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**NHS-66**

NHS-CON7-HOLLAND-MARCH 3-5!!!

# NIKON JOURNAL



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Page 14 ~ A NIKON "PRESSURE COOKER!?"  
Page 16 ~ AN ALUMINUM F1.4??

**ROBERT ROTOLONI**  
EDITOR/PUBLISHER



# THE NIKON JOURNAL

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OUR 24HR FAX NUMBER IS.....(708) 895-9663  
OUR WEB SITE IS...<http://www.nikonhs.org>  
OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS.....[rotoloni@msn.com](mailto:rotoloni@msn.com)

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## NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the next issue of our *NIKON JOURNAL*,  
NHS-67, is **MARCH 1, 2000**. This will be our Convention  
issue & the first of the new millennium. Please get all con-  
tributions to me by that date! **Thank you.**

## EDITORIAL

By the time you receive this issue of the *Journal* it will be the new millennia and who knows what it holds in store for us. It will take us all a little while to get used to not saying "19" when giving the date but it won't be long and "2000" will roll off our tongues quite naturally. I look forward more to another year of Nikon collecting and study and, of course, our upcoming convention! I want to again emphasize that if you have any intentions of attending, please let us know and start making your arrangements. Contact the host hotel, make your flight plans, and join us for a great time in Holland. Many people are coming and we might even hit 100! So join in and share the experience! **See page 17 for the latest information and see you there!!**

The main article this issue just seemed to grow like topsey! I intended to do a detailed study of the F36 motor but then found myself getting into the battery packs and after market power sources, until the article grew to 13 pages! However, since we are celebrating the 40th birthday of the Nikon F, and since we covered the camera itself in NHS-65, and since getting into detail on the massive list of lenses made would result in a book the size of the Chicago phone directory, I think a definitive piece on the most important accessory besides the lenses ever made for the Nikon system is in order. The result is, I hope, a complete coverage of the F36 with very little missing and a few surprises. I call it the "Awesome Accessory", and I feel it deserves that status. The motor put the "F" at the forefront of 35mm photography in the 60s and 70s and gave Nikon an edge it has never lost!

Also in this issue is an article by Oisin and Tony Hurst on a very unusual Nikon test apparatus as well as a look at a very unusual lens that turned out not to be what it was supposed to be but may be more interesting because of it.

Your editor had the privilege of being a guest speaker at the recent convention of the Leica Historical Society of America held here in the Chicago area. I spoke on the connection that existed during the formative years of the Japanese optical industry and Germany, specifically Leitz. I hope that I was able to put forth what we Nikon collectors have always known; that although the Japanese, and Nippon Kogaku, were strongly influenced by the likes of Leitz and Zeiss, this influence was a positive thing that constantly evolved and changed with time. Even though it "appears" that N-K only copied Leitz & Zeiss, the truth is they used these great companies as inspiration but eventually became free thinkers and innovators on their own. We have always known that the later Rfs (the SP/S3 era) really were not copies of anything and that with the arrival of the Nikon F the German influence evaporated!

I had a great time at the meeting and met a lot of very interesting people, including a fair number of our members. They really know how to put on a show and I hope to use some of their ideas for our meetings! **Which brings us back to NHS-Con7! Be there and see that collecting is much more than just glass, brass and chrome! It's people!**



**ROBERT ROTOLONI**  
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

# THE **F**--SPOT!! F36 MOTOR

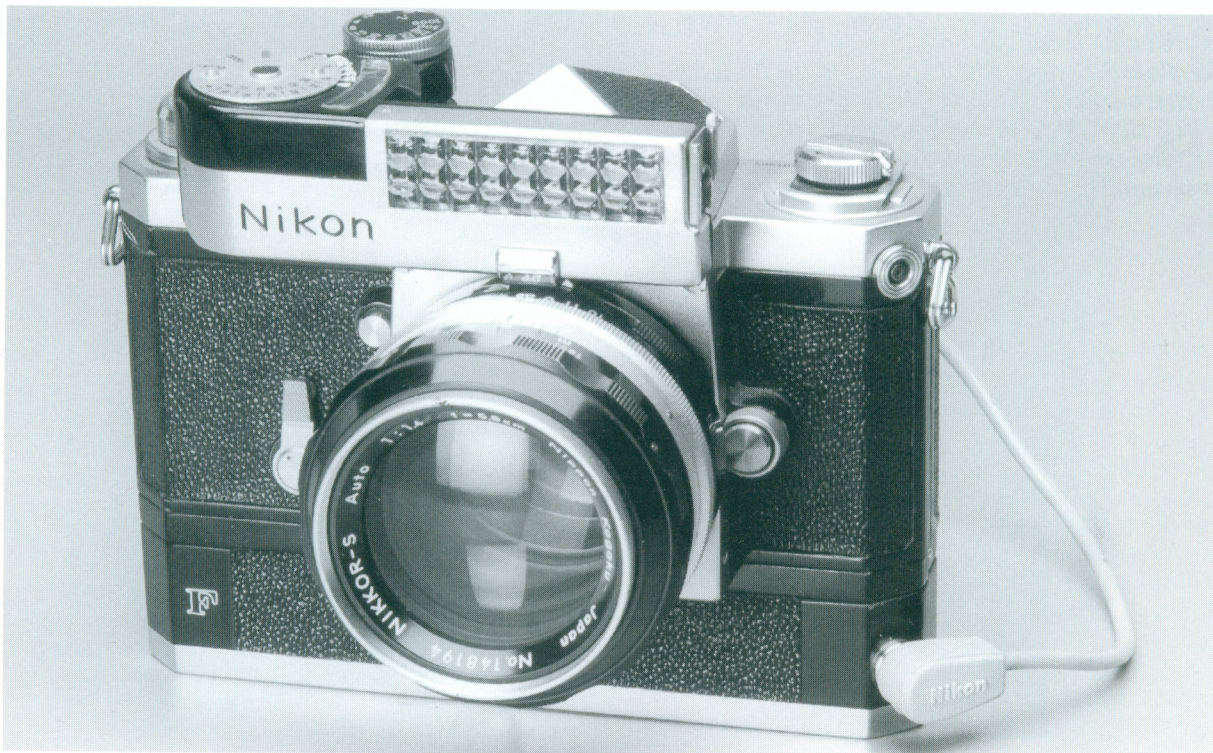
***THE "AWESOME ACCESSORY!"***

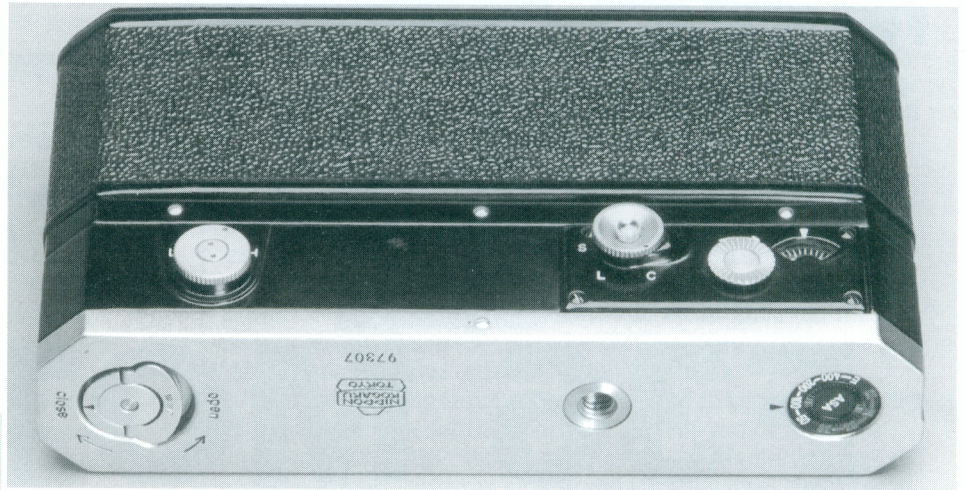
**by ROBERT ROTOLONI WITH ULI KOCH AND**

**MIKE PUCHREITER**

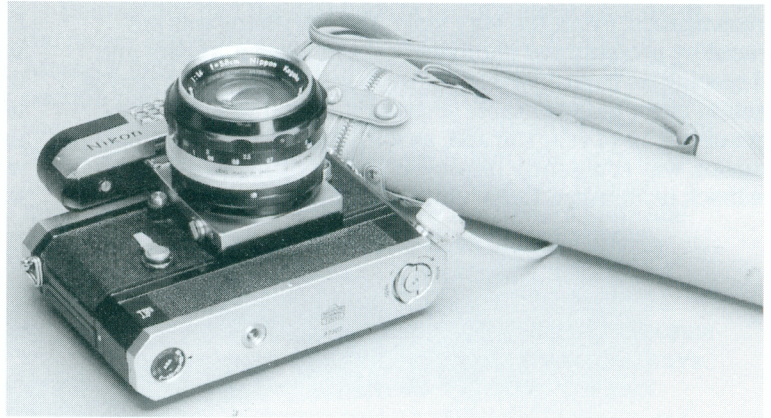
As with the rangefinder Nikons, the motor drive for the Nikon F system was, from the beginning, one of the most important and influential accessories made. Not only did it provide the Nikon system with a truly unique feature (for no other system would have such an item for years to come!), the motor was at the same time a glamorous and exotic piece as well as extremely practical and useful. Seldom is such a PR man's dream also seen to be more a necessity than an extravagance. From the very start, the F36 motor was embraced by professional photographers in large numbers and all specialties from sports, to news to scientific, and it proved itself to be an indispensable accessory. It sold in large numbers over a 12-14 year life and, as with any product of Nippon Kogaku, was constantly improved and modified based on feedback from users. Later vintage motors were stronger and

more reliable, and power supplies were improved as well, even though the basic design remained virtually unchanged! Many internal, and a few external, improvements were made over time, making the F36 a very interesting and varied item for the collector. In this article I will try to give you as much information as possible and illustrate as many variations and accessories as possible. As I began to work on this piece I realized I needed to cover not only the motor, but the power supplies. Then I realized that it would be necessary to get into the after-market power units as well, plus a few odd ball items. So it grew to include all of the above with the result that the final article was much longer than anticipated. So what follows may be more info on the F36 than you thought was out there and hopefully something new for everyone.





On this and the preceding page, we have photos of two very early Type One F36 motors. Pictured are motors #97090 and #97307, both with their proper gray battery packs and cords. The Type One motors have their serial numbers on the bottom plate below the N-K logo, just like on the S36 RF motors. They also have ASA dials like the RF type, but differ from the S36 by the large "F" on the front, the side bezel mounted power socket, and the framing rate control. Other subtle differences are painted rear surfaces with no leather, and a bottom plate that is now secured with screws and not glued on! Also note the black upper plate & chrome bottom plate. On the final S36 motors, both plates were chrome. The top photo on page 3 shows 2 of the 3 versions of the motor back. Earlier without the guide table, later with. A third version with black lettering on a silver background guide table also exists.





**TYPE TWO:** These can still be quite early production as confirmed serial numbers start at #98108, but they differ from the first version in that the serial number and N-K logo have been moved to the right front corner of the housing (as seen from the front). This type would still lack the rear shutter speed guide table and may also lack the “Nikon” engraving on the rear control panel. However, all that I have recorded do have the word “Nikon” included. Most of these motors would still have been shipped and used with the gray vinyl battery pack. Also early versions of the F250 motor turn up in these early numbers but not below #99000 (no F250s have ever been seen in the Type One version!). As a matter of fact it appears that no F250s exist in the 98xxx batch and no F36s exist in the 99xxx batch! Was Nikon keeping the two motors separated by serial number? The arrival of the F250 (in July of 1960, quite early!) may have been the reason that Nikon moved the serial number to the front since the design of the F250 completely encases the baseplate effectively hiding the serial number. The answer; move it to the front. Therefore, the switch from the bottom numbered units to the front type could be about July 1960, less than 1 year since introduction and at less than 1000 units.

### BASIC VARIATIONS OF THE F36 MOTORS

Since nearly everyone at all involved with photography knows what the Nikon motors look like, the numerous shots in this article make a description rather silly. So let us start with the known variations and serial numbers of the F36.

