

Films

on the market

Choosing the right film is the first step to finding your way through the hands-on practice of film photography. Not all film is created equal, and each brand has its own special qualities – ranging from grain quality to how it will replicate skin tones. While

many of these characteristics in your images can be corrected later (particularly if you want to scan your negatives), there's nothing better than getting everything correct in-camera. Here, Silverprint, a photographic supplies store in London, takes us through some of the best brands on the market.

Colour negative film



Fujifilm Fujicolor Pro 160NS

This professional-quality, medium-speed, daylight-balanced colour negative 120 film has extremely fine grain. It is especially suited to portrait photography and provides a wide exposure latitude (the extent to which a film can be overexposed or underexposed and still achieve an acceptable result). It also produces superb skin tones with a smooth continuous gradation and highly accurate colour reproduction. The new-generation emulsion is designed to allow for optimum scanning quality.



Fujifilm Fujicolor Pro 400H

Pro 400H is a professional-quality, high-speed, fine-grain, daylight-balanced colour negative 35mm and 120 film incorporating Fujifilm's 4th Color Layer technology. Fujifilm Fujicolor Pro 400H provides a wide exposure latitude, superb skin tones with a smooth continuous gradation and, like the 160NS (above), gives highly accurate colours.



Fujifilm Fujicolor Superia X-tra 400

This is a high-speed, daylight-balanced colour negative 35mm film. Fujifilm's 4th Color Layer technology produces vibrant, natural colours under mixed lighting conditions. The Super Fine Grain Technology and high sharpness are well suited to scanning and enlarging for print.



Kodak Professional Ektar 100

Ektar 100 features high saturation and ultra-

vivid colour. It also offers one of the finest and smoothest grains of any colour negative film available. It is ideal for scanning and offers excellent enlargement capability. It's the perfect choice for commercial photographers and advanced amateurs alike.



Kodak Professional Portra 160

This 120 film features a fine-grain structure for excellent scanning and enlargement capabilities. It is particularly good at capturing smooth and natural skin tones. It's a pretty good choice for portrait, fashion and commercial photography, whether you're working in the studio or out on location.



Kodak Professional Portra 400

Portra 400 is one of the world's finest grain high-speed colour negative 120 films. At true ISO 400 speed, this film delivers good skin tones plus exceptional colour saturation over a wide range of lighting conditions.



Kodak Gold 200

Kodak Gold is a low-speed colour negative film that offers a good combination of colour saturation, fine grain and high sharpness. It's designed for general photography in daylight or with an electronic flash. It also features wide exposure latitude – from 2 stops underexposure to 3 stops overexposure.



Kodak Ultra Max 400

This is an easy-to-use high-speed 35mm film for snapshooters. Ultra Max 400 gives you good flexibility to take consistently better pictures in a variety of situations. It provides better low-light picture quality with fewer underexposures, good results with zoom lenses, greater flash range, better 'stop-action' photos and reduced impact of camera shake.



CineStill 800 Tungsten Xpro C-41

This 35mm film is in its second generation of production, with an improved and refined production process. The 800T produces good results in standard colour negative C-41 chemistry, even when pushed to ISO 3,200. If you're shooting outdoors, it's recommended you use an 85B filter and shoot at ISO 500. CineStill takes original stock from Kodak and makes it safe for standard C-41 development. It can also be processed in motion-picture ECN-2 chemistry.



CineStill 50 Daylight Xpro C-41

This is an ISO 50, daylight-balanced, colour-negative, 35mm motion-picture film stock for use in stills photography. It has an unrivalled highlight latitude, an accurate colour rendition and high resolution for maximum sharpness. (See AP 3 January 2015 for more.)

Black & white negative film

WHILE there's a good range of colour films on the market, there are more black & white film brands. You can turn to pages 8-10 for a thorough guide on choosing the right black & white film for you, but here we take a look at some of the black & white films you may not necessarily have considered, as well as few familiar names.



Ilford SFX 200

SFX 200 is a high-speed, high-contrast and infrared-sensitive black & white film for 35mm and 120. The film is used with either a deep red (Wratten 25) or completely visually opaque (Wratten 87 series) filter. Care must be taken when using it to prevent fogging. A stainless-steel processing tank is recommended.



Ilford XP2 Super 400

This is a fine-grained 35mm and 120 black & white ISO 400 film. It is processed in standard colour negative chemistry (C-41). XP2 Super has been through several improvements to make it sharper and to give full quality in C-41 without modifications. It can also yield a neutral image when printed onto colour paper (so long as the filtration is set properly – something even some one-hour labs will now do), as well as printing on traditional black & white paper.



