

C2 – Chrome Documentary

C3 – Portrait Warm

C4 – ClassicNeg Grit

C5 – Eterna Cine

C6 – Acros BW

C7 – Travel Base

SECTION IV — SPECIALIZED SHOOTING

Portraits, street, travel, documentary work & flash techniques with the X100VI

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1. Portrait Photography with the X100VI

The X100VI is an excellent portrait camera — small, discreet, and capable of producing beautiful skin tones with a natural, cinematic look. The fixed 23mm lens (35mm equivalent) creates an intimate perspective that feels honest and close, similar to environmental portraiture.

Rather than isolating your subject with extreme background blur, the X100VI encourages you to place them in context, telling a deeper story.

Recommended Portrait Settings

Exposure & Aperture

- **Aperture:** f/2 or f/2.8 indoors, f/2–f/4 outdoors
- **Shutter:** 1/250 minimum
- **ISO:** Auto (max 3200–6400)
- **DR:** DR200 for outdoor highlights

At f/2, background separation is pleasant but subtle — perfect for lifestyle portraits.

Autofocus for Portraits

- **AF-C**
- **Face/Eye Detection: ON**
- **Single Point AF** (medium size)
- **Tracking Sensitivity: +2 or +3**

If detection struggles:

- turn off Face/Eye and use single point
 - avoid extreme backlight on the face
 - move your AF point manually near the eye
-

Color & Film Simulations for Portraits

- **Reala Ace:** balanced and natural
- **Classic Chrome:** cinematic, soft colors
- **Astia:** pleasant skin tones, softer contrast
- **ProNeg Hi / Std:** studio-style looks

For most natural skin tones:

→ **Reala Ace + Daylight WB**

Posing & Interaction Tips

- Keep the camera at chest or eye level
- Move slowly and deliberately
- Use OVf when you want to maintain eye contact
- Use EVf when you need precise exposure

The X100VI's size helps people relax. Use that to your advantage.

Environmental Portrait Workflow

1. Choose a location with simple light
2. Shoot at f/2.8–f/4 for context
3. Use DR200 to protect highlights
4. Ask your subject to move naturally
5. Capture expressions, not poses

The goal isn't technical perfection — it's authenticity.

2. Street Photography

The X100VI is perhaps the best digital street camera available today. It's compact, silent, fast, and discreet — everything a street photographer needs.

The 23mm focal length invites immersion: you step closer, make decisions quicker, and frame with more energy.

Key Settings for Street Work

Exposure

- **Shutter Priority or Aperture Priority**
- Minimum shutter: **1/250**
- Auto ISO (max 3200 or 6400)
- DR200

Autofocus

- **Zone AF** (small zone)
- **AF-C**
- **Face/Eye Detection: OFF** (unless doing street portraits)

Film Simulations

- **Classic Chrome** → timeless documentary
- **Classic Neg** → rich contrast, bold colors
- **Acros** → minimalist B&W

Classic Neg in particular gives a signature Fujifilm “bite” that fits urban environments beautifully.

Quiet Operation

Activate:

- **Shutter Type: Electronic** for true silence
- **Sound OFF**
- **EVF brightness moderate**

Your camera disappears — and moments appear.

Zone Focus Technique for Street

- Manual Focus
- Aperture: **f/8**
- Focus Distance: **2–3 meters**
- ISO: Auto
- Shutter: **1/250–1/500**

This gives instantaneous capture with no AF delay.

Real-World Tips

- Shoot through the OVF to see outside the frame
- Anticipate movement before it enters your composition
- Hold the camera lower for candid moments
- Shoot in bursts of 2–3 frames for expression changes
- Capture gestures, not just faces

Great street photography is about noticing, not rushing.

3. Travel Photography

The X100VI is an ideal travel companion: light, weather-resistant (with filter), and capable of handling everything from landscapes to portraits to video.

It encourages you to stay present in the moment rather than juggling gear.

Core Travel Settings

- **Aperture Priority**
 - **Auto ISO 1 or 2**
 - **Film Sim:** Reala Ace or Classic Chrome
 - **WB:** Daylight for consistency
 - **Focus:** AF-C + Single Point or Zone
-

Travel Composition Tips

1. Capture context

The 35mm equivalent is perfect for storytelling.

Include:

- architecture
- surroundings
- environmental elements

2. Use light creatively

Travel often presents unfamiliar light:

- harsh sun
- tinted interiors
- changing weather

DR200 and DR400 help preserve highlights.

3. Don't overshoot

The X100VI encourages intentional shooting.

Take advantage of that — fewer, stronger images beat hundreds of random frames.