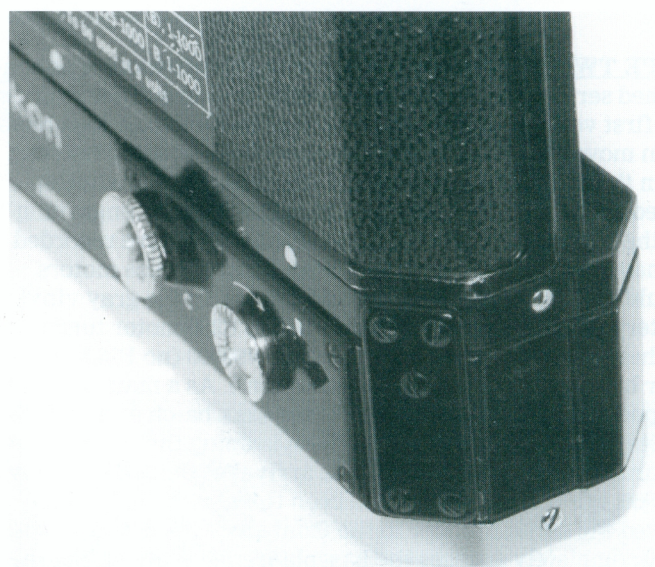
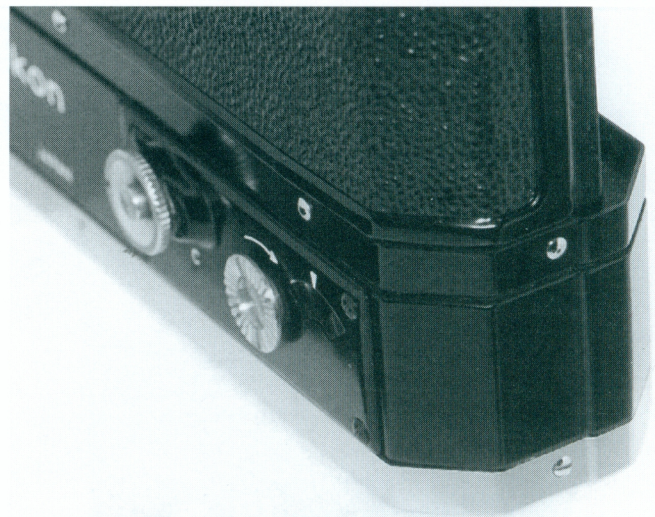
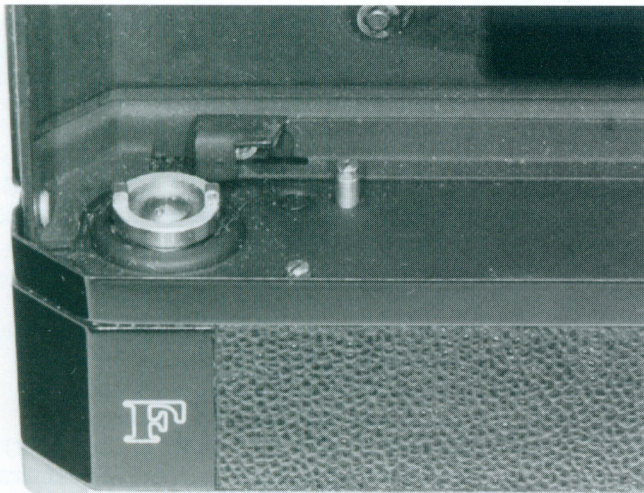
**TYPE ONE:** Serial numbers begin at #97001 and have been confirmed as high as #97522. This version is illustrated here by motors #97090, #97307 and #97263 (rear cover). Its features are: serial number and N-K triangular logo are on the base plate just as they are on the S36 RF motors; no shutter speed guide table on back; no “Nikon” engraving on back control panel. This version is quite rare today especially in collector’s condition, as most of the initial production was quickly appropriated by professionals. All would have been shipped with the long gray vinyl battery pack with gray cord, as no cordless battery packs from anyone yet existed.

**TYPE THREE:** These appear identical to the above except that now the shutter speed guide table has been added. Also within this type is where the external structural reinforcements are first seen. These refinements are affectionately known as the “UPI modification”, and consists of added corner plates and a reinforcement of the camera back slide, both done as a result of feedback from the field. It appears that after the arrival of the Jacobsen & Remopak cordless battery packs, and later Nikon’s own version, the added weight (all were bolted directly to the bottom of the motor) could cause the motor housing to separate from the camera back, especially under heavy professional use! After the start of the 99xxx block no F36s are seen until the 120xxx block, which is where this version begins.

**TYPE FOUR:** This version again has a clean front housing as now the serial number has been moved to the rear control panel beneath the “Nikon” engraving. Some later ones also have “Made in Japan” engraved in this area. All remaining motors, both F36 & F250, appear as Type Four, with all other types being special runs and modifications, not standard production items. Serial numbers appear to start at about #130000 and slightly exceed #160000, when they are finally discontinued sometime in 1972-73.

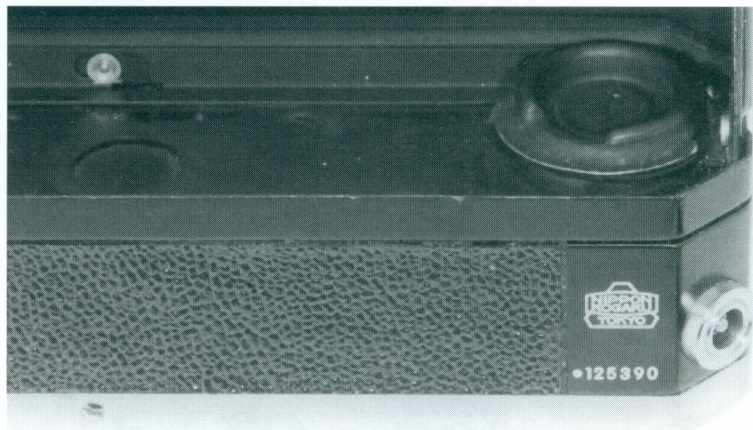


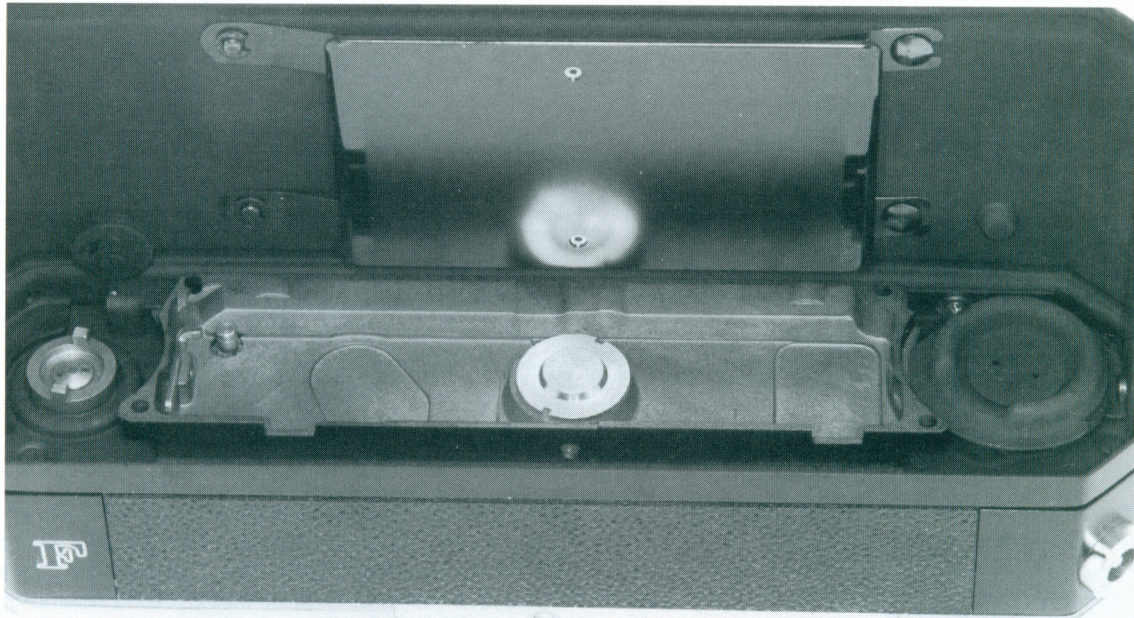
I have not gone into the F250 motors in detail except to point out some serial number info. Cosmetically, the F250 usually followed what was done to the F36, except for one interesting difference. Except for an early photo of an F36 with both intermediate and bottom plates in chrome, every F36 ever seen has a black intermediate plate and a chrome bottom plate! Non have been found with both plates black! However, some of the F250 motors in the 99xxx batch have black plates! The vast majority of F250s have the same chrome bottom plate as the F36 save for a small number with both plates finished in black! Why? Who knows? And why wasn't the F36 ever made with a black bottom plate? A good question since when mounted on a black F, everything in the resulting rig is black, save for the bottom plate! Go figure!



There are a few other variations out there. We have all heard of the U.S.Navy version with both motor and body so engraved; the KS-80A air-to-air scramble cameras with their special motors; the high speed Fs made in at least 3 versions; and the "white dot" motors, one of which is illustrated here. There are probably many others (including the "Tribune" outfit covered in this article) that were made to special order for various purposes. Remember, the F motors were made for many years and they were the only show on the block for much of that time, so there were quite a few "special runs" made and more variations will surely surface.

*There were at least two visible structural changes made in the F36 motors. Following feedback from early users, including many hard working pros, a tendency for the motor housing to loosen slightly from the camera baseplate was noted. Also some vibrations were reported. This problem worsened with the arrival of cordless battery packs from Jacobson and Remopak because the additional weight was pulling the housing away from the camera base. Nikon did two things: they added support plates to the rear corners effectively screwing the housing and base together, and they added a small round stopper above the internal on-off locking slide to keep it from loosening up. Both features worked just fine! The right photo is the rather rare "white dot" version. This particular motor is the "Tribune" type mentioned in the text. What does the white dot signify?*





Above is an example of the final run of the F36 motors. This batch is the one shipped with the modified cordless pack with the F2 style power socket. These motors were produced after there was an outcry following the announcement that the F36 was discontinued! A unique feature of these final motors was

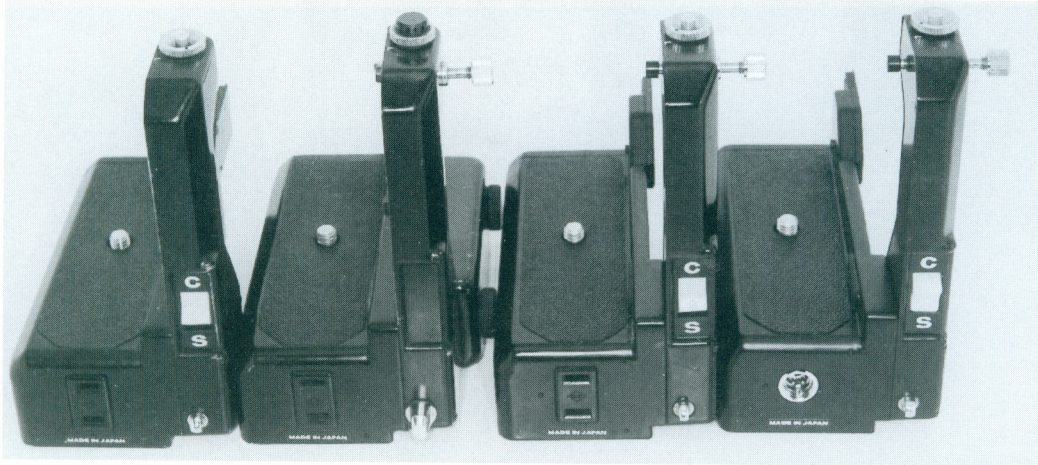
the inclusion of the "Q" plate with each motor, visible here! This plate is what mates the motor to the body. In earlier years Nikon would do this modification for \$20 when you sent your body & motor to them. Was this service no longer available? Is it now do-it-yourself?

#### **THE 'CORDLESS' BATTERY PACK ARRIVES!**

Initially, the Nikon F motors were supplied with a cord type battery pack identical to that made for the Nikon SP, save for being longer to hold an additional two batteries since the F required more power to give the higher framing rates. However, just as with the RF version, the cord type packs proved to be less than the best idea. First of all they were not convenient. Pros had problems with where to put the pack and how to keep from tangling the cord and even disconnecting it from either end. When working in fast breaking situations with multiple cameras, so common with pros, the packs and cords proved a nightmare! Something better was needed, but the answer came, at first, from a source other than Nikon! That better "mousetrap" was the cordless "Jacobsen Powercon", made in, of all places, Hollywood California! A later item was the "Remopak", from Technical Photomation Instruments, which was nearly identical to the "Powercon". Both of these items were sim-

licity itself and the perfect example of a product fulfilling the needs of the marketplace perfectly! What was done was to simply produce a metal housing that held 8 "AA" batteries, mated to the power outlet at the front of the motor, bolted to the tripod socket of the motor, and had its own release! The result was "perfect form following function". Gone were the tangled and lose cords, and gone was the need to have a pocket to hold the pack! You now had a one piece self contained motorized camera with a much more reliable link between batteries and motor. As an added bonus, the design was such that the motorized Nikon F would now "stand up" on any flat surface without falling over, except with really long or heavy lenses. A perfect working tool for the working pro, and they bought it in droves! So successful were these after-market products, that Nikon finally saw the light and came out with their own version. The Powercons & Remopaks continued to sell up to the late sixties, but eventually Nikon got the market back after first missing the boat.





