
Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Nokton48 - 2007/04/15 22:06

Hello All,

Presently I am using Fuji 400 and 1600 Presto, Ilford 3200, and Fuji Press 800 films. I'm pleased with results so far ;D. I'm just getting started with Ilford Pan F, and Efke 25. No results so far :(

My developers of choice include: Diafine, Acufine, Ilford DDX, Rodinal, Paterson Acutol (I have 1200ml stashed away :D) and Pyro PMK+

What's working well for you? ???

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Brian - 2007/04/16 06:57

Tri-X in HC-110 (H) for 14m @20C
HP5+ in HC-110 (B) for 5m
Shantou ERA100 in Rodinal (1+50) for 14m
Tri-X in Diafine

:)

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by jairyhunter - 2007/04/17 11:11

Ilford XP2
Kodak 400UC--often converted to B/W
Gold 200 that's left lying around

Excited about trying out Portra VC to see how it compares.

Not as crazy about CN400, Fuji Reala;

Mainly use these out of convenience; I have all the equipment, haven't taken the proverbial deep breath and plunged (back) into home souping for TriX and HP5.....

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Bébèrt - 2007/04/17 15:07

Hi there,

Ilford HP5 an FP4 are until now my favorites. Developed in (cheap and small bottle) Ilfosol.
Not the best developer but I'll have to finish the flask.
HP5 get rather grainy and contrasty with Ilfosol pushed over the 400 asa mark.
Fp4 looks nice tough.

Have a roll of Ilford delta 3200 in the fridge for the next test-shootout.

Fpt4 at 100 asa - Ultron 28mm/1,9

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Nando - 2007/04/19 07:28

I still have to learn how to develop film in a darkroom. I really like B&W film but cannot afford the processing at around \$20 per roll. So I've been using mainly C41 films - Fuji Reala, Fuji 400H, and Fuji 800Z. Most of the time, I just get the negatives processed at a supermarket close by for a bit over \$2 a roll then I scan them into my computer with my Nikon Coolscan V. I then convert them to B&W in Photoshop if needed. I have recently started to use Kodak 400UC film and although I'm not a fan of the saturated colours, the film does scan much better than the Fuji films. I would like to try the Portra VC films.

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Brian - 2007/04/19 09:47

I still have to learn how to develop film in a darkroom. I really like B&W film but cannot afford the processing at around \$20 per roll. So I've been using mainly C41 films - Fuji Reala, Fuji 400H, and Fuji 800Z. Most of the time, I just get the negatives processed at a supermarket close by for a bit over \$2 a roll then I scan them into my computer with my Nikon Coolscan V. I then convert them to B&W in Photoshop if needed. I have recently started to use Kodak 400UC film and although I'm not a fan of the saturated colours, the film does scan much better than the Fuji films. I would like to try the Portra VC films.

twenty bucks a roll for b&w processing!?!?

That's one thing I love about Taiwan...B&W is NT\$50/roll (~US\$1.50) and chromes are NT\$90/roll (~US\$2.60). Add NT\$50/roll for a CD. Whenever I return home to visit my mom in LA or dad back east I always save my films and process them here.

If you do your own b&w processing you'll save a bundle. Seriously. Plus, it's loads of fun for the tinkerer-chemist in you ;)

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Nando - 2007/04/19 18:01

Yes - over \$20/roll actually and that is in Canadian dollars, which are much closer to the US dollar now. I guess its one of the drawbacks of living in a small town that is in a relatively isolated area far away from anything. I have two choices for processing locally, the local pro shop that charges over \$20 a roll or a national camera store chain that charges the same price. Both of these places send the film to a lab in Toronto for processing and turn around time is about two weeks. The last time I developed a roll of FP4+, it cost me about \$26 CDN after factoring in the taxes. Since I scan the negatives onto my computer, I don't really care for prints but there is no option for me just to get the film developed without prints. The lab does a good job with the prints and the prints are of much higher quality than anything I've ever got printed locally. C41 films are dirt cheap to process in comparison and that's the main reason why I use them. I think I never spent more than \$5/roll for processing C41. I struck up a deal with a nearby supermarket and they'll just process the film for me with no prints for a bit over \$2 a roll and its usually done within a few hours. For your information, processing for color-slide film is over \$20 a roll too if I get the slides mounted.