Film Simulations for Travel

- **Classic Chrome** → documentary, muted colors
 - **Reala Ace** → clean and modern
 - **Eterna** → cinematic video
 - **Acros Yellow** → dramatic B&W travel scenes
-

Practical Travel Tips

- Keep one battery in the camera, one in your pocket
- Turn Boost Mode off to save energy
- Use a wrist strap for fast access
- Back up to your phone at lunch and in the evening

The X100VI is at its best outdoors — lightweight, fast, and unobtrusive.

4. Documentary & Lifestyle Photography

Documentary photography is about honesty, presence, and timing.

The X100VI is excellent for this genre because it blends into everyday life, allowing you to shoot moments as they unfold naturally.

Documentary Settings

- **AF-C + Single Point**
- **Face/Eye Detect depending on scene**
- **Shutter: 1/250**
- **ISO: Auto**
- **Film Sim: Classic Chrome or Reala**

Why these settings?

Because documentary work is dynamic and unpredictable — you need responsiveness more than precision.

Approach

- Watch more than you shoot
- React to emotion, gesture, and storytelling
- Use the OVF to anticipate action
- Move with your subject, don't zoom with your feet only — rotate your body

The X100VI makes you part of the scene, not an observer from the outside.

Color & Mood

Classic Chrome is ideal:

- subtle blues
- warm highlights
- cinematic separation

Reala Ace gives a cleaner, modern documentary feel.

5. Flash Photography & Godox X3 Integration

One of the X100VI's biggest hidden strengths is its **leaf shutter**, which enables flash sync at incredibly high shutter speeds — far beyond what DSLRs and most mirrorless cameras allow.

This opens the door to creative lighting impossible with focal-plane shutters.

Why Leaf Shutter + Flash = Magic

- Sync reliably at 1/500–1/2000, and potentially up to 1/4000 depending on aperture and flash compatibility.
- Shoot wide open outdoors with flash
- Freeze motion crisply
- No need for High-Speed Sync (HSS) penalties

Combine this with the ND filter, and you get total control over ambient vs flash balance.

Recommended Flash Settings

- **ISO:** 125 (fixed)
 - **Shutter:** 1/500 to 1/2000
 - **Aperture:** f/2–f/4
 - **Flash Power:** Adjust based on ambient light
 - **Sync:** Front curtain
-

Using the Godox X3 on the X100VI

Discover the Godox X3-F : <https://www.godox.com/product-a/X3.html>

The Godox X3 works beautifully on the X100VI:

- Clean TTL
- Reliable communication
- Smooth adjustment interface
- Perfect for run-and-gun portraits

Quick starting point

- TTL mode
 - Flash exposure compensation: –0.3 to –1.0
 - Shutter 1/1000 in sunlight
 - ND filter OFF unless needed — it also works with flash, which helps keep wide apertures in bright sunlight.
-

Outdoor Flash Workflow

1. Set ISO 125
2. Choose shutter between 1/500 and 1/2000
3. Set aperture for desired depth of field
4. Adjust flash power for subject
5. Control ambient using shutter speed

This makes portraits in harsh sun look effortless — one of the X100VI's signature advantages.

SECTION V — VIDEO MASTERY

Unlocking the full cinematic potential of the X100VI

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1. Introduction: Why the X100VI Is Better at Video Than You Expect

Although the X100 line has always been seen primarily as a photographer's camera, the X100VI introduces video capabilities far beyond what one would expect from a compact fixed-lens device.

It offers:

- **6.2K oversampled recording**
- **4K HQ with excellent detail**
- **F-Log and F-Log2**
- **IBIS**
- **built-in ND filter**
- **incredible color science**

This combination is rare in such a small package.

The X100VI isn't meant to replace a cinema camera, but it excels at:

- lifestyle filmmaking
- travel video
- behind-the-scenes footage
- cinematic B-roll
- documentary work
- everyday personal projects

Its discreet appearance also allows shooting in environments where larger cameras attract too much attention.

2. Video Resolutions, Codecs & Recording Options

The X100VI offers a surprisingly advanced set of recording formats.

Resolutions

- **6.2K (3:2)** — maximum detail, ideal for cropping or reframing
- **4K HQ (oversampled)** — best balance of quality and file size
- **4K Standard** — lighter processing, easier for long shoots
- **1080p** — slow motion and high-speed options

For most cinematic work:

→ **Use 4K HQ** for sharp, clean images.

Frame Rates

- **23.98p / 24p** — cinematic motion
- **25p / 30p** — documentary or EU broadcast compatibility
- **50p / 60p** — slow motion

Recommended starting points:

- **24p** for storytelling
 - **60p** for clean slow motion
-

Codecs

H.265 (HEVC) 10-bit 4:2:2

→ Best quality, ideal for color grading.