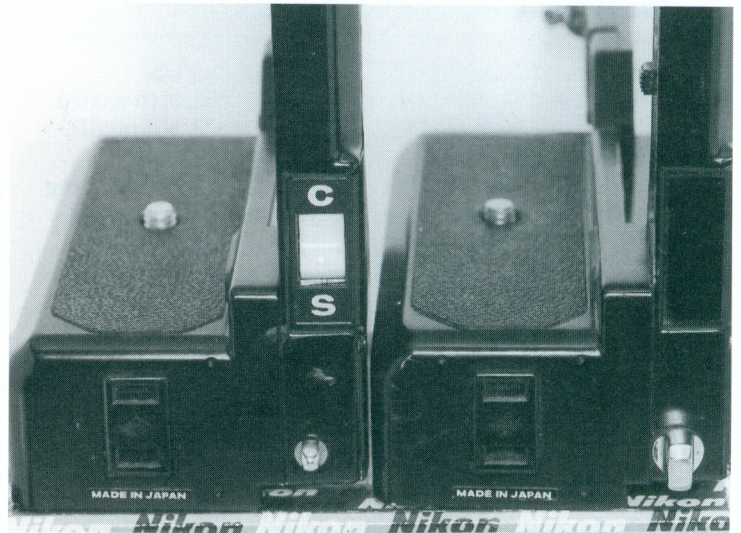
Here we have lined up what I believe are the four known variations of the Nikon cordless battery pack. From L to R: Type One with no spring loaded extension screw at the top of the grip handle; Type Three (I know I shot them out of order!) is the Tribune modified version; Type Two which has the new

spring loaded extension screw to reduce flexing of the handle; Type Four which now has the round F2 type power socket instead of a household type plug. The photos below show these same four packs in a closer view. The "Tribune" pack is covered in more detail beginning on page 8.

### THE NIKON CORDLESS BATTERY PACK

By 1962 Nikon realized there was a real need for a cordless self contained battery pack and that their cord type design had seen better days. Maybe all those replacements cords they were selling finally gave them food for thought. They finally came out with their own, but they did manage to go one-up on the competition. Their design was just as simple and elegant as the others, but they added what turned out to be a very useful feature, and one that is still part of nearly every new camera coming off the production lines today: a vertically mounted handle with a built-in shutter release! It seems like such a little thing, but it makes a big difference in how a motorized F handles. Unlike a bottom mounted grip the side mounted handle allows the user to hold the camera in nearly the same way he would one without a motor. Your right hand remains at eye-level and you can focus with your left as usual. The result is pure ease of use. When compared to the Powercon and Remopak, the Nikon pack is better balanced and easier to hold and fire. The release falls exactly where you expect it to be. With the other packs, holding the camera is a bit awkward and releasing it even more so. The Nikon product was definitely superior with the result that it took over most of the market.

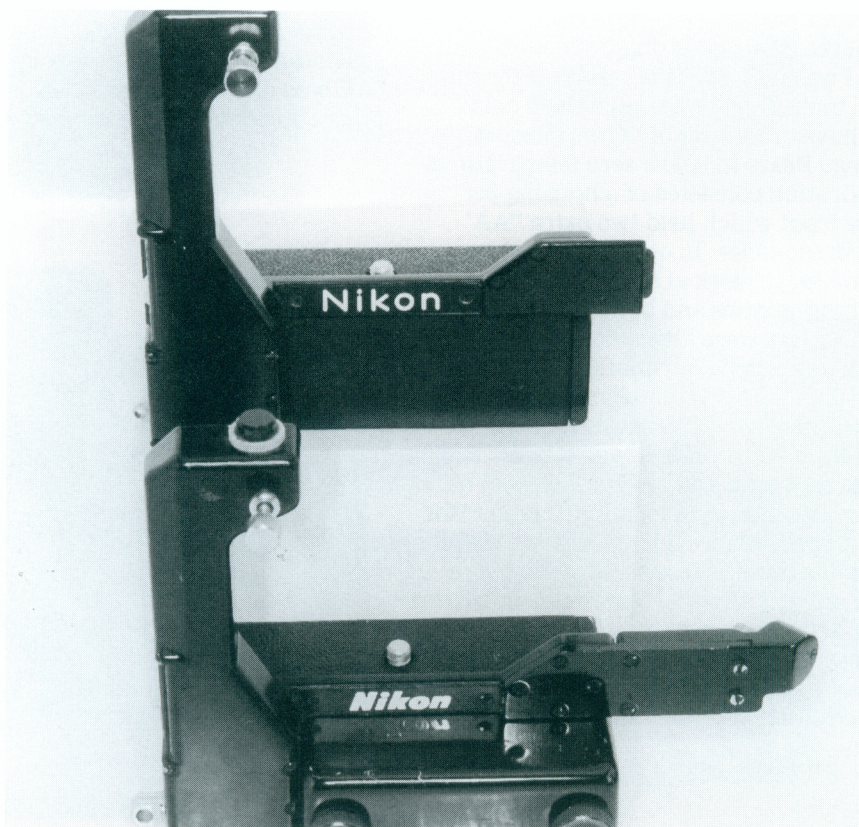
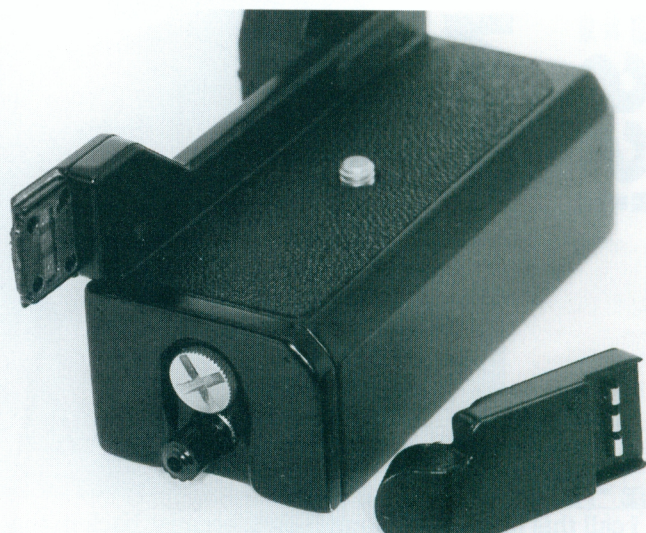
Three basic versions exist, plus at least one special type. The earliest lacked a spring loaded extension at the top of the handle that reduced "flexing", a problem that was soon made apparent by working pros. These early units lack a serial number for the most part. The second type was fitted with the extension which effectively eliminates all flexing of the handle resulting in a very solid feel to the entire outfit. Some of these are found with serial numbers engraved on the back of the handle. The third type was the final version that was part of a re-release of the F36 following its discontinuance in 1971. It seems that there was such a demand for the F36 that when Nikon announced it was to stop producing them, there was an outcry. They eventually made another run and those last motors were supplied with a pack that is identical but for one feature. Instead of a standard household power plug for remote release, this last type sported the newer F2 style 3-pin circular socket! They even marked the boxes as such! This last version appears not to be serial numbered.



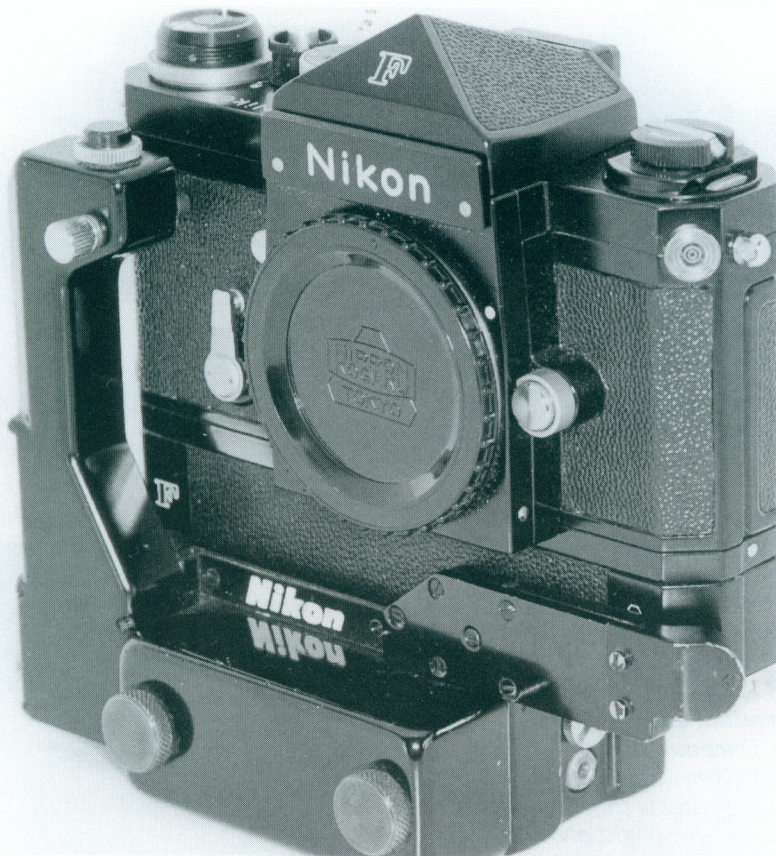




Each cordless battery pack came boxed with two accessories, one of which was probably lost 90% of the time. First we have what is called the "terminal adapter", which is the larger item lying in front of the pack. This part has the power plug that is inserted into the power outlet of the motor. Once this is done the pack itself is slid into the terminal adapter and then screwed to the baseplate of the motor. Once mounted the cordless pack need never be removed again if so desired! Now for the little item: this is called a "DC plug" and is shown inserted into the DC outlet on the side of the pack (right photo). When this plug is inserted the internal circuitry is changed over to be connected to an external DC power source! A feature seldom used, this little piece is often missing after all these years! The bottom photo shows the regular and "Tribune" packs which have different Nikon nameplates. I can't explain this since even the Type 4 packs with the F2 power socket have the older style nameplate!



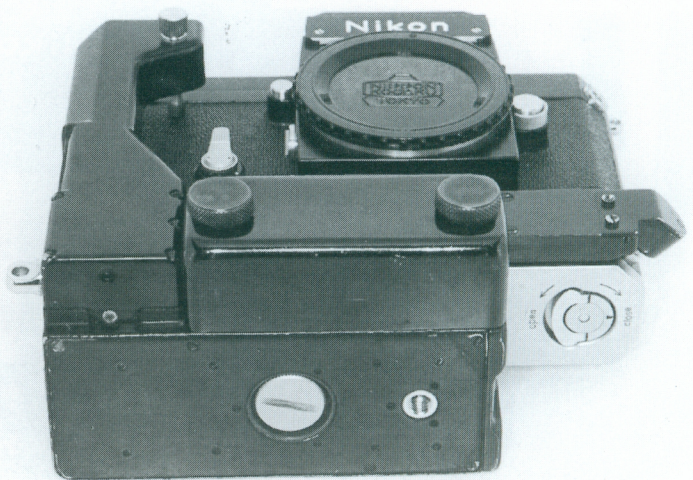
# CORDLESS! 'TRIBUNE'



