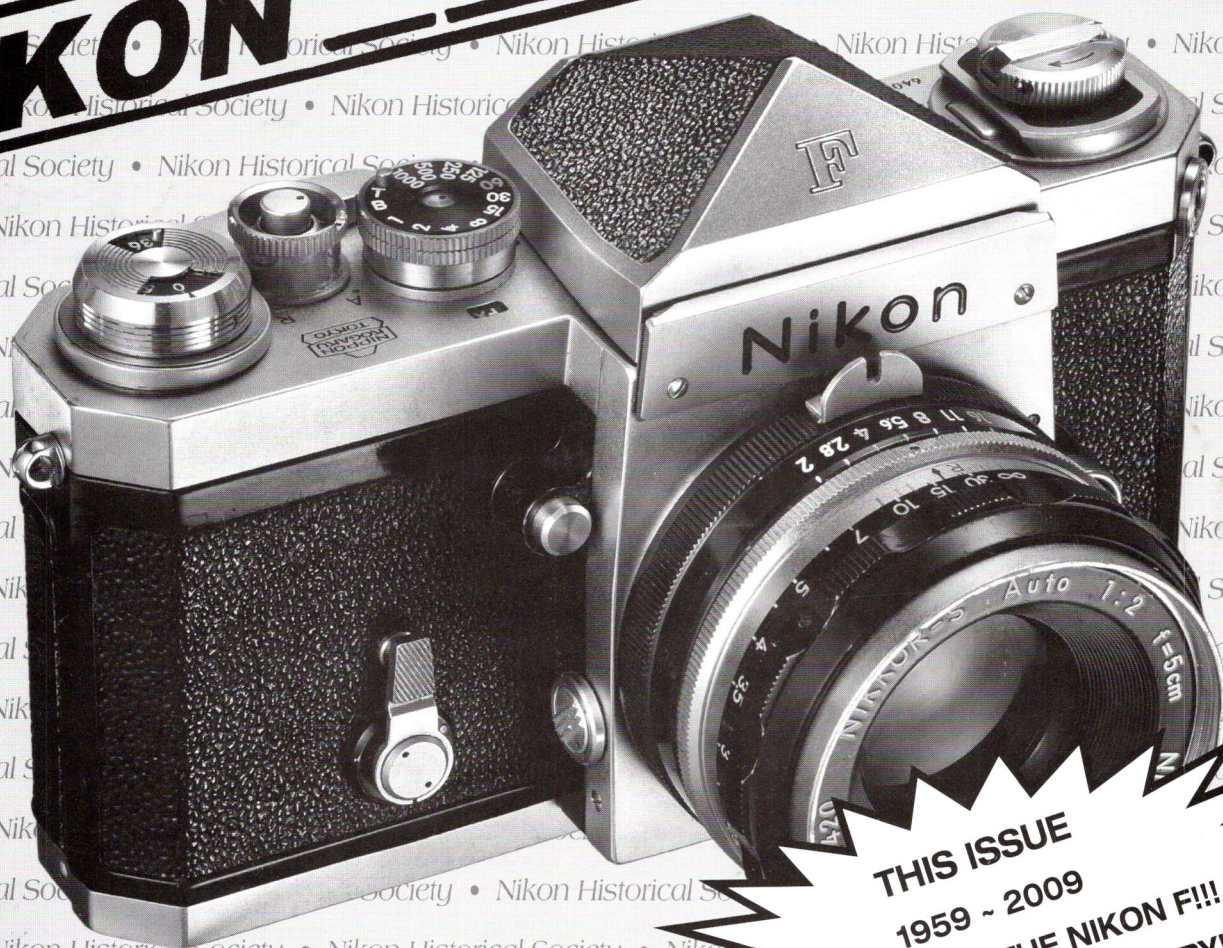


A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



JUNE 30, 2009
NHS-104

NHS-CON12~IN BRUGES~MAY 10~16
NIKON JOURNAL



THIS ISSUE

1959 ~ 2009

50 YEARS OF THE NIKON F!!!
WE CONTINUE ITS STORY!

ROBERT J. ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER



THE NIKON JOURNAL ISSUE #104

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NHS -105 DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of our NIKON JOURNAL,
NHS-105, is **SEPTEMBER 1, 2009**. Please get all your cor-
respondence and photos to me on time so I can bring it out on
schedule. Thank you. **RJR.**

EDITORIAL

This is our second of four issues of The Journal that will celebrate the most famous Nikon of all, the model 'F'. I have received some great material and will continue to fill these pages with more facts (obscure as well as common), photos and various pieces of Nikon F lore throughout its' birthday year.

I start off with an article made possible by the trust and generosity of member Alan Brody. Al sent me two of the most historic Nikon Fs that we are aware of so I could photograph them for this issue. See page one, and thank you Al!