H.264 8-bit

→ Lighter files, easier editing on older computers.

For professional workflows:

→ Choose **H.265 10-bit**.

3. Film Simulations for Video

Fuji's color science is one of its biggest strengths, and this extends into video.

Eterna Cinema

Soft contrast, gentle highlights, beautiful skin tones.

Perfect for lifestyle, travel, and cinematic B-roll.

Eterna Bleach Bypass

High contrast, desaturated, stylized.

Great for dramatic mood pieces.

Reala Ace (Video)

Clean, modern, realistic color.

Excellent for mixed lighting and documentary work.

Classic Chrome (Video)

Muted tones, deep shadows.

Very cinematic for street or travel films.

When in doubt:

→ **Start with Eterna** for a film-like baseline.

4. F-Log & F-Log2: How to Use Them

F-Log requires a minimum ISO of 640, while F-Log2 requires ISO 1250. This is normal and designed to maximize dynamic range.

F-Log

- Easier to expose
- Less demanding in post
- Excellent dynamic range
- Best for most users

F-Log2

- Maximum dynamic range
- Requires precise exposure
- Needs proper LUTs
- Best for professional grading workflows

If you're not grading heavily, **use F-Log**.

If you work in DaVinci Resolve and want maximum flexibility, choose **F-Log2**.

How to expose Log correctly

Expose using:

- **Histogram**
- **Zebras set to 95%**
- **ETTR (Expose To The Right) without clipping**

Log footage exposed too dark is noisy.

Expose slightly brighter than you think, then correct in post.

5. IBIS, Stabilization Modes & Real-World Behavior

IBIS is one of the biggest upgrades in the X100VI.

It allows handheld shots that look smooth and controlled.

Stabilization Modes

IBIS Only

- Most natural
- Great for static shots and slow movement

IBIS + Digital IS

- IBIS + Digital IS adds a $\sim 1.1\times$ crop and can introduce micro-jitters while walking. Use it only when additional stabilization is needed in bright light.
- Useful for walking shots
- Slightly more “locked-in” look

For cinematic footage, **start with IBIS only**.

How to hold the camera for stable video

- Keep elbows close to your body
 - Use a wrist strap for added tension
 - Move your whole torso instead of your wrists
 - Walk heel-to-toe slowly for smoother movement
-

6. Autofocus in Video

Fuji’s video AF has improved significantly, but understanding how it behaves helps avoid hunting.

Recommended Settings

- **AF Mode:** Wide/Tracking
- **AF-C**
- **Face/Eye Detection:** **ON** for people
- **Tracking Sensitivity:** **2–3**
- **AF Speed:** +1 or +2

For subjects without faces:

- turn off Face Detect and use Wide AF
-

When AF struggles

- backlit faces
- subjects with glasses
- low contrast environments
- very busy backgrounds

Solution:

→ Switch temporarily to **Single Point AF**, lock focus, reframe.

7. Audio Basics: Getting Clean Sound

Good audio often matters more than video quality.

The X100VI offers decent built-in microphones, but for reliable results, an external mic is recommended.

Options

- Small shotgun mic (compact, lightweight)
- Lavalier mic (interviews, narration)
- Wireless audio systems

Audio Settings

- **Mic Level:** Adjust manually
- **Wind Filter:** ON for outdoor use
- **Attenuation:** ON if using loud sources
- **Headphone Monitoring:** via USB-C adapter

Rule:

→ Always monitor audio when possible.

8. Exposure for Video (Practical Guide)

Unlike photography, video exposure follows the **180-degree shutter rule**.

Shutter Speed

- 24p → **1/48 or 1/50**
- 25p → **1/50**
- 30p → **1/60**
- 60p → **1/120**

This preserves natural motion blur.

Aperture

- f/2 for subject separation
 - f/4–f/5.6 for landscapes
 - f/2.8 for general travel filming
-

ISO

Keep it as low as possible.

Minimum ISO is 640 for F-Log and 1250 for F-Log2.

ND Filter for Video

The ND filter is essential for keeping shutter speed fixed in bright light.

Use ND when:

- outdoors
- shooting wide open
- filming reflective surfaces
- maintaining proper shutter angle

This is one of the X100VI's best video advantages.

9. Heat Management & Long Recording Sessions

Compact bodies generate heat during long recordings, but the X100VI performs better than expected.