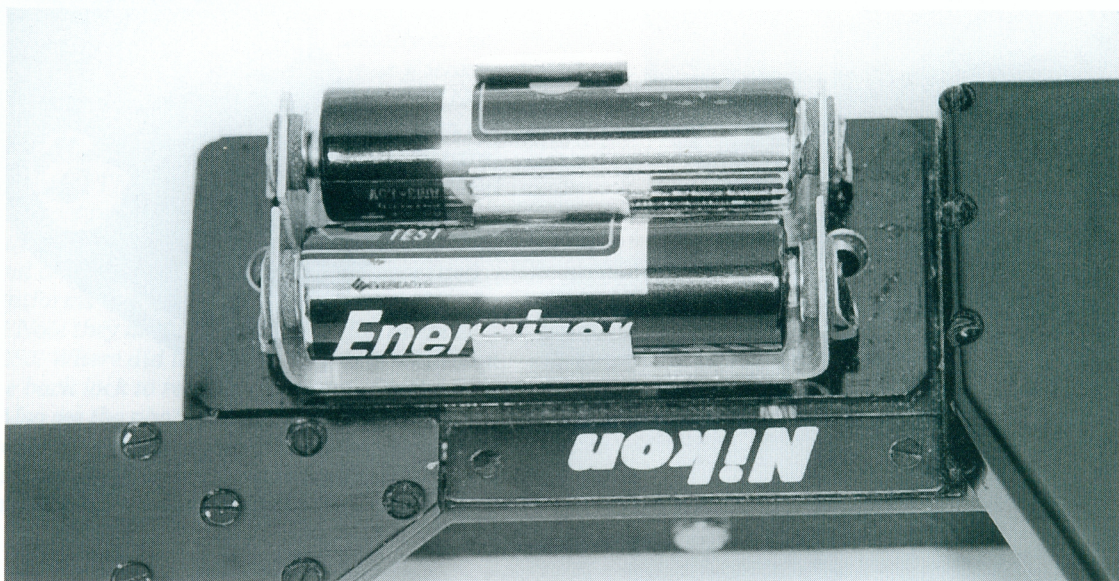
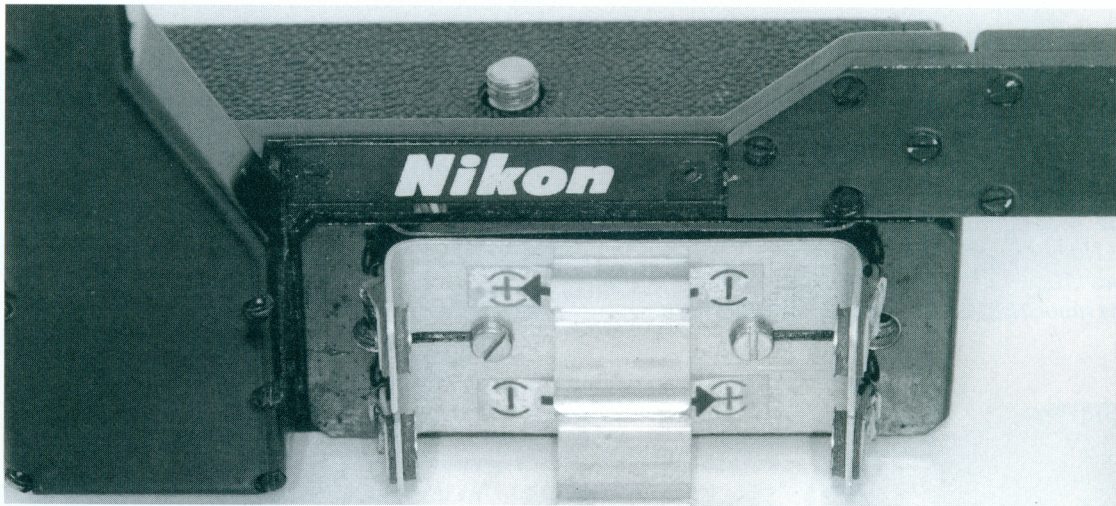
## THE "TRIBUNE" POWER PACK

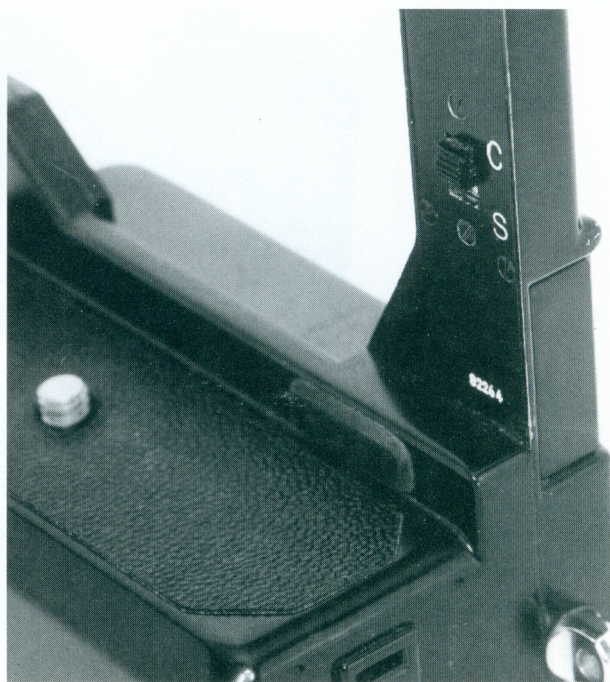
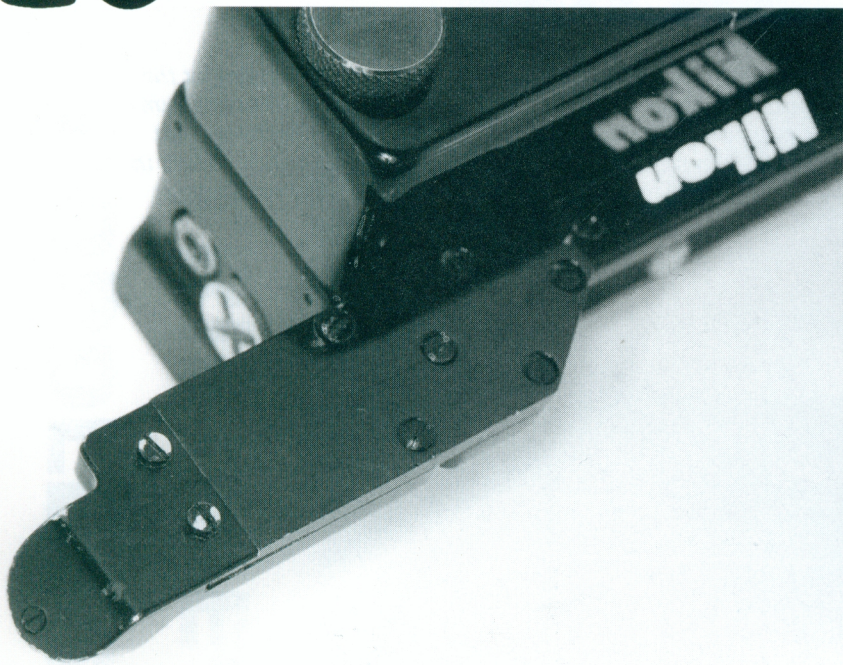
I call this item the "Tribune" pack because back in the early seventies the Chicago Tribune sold off all of its Nikon Fs and converted to the F2. I was able to obtain some of this equipment, and amongst the items were six F36 motors with modified battery packs! I was told that this was done for the Tribune at its request to make the F more reliable in cold weather, something we have quite a bit of here. I guess it made shooting the Chicago Bears in below zero temperatures a little easier. The modification consisted of a housing permanently attached to the front which held two extra "AA" batteries that are wired in sequence. In other words, they need to be there for the motor to work at all. The extra 3 volts allowed slightly faster framing rates and better cold weather operation. I was told the motors were also modified for this extra voltage, preventing any wiring burnout. Anyway, it makes for a great variation, but unfortunately I only retained one and traded off the other five years ago! Silly me! Not only did it frame faster, but the unit is even more stable and can stand upright with even longer and heavier lenses. You will also note the permanently attached terminal adapter (for better contact) and an enlarged strap eyelet. Also note the missing "C & S" lever! It has been removed and mounted to the rear of the handle to prevent any accidental movement while shooting (actually a good idea and one Nikon should have adopted!). By the way, the motor that came mated to this pack is the "white dot" variety. Could the white dot signify some internal modification to the motor, possibly for faster framing?

*Two views of the "Tribune" cordless battery pack mounted. The resulting rig is only slightly more bulky, but the added front mounted housing actually is beneficial. The enlarged base area makes the entire rig more stable and it will stand upright with longer and heavier lenses than the unmodified version. Frequent users of the F36 know quite well the sinking feeling you can get when you set it down quickly only to have a heavy lens cause the whole rig to tilt forward hitting some hard surface. Many a dented filter ring resulted from this, to say nothing of possibly graver damage. All in all this is a well balanced and easy to use set-up, as I have shot many rolls with this very example. I like the feel of the entire package!*

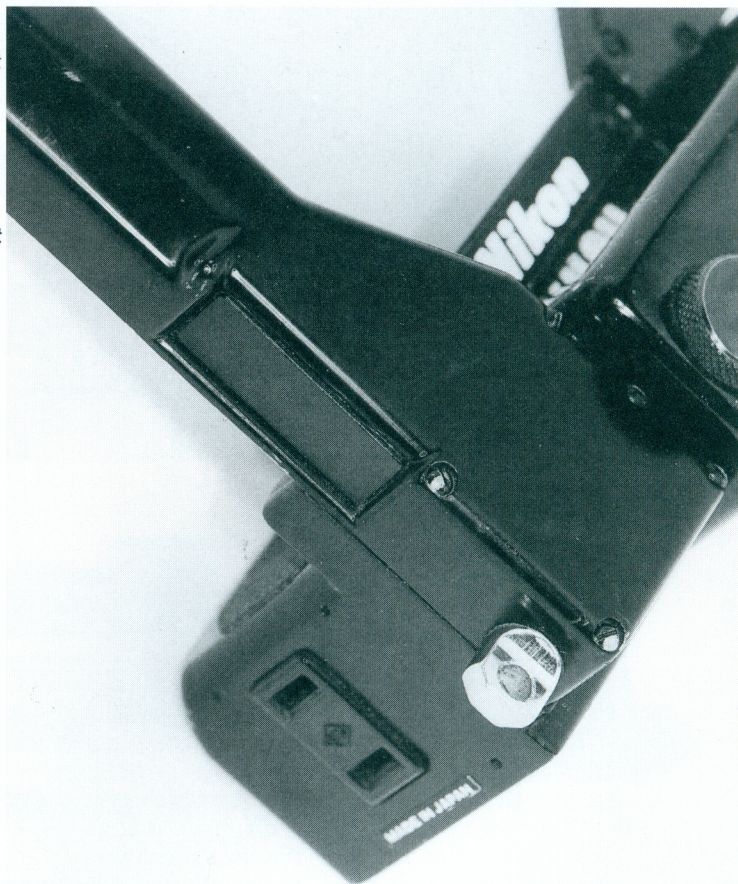


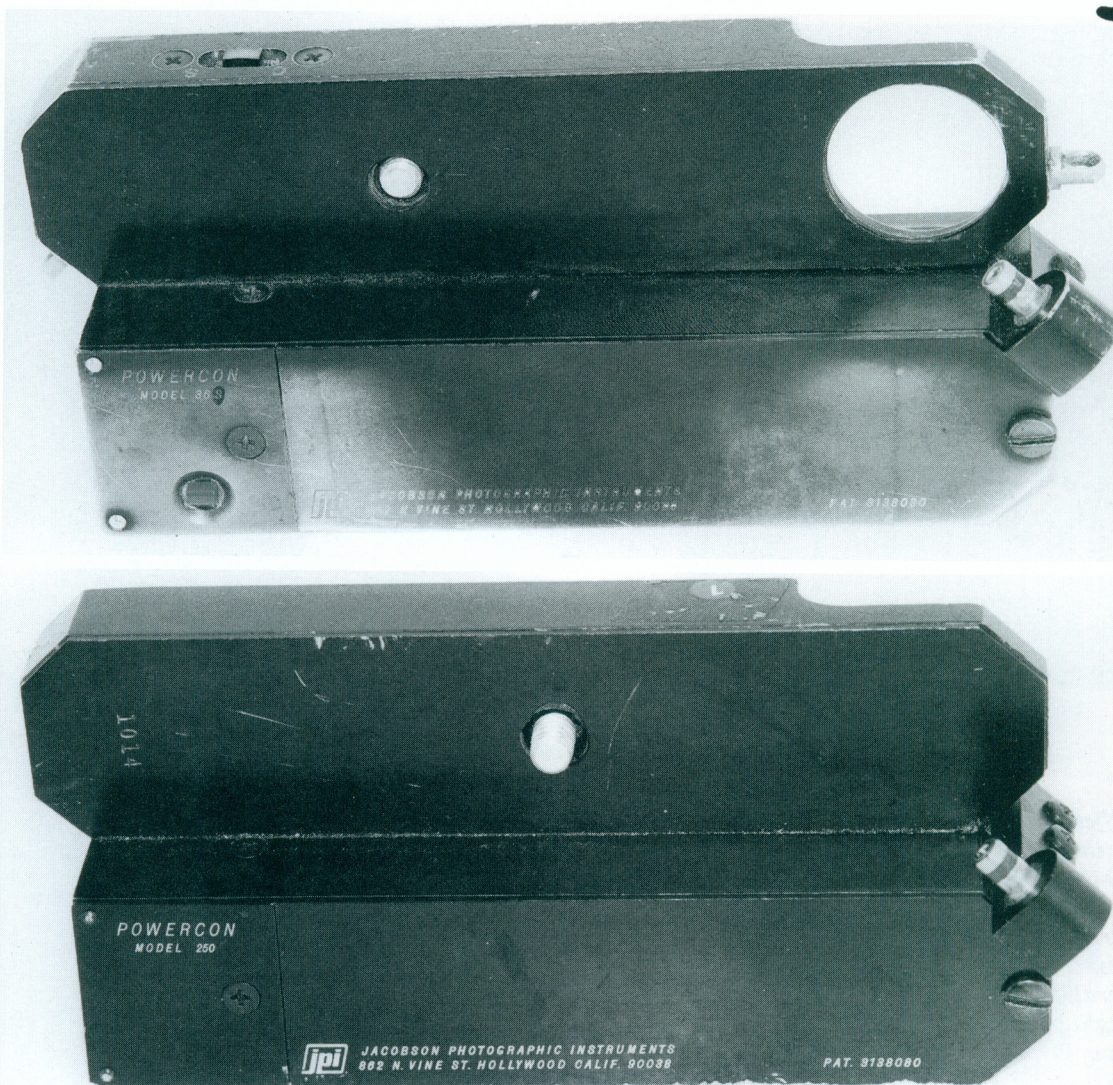
*The "secret" of the "Tribune" pack is the extra housing at the front. Loosen the 2 large set screws and remove the aluminum housing and you now have a fitting for 2 extra batteries that are wired in sequence. A neat little modification that results in 3 extra volts of juice giving you a faster framing rate, longer battery life, and better cold weather operation!*