For our 'F-Spot' feature we have yet another article by Uli Koch. Now we all know Uli as the Nikon F expert and he has sent me a series of articles that cover some very esoteric Nikon F bodies & accessories. This is not your run-of-the-mill common garden-variety stuff, no way. He gets into some really offbeat items and this issue is a case in point. Take a look at page 6 & learn about the 'Sea Glove'. I have never heard of it before! And there is more to come in Journals 105 & 106.

On page 9 is my second installment on some of the more interesting, rare or obscure literature from the early days of the F. So much can be learned from studying the literature but some of this paper is getting hard to find. I keep trying to dig up some of the more esoteric pieces in my collection and as I look through things I am a bit surprised at what I have. Years of accumulating have built up quite a pile and much of it I haven't seen in years. I hope you too will learn from it as I have.

On page 14 Peter Lownds 'remembers' Masahiko Fuketa and his first meeting with him at NHS-Con5 in Tokyo in 1996. Fuketa-san is, of course, the man behind the Nikon One and all the RFs that followed. But he was still the main man during the development of the Nikon F and is known as 'Mr. Nikon' for his work. It is rumored (and considered 'fact' by those of us who wish it to be true) that the 'F' on the front of their first SLR stood for 'Fuketa', and not 'flex'. Sounds good to me!

NHS-Con12 is now less than 11 months from when you receive this issue. It is time to start making your plans. Already 40 or more members have committed to what will surely be a great week in Bruges, Belgium next May. On page 17 we have additional new information for you as we have now contracted with the main hotel for the meeting as well as a second, less expensive one as well. We are getting a better feeling for costs and by issue #105 we should have some final figures for you. Please check out page 17 and get back to us!

Mark your calendar for October 16-18, 2009 for the 14th Symposium on the History of Photography at George Eastman House. I have never been but I surely hope to someday. But this year is special. NHS members Yuki Kawai & Bill Kraus will be guest speakers! On what? Early Nikons of course!

Two sad notes to report. Condolences go out to Mike Symons on the loss of his mother Margaret on March 16th and to Bill Adams on the passing of his wife Patricia on March 8th.

On a better note I received information about a photo show held at the 'Scoot Shop' in Sacramento, California, on May 9th. It is billed as photos of vintage Vespa and Lambretta scooters from around the world. And by whom? How about member Bob Rogen! Congratulations, Bob!

And finally....would you believe they raised the postage rates again? They're killing me!

WOW!!....LOOK AT THESE!!

A VERY HISTORICAL PAIR OF NIKON F CAMERAS...By ALAN C. BRODY

TEXT & PHOTOS By ROBERT J. ROTOLONI

I have received material from various members who are contributing articles, photos and ideas to help us celebrate the 50th birthday of the Nikon F. I am able to lead off this second issue out of four with a photo essay on a very special pair of Fs! Member Alan Brody

graciously supplied me with these two cameras so I could photograph them for this issue. He was willing to ship them to me and I had them in my possession for a few weeks. This allowed me to photograph them in detail and to actually hold these two very important cameras in my hands. It also

gives each of you the chance to see what two of the earliest collected Nikon Fs are like. Most of us, including me, will probably never have a chance to own such pieces, but at least we can say we have seen them in the Journal. So here we go with some images of two exceptional Nikon F bodies and their interesting lenses as well.

Our pair of Fs consists of bodies 6400019 and 6400141. I have only two earlier collected cameras in my database, those being 6400008 and 6400012 (of course we all know that 6400001 is seen in the earliest literature but it has, to my knowledge, never been accounted for and may no longer exist). And 6400141 is also the earliest known surviving example from what is probably the first production run actually sold to the general public. Are these two bodies identical? Externally they appear to be just that unless my tired eyes have missed some tiny detail. But a close comparison did not bring out any external differences I could see. However, they are not from the same batch because they differ in one very important detail. Body 6400019 has a cloth shutter while 6400141 has the titanium foil curtains!

Body #19 could very well be from the first batch of 20 working prototype cameras said to have been for internal use at NK as a trial run. (See Uli Koch's article page 13 in NHS-103). If not the trial batch, then certainly one of the very first to be released from the factory. Whichever is the case, it is an extremely important historical camera and we are fortunate to be able to study it.

Also note the lens that is on this camera. It is a tic mark 3.5cm f2.8 Nikkor #920019! How is that for a nice matched set?

Body #141 is, at this time, the earliest confirmed foil shuttered Nikon F so far collected. (Some of you may have already

noticed it is the same camera that graced the cover of NHS-24 and was featured in the main article that issue celebrating the 30th birthday of the F.) Note that this camera has mounted 5cm f2.0 Nikkor #520141! That's the 141st lens on the 141st body. A fabulous pair indeed!

The curtain is

the only obvious difference between it and #19, but I have it from a very qualified repairman that there are definite internal variations in the mirror housing and mechanism of the earlier body. This again points to the strong possibility that 6400019 is from that first batch of working prototypes.