Tips for minimizing overheating

- Use **4K Standard** instead of HQ for long takes
- Avoid direct sunlight on the camera
- Turn off Boost Mode
- Lower display brightness
- Take short breaks between clips
- Remove unnecessary image stabilization in static shots

In most practical scenarios, overheating is minimal.

10. Video Recipes: Ready-to-Use Setups

These setups give you fast, reliable video for specific scenarios.

Cinematic Everyday (Eterna)

- 4K HQ
- 24p
- Eterna
- Shutter 1/48
- DR200
- ISO Auto
- IBIS ON

Look: soft, gentle, cinematic.

Clean Documentary (Reala Ace)

- 4K Standard
- 25p or 30p
- Reala Ace
- Shutter 1/50 or 1/60
- Auto White Balance
- AF Wide/Tracking

Neutral, modern, realistic colors.

Street Video (Classic Chrome)

- 4K HQ
- 24p
- Classic Chrome
- DR200
- IBIS + Digital IS
- Slight underexposure (−0.3)

Gives the classic Fuji documentary mood.

Travel B-Roll (Slow Motion)

- 1080p 60p
- Shutter 1/120
- Eterna or Reala
- IBIS ON
- ND ON outdoors

Smooth, atmospheric sequences.

Professional Log Workflow (F-Log2)

- 6.2K or 4K HQ
- F-Log2
- Shutter 180°
- ISO requirement for Log
- Zebras at 95%
- Manual WB
- Exposure slightly to the right

Maximum dynamic range and grading flexibility.

11. Video Workflow in Post-Production

After recording, the editing stage determines the final look.

Recommended Editing Software

- **DaVinci Resolve** — best for color grading
 - **Final Cut Pro** — fast, intuitive
 - **Adobe Premiere Pro** — flexible for large projects
-

Basic Correction Workflow

1. Adjust exposure
 2. Correct white balance
 3. Apply LUT (F-Log/F-Log2)
 4. Fine-tune contrast
 5. Add gentle sharpening
 6. Reduce noise if necessary
-

Color Grading Tips

- Start with a neutral base
- Avoid heavy saturation
- Protect skin tones
- Add subtle film-like contrast
- Use grain sparingly

Fuji footage grades beautifully with soft, organic contrast curves.

SECTION VI — ADVANCED TECHNIQUES & TROUBLESHOOTING

Mastering the X100VI at a professional level, and solving problems before they slow you down.

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1. Advanced Exposure Techniques

Once you understand the essentials, the X100VI offers powerful advanced tools to refine your exposure in challenging environments.

Expose to Protect Highlights (Fuji-Style ETTR)

Fujifilm sensors respond particularly well when you **protect highlights first**.

Practical method:

- Keep the **histogram slightly left-of-center**
- Avoid clipping in the red warning areas
- Lift shadows later in post if needed

This gives:

- cleaner skies
 - better skin tones
 - more film-like rolloff
-

Using DR200/400 as Creative Tools

Dynamic Range settings are not just technical adjustments — they influence the look of your image.

Use **DR200** for:

- bright daylight
- skin tones in sun
- outdoor street photography

Use **DR400** for:

- harsh midday sun
- beach or snow
- reflective surfaces

These modes preserve an organic highlight response and prevent harsh clipping.

Shadow & Highlight Tone Adjustments

These sliders behave differently from traditional contrast:

- **Shadow Tone +1/+2** → more punch and deeper blacks
- **Highlight Tone -1/-2** → smoother rolloff

For a film-like look:

- H: -1
 - S: +1
-

2. Advanced Autofocus Techniques

The X100VI's AF is strong, but understanding its nuances gives you a real edge in unpredictable environments.

Tracking Behavior Tips

- **Use Wide/Tracking** when subject movement is unpredictable
- **Use Zone AF** for controlled movement
- **Use Single Point AF-C** for portraits

If you feel AF “jumping,” slow down tracking sensitivity:

- From **+3** to **+1**
-

Pre-Focus Technique

Ideal for candid or documentary work.

Method:

1. Focus once on a specific distance
2. Hold AEL/AFL or switch to MF
3. Wait for your subject to enter the zone

Gives fast, decisive moments without hunting.

Backlight AF Strategy

Backlight confuses many AF systems.

To stabilize:

- Turn off Face/Eye Detect
- Increase AF box size
- Slightly underexpose (-0.3 to -1.0)
- Use Single Point AF

This restores predictability.

3. Working With the Electronic Shutter

The electronic shutter is a powerful tool for silent and discreet shooting, but it comes with specific behaviors.