Fujifilm Neopan 100 Acros

Neopan 100 Acros is a medium-speed black & white 35mm and 120 film with high resolution and ultra-fine grain. It achieves high grain quality while attaining excellent exposure, coupled with its outstanding shadow reproduction. The film utilises Fujifilm's Sigma Crystal Technology and Super Uniform Fine-Grain Technology by greatly increasing the amount of light captured by using the absorbed light more effectively.



Kodak Tri-X

Tri-X is a very popular ISO 400 35mm and 120 film, which has remained basically unchanged for decades. It's generally considered the classic photojournalists' film. It's enormously flexible in processing and prints with a distinctive punchy snappiness. It is available in all common formats, with the exception (in the UK) of 8x10. It has a sharp, tight grain structure and is a good film for pushing to a reasonable level.



Kodak Professional T-Max 100

T-Max 100 35mm uses T-Grain technology, yielding fine grain relative to film speed. This is done by employing a tabular (or flatter) grain structure and a high degree of sensitisation. This requires more attention at the fixing stage – to remove all sensitising dye. Approximately double the normal fixing time must be used, and the fixer will exhaust more quickly. T-Max fixer is an extra-rapid formula designed to complement this series of films.



Fomapan 100 Classic

This panchromatically sensitised black & white 35mm and 120 film meets high requirements for low granularity, high resolving power and contour sharpness and a wide range of halftones. Fomapan 100 Classic has a nominal speed rating of ISO 100, but due to its wide exposure latitude gives good results even when overexposed by 1 stop (as ISO 50) or underexposed by 2 stops (as ISO 400) without any change in processing (that is, without lengthening the development time or increasing the temperature of the developer used). To make prints or enlargements from this film, all types of black & white enlarging papers can be used.



AgfaPhoto APX Professional 100

APX Professional 100 35mm is universally suitable for all professional applications. Thanks to its fine grain and wide range of exposure, it produces striking images with excellent sharpness and contrast. The strengths of APX 100 are apparent in diverse fields, such as architecture, landscape, and documentary.



Rollei Retro 80s 35mm

This is a new 35mm and 120 film derived from the AgfaPhoto Aviphot Pan 80 aerial film. The emulsion is coated onto a transparent synthetic base providing excellent long-term and dimensional stability. It is suitable for both daylight and tungsten lighting. The transparent base also makes it good for scanning.



Kentmere 100

This medium-speed 35mm black & white camera film is suitable for a variety of indoor and outdoor applications of photography where good lighting exists. It has the capability to generate high-quality images with fine grain and good sharpness, and is a good choice of film if enlargement prints are desired.



Adox CHS 100 II

CHS 100 II is a sensitised 35mm black & white film with classic grain and a tonal range optimised for greyscale separation. The film is made from two separate emulsions in a single-layer coating and yields a very large exposure latitude. Due to its classic sensitisation it features a very harmonic tonal separation. Compared to most modern films it differentiates better between lips and face, clouds and sky, and water and land. The film is coated onto clear archival PET.

You can visit **Silverprint** at 120 London Road, London SE1 6LF. Alternatively, email sales@silverprint.co.uk or call 020 7620 0169. Visit www.silverprint.co.uk for the website and online shop. Opening hours are Monday-Friday 9.30-17.30, Thursday 9.30-20.00 (closed on Saturdays and Sundays).

NEGATIVES FROM

IF YOU want a good example of how digital and film can work together then look no further than digital contact film, a format that allows you to print a large negative on your inkjet printer, which you can then use to produce an image by placing it against photo-sensitive paper.

This is a technique that is well worth exploring. The size of prints you are able to produce is a big bonus, and saves you the time and money of getting your negs specially developed and printed.

YOUR PRINTER

Fotospeed Digital Contact Film (80 micron)

This film has been specifically developed for making contact negatives through an inkjet printer for any darkroom process, from traditional processes to contact printing onto fibre-based silver-gelatin papers. This film is instant-dry, microporous, water-resistant and produces the highest quality continuous tone film. It facilitates the use of digital technology to dodge and burn pixel by pixel, to produce the perfect negative. The film also comes in a range of sizes from A4 to 17x30cm.



OTHER SUPPLIERS

Bob Rigby Photographic www.bobrigby.com, 01625 575 591; **Fujifilm** www.ccimaging.co.uk/film/fujifilm, 08445 532 316; **Harman Express** (Ilford) www.harmanexpress.com, 01565 684 000; **Keyphoto** www.keyphoto.com, 01582 460 461; **Nova Darkroom** www.novadarkroom.com, 01789 739 200; **Second-hand RK Photographic** at www.thedarkroom.co.uk 01993 878 323; **Speed Graphic** www.speedgraphic.co.uk, 01420 560 066; **Tetenal** www.tetenaluk.com, 0116 289 3644; **The Small Battery Company** (batteries) www.smallbatterycompany.org.uk, 0208 871 3730