The prices in Toronto are much more reasonable. A big camera shop in Toronto called Vistek lists \$5.99 per roll (135 or 120 film) for B&W for processing (with no prints). \$11.99 for processing and mounting slides. Both with a 1 day turn-around time. Unfortunately, I think that their services are only available to the locals. I have not looked into the possibility of getting pre-paid mailers. I have to do some research on it as I have no idea of what the costs are like. I'm not even sure if Canadians can take advantage of pre-paid mailers.

Another disadvantage for me is that the Digital Ice feature on my scanner doesn't work with B&W films. Using this feature really saves a lot of time in photoshop as most of the scratches and dust particles are automatically removed by the scanner.

I'm going to set up a darkroom in the summer after I get back from a trip to Portugal. Once I learn how to develop and make my own prints, I'll start buying B&W film again. I hope that I'll like working in the darkroom. I think that I might try medium format too at that time, perhaps starting with a nice Voigtlander folder or a basic Hassy kit to test the waters.

I recently borrowed some MF equipment from a friend just to try it out. Guess how much processing cost me. About \$36

per roll of 120mm and thats for the cheapest prints.

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Bébèrt - 2007/04/20 14:35

You don't need a darkroom for developing your film. I'm using 2 old Agfa Rodinax tanks. You just loed the film like loading a camera, close the lit and when the film is rolled up in the rodinax tank, ad the chemicals to develop the film. All in "plain" daylight.

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Doug Smith - 2007/04/21 19:15

Agfa APX 100, while my stock lasts, developed in Xtol. Plus-X or TMax otherwise. E100G when I'm in the mood for color.

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Nando - 2007/04/22 19:48

Bert,

That's good to know. Shows how much of a beginner I am. :)

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Nokton48 - 2007/04/24 15:13

I'm saving up exposed rolls of Neopan 1600/400, to develop together in my Honeywell Nikor developing tank, which holds eight rolls at a time. So far I have five rolls ready to load, and there's more Presto in two Bessa bodies. I'm going to try using some Paterson Acutol at 1:19. I'm shooting my test Neopan 1600 at 640, and my Neopan 400 at 250. I like shadow detail.

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Carzee - 2007/04/26 04:02

..... I'm shooting my test Neopan 1600 at 640, and my Neopan 400 at 250. I like shadow detail.

I'd like to see a pic using that technique posted. Wouldn't 1600 pulled down to 640 be just as grainy? (curious newbie)

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Nokton48 - 2007/04/26 05:48

Presto 1600 at EI 640 may actually be a bit grainier than shooting it at 1600, due to the thicker (grazier) negative. The trade-off is in the shadow detail. Thant's what I'm hoping to gain with the extra exposure. If I can get a really good-looking 5x7 out of it, that's about all I normally enlarge 35mm. If I need a bigger print than 5x7, I normally move to a

larger film format.

I haven't shot any Tri-X in twenty years, I'm thinking about getting 100' to try it again. I also think there would be some benefit to getting Ilford XP-2 in 100', so I can take it to the one-hour. Is the current Tri-X much different in response to the Tri-X of twenty years ago? In the last twenty years I've used all HP5+.

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by gb hill - 2007/05/05 20:07

I just picked up a few rolls of kodak 400uc. Never tried this film. I think it will be a winner. The Bessa lenses really show themselves in how they render color. For one who likes b&w the Skopar lenses have made a fan out of me. I have different b&w roll film I am wanting to get started on. Gekko, TriX-400, Tmax, PX-125, Agfa, some infrared that should be fun. All I'm waiting on is a decent scanner that will scan negs. I have some D76 and some Ilford Perceptol. Is anyone here ever used Perceptol? I got it at a steal so I couldn't pass it up. Never here anyone using it. I have a couple of bulk loaders so I am thinking on some bulk film to play with. Maybe some Arista. It's pretty cheap at Freestyle.

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Brian - 2007/05/06 01:59

I just picked up a few rolls of kodak 400uc. Never tried this film. I think it will be a winner. The Bessa lenses really show themselves in how they render color. For one who likes b&w the Skopar lenses have made a fan out of me. I have different b&w roll film I am wanting to get started on. Gekko, TriX-400, Tmax, PX-125, Agfa, some infrared that should be fun. All I'm waiting on is a decent scanner that will scan negs. I have some D76 and some Ilford Perceptol. Is anyone here ever used Perceptol? I got it at a steal so I couldn't pass it up. Never here anyone using it. I have a couple of bulk loaders so I am thinking on some bulk film to play with. Maybe some Arista. It's pretty cheap at Freestyle.