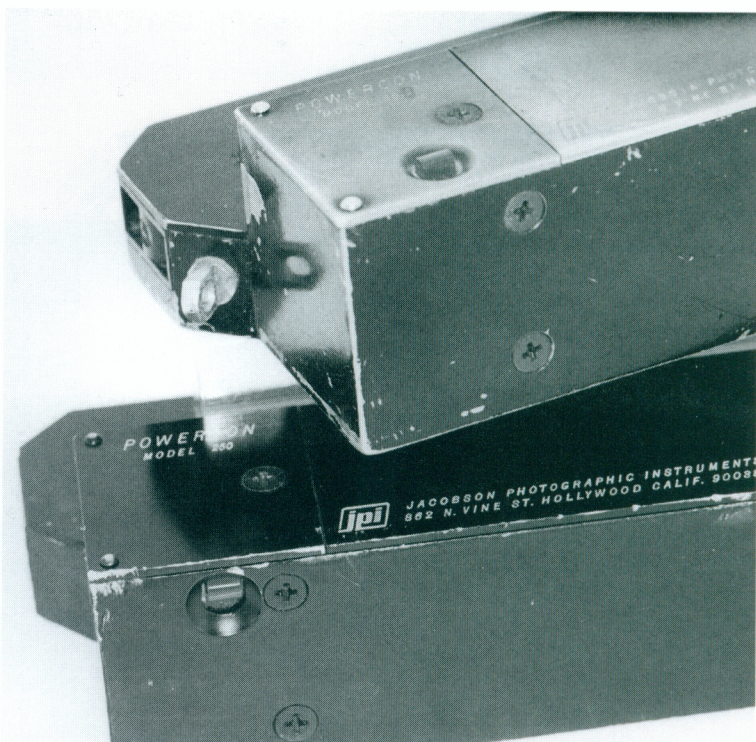
The "Tribune" pack has 3 other modifications besides the extra battery housing. First, the terminal adapter is attached permanently! Why? Probably to ensure better electrical contact because you never remove the pack anyway, right? Second, the S-C rocker switch has been moved to the rear of the handle to prevent accidental switching, and the original location has a blank cover plate. Third, a very large and robust strap eyelet has been added! No way you're going to wear this eyelet out! The bottom photo is of a very different cordless pack! It is what really started the movement away from the less than reliable cord type packs.

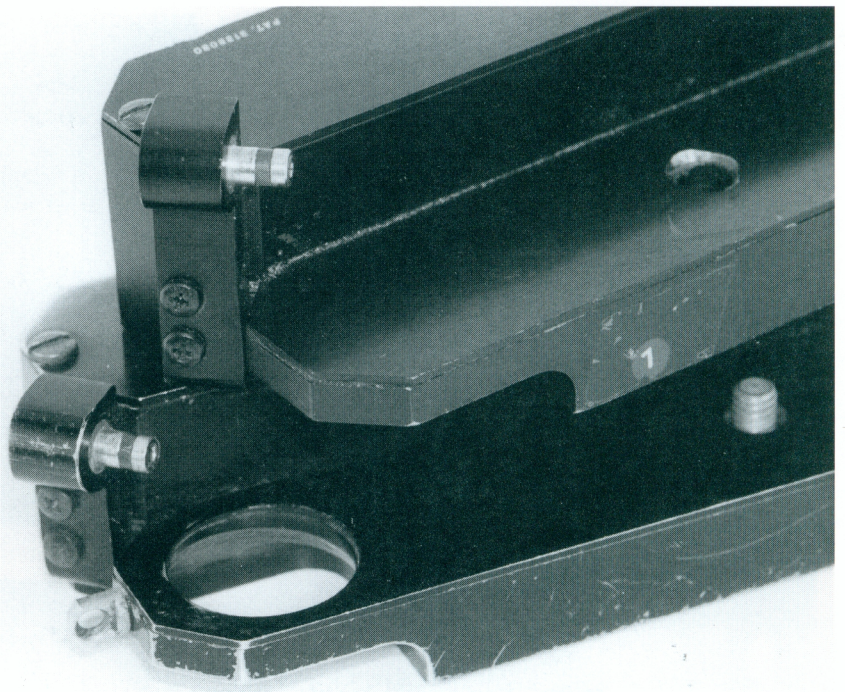
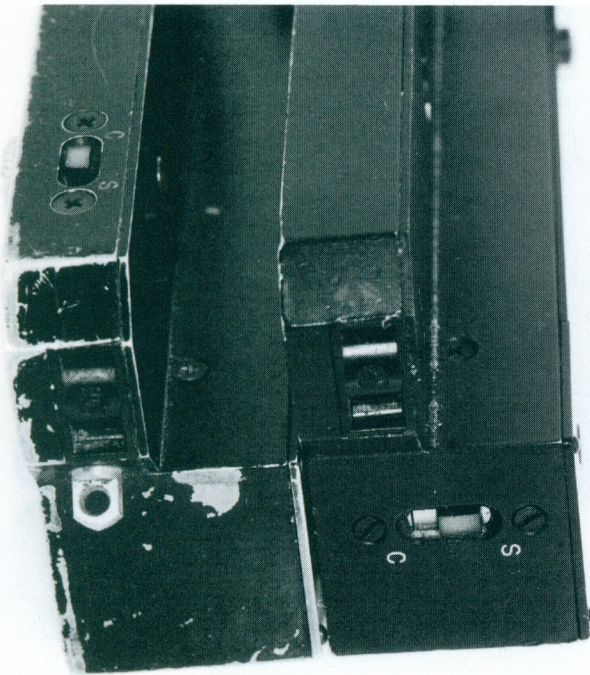




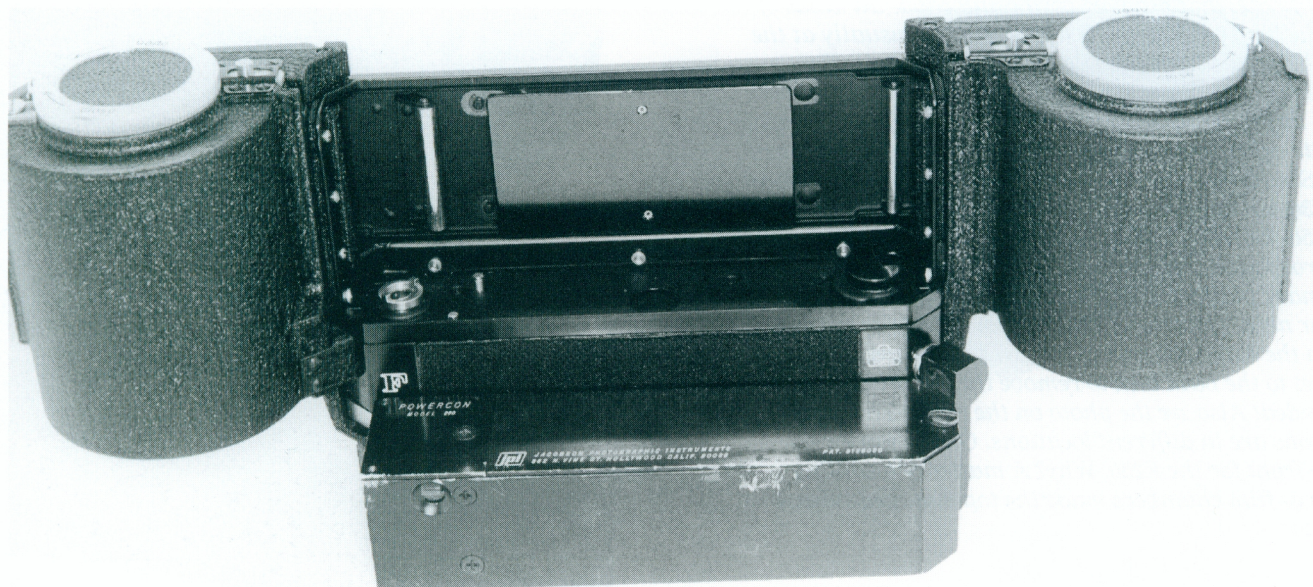
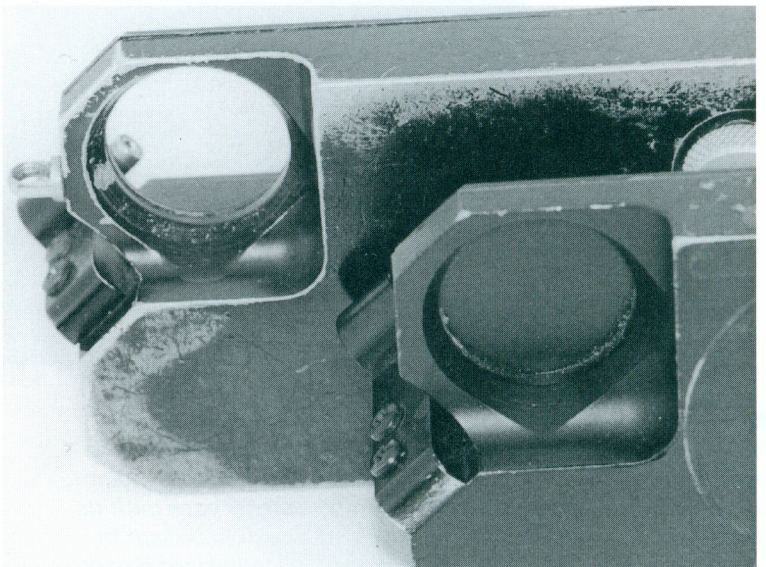
# 'POWERCON'

Before there was a Nikon cordless battery pack, there was a Jacobson "Powercon", and everyone who was anyone just had to have one or more! The initial excitement over the F36 motor was slightly reduced by the rather clumsy battery pack with its dangling cord. Even though the pack was meant to be kept in your shirt pocket or on your belt, making the motorized F very sleek and compact, that damned cord could cause all kinds of problems, the least of which was disconnection, usually at the worst possible time. Enter the "Powercon". Now your F was heavier and bulkier, but it was completely self-contained! No loose parts, no cords, no disconnections! They bought them in droves. Quite a few versions were made, including a very rare one for the S36 RF motor! The top photo is the standard Model 36 for the F36, what most people bought. The second photo is the model 250, for the F250 motors, and is also quite rare. Not too many pros found a need for it since most F250s were used from stationary platforms of some kind, and not carried around your neck! Note they are identical except for the missing hole on the F250! Where did it go? The hole was needed on the F36 to get to the back lock to remove the motor. On the F250 it wasn't needed! Also see the photo on the right. The small release buttons are in different locations. On the top for the F36 and the front for the F250. Why? A matter of handling since the large film chambers made the top mounted release hard to get to.