Advantages

- Silent operation
 - Shutter speeds up to 1/180000
 - No mechanical wear
-

Limitations

- Rolling shutter distortion (especially with fast movement)
 - Banding under certain artificial lights
-

When to use Electronic Shutter

- Live performances
 - Meetings or conferences
 - Street photography requiring total silence
 - Discreet documentary situations
-

When to avoid Electronic Shutter

- Fast action
- Panning shots
- Any environment with LED panels

In those cases, switch to mechanical shutter (MS) or electronic + mechanical (ES/MS).

4. Focus Peaking & Manual Precision Tools

Manual focus on the X100VI is intuitive thanks to its strong EVF and peaking tools.

Recommended Peaking Colors

- **Red High** → best for daylight
- **White** → best for critical work or studio
- **Blue** → for low light environments

The goal is to choose a color that clearly contrasts with your scene.

Split-Image for Retro Precision

Split-image mode mimics classic rangefinders:

- Align the vertical lines
- Works perfectly for architecture, portraits, and detail shots

It feels old-school but is surprisingly accurate.

ERF (Electronic Range Finder Mode)

Use ERF when:

- You want the OVF's natural view
- But still need a focus confirmation window
- Or you're shooting manual lenses (via adapters)

It's a unique Fujifilm feature that blends intuition with precision.

5. Troubleshooting: Autofocus, Exposure & Color Issues

Here is a consolidated guide to solving the most common problems users encounter.

AF Problems

Problem: Face detection fails

Fix:

- Disable and use Single Point AF
- Increase box size
- Improve lighting
- Avoid sunglasses / masks

Problem: AF hunts in low light

Fix:

- Use Zone AF
 - Turn on AF Illuminator
 - Switch to MF with peaking
-

Exposure Problems

Problem: Overexposed skies

Fix:

- Use DR200 or DR400
- Drop exposure (−1.0)
- Use ND Filter
- Switch to Classic Chrome (better highlight rolloff)

Problem: Indoor yellow or inconsistent color

Fix:

- Use AWB White Priority
 - Or manual Kelvin: 4000–4700K
 - Turn off mixed light sources if possible
-

Color Problems

Problem: Skin tones look too magenta

Fix:

- WB Shift: Green -1
- Use Reala Ace instead of Classic Neg indoors

Problem: Flat or washed-out images

Fix:

- Shadow Tone +1
 - Color Chrome Effect: Strong
 - Slight underexposure improves depth
-

6. Troubleshooting: Video Issues

Video troubleshooting is essential for reliable filmmaking, especially when dealing with compact bodies like the X100VI.

Autofocus Issues

- Use Wide/Tracking
 - Disable Face/Eye Detect when subject has no clear face
 - Slow Tracking Sensitivity (0 to +1)
 - Use Single Point for stationary subjects
-

Shutter Flicker / Banding

Happens under LED lighting.

Fix:

- Change shutter speed slightly (1/50 → 1/48 or 1/60)
- Use Flicker Reduction if available

Overheating

Rare but possible in:

- long 4K HQ takes
- hot environments

Fix:

- Switch to 4K Standard
 - Reduce screen brightness
 - Avoid Boost Mode
 - Take short breaks between takes
-

Noise in Log Footage

Underexposure is the culprit 99% of the time.

Fix:

Expose Log footage **brighter** (ETTR), then correct in post.

7. Professional Shooting Recipes (Advanced)

Short, powerful setups designed for professional work.

Bright Sun Portrait (Flash + Leaf Shutter)

- ISO 125
- Shutter 1/1000
- Aperture f/2 or f/2.8
- ND OFF
- Flash TTL at -0.7

Result: bright sky + clean, controlled subject.

Cinematic Street Sequence

- 4K HQ
- Classic Chrome
- Shutter 1/50
- DR200
- IBIS + Digital IS
- Slight underexposure (−0.3)

Result: moody, timeless atmosphere.

Minimalist Black & White

- Acros Yellow
- Highlight −1
- Shadow +2
- Grain Weak
- DR100

Result: sharp, contrasty, documentary-style B&W.

Environmental Travel Portrait

- Reala Ace
- Aperture f/2.8
- DR200
- Face Detect ON
- ISO Auto
- Shutter 1/250

Result: balanced skin tones and contextual background.

Night Street Vibes

- Classic Neg
- Auto ISO 3 (max 6400)
- Shutter 1/125
- AWB White Priority
- Shadow +1, Highlight -1

Result: neon-rich scenes with controlled contrast.

SECTION VII — QUICK REFERENCE, CHECKLISTS & TEMPLATES

Fast, practical tools for shooting confidently in any situation.

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1. Quick Setup Recipes (One-Minute Presets)

Ready-to-use configurations for real-world shooting.