Both cameras have all the required features that such early examples should possess, including;

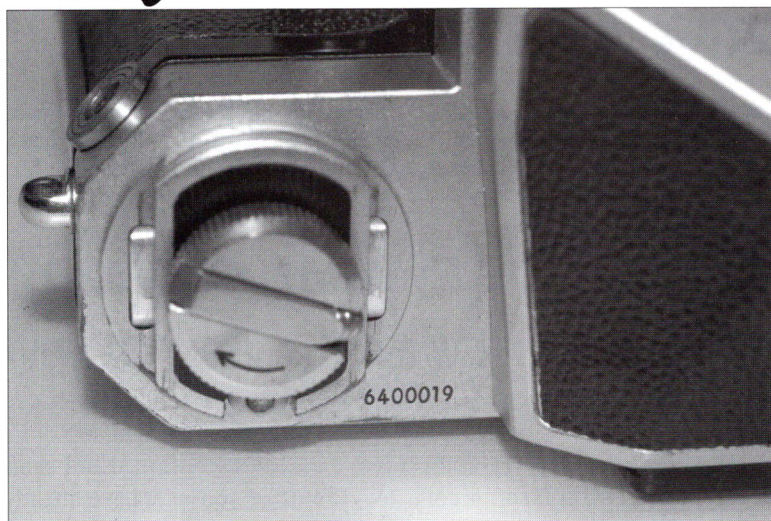
- Cross-hatched self-timer lever
- One retaining screw in the shutter speed dial
- Round flash insulator
- Nippon Kogaku Tokyo 'engraved' on the prism underside
- Early, partially hollowed out rapid wind lever
- Non-rotating tip on rapid rewind lever
- Coarse grain early Type A focusing screen
- 'Japan' in base plate locking key

I have included photos illustrating all these points as well as their early tic mark lenses. I hope they are sufficient to leave each of you with ample knowledge of what to look for when searching for these very early Nikon F bodies. And even if you never have a chance to actually hold one in your hands, you hopefully now know what they really look like.

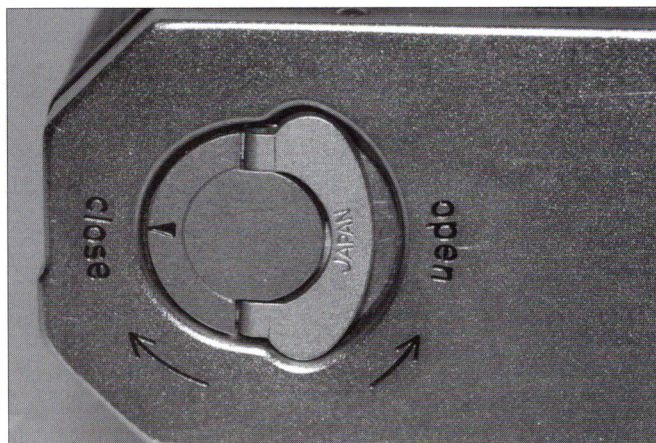
My sincere appreciation to member Alan Brody for allowing me to photograph his 'babies' so we could share this information with all of you.