Mitsubishi Gekko is Maco 100UP is Efke 100 (meaning, Maco buys Efke then packages it in Gekko canisters). When you develop it it even states Maco 100UP on the edge :p. I've tried it and it's *okay*...highlights don't hold much detail (I develop in Rodinal and HC-110) but it's not bad. Right now my favorite 100 speed film is Shantou ERA100. The emulsion is a little soft but the way it renders midtones and the exposure latitude amaze me. I've attached a couple of samples to this post...this was taken in late afternoon lighting while driving from LA to Cabazon in the desert. The lens used for the first was a 21/4 Skopar @f11, hyperfocal. The second shot was a 35/1.7 Ultron. I developed the roll in Rodinal 1+50 for 14m @20C.

Arista is many things depending on which version you get. Last time I was in LA I stopped by Freestyle and stocked up on the expired bulk rolls of Arista 50 for 20 bucks each...it's really Ilford PanF.

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Nokton48 - 2007/05/09 05:52

I ordered a dozen rolls of the Freestyle 100' (just outdated) Aristo. This is really Pan F+ :) As I recall it was \$11.90/roll, so I couldn't resist stocking up ;D

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Brian - 2007/05/09 08:33

I ordered a dozen rolls of the Freestyle 100' (just outdated) Aristo. This is really Pan F+ :) As I recall it was \$11.90/roll, so I couldn't resist stocking up ;D

When I visited LA for the holiday season I bought some of that, too...although at the time the "past date special" for it was \$19.99 per.

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by gb hill - 2007/05/10 13:42

I ordered a dozen rolls of the Freestyle 100' (just outdated) Aristo. This is really Pan F+ :) As I recall it was \$11.90/roll, so I couldn't resist stocking up ;D

I noticed that the last time I was on line at Freestyle. 50asa. How outdated is it? Has any of you guys tried it yet?

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Nokton48 - 2007/05/10 17:28

Not yet, but I'm sure it's fine. All of my stock is dated Febuary 2006. Plenty of folks on RFF have been using it without any problems. Check out the threads over there on it.

I have deep-frozen Ilford Pan-F stockpiled in 120 size, hundreds of rolls. When frozen it will last virtually forever, without aging at all, because of it's slow-speed characteristics. I'll wager it would easily last fifty years, deep-frozen, probably with zero or near-zero aging effects.

I have 70mm Plus-X 70mm film in the freezer, somebody gave me fifteen rolls of the stuff. It is the old Plus-X formulation "the old EI 80 original -good- stuff :D". It dates from 1981 and 1982, and it's always been frozen. Yes, it has a bit of base fog, but it is -fine-. A bit of extra exposure, to push it up the straight-line, and normal development does the job 8)

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Brian - 2007/05/10 20:18

I noticed that the last time I was on line at Freestyle. 50asa. How outdated is it? Has any of you guys tried it yet? When I bought it they pulled it out of the fridge (compare that to the EFKE KB25 they simply pulled out of a lower drawer ???) so it should be okay. I keep it frozen at home.

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Bébèrt - 2007/05/11 14:13

Don't you guy's have problems when you take the films out of the freezer? Condention problems or so? I even have to be carefull when taking films out the fridge when it the weather is a bit moist.. :-*

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Nokton48 - 2007/05/11 18:11

I can't ever recall having any issues regarding condensation coming from the film being frozen. Of course, you have to leave the film sealed in it's original packaging, and allow sufficent time for it to warm up to room temperature, before cracking it open.

But I have never had problems re-freezing films, either. My deep-freeze is a frost-free model, and it maintains a constant temperature of zero degrees. Low enough to keep ice cream solidly frozen :D

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Brian - 2007/05/11 20:33

Don't you guys have problems when you take the films out of the freezer? Condensation problems or so? I even have to be careful when taking films out the fridge when the weather is a bit moist.. :-*

I haven't had any issues...just be sure to leave the film out to defrost slowly before using it. For a bulk roll, I won't touch it for half a day to be safe.

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Bébèrt - 2007/05/12 03:32

mm,
I'll try your frozen recipe one day when I should stumble on a large stock of cheap film, THX.

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Tom A - 2007/06/12 12:07

We have now entered an era of black/white film becoming scarce (and expensive!). You walk into a camera store and ask for tri-X and their eyes cross and "what is that?". These days I stock up on film and at the moment there is about a mile and a half in the freezer and I have ordered another 4000 ft for June delivery.