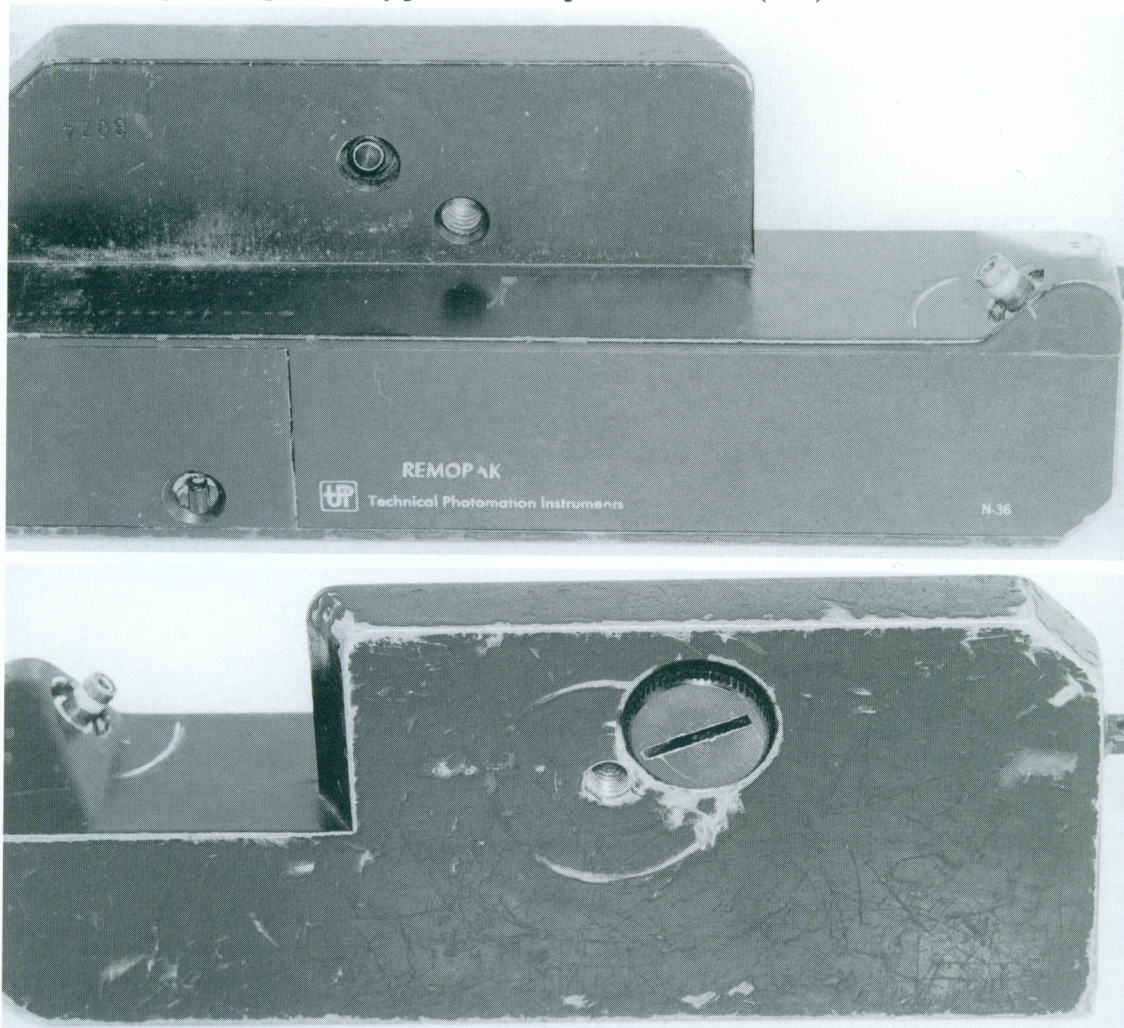


Three more differences are: the F36 has a strap eyelet while the F250 does not (the F250 motor had its own eyelets so it wasn't needed!); the S-C switches are in different locations, again because of handling and motor configuration; lastly, the power plugs are orientated slightly differently. The F250 plug is taller because the F250 undercarriage adds about a half inch to the overall height of the motor, thus the taller plug was needed. The right photo shows the missing hole from the other side. The casting is the same, it is simply not milled out. The F250 with the "Powercon" is a self-contained unit and it too will stand upright with longer lenses than when used with a cord type pack.



I probably have missed something here and I know I have left out such things as the Navy motors, the high speeds and the F250s, but they can be covered on their own someday. I have tried to include as many variations as possible and hopefully the included photos will provide even more information.

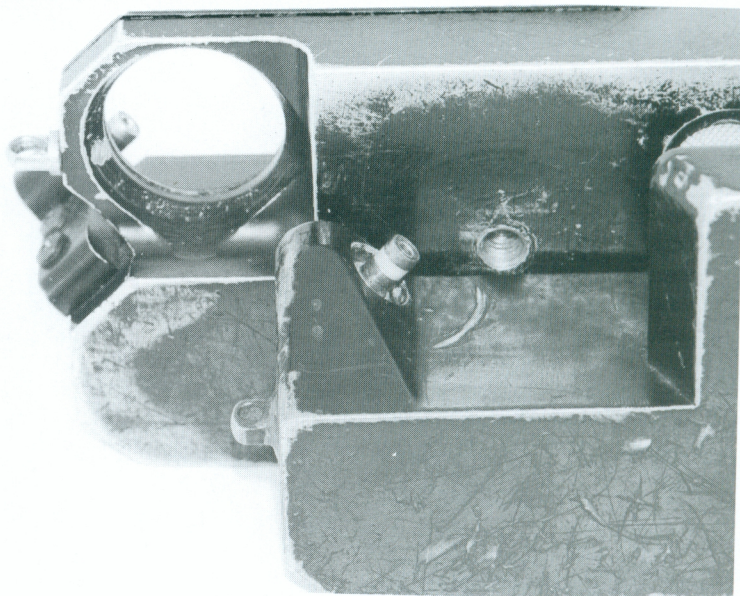
I want to thank Uli Koch and Mike Puchreiter for providing necessary photos to complete the article (RJR)



# 'REMOPAK'

The "Remopak" was a competitor to the "Powercon" and, no, I do not know which came first! But both preceded the Nikon version. Although the basic idea is the same, the two units are configured a little differently. You still have the extended base but it does not go all the way across the pack, but stops short to allow access to the baseplate lock. Instead of a hole like that on the "Powercon", the "Remopak" simply cuts off the housing. Also note that the power plug is more integrated into the design on the "Remopak". The release and eyelet are in the same location as the "Powercon", and batteries are loaded the same way through a sliding trapdoor that carries the name of the product. There is even a rumor that both items were actually made by the same company, but I can't determine that at this time.

A footnote....in about 1967 or so, I stood in front of the window of Wolk Camera in Chicago staring at a large stack of brand new Remopaks for sale for \$19.95! But I didn't have \$20 to spare and I passed it up! Those were the days!



# A NIKON PRESSURE COOKER?

by OISIN HURST WITH  
PHOTOS by TONY HURST

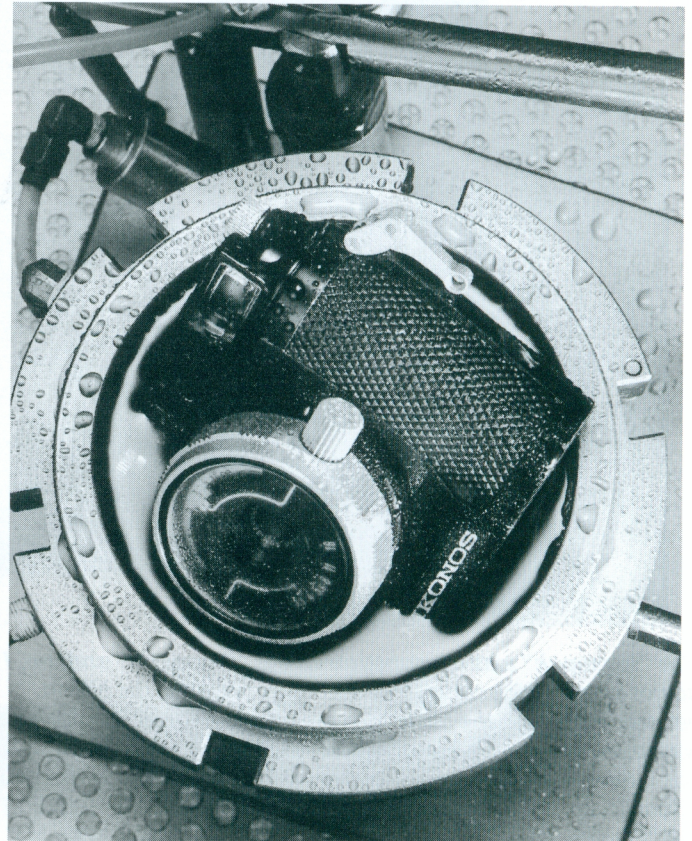
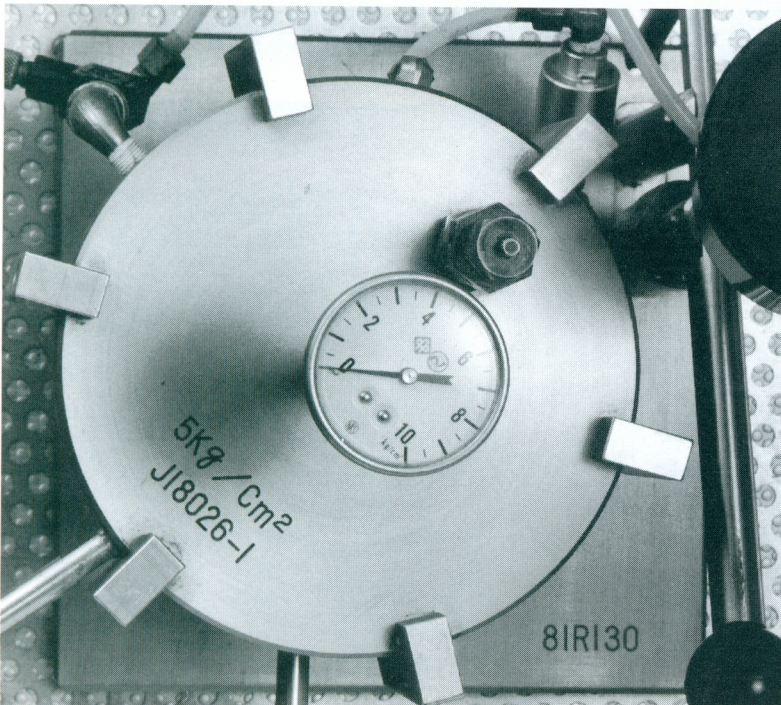
Everything gravitates to the kitchen table. Toys, papers and food, all arrive on an invisible tide. Not all toys are for children, and some children are older than others. Something weird sits there and now we are nervous, maybe some cooking gadget. Is it my turn for mum's experimental food? Will my stomach be doing double takes tonight?

It belongs to dad. I can relax. Dinner tonight will be normal, maybe. But oh dear dad collects cameras. Has anyone told him he's bought a pressure cooker? Things can't get any stranger. He's gone senile and mum can't even tell. Lets see if he'll give me the car keys, and then I will really know whether he's lost the plot.

I have been enlightened! The "J 18026-1" finished in stylish aquamarine blue is for testing your trusted Nikonos for leaks. Yes, on your very own kitchen table you can plunge to the ocean depths. Drop your Nikonos in this Heath-Robinson machine and very, very slowly pump, not exceeding 5kg/cm<sup>2</sup>. Leave cook for 10 minutes.

If the pressure gauge remains the same value as when you started you are in luck for no water has seeped into the body. No wet suit required! You can even put your feet up, drink some coffee and watch some TV.

Maybe I can forgive him. Handle with care for this is a lethal weapon. Over pressurized, it could explode and blow your head off! Who would have thought that camera collecting was a dangerous hobby?