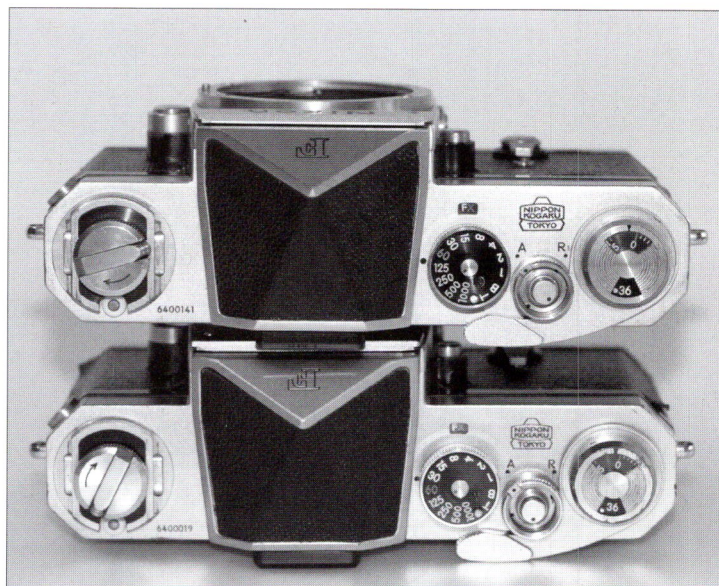
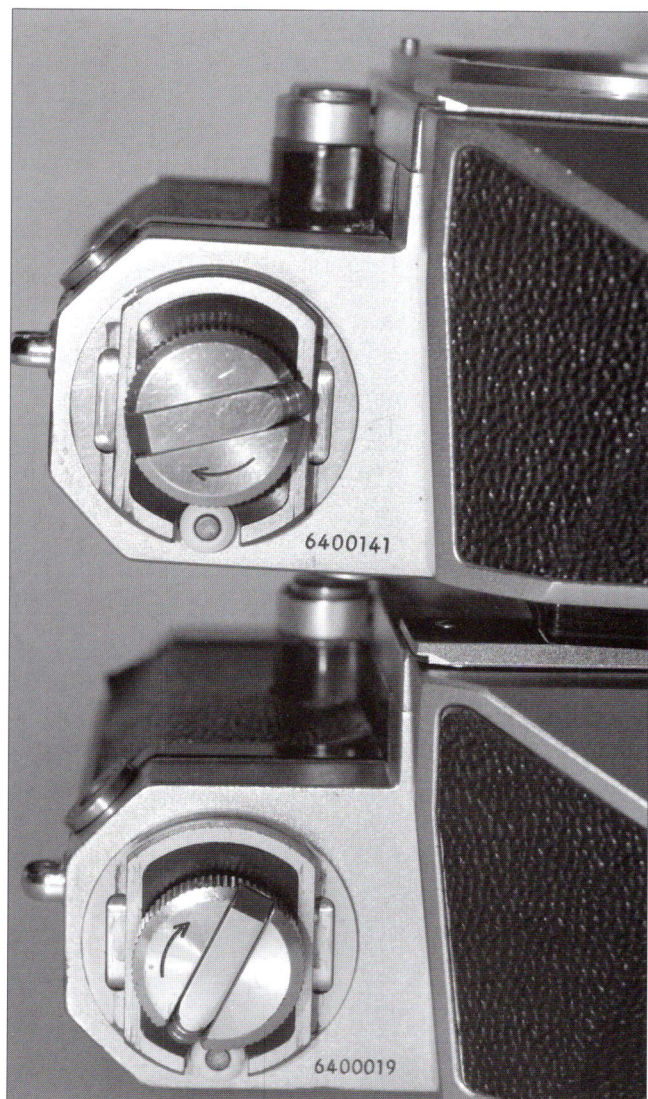
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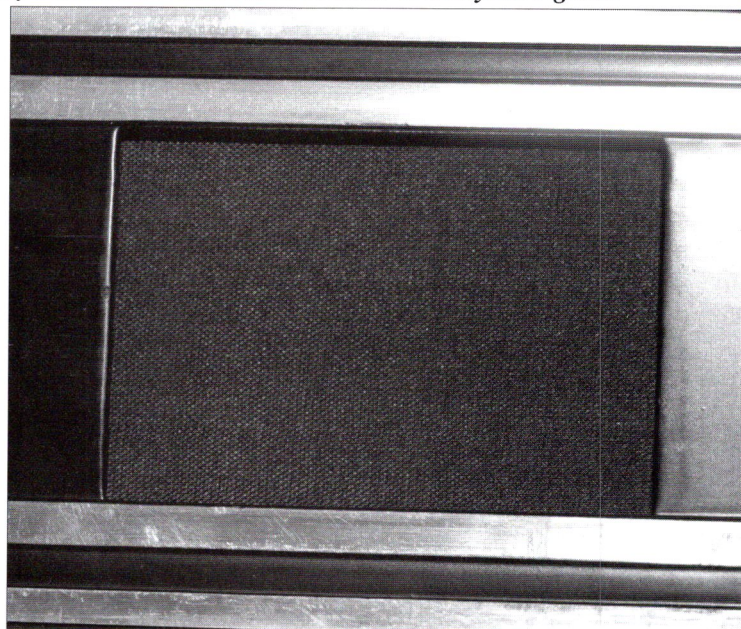
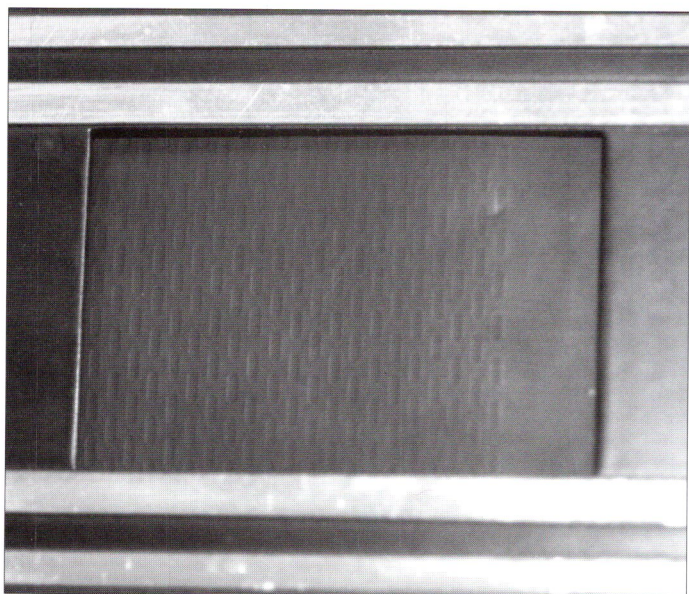


Features appropriate to this vintage Nikon F production that are shared by these two bodies include the four illustrated here. Starting at upper left and going clockwise; All the early Nikon F bodies had a round white plastic insulator washer just behind the rewind assembly. Later this was partially squared off. Earliest ASA dial only went to 400 with just a single black index triangle. "Japan" appeared in the locking lever, not near the baseplate center like later production. The wind lever is cast and partially hollowed out I presume to reduce weight. Later this would be changed to a completely solid design.

