

The Complete Guide To The

Olympus Pen F Colour Dial

Learn how to use the Colour Dial and get the best black and white output from your Pen F



David Fleet

- The Cotswold Photographer -



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Introduction

The Pen F Revolution



Introduction

The Olympus Pen F can produce superb black and white images

Despite its retro looks and aesthetically pleasing body the Olympus Pen F is absolutely jam packed with advanced features. One of the most exciting is the new colour dial which gives direct access to beautiful black and white profiles.

These profiles can be customized to a very high degree and getting the most out of them is not always easy.

In this book you will learn how to use the new colour wheel and get the very best black and white output from your Pen F

I have been using Micro 4/3 cameras since the beginning and have shot just about every camera and lens in the range.

The Pen F is particularly suited to street photographers with its discreet size and fast auto focus. However it is more than capable of performing well in almost any genre of photography.

Combine the Pen F with the right lenses and it is capable of producing some of the best looking black and white images of any camera on the market today.

Chapter 1

Using the Colour Dial



Chapter 1

Using the colour Dial offers a simple and intuitive interface.

The introduction of the colour dial on the Olympus Pen F has brought about a new level of in camera customization available to photographers.

It offers direct access to a number of image parameters that were previously only readily available to those willing to post process their photos.

With the introduction of this new feature we can now produce a finished image in camera ready for the World to see.



Chapter 1

Using the colour Dial offers a simple and intuitive interface.

So let's get started and learn how to use the colour dial in a few easy steps.

With your camera turned on, rotate the colour dial all the way until Mono is selected. This takes you to black and white mode.

Now the colour filter option will pop up. Ignore this as we want to choose our black and white profile first. To get out of this screen press the shutter button half way down.

To select your B&W profile hit the OK button in the middle of the D-Pad and the Olympus Super Control panel will pop up.

Scroll to the top right and you will see Mono Profile 1, 2 or 3.



Chapter 1

Using the colour Dial offers a simple and intuitive interface.

Profile 1 is a basic monochrome profile with very flat colours. It is intended as a basic profile on which you can make your own adjustments.

Profile 2 is a Tri X like film simulation offering dark blacks and bright whites. This is the profile which will give you the most beautiful black and white images of the three.

Profile 3 is an infra red like profile.

So go ahead and select profile 2 by turning the top dial that you use for changing aperture or shutter speed.

This profile creates images with very high contrast on its default settings but don't worry as I will show you how to get the best out of it later.

Chapter 1

Using the colour Dial offers a simple and intuitive interface.

Film grain is available in three levels. Low, medium and high. I would suggest playing around with these to see which suits your images best.

Adding grain can create a more gritty and textured feel to your photos but it wont suit every photo.

You access the film gran settings in the Olympus Super Control panel as shown below



Chapter 2

Selecting filters and adding effects

Now we want to go back into the colour wheel settings to decide whether to add colour filters and a vignette to our photos. Simply flick the switch below the PASM dial and it will bring up our colour wheel menu.



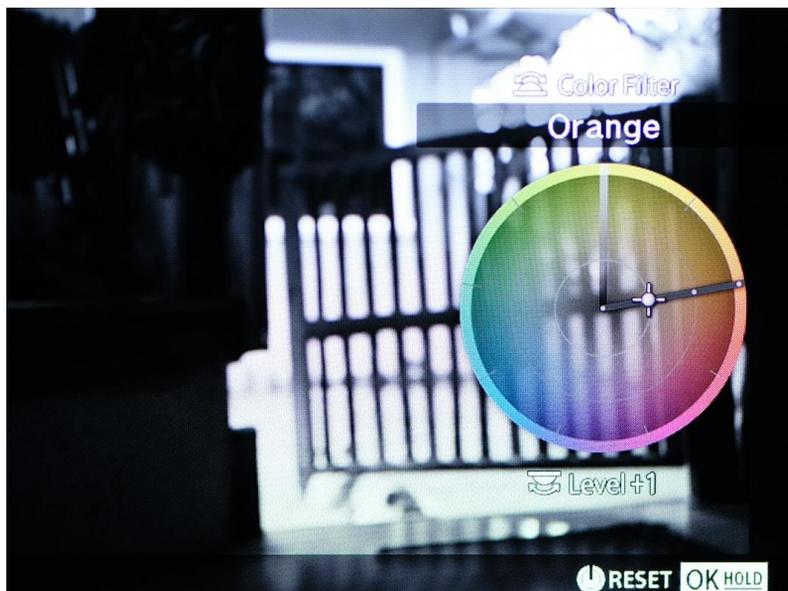
Chapter 2

Selecting filters and adding effects

We now have the option to add colour filters using the colour wheel here.

To add a filter turn the top shutter dial. You will notice that each time you turn it a colour filter is added to the image. You can see a preview of this on the EVF or LCD as you do it. This shows you the effect that the filter has on the image in front of you.

We have Yellow, Orange, Red, Magenta, Blue, Cyan, Green and Yellow-Green.



Chapter 2

Selecting filters and adding effects

The most useful filters are red to darken skies, green to give pleasing skin tones and blue to bring out textures.

As well as the ability to select colour filters you can also vary their strength by scrolling with the thumb dial.

Filters are available in three strength settings.



Chapter 2

Selecting filters and adding effects

Adding a vignette

Next we can choose to add a vignette. To select a vignette flick the dedicated switch under the PASM dial and use the thumb dial to add a bright or dark vignette, again available in three strengths either way.



Chapter 3

Changing the Curves

Tone Curves

Finally flick the dedicated switch under the PASM dial again and you will see a tone curve as in the image below.



Chapter 1

Using the colour Dial offers a simple and intuitive interface.

Tone Curves

The tone curves allow you to control how bright the highlights are as well as how dark the shadows are.

What is great about the Pen F Is that by pressing the info button we can also adjust the mid-tones.

To change the tone curves we use the top and rear dials. The top dial controls highlights and the rear dial shadows.

Rotating the dial to the right brightens and to the left darkens the selected tones of an image.

The default settings are +6 for highlights, -6 for shadows and 0 for the mid-tones.

While these settings may work for you I found them to give too much contrast, leading to blocked shadows. They are also too harsh for portraits as they render skin tones in an unflattering way.

Therefore after playing around with the settings over countless hours I am going to save you some time and give you my preferred settings.

Chapter 1

Using the colour Dial offers a simple and intuitive interface.

Best Settings

To get the best black and white output for most situations while retaining great contrast I have found the following settings to be the optimum.

Highlights +3

Shadows -4

Mid-tones +1

The great thing about the Pen F is that you can play around with it and customize it until it produces exactly what you want.

Of course my settings are a great starting point if you are not sure what you are doing but they are just a starting point.

I hope you have found this book useful.

Thank you again for subscribing to The Cotswold Photographer and being part of our growing community.

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