There is no question that if you shoot bl/w you have to develop it yourself. The cost goes overboard otherwise and the quality is not very good.

The idea of buying "ready made" developers is actually a fairly recent one. In the early 60's you made your own (the 60's was a bit chemically oriented though) and I never stopped. I do keep some D76 and some Microdol X sitting around, mainly for decorative purposes. Of course there are the ever present Rodinal bottles too for when you have no idea how to soup something (try Rod. 1:100 for 20 minutes and something will show up).

If you are shooting bl/w essential reading is Steve Anshell's "The Dark room cook book" and the "Film Developing Book". It is not alchemi or anything like that. There are some basic ingredients that you need and if you buy bulk, it gets really cheap. A pair of digital scales (ex-drug dealer at police auctions!).

You will need developing tanks (I use Paterson tanks and reels, mainly because I have at least 10 tanks and close to 100 reels around), but stainless reels are fine, once you find out how to load them and also how to get the cap off the tank afterwards!

The beauty of the Bessa line of cameras and lenses is that it will allow you access to high performance cameras and lenses at a cost that is reasonable. It also gives you access to cutting edge stuff like the 35f1.2, 12f5.6 and 15/4,5 and 21/25/28's that does not break the bank and if you spend the money you saved on film, instead of expensive pseudo german cameras you will do fine!

One of the simplest developer there is, is the Kodak D 23, it contains two components -Metol and Sodium Sulphite. It will give you decent negs with "old style" emulsions like Tri X/HP 5 and it works remarkably well with the ERA 100/Pan F/Plus X.

If you are scanning negs, all you need for 'souping your own' is a changing bag for loading tanks and sufficient space to store developer and fix. You also need a consistent water supply and a place to hang the film to dry.

Darkroom is one area where chemical dependency is OK.

Tom A

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Nokton48 - 2007/06/12 17:23

I used to mix my D-23 using the "scoop method". I used measuring spoons to add the appropriate amount of Metol and Sodium Sulphite. About as simple as you can get, and is great stuff, and the Kodak Bulk Chemical bottles I had lasted me ten years, before I finally threw them out.

BTW Welcome Tom :D

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Brian - 2007/06/13 08:31

You will need developing tanks (I use Paterson tanks and reels, mainly because I have at least 10 tanks and close to 100 reels around), but stainless reels are fine, once you find out how to load them and also how to get the cap off the tank afterwards!

Wow, I thought I had a lot of tanks and reels. I have 4x paterson double tanks, 2x paterson 1 roll tanks, and 1x 1, 2, and 4 roll steel tanks.

What I like about the steel tanks is volume and economy...a 4 roll steel tank can be loaded in a medium changing bag (it's about the same size as a plastic 2-roll tank). What I hate about them is the reels...a pain to load, more difficult for the negs to 'straighten out', and I always get a crinkle or two :(If the negs are important, I use the paterson tanks.

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Tom A - 2007/06/13 11:53

There are a couple of interesting developers for your basic films. Patrick Gainer, a retired NASA guy did come up with my favourite a while ago. It is called PCK, using Ascorbic Acid (Vitamin C), Phenodine and Kodalk (balanced alkali - sodium metaborate).

It has several advantages, it can be mixed in room temperature and as it is a 2-component developer, storage life is long. If you go to "unblinking eye.com" the formula should be there.

I have been using it for at least 5 years now and it will give you a finer grain, albeit a distinct grain, than D-76. There is no Sodium Sulphite to "mush" it up. Times are around 6-7 minutes for Tri X and 6 minutes for ERA 100/Lucky 100 and 8 minutes for Lucky 400.

Of course if you use films like the ADOX/Efke 25 or Pan F - nothing beats Beutler. This was developed by Willy Beutler for Leica in the early 50's to highlight the quality of Leica lenses. Not super fine grain, but razor sharp! You will now a/how sharp your lens is and b/how good your focussing is. It takes no prisoners!

I occasionally use it for Tri X, heavily textured grain but great shadow detail.

The "scoop" process works well for D-23. My only problem with the D 23 is that on more modern emulsions it will give a higher base fog. It is not really a problem, but looks ugly. You can add a 1% solution (10ml/1000ml) of Benzotriazole (anti-fog) to the developer and that will help - although if you add too much you will slow down the film speed.

A while ago I did a scanning job on my different films and developer on our Flickr site. If you go to "Rapidwinder.com" you can find a link to the set. Scanned flickr images are not perfect for this purpose, but it gives you an idea how the tonality works.