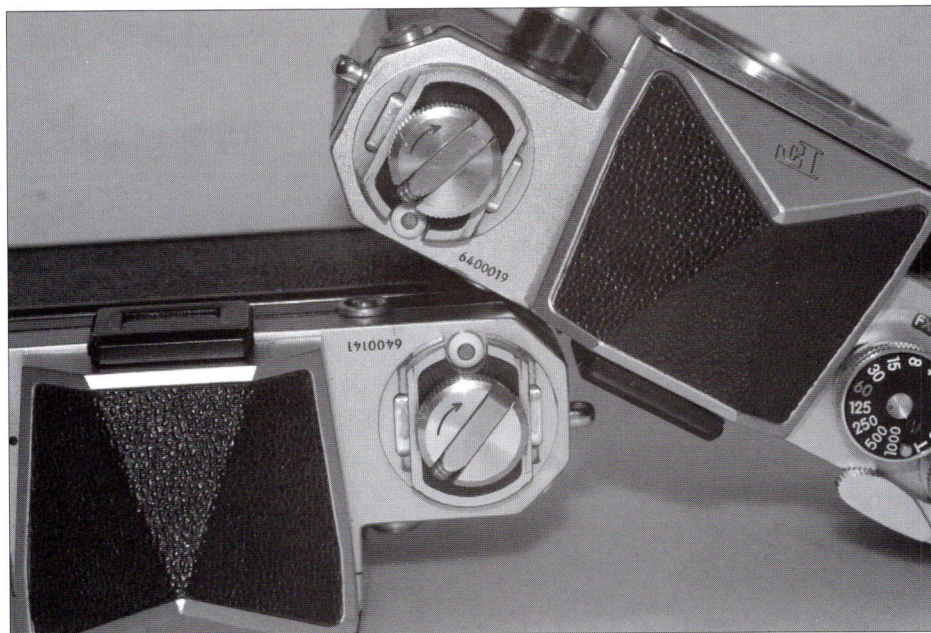




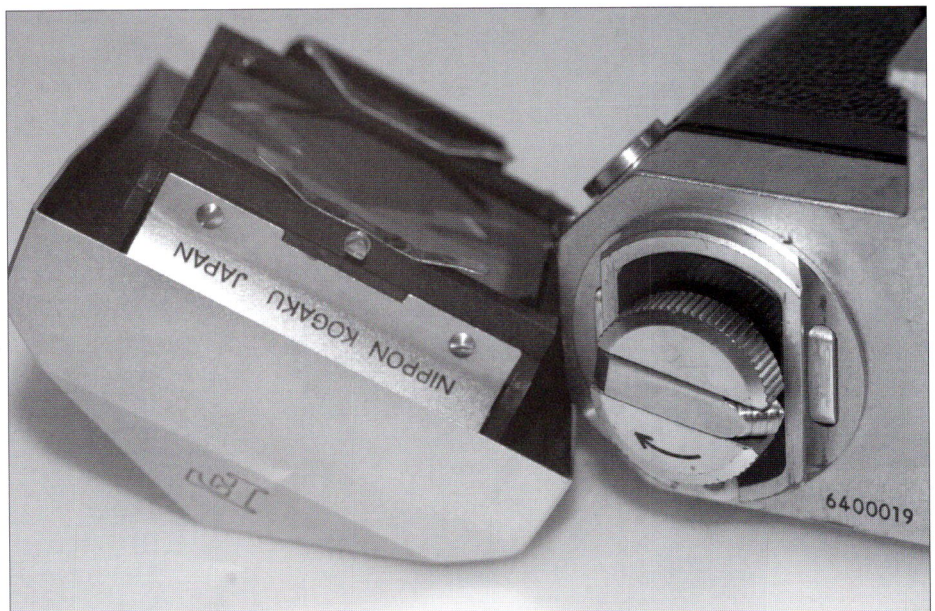
Externally these two cameras appear identical. I could find no obvious difference or modification but this is to be expected. Even if 6400019 was part of a batch made in late 1958 for testing, 6400141 was part of the earliest production run and may only have had internal changes with NK finding no reason to modify its external design (besides, the F was a clone of the SP and so much of its external hardware was identical and had already been in use on the SP for nearly 2 years). However, there is one big difference! Those curtains....cloth on #19 and titanium foil on #141. The foil shutter on the F would become famous and be used on the SP and S3 Olympic and all subsequent F models. It is quite possible that less than 100 Nikon F bodies were ever fitted with cloth, and some must have been modified to foil over all these years. How many remain? 50?....40?....20?.....? It's anyone's guess.