These quick recipes are designed for instant, reliable results. Use them when you need to shoot quickly without diving into menus.

Everyday Photography

- **Mode:** Aperture Priority
- **Aperture:** f/2.8
- **Minimum Shutter:** 1/125
- **ISO:** Auto (Max 3200)
- **AF:** AF-C + Single Point
- **Film Simulation:** Reala Ace
- **Dynamic Range:** DR200
- **White Balance:** Daylight
- **ND Filter:** Off

Result: clean color, stable autofocus, highly versatile rendering.

Street Photography

- **Mode:** Aperture Priority
- **Aperture:** f/5.6 or f/8
- **Minimum Shutter:** 1/250
- **ISO:** Auto (Max 6400)
- **AF:** Zone AF
- **Film Simulation:** Classic Chrome or Classic Neg
- **White Balance:** Daylight
- **ND Filter:** Off (use On in strong sunlight)

Result: deep depth of field, fast reaction time, discreet operation.

Portraits

- **Aperture:** f/2
- **Shutter:** 1/250
- **ISO:** Auto
- **AF:** AF-C + Face/Eye Detection
- **Film Simulation:** Reala Ace or Astia
- **Dynamic Range:** DR200
- **White Balance:** Daylight (slightly warm if desired)

Result: flattering skin tones, strong eye focus, soft background separation.

Low Light / Night

- **Mode:** Aperture Priority
- **Aperture:** f/2
- **Minimum Shutter:** 1/125
- **ISO:** Auto (Max 6400)
- **Dynamic Range:** DR100
- **AF:** AF-C + Single Point
- **Film Simulation:** Reala or Provia

Result: clean, consistent low-light results with minimal noise.

Travel Photography

- **Mode:** Aperture Priority
- **Aperture:** f/4
- **ISO:** Auto (Max 3200)
- **AF:** Zone AF
- **Film Simulation:** Classic Chrome or Reala Ace
- **Dynamic Range:** DR200
- **White Balance:** Daylight

Result: documentary-style consistency throughout the day.

Flash Portrait in Sunlight (Leaf Shutter Advantage)

- **ISO:** 125
- **Shutter:** 1/1000–1/2000
- **Aperture:** f/2.8
- **Film Simulation:** Provia or Classic Chrome
- **ND Filter:** Off
- **Flash:** TTL –0.7

Result: perfectly exposed subject with preserved highlights and sky.

Cinematic Video

- **Resolution:** 4K HQ
- **FPS:** 24p
- **Shutter:** 1/48
- **Film Simulation:** Eterna
- **ISO:** Auto or fixed
- **Dynamic Range:** DR200
- **IBIS:** On

Result: soft, cinematic motion and color with minimal grading needed.

2. At-a-Glance Technical Reference

A condensed lookup table of essential settings and controls.

Exposure

- Aperture
 - Shutter Speed
 - ISO
 - Exposure Compensation
 - ND Filter
 - Dynamic Range
-

Autofocus

- AF Mode (Single / Zone / Wide/Tracking)
 - AF-C Custom Settings
 - Face/Eye Detection
 - AF Illuminator
-

Shooting Settings

- Drive Mode
 - Shutter Type
 - ISO Settings
 - ND Filter
 - Flicker Reduction
-

Button & Dial Settings

- Function Buttons (Fn1–Fn7)
 - ISO Dial Behavior (C mode)
 - Command Dials
 - Control Ring Behavior
-

Display Options

- Histogram
 - Grid Lines
 - Brightness
 - Info Display Customization
-

Video Settings

- Resolution
 - Frame Rate
 - Bitrate / Codec
 - F-Log / F-Log2
 - Stabilization Mode
 - Mic Level
-

Setup

- Sound
 - Power Management
 - Bluetooth & Wi-Fi
 - Backup & Restore
-

3. Menu Map (Simplified Navigation Guide)

A clear overview of the most important Fujifilm X100VI menu categories.

Image Quality

- Film Simulation
 - Grain Effect
 - Color Chrome FX
 - Dynamic Range (DR100/200/400)
 - Sharpening / Clarity / Noise Reduction
-

Autofocus

- AF Mode (Single / Zone / Wide)
 - AF-C Custom Settings
 - Face/Eye Detection
 - AF Illuminator
-

Shooting Settings

- Drive Mode
 - Shutter Type (MS / ES / MS+ES)
 - ISO Settings / ISO-C
 - ND Filter
 - Flicker Reduction
-

Button/Dial Settings

- Function Buttons (Fn1–Fn7)
 - ISO Dial Behavior (C)
 - Command Dials
 - Control Ring Functions
-

Display Settings

- Histogram
 - Grid Lines
 - Display Brightness
 - Info Display Customization
-

Video Settings

- Resolution
 - Frame Rate
 - Bitrate / Codec
 - F-Log / F-Log2
 - Stabilization Mode
 - Microphone Level
 - Wind Filter
-

Setup

- Sound & Notifications
 - Power Management
 - Bluetooth / Wi-Fi
 - Backup & Restore Settings
-

SECTION VIII — FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

A condensed, practical recap of the most important issues covered throughout this guide

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1. What settings should I use for everyday photography?