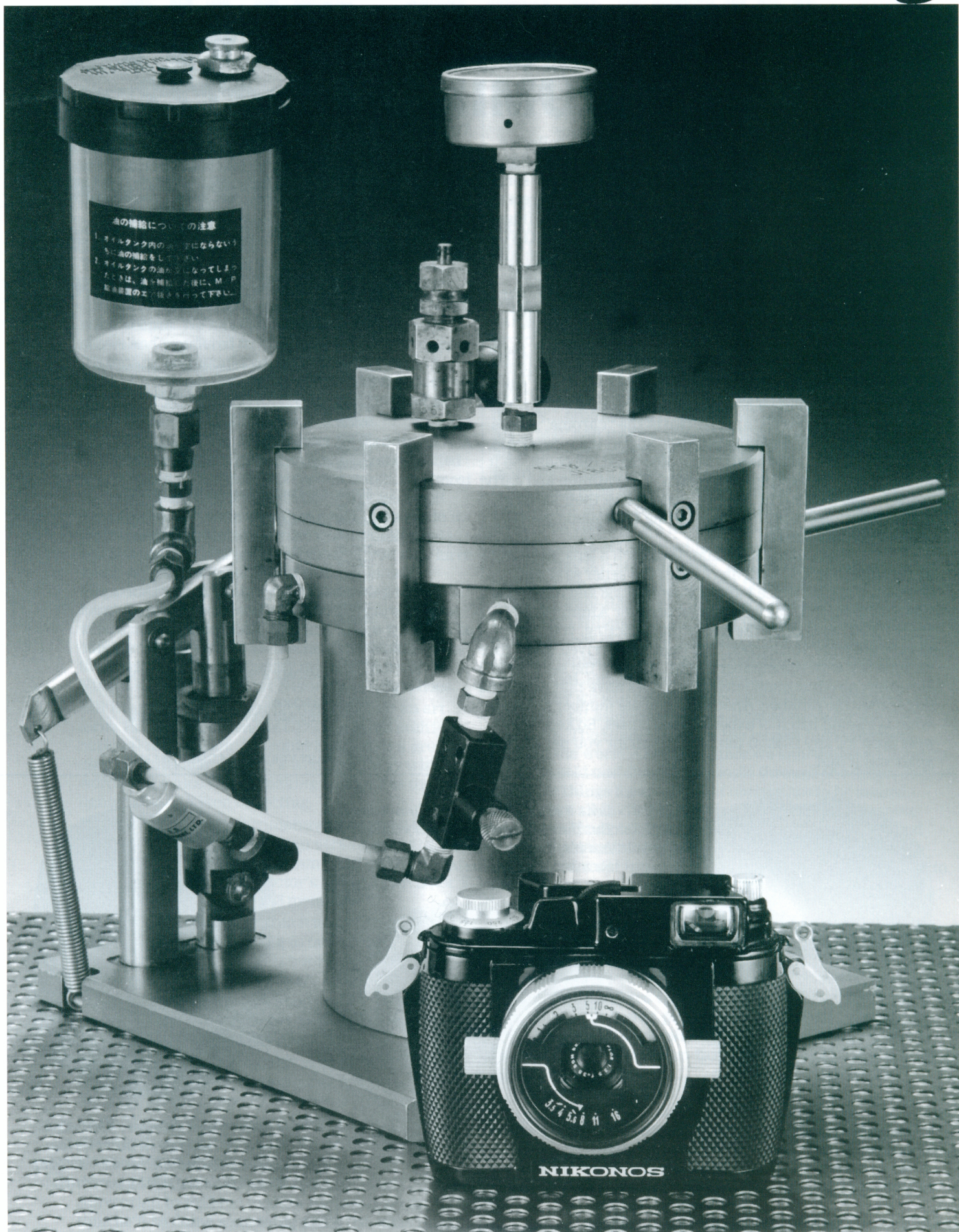


Top..Nikonos partially immersed in pressure chamber prior to being pressurized.

Left..Top view of unit. Of particular importance is the maximum pressure engraving.

Page 15..This unit was specifically designed for testing the Nikonos models I, II and III, but there is no reason that the Nikonos IVA and V could not be accommodated. However, a new tool was used for these two models. For reasons of safety a system of dry suction was used. (Photos Tony Hurst)





# WHEN IS AN ALUMINUM 1.4 NOT AN ALUMINUM 1.4???

Wouldn't it be nice and neat if everything we collected fell into order and in the proper sequence? If every variant we knew of followed the "rules" and had the "proper" serial number or feature that neatly inserted it into the correct slot just like it should be? Well, maybe that would make things a little easier but it might also make things a little **BORING!** Down deep we really don't want everything to turn out just as it should, do we? Of course not! If it did then we would surely become bored, now wouldn't we? And that's another reason why I love to collect Nikons....they never bore me because just when you thought you "knew everything", something weird comes along. Here is another case in point.

I have known for quite a few years that the Aluminum f1.4 Nikkors did not quite fit into their slot perfectly, for a few lenses that should have been Aluminum were instead made of the common chrome. At least two of the "chrome" lenses had a colon (:) following the number, signifying a duplicate, and at least one "Aluminum" lens possessed the colon. So it appears that the experimental batch of Aluminum and early black lenses that fall in the "358" batch have their share of duplicate numbers probably belonging to common garden variety chrome lenses.

Now we have one more example of such a lens. Recently I acquired a Nikon S2 with an f1.4 that the seller said was numbered 358261. Since I already own 358256 and have seen 358262, I thought I was going to get another Aluminum lens. Right? Well, as is often the case with collecting, you don't always get what you expect. The item that arrived was a nice chrome f1.4 with the number 358261, just like the seller said. However, no Aluminum lens..but..it does have that nice little colon after the number. Another duplicate number amongst what is a small batch of experimental lenses. So keep your eyes open for any f1.4s in the "358" batch for you never know what you'll find.

## ANOTHER DUPLICATE NUMBER SURFACES!!

by **ROBERT ROTOLONI**

Recorded numbers for the Aluminum F1.4 lenses and the intermixed oddball types are as follows.....

358055 FIRST VERIFIED ALUMINUM LENS!  
358082: ALUMINUM & DUPLICATE NUMBER!  
358086  
358092  
358093  
358103  
358109  
358125: CHROME & DUPLICATE NUMBER!  
358129  
358148 CHROME!  
358158  
358162  
358163  
358181  
358192  
358199  
358229  
358230  
358231  
358232  
358261: CHROME & DUPLICATE NUMBER!  
358262  
358267 CHROME!  
358294: CHROME & DUPLICATE NUMBER!  
358311  
358338  
358341 LAST VERIFIED ALUMINUM LENS!



A "Tale of Three Nikkors", or "What is Going on Here?". Lens #358256 is correct in all ways. The number puts it right in the "Aluminum" batch!

*Lens #358261: should be Aluminum!  
But that little colon (not very visible  
but it is there!) means a duplicate!  
So where is its Aluminum twin??*



The very next number, #358262, is a proper Aluminum barrel! Now we need to find the "other" #358261 to complete the family portrait!

# NHS-CON7!!!

For those who have wooden shoes of your own, now would be as good a time as any to get out your best clogs and start rubbing them down with a bit of sand paper. NHS-Con7 in Holland is less than 10 weeks away. It's about time you made that reservation and started digging around the attic for your suit case with the broken lock. It's convention time! Doesn't seem 5 minutes since we were at the last one in the Big Apple. What have we got planned for your enjoyment? Try these on for size:

- Tony Hurst has been at it again working his magic. He has the most fantastic multi-screen slide show.
- John Millham is going to shed a little light on Nikon microscopes. We have all found things at camera shows and wondered in total amazement as to what it's for and how would you use it. Well, John is a mine of useless information and he will enlighten us all, plus he plans to have a few microscopes set up. Microscopes are big business for Nikon.
- Robert Rotoloni, our scout master, is planning a talk on something which he is the only person qualified to talk about...the things that never were!...or almost made it...or should have been made but were not! Prototypes and Nikon toys that never quite made it to production or were different when finally made. Wonderful topic. Hands up all those of you who have spent hours looking at pictures in books and magazines with a magnifying glass trying to read a number, seen pictures of a lens with a chrome ring where it should be black, or black where it should be chrome. Bob is always an interesting speaker. He is the world's leading authority on the history of Nikon. Knows more about Nikon than Nikon does.
- Bill Kraus has turned public speaking into an art form. Had Bill not been the CEO of a large multinational corporation he would have made a great used car salesman. He has a wonderful way with words and a nice way of making you look at the lighter side of Nikon collecting.
- Uli Koch and Jimmy Purimahuwa are going to spot light the Nikkor F, the German version of that 40 year old trusty friend. Uli, Jimmy and myself have formed our own little collector's group, the Nikkor F club. It currently has only 3 members!
- Fred Krughoff, romdog to his friends (Fred, just what is a romdog?), is going to talk about something. He has not told me yet what but Fred is a good public speaker and it will surely be interesting.
- Rod Stines is going to talk about his favorite hobby. Rod is one of the few people I know who is never stuck for something to say about Nikons.
- I will take an interesting look at the Cooper/Abbott books. So many variations of what has now become the bible for the Nikon F/F2 owner and collector.
- Mark Thekan, a new member, wants to give us all the benefit of his Nikon wisdom. He has a slide show planned for us but the subject is still a secret.
- Jan van Dijk took a Nikon F apart for us at the last convention in Holland to show us how it works. This time he'll be doing something along the same lines.

- Jan Bos in his daytime job works for Olympus Netherlands, but loves to work on old cameras. He has golden fingers. He has repaired quite a few Nikon Ms and 2 Model Ones and has cleaned my Stereo-Nikkor. He will be giving us a few tips on small repairs that we can do ourselves.

Fancy yourself as a speaker. Your chance to find fame and fortune. See you name up in lights. Yes, stand up and give a short talk. We need your help. Be a mover and a shaker. We want you to take an active part in the Convention.

We will also be privileged to view the personal Leica collection of an NHS member. We will travel by luxury coach to a secret location in Belgium to view a large selection of prototypes, cutaways and wooden mockups. Our NHS friend has had to make special arrangements. Armed security guards will bring his \$6,000,000.00 collection to a secure location just for us! To give you an idea of what will be on display....prototype M1, M2, M3, M4 M5, and M6 bodies; four M4-2/M4P half frames; three MP2s with motors; 20 cutaways, all with prototype lenses; prototype of a CL called a CM; and many more rare items. This will be a once in a lifetime chance not to be missed. I have seen the Leitz factory collection, which is nice but Mickey Mouse in comparison to what we will be viewing! We have a whole day planned out so don't forget to bring a usable camera.

Saturday is convention day. Don't forget to bring a show and tell item. Quite a few famous faces will be there: Robert Rotoloni, Paul-Henry von Hasbroeck (famous Leica historian), Rudi Hillebrand (author of the Nikon Compendium and publisher of the German magazine, Photo Deal), Peter Braczko (author of the Nikon Handbook). And there is a chance that James Lager will attend.

Sunday we will be the guests of the Dutch collectors club who have sat aside a large area of table space for the NHS members. The Houten show is the largest indoor camera show in the world. Last November we had almost a kilometer of tables sold out! Over 4,500 people through the doors. So if you have things for sale a great chance not to be missed.

You are all invited to my place only about a 10 minute walk from the hotel. Don't forget to book the hotel in good time and please inform the desk you are part of the Nikon convention, most important! Any speakers who would like to have photos or a small pamphlet reproduced should get in touch with me as soon as possible. And please confirm that you are attending. Should you need any help or more info please call, fax or email, but don't call me at 3AM, I'm not my best then. I look forward to seeing you all again! (P. Lownds)

## Important numbers to remember:

Peter Lownds..home phone/fax..31-10-262-3638  
 work phone.....31-71-565-3096  
 museum fax.....31-10-415-9136  
 email.....plownds@estec.esa.nl

Society 24hr fax .....708-895-9663

Society email.....rotoloni@msn.com

Hotel info: Best Western Rotterdam Airport Hotel

Vliegveldweg 59-61

3043 NT Rotterdam

Tel...31-10-462-5566

Fax..31-10-462-2266

email...airport@bestwestern.nl

## 'NHS' e-mail LIST!!

The following is an updated listing of e-mail addresses for members of the Society who asked to be included in this directory. Those of you familiar with the Internet are very much aware of how easy and useful communications via e-mail can be. You can't beat it for speed and ease, so if you want to be included on our list just let me know.