Tom

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by gb hill - 2007/06/15 20:03

I have some Ilford Perceptol that I got really cheap. I think it's a fine grain developer. Has anyone here tried it?

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Tom A - 2007/06/18 10:52

I also have a bunch of Perceptol in the "Film Developing" cabinet. It is a fine grain developer and works very well with some of the slower films. Films like Pan F+ and even the +X from Kodak look very good. It has a tendency to slow down the film somewhat so expose accordingly. I run Pan F+ at 32 ISO and Plus X at 80. Works well with Tri X/Double XX although the inherent grain in these films make it less spectacular. Pick up a 100 ft roll of PanF+ and shoot a couple of test rolls and once you have decided on the ISO, have fun and shoot the rest! If you decide to stay with Tri X or any other

400 ISO film, rate them at 250/320 and try it.
Tom A

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Nokton48 - 2007/06/18 17:17

I have a bunch of one-gallon packages of good Kodak DK-50, so I want to mix up a gallon to use with my high-speed films. I know it works well with HP5+ and Tri-X, and with Surveillance films like Kodak 2475 Recording (long gone) and Royal-X in 120.

I have fifteen frozen rolls of 70mm Kodak Surveillance Film, in good frozen condition. This film looks and responds alot like the old 120 Tri-X (not the Pro). I have been running it very successfully in Pyro PMK+ (my favorite economy/ultra-quality soup) but I still want to try the DK-50 with the Surveillance 8)

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by Nando - 2007/06/18 20:31

Hi guys,

With the help of a friend that showed me how to do it, I finally developed a roll of B&W myself. It was Tri-X pulled to 200 asa. I couldn't believe how easy it was. It was stupid of me to have been so intimidated by it. So now I'm eager to get my own developing gear and try out some recipes. The shots from the roll were not made with a Voigtlander lens though. I used my 90/4 coll. Elmar for all but one shot with a 50/2 Summitar. Hopefully you can find it in your hearts to forgive me. I posted them to my flickr if anybody is interested in taking a look.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/fgsemedo/sets/72157600333024728/show/>

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by gb hill - 2007/06/18 21:06

I also have a bunch of Perceptol in the "Film Developing" cabinet. It is a fine grain developer and works very well with some of the slower films. Films like Pan F+ and even the +X from Kodak look very good. It has a tendency to slow down the film somewhat so expose accordingly. I run Pan F+ at 32 ISO and Plus X at 80. Works well with Tri X/Double XX although the inherent grain in these films make it less spectacular. Pick up a 100 ft roll of PanF+ and shoot a couple of test rolls and once you have decided on te ISO, have fun and shoot the rest! If you decide to stay with Tri X or any other 400 ISO film, rate them at 250/320 and try it.

Tom A

Thanks for the info Tom. I have some rolls of Plus X I'll try out and even some Tri X that I need to use up I have a couple of bulk loaders empty right now so I think i'll maybe pick up a roll of pan f+.

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by gb hill - 2007/06/18 21:09

Hi guys,

With the help of a friend that showed me how to do it, I finally developed a roll of B&W myself. It was Tri-X pulled to 200 asa. I couldn't believe how easy it was. It was stupid of me to have been so intimidated by it. So now I'm eager to get my own developing gear and try out some recipes. The shots from the roll were not made with a Voigtlander lens though. I used my 90/4 coll. Elmar for all but one shot with a 50/2 Summitar. Hopefully you can find it in your hearts to forgive me. I

posted them to my flickr if anybody is interested in taking a look.
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/fgsemedo/sets/72157600333024728/show/>

All is forgiven, and your photos are very good.

=====

Re: Favorite films for Voigtlander?

Posted by nixphotopix.com - 2007/07/08 18:03

i have to say, im hooked on my fuji reala. i buy my film in bulk packs of 20 rolls of 36exp for \$125aus. it is hard waiting for the 36exp to finish in the camera though if i have a good shot, sometime i don't have the patience and develop mid roll! luckily i manage a fuji frontier minilab and scan my negs at work 300dpi jpegs at 12x18in. i prefer to use fujifilm for its quality and price. kodak is inconsistant with its consumer colour film. there is so much rubbish kodak. 400cn is great until they discontinued it here. in the old days at school when i developed bw i loved hp5 pushed to 1600 or even 3200, i loved the grain. and for fine grain i used delta and fp4

=====