Use **Aperture Priority**, **f/2.8–f/4**, **Auto ISO (max 3200)**, **minimum shutter 1/125**, **AF-C**, **Single Point AF**, and **Reala Ace** or **Classic Chrome**.

This gives fast response, consistent exposure, and natural color.

2. How do I get sharp portraits with the X100VI?

Activate **AF-C**, **Face/Eye Detection**, and use a **medium Single Point** if detection becomes unreliable.

Shoot at **f/2–f/2.8**, **DR200**, and **Shutter 1/250** minimum.

3. When should I use DR200 or DR400?

- **DR200** → Bright daylight, outdoor portraits, scenes with skies
- **DR400** → Harsh sun, reflective surfaces, beach/snow
- **DR100** → Indoor, low contrast environments

DR modes protect highlights without harming image quality.

4. JPEG, RAW or HEIF — which format should I choose?

- **JPEG + RAW** → Best all-purpose workflow
 - **JPEG only** → When you fully trust your film simulations
 - **HEIF** → Travel and mobile workflows
- RAW gives flexibility; JPEG/HEIF give the best Fuji color right out of camera.
-

5. How do I use the ND filter effectively?

Turn it ON when:

- Shooting **wide open (f/2)** in bright light
 - Filming video (to maintain **1/50 or 1/60** shutter)
 - Doing **flash portraits outdoors**
- It is one of the X100VI's key creative tools.
-

6. Why does my autofocus sometimes hunt?

Possible causes:

- Backlight or low contrast
- Too small AF box
- Face/Eye detection struggling

Solutions:

- Switch to **Single Point AF-C**
 - Increase AF box size
 - Turn OFF face detection
 - Use **Zone AF** in low light
-

7. How do I configure C1–C7?

C1–C7 **only store image-quality settings**, not autofocus or exposure modes. Use them strictly as **Film Simulation Recipes**. Exposure, AF mode, ND, ISO, etc., must be set manually.

8. How do I get cinematic video on the X100VI?

Use:

- **4K HQ, 24p, Shutter 1/48–1/50**
 - **Eterna or Reala Ace**
 - **IBIS On**, ND filter as needed
 - Manual WB if possible
- For Log: expose slightly brighter (ETTR).
-

9. How do I avoid noise in F-Log / F-Log2?

Log must be **exposed brighter** than normal JPEG/film sim footage.

Use:

- **Histogram**
 - **Zebras at 95%**
 - Slightly push exposure “to the right”
-

10. Why do my colors look inconsistent indoors?

Indoor lighting mixes temperatures.

Fix it with:

- **AWB White Priority**, or
 - Manual Kelvin (4000–4700K), or
 - Matching the main light source only
-

11. How do I use the leaf shutter with flash?

The X100VI can sync flash at **1/500 to 1/2000** (sometimes 1/4000).

Use:

- ISO 125
- Aperture f/2–2.8
- Shutter 1/1000 outdoors

The leaf shutter + ND gives incredible control in daylight portraits.

12. Why do my night photos look soft?

Likely due to shutter speeds too low.

Set:

- **Min shutter 1/125** for humans
- **1/250** for street

Use **Auto ISO** up to 6400 — the sensor handles it very well.

SECTION IX — LINKS & RESOURCES

Carefully curated online references for recipes, techniques and community learning

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1. Essential Fujifilm X100VI Resources

Fujifilm Official X100VI Page

Specifications, features, firmware updates.

→ <https://fujifilm-x.com>

Fujifilm Support & Firmware

Latest firmware (important for AF and video improvements).

→ <https://fujifilm-x.com/support>

Fujifilm X100VI Owner's Community (Official Forum)

Technical discussions, troubleshooting, accessories.

→ <https://fujix-forum.com>

2. Film Simulation Recipes — The Best Sources

Fuji X Weekly

The largest catalogue of Fujifilm Film Simulation Recipes.

→ <https://fujixweekly.com>

Recipe App (Fuji X Weekly App)

Mobile app to store and load recipes on the go.