ROBERT ROTOLONI.....rotoloni@msn.com

PETER ABRAHAMS.....telescope@europa.com  
 JOB BAKKER.....visual.art.productions@wxs.nl  
 DAVE BARTH.....dvbarth@aol.com  
 ALAN BLAKE.....arbel@btinternet.com  
 SAM CLARK.....sclark@methodist.edu  
 DON DEDERA.....dondedera@aol.com  
 GLENN GERSON.....glgerson@aol.com  
 ALAN GLENWRIGHT.....allan.glenwright@virgin.net  
 FRANK GOSEBRUCH.....frankgosebruch@gmx.net  
 DON GRESOCK.....gresockdw@stic.net  
 HARRY HANSEN.....harvey@post8.tele.dk  
 RUDI HILLEBRAND.....hillebrand@photoideal.ne.eunet.de  
 ALEX HURST.....corkflor@iol.ie  
 TONY HURST.....tonyhurst@tinet.ie  
 ULRICH KOCH.....uli\_koch@t-online.de  
 FRED KRUGHOFF.....webmaster@romdog.com  
 RICHARD LANE.....carrlane@aol.com  
 JIM LEATHAM.....djleatham@flaglink.com  
 GRAY LEVETT.....info@graysofwestminster.co.uk  
 CHRIS LONN.....clonn1@san.rr.com  
 PETER LOWNDS.....plownds@estec.esa.nl  
 ERNESTO LUCIDI.....e.luci@flashnet.it  
 MARK MASSARI.....mmassari@ucsd.edu  
 'CY' MEYER.....cycamcol@primenet.com  
 JOHN MILLHAM.....johnamillham@aol.com  
 DOUGLAS NAPIER.....dugwerks@forterie.com  
 MIKE OTTO.....pacrim@teleport.com  
 CHRIS OZDOBA.....chrisozdoba@netscape.net  
 BUD PRESGROVE.....budwatch@mindspring.com  
 JERRY ROLD.....jlrold@worldnet.att.net  
 AL SATTERWHITE.....avsfilm@earthlink.net  
 website...www.alsatterwhite.com  
 JAMES SKLADANY.....jim321@webtv.net  
 MIKE SYMONS.....msymons6456@bc.sympatico.ca  
 ROBERT TRUDELL.....trudellr@lv.rmci.net  
 JEAN-PIERRE VERGINE.....jpvergine@compuserve.com  
 PAUL-HENRY vanHASBROECK.....hasbroeck@aol.com  
 PETER WALNES.....fieldgrass@lineone.net  
 MEL WILNER.....mandrwilner@webtv.net

## THE "NHS" IS ON BRITANNICA.COM!!

Check out the new **Encyclopedia Britannica** website at [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com) under "Nikon", and you will find an article about the "NHS" and a link to our own website, which rates two stars!! Not bad since the USC.edu site—one of the best on the internet—gets only 1 star! Thanks to Bob Trudell for letting me know of this. Hats off to our webmaster, Fred Krughoff, for yet another feather in his!

## LETTERS..LETTERS

From Chris Lonn...

I had a great idea for an article for the Journal. I think it would be neat to see how people display their Nikon camera collections. I'm sure some people have them in display cases and it would be interesting to see how different members displayed them. What do you think? I got this idea when I saw the NHS-Con6 pictures. (*Chris is speaking of Dietmar Machold's display and of course we have seen what Peter Lownds has done with his collection. This could be interesting. Any thoughts on it? RJR*)

From Jean-Pierre Vergine...

You may remember the article published in a previous issue of the Nikon Journal concerning a Nikon S2 which has been bought by Voightlaender, showing their interest in the Japanese technology at the time when the German camera industry was criticizing their Japanese competitors for copying their own production. I intend to write an article for the Nikon Journal describing the evolution of the opinion of the European industry concerning the Japanese cameras and, for this purpose, I need to complete my own documentation.

In addition, I would be pleased if you could accept to insert a short text concerning a new collectors club:

A club named "**ALPA HISTORICA**" has been recently set up to assist all the collectors and users of ALPA, the Swiss handmade cameras, of which certain models offered the unique feature of having two separate focusing systems, rangefinder and reflex, a particularity which should be appreciated by those liking to use both, as many Nikon enthusiasts are. For further information contact NHS member **John-Pierre Vergine, 8, Avenue Louis Lepoutre, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium.** Thank you.

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**JUST LOOK AT SOME OF THE RARE JEWELS WE HAVE SOLD RECENTLY:**

**Black paint M2/M3/M4, grey enamel M2, olive green M1 and M3 bodies, M3 Betriebsk #1004 with 'Summikron' (Lager vol.1 p.181), 2 very early production M3 bodies (numbers under 700150), 3 chrome MP (inc. no.366, p70 'Leica in Colour' van Hasbroeck), black MP no.123 (as illustrated p.81 'Leica Collectors Guide', Dennis Laney), M2M and M4M (both with motors), black M4 with 'Midland Canada' top plate, M4-P half frame, M3 prototypes, dummies, Betriebsk and cutaways. 50 year anniversary CL, M4 and M5. Chrome MP2 with motor!**

**Leica 0 (null series) no.126, Leica I Anastigmat no.221 (illustrated p.126 'Leica Collection', Shinichi Nakamura), dialset and rimset Compurs. Leica II 'Luxus' (illustrated p.34 'Leica in Colour' van Hasbroeck). Leica 72, (Canadian, German and prototypes). 250 'Reporter' both FF and GG, black IIIf and IIIg (Swedish army), pre-production Iq and IIIg bodies (some illustrated in Lager vol.1), 33/3.5 Stemar set, 35/3.5 Stereo Elmar (only 32 ever made!) and 90mm f7 Stereo lens. Mooly motors, chrome, grey and black!**

**Very many early prototype Leicaflex models, some with interchangeable prism, some with unusual motors and some finished in black paint. Also Leicaflex mk.1 and mk.2 bodies in black point finish. Early Leica copies including several Hansas, Canon J, Canon JS, Canon S, Leotax Specials (various models, all with correct and original Letana Anastigmat lenses). Nikon rangefinder equipment including Nikon 1, black Nikon S3, S3 Olympic, black SP with motor and black S3M with motor. 35/3.5 Stereo Nikkor. Nikon F# 6400xxx.**



Contact: PETER WALNES (LHSA AND NHS MEMBER SINCE 1982)

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PHONE: +44 20 8870 7611 FAX: +44 20 8870 6551

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

**WANTED...**Nikon Stereo Viewer wanted to complete set. Good price paid. Nikonos Prototype underwater lens for sale. Probably unique. **PH van Hasbroeck, 34 Bury Walk, London SW3 6QB, England. Tel....0171-352-8494 Fax....0171-823-9058..... hasbroeck@aol.com**

**FOR SALE...**Cutaway of Nikon EM camera mounted in a clear plastic box. A limited number of these were made to promote the EM by demonstrating the good quality of construction and workmanship. c. 1978-80, good condition. Best offer. Complete Amphoto 2 volume Nikon/Nikkormat Handbook. Looseleaf format. Complete technical information on all Nikon SLRs & lenses up to the FM/FE and Nikkormat FT3. Best offer. 180mm/f2.8 AFD Nikkor lens. Good condition..\$450.00. **Ray Porter 203-227-3080**

**WANTED...**Any literature in French & German (magazines, catalogs, leaflets, etc.) mentioning the rangefinder Nikons and the F in the years 1950-65. Contact: **Jean- Pierre Vergine, 8 Avenue Louis Lapoutre, B-1050, Brussels, Belgium....jpvergine@compuserve.com**

**WANTED...**Pentaprism for my Nikon F body #7058543. **John Lippert, 950 Bellote St., Green Valley, AZ 85614**

**SELLING/TRADE LIST...**Many Nikon RF and reflex items for sale as well as quality products from other companies such as **Bronica, Canon, Minolta, Pentax, Rollie, Mamiya, Kodak, Zeiss** and others. You can be added to my mailing list by simply letting me know! If you have a list make sure to send me a copy. I am always open to trades. **Robert Rotoloni, PO Box 3213, Munster, IN 46321. 24hr fax line..708-895-9663....rotoloni@msn.com**

## NEW MEMBERS

**DR. LUIGI CANE**  
VIA CUORE IMMACOLATO DI MARIA 12/A  
20141 MILANO, ITALY

**J. DE WITTE**  
FILOMEENTJE ERF 1  
2907 BC CAPELLE A/D IJSSEL  
HOLLAND

**GLENN GERSON**  
62 MONTAGUE ST.  
BROOKLYN, NY 11201

**JIUNN JYE HWANG**  
12000 FAIRHILL RD. #516  
CLEVELAND, OH 44120

**THOMAS KOSTYK**  
24 HIGHPOINT TRAIL  
FAIRPORT, NY 14450

**E.R. "ERNIE" KRALICK**  
1930 W. SAN MARCOS BLVD. #435  
SAN MARCOS, CA 92069

**JOHN LIPPERT**  
950 BELLOTE ST.  
GREEN VALLEY, AZ 85614

**WARREN NORRELL**  
674 E. 143RD. ST.  
BURNSVILLE, MN 55337-4609

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COLUMBIA, MO 65201

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# odds 'n ends



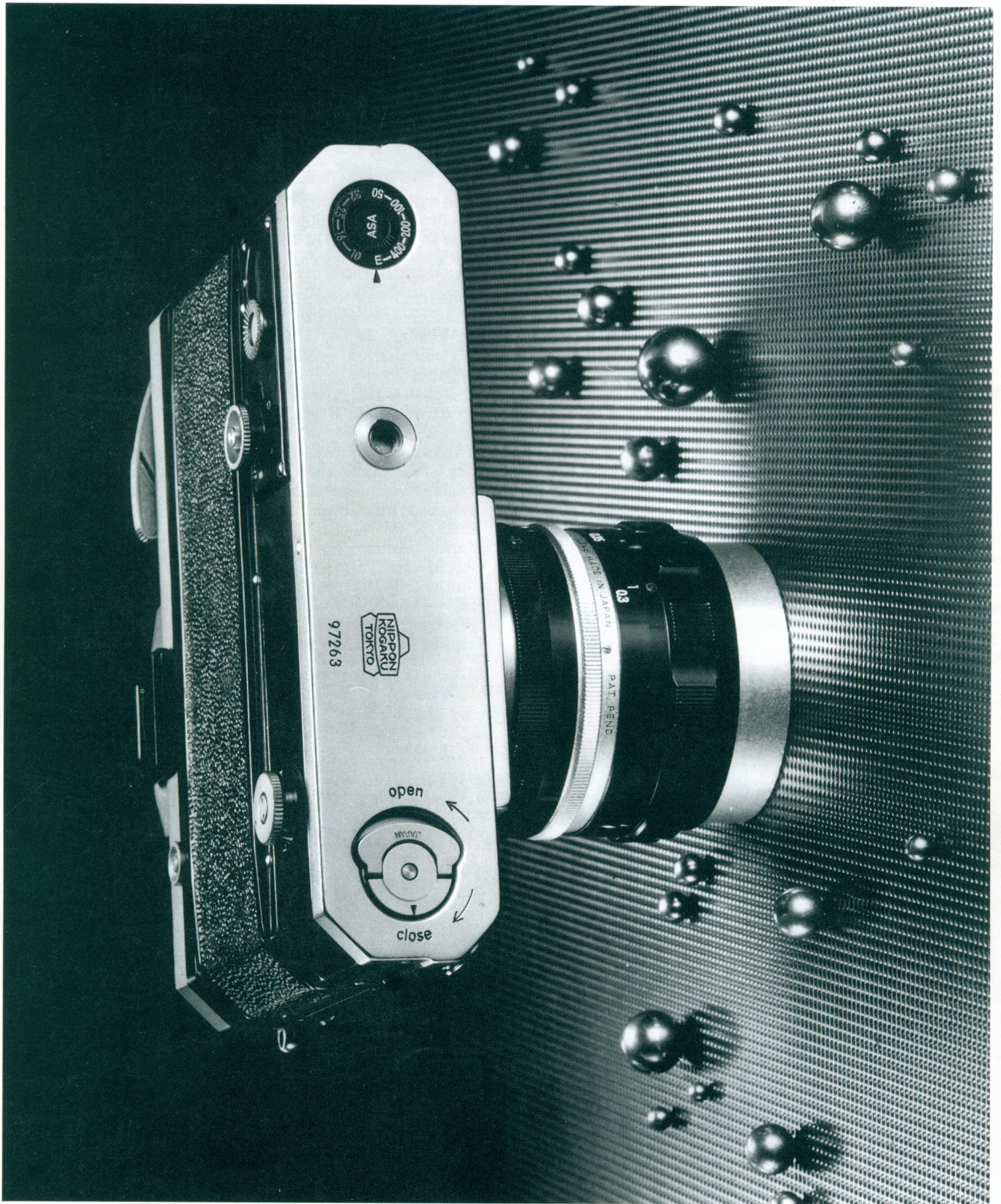
You will recall on page 20 of the last issue of the Journal two small photos of an unusual leather case with the promise that an explanation of what it was would appear in this issue. Well, you can't say I don't keep my promises, so here goes.

This small very Nikon-looking case came to me with a 28mm attachment for the Varifocal Zoom finder, and it is a perfect fit! The color of the leather, stitching and interior are identical to so many other Nikon cases that it appears to be an original Nikon item. However, it is unmarked, something that is NOT that unusual for leather items. The finder and case were obtained from an amateur and have been together for many years.

Then something interesting happened after NHS-65 came out. At the meeting of the Leica Historical Society, NHS member Philip Ramsden from Australia came up to me to introduce himself and handed me some photos of a nearly identical case of obvious later vintage. This one had the darker leather of later years and is marked with a modern Nikon logo. It held a close-up lens for the 8~32/f1.8 Nikkor for the 8mm Nikkorex movie camera! The same case but recycled for a later item! Does this mean mine is truly a Nikon item? And did they really make a case for the 28mm attachment for the Varifocal? Could be!

## THE CASE OF THE LITTLE CASE!





**Created For The 'NHS' by TONY HURST**