

CONTROL HIERARCHY – FX6 Exposure Field Guide V1.1

Configure once; operate externally

SHUTTER

Motion rendering

IRIS

Depth and focus tolerance

BASE ISO

Cine EI operating base

EI

Exposure-rating / monitor intent

ND + LIGHT

Routine brightness placement

ZEBRA1

Local target band

ZEBRA2

Upper threshold warning

WAVEFORM

Primary quantitative exposure

HISTOGRAM

Secondary distribution warning

Baseline: 23.98p, 1/48 or 180 degrees, Zebra1 62 / Aperture 6, Zebra2 95, s709 monitoring.

GOOD vs BAD FACE ZEBRA

Zebra1 is a target band, not a clipping indicator



GOOD FACE ZEBRA
Conceptual FX6 exposure-training graphic

GOOD

GOOD FACE ZEBRA

Zebra1 appears modestly on the key-lit forehead and cheek. Use it as a repeatable target-band cue, then confirm with waveform.



FACE BELOW SELECTED BAND
Conceptual FX6 exposure-training graphic

VERIFY

FACE BELOW SELECTED BAND

No Zebra1 means the face is below the selected target band. It does not, by itself, prove that the face is unusably underexposed.

No Zebra1 only means the face is below the selected band. Confirm the intended look with waveform and the monitor image before changing exposure.

FACE-ZEBRA WARNINGS

Switch from Zebra1 to Zebra2 for upper highlights

DENSE ZEBRA1 COVERAGE

Conceptual FX6 exposure-training graphic



WARNING

DENSE ZEBRA1 COVERAGE

Broad Zebra1 over most of the face indicates that much of the face is above the intended target band. Reduce light or add ND after checking the waveform.

ZEBRA2 ON IMPORTANT SKIN

Conceptual FX6 exposure-training graphic



WARNING

ZEBRA2 ON IMPORTANT SKIN

Broad Zebra2 on forehead and cheek is a strong warning that important skin highlights are at or above the configured upper threshold.

SMALL SPECULAR PATCH

Conceptual FX6 exposure-training graphic



VERIFY

SMALL SPECULAR PATCH

A tiny Zebra2 patch from perspiration or a reflection can be acceptable when surrounding skin retains texture. Judge the area, not merely the presence of stripes.

Dense Zebra1 means much of the face is above the target band. Broad Zebra2 on skin is a strong warning. A tiny specular Zebra2 patch can be acceptable when surrounding texture remains.

WHOLE-FRAME CHECK

A correct face does not protect the background



WARNING

FACE OK, BACKGROUND CLIPPED

A face can sit in the Zebra1 target band while a window or white shirt exceeds Zebra2. Check the whole frame and the waveform.

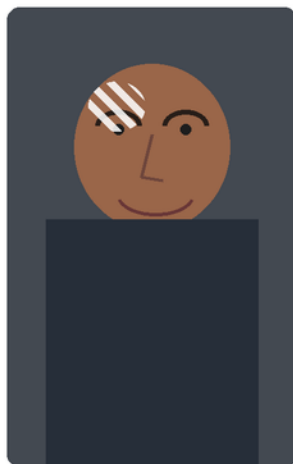
VARIED FACIAL REFLECTANCE

Same key direction, same camera setup; zebra amount can differ



Subject 1

Natural reflectance and makeup change stripe coverage. Calibrate against the intended look and scopes.



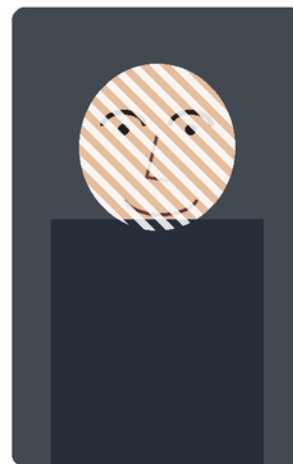
Subject 2

Natural reflectance and makeup change stripe coverage. Calibrate against the intended look and scopes.



Subject 3

Natural reflectance and makeup change stripe coverage. Calibrate against the intended look and scopes.



Subject 4

Natural reflectance and makeup change stripe coverage. Calibrate against the intended look and scopes.

Natural facial reflectance, makeup, key angle and fill ratio change stripe coverage. Calibrate the relationship between face, LUT and waveform instead of forcing every subject to the same pattern.

RUN-AND-GUN

Three speeds of exposure control

FIVE SECONDS

- Confirm shutter.
- Confirm Base ISO/El.
- Check face Zebra1.
- Switch to Zebra2 for bright hazards.
- Roll if continuity is safe.

FIFTEEN SECONDS

- Preserve shutter and iris.
- Adjust variable ND or lighting.
- Restore calibrated face stripes.
- Check histogram edge contact.
- Confirm waveform at next break.

SIXTY SECONDS

- Lock WB.
- Set shutter, iris, Base ISO and El.
- Light the face.
- Use ND for placement.
- Check Zebra1, Zebra2, waveform, histogram.
- Record a test clip.

