

Fujifilm FinePix F100fd

£180
EXPECT TO PAY

WE PUT THE NEW FUJIFILM FINEPIX F SERIES THROUGH ITS PACES

12
MEGAPIXELS



▲ BATTERIES

The NP-50 Li-ion battery clips tidily in the base of the camera and with well over 150 shots taken (with and without flash) it remained still on a full bar



▲ MEMORY CARD

The card slot is located tidily next to the battery under the slide release on the bottom of the camera, and will take SD, SDHC and XD cards

Fujifilm's new compact offering combines the company's eighth-generation sensor and 5x wide-angle Fujinon lens with some of the most advanced technologies available in a compact camera. Fujifilm's predecessor, the F50fd, was a fantastic camera with some great features, but does the F100fd live up to it?

Out of the box, this camera is very easy to set up, the visual difference from the F50fd is already clear, with no option wheel on the back. The camera is nicely designed, with a sleek, metallic, solid-weighted feel; even the side plates are metallic, down to the fine detail of the wrist strap and connection covers.

The screen is a great size and, with no viewfinder, this is an important piece of the camera, whether it be creating compositions, tweaking all the capture settings or even retouching photos. The function buttons have been placed on the right-hand side of the screen, so as you hold the camera to take shots, your fingers have space to sit clear of the buttons.

The wide-angle lens has a superb field of view, it is perfect in nearly all situations, be it trying to fit all your friends into a picture or getting a beautiful, wide landscape shot.

The camera's setup is almost a bit clunky; Fujifilm seem to have made some very simple control flaws here. Once you start to use the camera and discover its huge array of functions, though, you have already adapted to its unique control system.

It's hard to fault the actual functions on the camera, as they are very advanced and create very impressive results. The automatic settings are vast and specific, but also very quick to change if needed.

Don't make the mistake of buying this camera without buying an additional memory card. The card starts setup on the 12 megapixel option, giving you a mere 11 photos at this setting. Switching down the pixel capture allows more images to play with, and still give you great quality shots at a reasonable size.



▲ TEST SHOT

Wide landscape shots are a perfect excuse to show off the F100fd's superb image quality.

If you shoot up to capacity on the 57MB internal memory, then insert a memory card to continue, the previous images will no longer be displayed in the image gallery. This proved annoying, so shooting either entirely on the internal memory or on a card is a must if you want to review them all on the move.

There is a huge range of automatic settings for all kinds of situations from snow to sunsets. The wheel dial on the back of the camera acts as a D-pad and a toggle wheel for images and settings, which is a really nice touch. Having the wheel on the back enables the camera to have two clicks and a turn to reach any setting on the camera.

The anti-shake function works very well and is especially good when using the camera over a crowd, full-stretch, looking through the LCD screen. The stabilisation of images taken in windy conditions were very impressive too.

The newly developed Face Detection 3.0 is simply incredible for picking out multiple faces; it seems to pick out faces at any angle almost instantly. Once it



MENU SCREENS



NAVIGATING YOUR ON-SCREEN OPTIONS

The menu system is pretty straightforward, with helpful prompts if you do find yourself pressing the wrong buttons. The wheel on the back is perfect for controlling the menu systems

Camera specs

Fujifilm FinePix F100fd

SRP: £250 | Expect to pay: £180

Website: www.fujifilm.co.uk



▲ BUILD DESIGN

The build design is solid, sleek and weighty, so it feels like a professional piece of kit, and everything is well-proportioned in terms of the size of the camera



▲ CONNECTIONS

Behind the metal panel on the right side of the camera is a USB port for both A/V and PC connectivity. IR connectivity is also available within the camera's playback menu



▲ LENS

The Fujinon 5x optical zoom wide-angle lens offers a focal length of 28-140mm, perfect for getting everything into your landscape photography shots



▲ D-PAD CONTROL

The D-pad works as both button pad and scroll wheel, with a select button in the centre. The D-pad buttons operate the flash, macro, self-timer and anti-shake capture shortcuts

MEGAPIXELS	12
MAX RESOLUTION	4,000 x 3,000
LENS DATA	f3.3-5.1 wide (28-140mm)
ZOOM	5x opt, 8.2x dig
FOCUS/MACRO	45cm inf/5-80cm
SHUTTER SPEEDS	8-1/1,500sec
ISO SENSITIVITY	A, 400, 800, 1600, 3200
EXPOSURE MODES	Auto, M, 17 Scene
METERING OPTIONS	TTL 256-zone metering
FLASH MODES	A, FF, SF, SS
CONNECTIVITY	USB, AV, IR
WEIGHT	170g (excl. memory card and batteries)
DIMENSIONS	98 x 59 x 23mm
BATTERIES	Lithium-ion
STORAGE	57MB int, SDHC, SD, XD
LCD	2.7 inches



What we like

- ▲ Huge variety of automatic modes
- ▲ Nice size LCD screen
- ▲ Creates beautiful vivid colours
- ▲ Great image stabilisation

What we don't like

- ▼ Buttons can be clunky and difficult to manipulate
- ▼ Flash can be disappointing

Verdict

FEATURES	★★★★★
EASE OF USE	★★★★★
QUALITY OF RESULTS	★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★

Combining all the style and ease of use you expect in a compact, with features that really are truly exceptional

Overall score ★★★★★

“The portrait enhancer is worth shouting about, with its beautiful skin tones”

has picked them out, the camera will apply optimum focus and exposure for each face, creating truly noticeable results. The portrait enhancer is also worth shouting about, with its beautiful smooth skin tones thanks to the camera's ultra-high sensitivity of ISO 12800.

The zoom toggle is neat and easy to use quickly while shooting, noise can build up in full zoom, but the camera can still take a great image at full zoom. Poor lighting can cause issues, as the flash isn't as effective as you'd hope.

This camera has an amazing ability to pick up text incredibly clearly, even without the specific text function activated. Shots can be incredibly detailed from this camera shooting on the maximum output, and when you change in the macro setting, things just get better. The macro shots this camera can pick up in good light are phenomenal.

The image viewer has a lovely connection with the zoom, allowing up to 100 images with magnification on rollover on the screen. All images are very quickly

IN THE BOX

- Fujifilm Finepix F100FD
- Video out cable
- USB cable
- Software-CD-ROM
- Instructions

accessible with the navigation wheel. The images can be more personally viewed, and the camera provides controls to remove red-eye post-shot and crop images. One function on the camera that did appeal to us was the voice memo feature that allows you to add a 30-second audio clip onto each image. This can be a great feature if you are out taking shots and need to know what they are to reference them later, as the last thing you want slowing you down while taking photos is having to stop and write things down all the time.

This camera is a fine example of style and power combining to create something extraordinary. The F100fd is not a huge step away from its predecessor, but has taken a clear step forward in terms of technology and build. The camera, for me, was unfortunately let down by some small button features, but it's hard to fault this camera for sheer quality of images. In short, Fujifilm's F100fd is a great offering for the compact camera market.