

Fujifilm's little wonders

FINEPIX F10

and

FINEPIX Z1

John Henshall is now spoilt for choice for a camera to carry with him at all times.

Although we always want to carry a camera – ready to capture that special moment – we don't always want to be weighed down by the full pro kit.

There are occasions when we want to be like a fly on the wall. At times like those, a DSLR may be too obtrusive and one of these little gems from Fujifilm could well be precisely what we need.

Both cameras are little bigger than a credit card – though thicker. From the back they look virtually identical, with huge, bright 2.5 inch LCD screens seeming almost to fill them. These LCDs act as both viewfinder and review screen. The optical viewfinder is a thing of the past.

The Fujifilm FinePix Z1 is 1.8cm thick, the Fujifilm FinePix F10 is 3cm thick. The Z1 has 5.1 megapixels, the F10 6.3 megapixels.

Images from the Z1 are 2592 x 1944 pixels (14.5MB 8bit TIFF files) and those from the F10 are 2848 x 2136 pixels (17.5MB 8bit TIFFs).

Files this big are easily good enough for enlargement to 8 x 10 inch prints, even after cropping. In fact, A3 prints should be possible with care.

Both cameras have sharp 3x optical zoom lenses. The F10 zoom is the conventional type, which extends from the camera body, with a maximum aperture of f/2.8, reducing to f/5.0 as the lens is zoomed in. The lens is equivalent to 36–108mm on a 35mm camera. The Z1 has a 3x internal zoom which makes the camera extremely small but reduces the maximum aperture to f/3.5. Both cameras have similar zoom ranges.

Which camera to go for is difficult to decide. The F10 is perhaps more versatile, with its higher top ISO (1600 against 800) and slightly faster lens. Performance at ISO1600 has to be seen to be believed. It is quite phenomenal for such a small camera. I took the F10 to my 'local' where the lighting is very low. The results make it look fully lit. The larger Lithium-Ion battery (1950mAh compared with 750mAh)

seems to last forever.

The Z1 is a design masterpiece, destined to become a real classic digital camera. Heads turn to admire this jewel-like stunner. The 'works' nestle in a deep 'U' shaped extrusion of solid metal 2.5mm thick and the camera is uncapped and switched on by sliding the black front cover. There's also an all-black version of the camera. Very tasty.

At 150g the Z1 is 55g lighter than the F10 and can live in a shirt pocket without problem – if you can find a lanyard long enough to go round your neck. Otherwise you might easily lose it.

Whichever model you choose – at around £220-£250 – you're sure to love your little Fujifilm wonder.



The Fujifilm FinePix F10 has been awarded the EISA Award for the Best Pocket Camera 2005-2006.



ABOVE: The tiny Fujifilm FinePix Z1 is a great piece of jewellery – never mind camera – to carry in your shirt pocket at all times. You'll need to source a lanyard though, because the wrist strap supplied isn't long enough to go round your neck and into your pocket.

BELOW: For me the defining feature of the Fujifilm FinePix F10 is its top ISO equivalence of 1600. There is some noise at this speed but it is tight and well controlled and the colour is absolutely superb. My local pub, the Horse & Jockey, is dimly lit in an atmospheric

way and this provided the reason I needed to visit it to test the F10 in low light, capturing some of the locals and landlord Sait. BOTTOM LEFT is a section at 100% of the image to its right. The images look natural and brighter than reality. Could this be the end for flash?



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