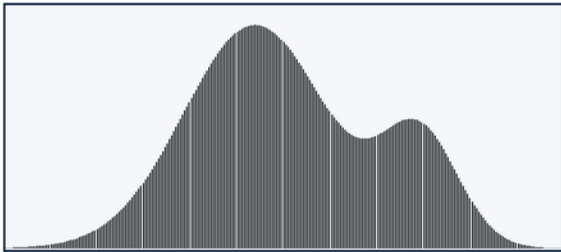
Field rule: shutter for motion, iris for depth, ND for brightness, El deliberate, zebras checked, waveform confirmed.

VF HISTOGRAM

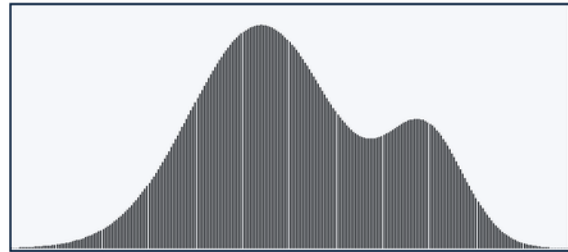
Overall distribution only - not a white-balance meter

WHITE BALANCE LIMITATION

Different color casts can produce nearly identical luminance histograms



Cool cast



Warm cast

The luminance distributions remain similar. The histogram cannot decide which image has correct white balance. Use a neutral reference, skin through the intended LUT, and RGB parade or vectorscope when available.

LEFT-EDGE PILEUP

VF luminance histogram - conceptual, not a literal Sony screen capture



BLACK / SHADOW WHITE / HIGHLIGHT

CAN SHOW

A large concentration of dark values and contact with the left edge.

MAY SUGGEST

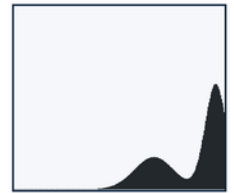
Some shadows may be clipped or starved.

CANNOT PROVE

That the face is necessarily wrong in a deliberately dark scene.

RIGHT-EDGE PILEUP

VF luminance histogram - conceptual, not a literal Sony screen capture



BLACK / SHADOW WHITE / HIGHLIGHT

CAN SHOW

A large concentration of bright values and contact with the right edge.

MAY SUGGEST

Highlights may be clipped.

CANNOT PROVE

Which object is clipping or whether a tiny practical is acceptable.

A centered histogram is not automatically correct. A low-key scene may lean left and a high-key scene may lean right. Edge contact matters more than balance around the center.

IRIS, SHUTTER AND EI

Keep the functions separate

IRIS AND DEPTH OF FIELD

Aperture is a creative and focus-tolerance decision



WIDE f/2

Shallow depth; one eye or ear can drift soft.



MODERATE f/4

Reliable close-up depth with separation.



DEEPER f/8

More background and two-person depth.

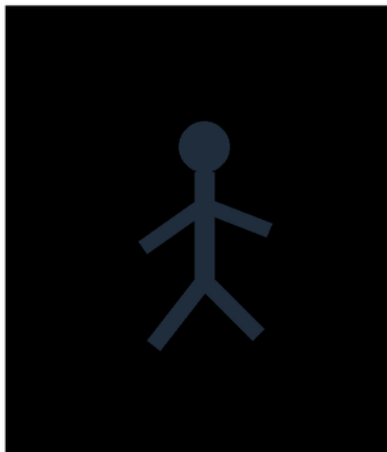
SHUTTER AND MOTION

Shutter changes motion rendering, not merely brightness



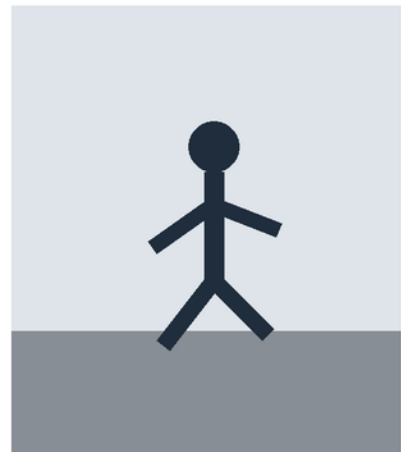
SLOW 1/24 at 23.98p

Excessive smear; useful only when intentional.



NORMAL 1/48 at 23.98p

Familiar cinematic motion cadence.



FAST 1/250 at 23.98p

Crisp, staccato action; reduced motion blur.

CINE EI: Base ISO selects the sensor operating base. EI changes the exposure-rating and monitoring intent; it is not ordinary gain. Verified Base ISO 800 positions: H 1600EI, M 800EI, L 400EI.

PRE-ROLL CHECK

The final 20-second discipline

- ☐ Mode = Cine EI
- ☐ Base ISO confirmed
- ☐ EI intentional
- ☐ Frame rate correct
- ☐ Shutter 1/48 or 180 degrees unless deliberate
- ☐ Iris selected for depth
- ☐ Variable ND ready
- ☐ WB locked
- ☐ s709 route confirmed
- ☐ Internal Rec LUT state confirmed
- ☐ Zebra1 checked on face
- ☐ Zebra2 checked on highlights
- ☐ Waveform confirmed
- ☐ Histogram reviewed
- ☐ Test clip recorded when critical

FINAL RULE

Shutter for motion. Iris for depth. ND for brightness. EI deliberate. Zebras checked. Waveform confirmed.