Other features to look for in these early cameras include the cross-hatched self-timer lever (later replaced with a straight vertical design), and only one screw used to retain the shutter speed dial (later to have two screws for a more secure fit). Also note that the tip of the rewind lever is fixed and does not rotate. This would be changed to the rotating type for better control.



Another feature to look for can only be found by removing the eyelevel prism. A very large percentage of the original prisms shipped with these very early cameras have been lost. Some were damaged and replaced with later models. Others were discarded or put aside in a drawer when the Photomic meter prisms were available. Thousands were switched out for this reason. (I did it myself back in 1968!) So to find an early body with its correct prism is not easy. How do you know you have the right one? Turn it over and look at the legend 'Nippon Kogaku Japan'. Only on these early prisms is the phrase actually pressed into the metal (engraved?) and painted in! Later on it would be printed or silk screened and worded differently. Is yours the right one? Just run your fingernail across the letters and feel. One more thing. The original 'A' screens were so coarse you could count the fresnel rings! They would get finer and nearly disappear later on.





These two very early Auto-Nikkors are special items in themselves. The 5cm f/2 not only has the same digits as the body, but is from the very first batch of f/2s ever made! These had to be ready when the camera was so they must have been produced in very early 59'. The 3.5cm was part of the original battery of lenses released with the Nikon F, so they too would have had to be ready when the bodies were. That would probably mean this lens was also made in very early 59' and is the 19th in the series. Two very significant optics. Please refer to the two top photos to see what we mean by tic mark lenses. Note the tiny lines by the aperture numbers. Those would soon disappear. Also note the right photo. These very early lenses have no visible screws on the bayonet mount! Later they would. (Something like 100 million lenses have been made with this mount. These are a couple of 'originals'!

A really interesting part of this story has to do with the lenses that are mounted on these two cameras. Body 6400019 is fitted with a first run 3.5cm f/2.8 tic mark Nikkor #920019, a matched set. Of course they did not leave the factory this way and the 5cm f/2 that was originally on this body is not accounted for, but a lot of effort went into finding such a lens and building this set. On the other hand, 6400141 is fitted with a first run tic mark 5cm f/2 Nikkor #520141 which is a perfect match!! Did they leave the factory together like this 50 years ago? We do not know for sure and since Nikon was notorious to 'not' assembling things in correct order, the odds are against it. But isn't it a nice feeling to think that these two have been together all these years? And why not? Anything is possible. Be a believer!



6 **THE F--SPOT!**

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NIKON 'F' SYSTEM...BY ULI KOCH

PART II.....THE 'SEA GLOVE'

Over the years I've been aware of several underwater housings for the Nikon F camera. They were manufactured either in Acrylic plastic or of Aluminum, and accommodate a Nikon F body with, or without, an F36 motor drive. The most popular housing for the 'F' was an Acrylic one made by Ikelite. Several high quality housings were manufactured by the famous underwater photographer and cine/video professional, Al Giddings. In this article I will show you the most fascinating housing for the Nikon F...the 'Sea Glove' made by Research & Development, Inc. of Bartow, Florida.

Why is this unit so fascinating? Unlike all other underwater housings made for it, this unit is precisely tailored to fit around the Nikon F camera. The housing is manufactured out of Acrylic and is comprised of three parts. The rear section, which fixes the camera and the camera transmission levers; the front section covering the remaining part of the body; and the dome for the lens. Both main portions are fixed together by two large clamps, while the lens dome is fixed by screws. The photographer is able to use the following functions of the camera and lens underwater.

WINDING...

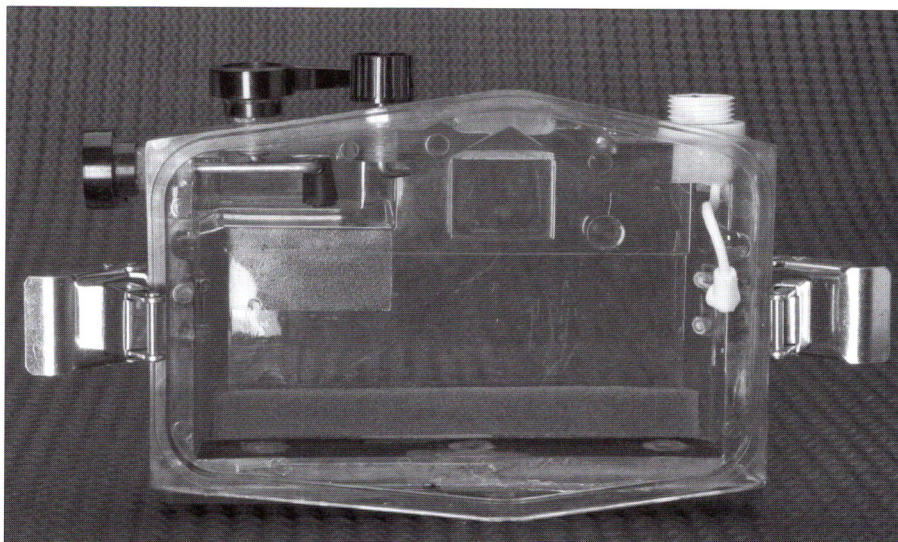
The housing has a larger outstanding part that covers the camera's wind lever and allows for movement. Once the wind lever of the camera is placed under the metal lever of the housing one is able to wind the film by three strokes with the large black lever on the topside of the housing.