→ Search “Fuji X Weekly” on App Store / Google Play

3. Essential X100VI Tutorials & Channels

Juansuponatime (Juan Pablo)

Highly recommended for portraits and lifestyle Fuji shooting.

→ <https://youtube.com/@JuansuponatimePhotos>

pal2tech

Help for beginner camera owners.

<https://www.youtube.com/@pal2tech>

BigHeadTaco (Taki)

Long-term Fuji shooter with deep experience and relaxed explanations.

→ <https://youtube.com/@bigheadtaco>

4. Recipes Designed Specifically for the X100VI (40MP Sensor)

These sites test recipes directly on the 40MP BSI sensor:

- **Fuji X Weekly (40MP section)**
 - **Thomas Schwab**
 - **Film Recipes (Website dedicated to newer Fuji sensors)**
→ <https://film.recipes>
-

5. X100VI Accessories, Long-Term Reviews & Setups

Jonas Rask

Lens and camera reviews with gorgeous sample images.

→ <https://jonasraskphotography.com>

6. Community Inspiration & Galleries

- **Instagram hashtags**

#x100vi

#fujix100series

#fujixtheworld

- **Reddit Community**

→ r/fujifilm

→ r/x100vi

SECTION X — GLOSSARY & FINAL NOTES

A clean, professional reference to all essential terms, plus closing remarks for the reader.

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1. Glossary of Key Terms

Clear, concise definitions for fast understanding.

AF-C (Continuous Autofocus)

Continuously adjusts focus to track moving subjects. Ideal for portraits, street, and everyday action.

AF-S (Single Autofocus)

Locks focus once when you half-press the shutter. Best for static scenes or deliberate compositions.

Auto ISO

Automatically adjusts ISO based on available light. Essential for fast-paced shooting.

Avoid the AUTO minimum shutter setting: on a fixed 23mm lens it selects ~1/40–1/50 s, which is too slow for real-world handheld shooting.

Clarity

Micro-contrast adjustment that adds bite to edges and midtones. Use sparingly to avoid harshness.

Color Chrome Effect

Fuji's unique tonal enhancement that deepens saturated colors without clipping. Adds subtle richness.

Dynamic Range (DR100 / DR200 / DR400)

Controls how the camera protects highlights.

- **DR100:** default
- **DR200:** outdoor balance
- **DR400:** harsh sunlight / maximum highlight recovery

ETTR (Expose To The Right)

Technique of exposing slightly brighter to improve shadow quality, then pulling back in post.

EVF (Electronic Viewfinder)

Digital view of the scene with exposure preview, film simulation preview, and accurate focus feedback.

OVF (Optical Viewfinder)

A direct optical window showing the world with frame lines and outside-frame visibility. Zero lag.

Flicker Reduction

Minimizes exposure flicker under LED or fluorescent lights by syncing shutter timing.

F-Log / F-Log2

Flat video profiles designed for color grading.

- **F-Log:** easier, cleaner in low light
- **F-Log2:** maximum dynamic range and flexibility

Focus Peaking

Outlines edges that are in focus during manual focus. Color-coded for visibility.

IBIS (In-Body Image Stabilization)

Stabilizes sensor movement for sharper photos and smoother handheld video.

Kelvin (White Balance K Mode)

Manual temperature-based white balance for consistent color across scenes.

Leaf Shutter

Shutter located inside the lens. Near silent, minimal distortion, and capable of extremely high flash sync speeds.

ND Filter (Neutral Density Filter)

Built-in 4-stop filter that reduces light for wide-aperture shooting or proper video shutter speeds in daylight.

Oversampling

Recording in higher resolution and downscaling for cleaner detail (e.g., 6.2K to 4K HQ).

Zone Focus

Pre-setting focus at a defined distance for instant capture—key technique for street photography.

2. Final Notes & Acknowledgments

The Fujifilm X100VI is a special camera — not because of its specifications, but because of the experience it creates. It invites you to slow down, observe more carefully, and engage with the world in a more intentional way. Its blend of modern performance and classic design rewards curiosity and craftsmanship.

This guide was written to help you understand the camera deeply and to encourage you to explore your own style with confidence. You will get the most out of the X100VI not by memorizing settings, but by shooting often, experimenting freely, and learning from your own images.

Whether you're capturing daily life, traveling somewhere new, photographing people you care about, or simply enjoying a walk with the camera at your side, I hope this handbook becomes a useful companion.

Thank you for reading, and enjoy your journey with the X100VI.

— Emmanuel ARNOUD

Find more of my work

My website : <https://itakephotos.fr/>

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/lestudiochesterfield/> and
<https://www.instagram.com/realbatsteek/>