SHUTTER SPEED...

A single metal lever is turned by a black knob on the topside of the housing and will turn the speed dial by using the small coupling pin on all Nikon F shutter speed dials. If one has turned the dial in one way, you have to move the knob nearly 360 degrees to change the dial the other way around. One 'Sea Glove' housing was found without this knob and it should be used only with an underwater flash unit by a pre-selected speed of 1/60 sec or lower.



**ALL PHOTOS BY
ULI KOCH**



SHUTTER RELEASE...

The shutter is released by a large black lever located on the right side (seen from behind) of the housing. A short downward movement of this lever will transmit the pressure via a metal lever to the camera's shutter release button.

APERTURE...

On the right side of the lens dome a black knob will transmit the movement of a large slip-on gear to the aperture ring of the lens. A notch in the gear fits over the ever-present meter coupling prong found on nearly all Nikkors.

FOCUSING...

The focusing action is also transmitted to the focusing ring on the lens via a large slip-on ring. On the left side of the housing a black knob has to be moved for changing the distance.

FLASH SYNCH...

A small white cable has to be fixed into the synch plug of the camera and will lead into a large white 'Sea Link' plug on the topside of the housing.

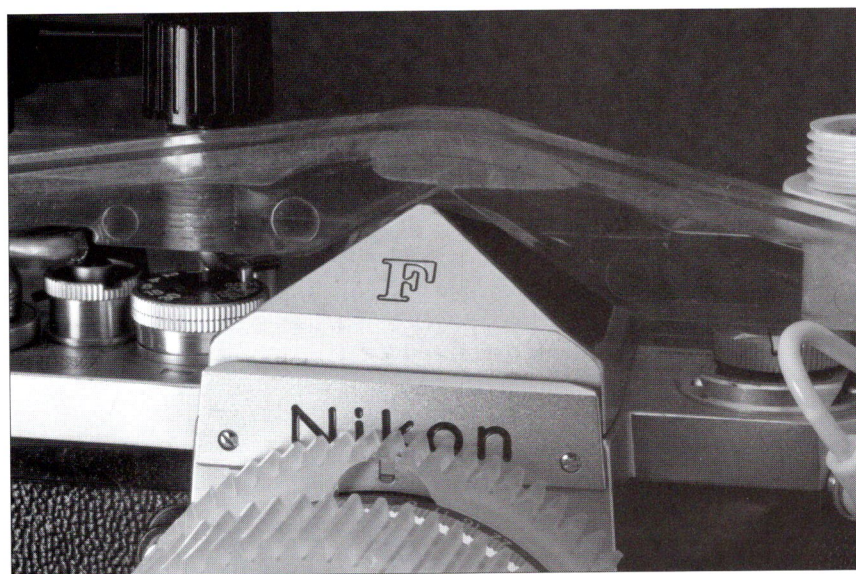
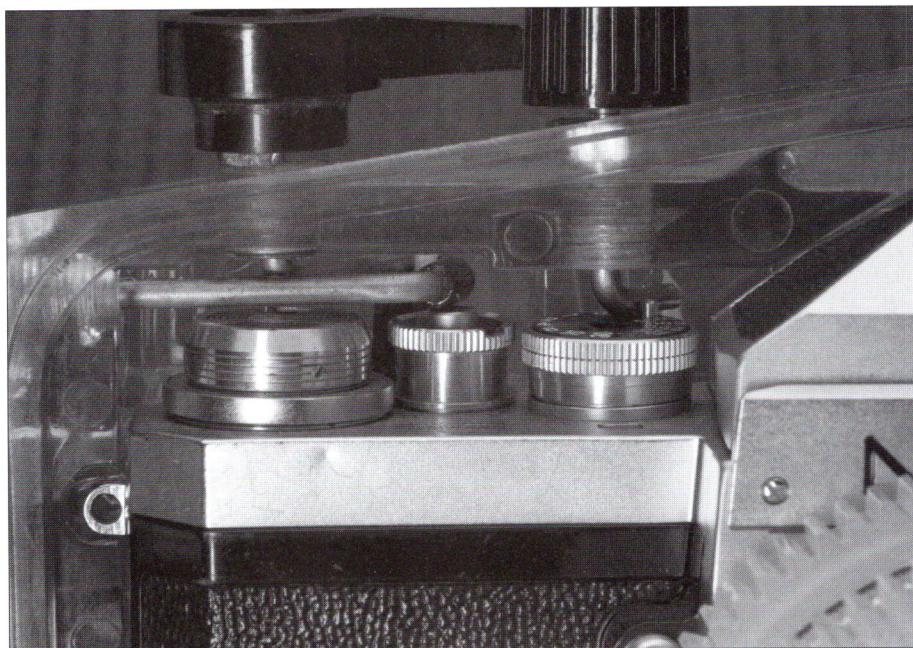
Some of the fascinating aspects of the Sea Glove housing:

- 1) It is tailored for a Nikon F camera and will not fit any other Nikon model.
- 2) Only an eyelevel finder can be used and only the types with the early rectangular eyepiece will fit into the housing.
- 3) A milled notch for the finder release button collar button will allow the F body to fit, so precisely is this housing designed to fit a Nikon F.
- 4) The same for the eyelets. The housing is precisely milled to accommodate them.

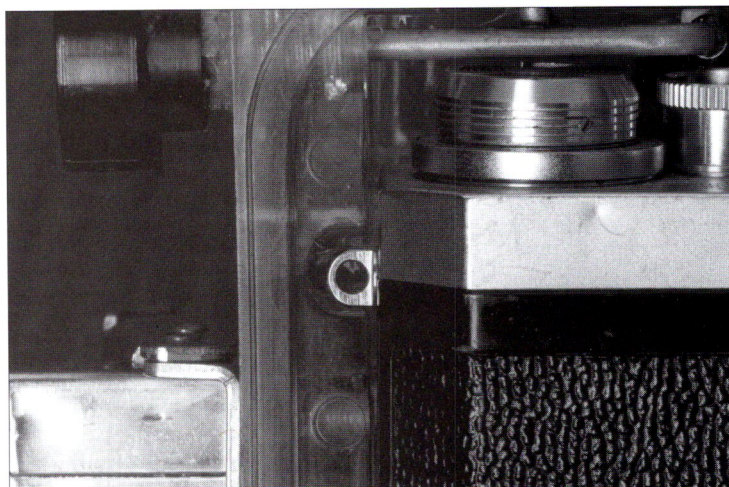
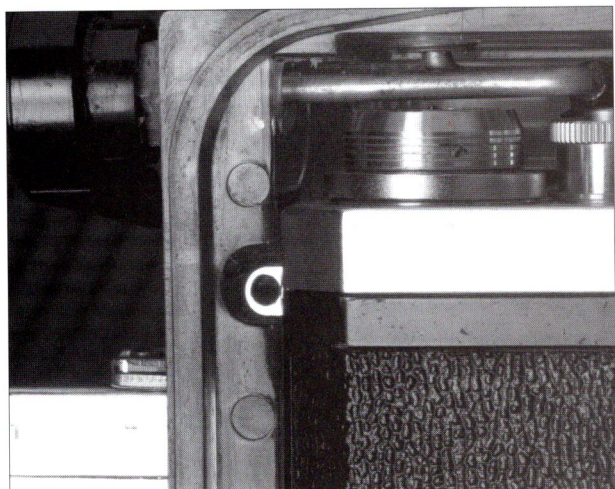
This fascinating 'Sea Glove' underwater housing for the Nikon F can be used for dives down to approximately 300 feet and was produced for only a short period of time, in the mid to late 1960's, based on the fact that the eyelevel finder with the round eyepiece cannot be used.



On the facing page is the 'Sea Glove' completely assembled and ready for a dive. Note how it conforms to the shape of the Nikon F unlike every other housing I have ever seen which usually resemble bricks. I wonder how easy it was to handle. In the top photo on this page is the rear half seen from the inside. If you look closely you will see the milled out area for the finder release button collar, which only protrudes a few millimeters yet this housing fits so snugly they had to make room for it! At left the straight prism Nikon F with the rear half fitted. Note the black wind lever and knob for adjusting the shutter speeds. Also the PC synch cord running from the body up through the large white fitting for the underwater flash units. Finally, the large plastic gears for adjusting aperture and focus are mounted to the lens and very visible here.



Above is a detail shot of the fittings used to both advance the film and adjust the shutter speeds on the Nikon F. The large external wind lever has internal parts that fit over the camera's lever and duplicates its action. The speed knob makes contact with the camera's dial via the small pin used to couple all the meters ever made for the Nikon F. A very simple adaptation. At left you can see how the large plastic gear fits over the aperture ring of the lens and even has a cut out for the meter coupling prong found on most Nikkors. External controls mesh with this gear, and the second one fitted to the focusing ring, allowing for adjustment of both. Below are the two cut outs present for the strap eyelets. Again, the 'Sea Glove' was designed to fit so snugly to the contours of the Nikon F that space in the housing had to be made for these tiny protrusions.

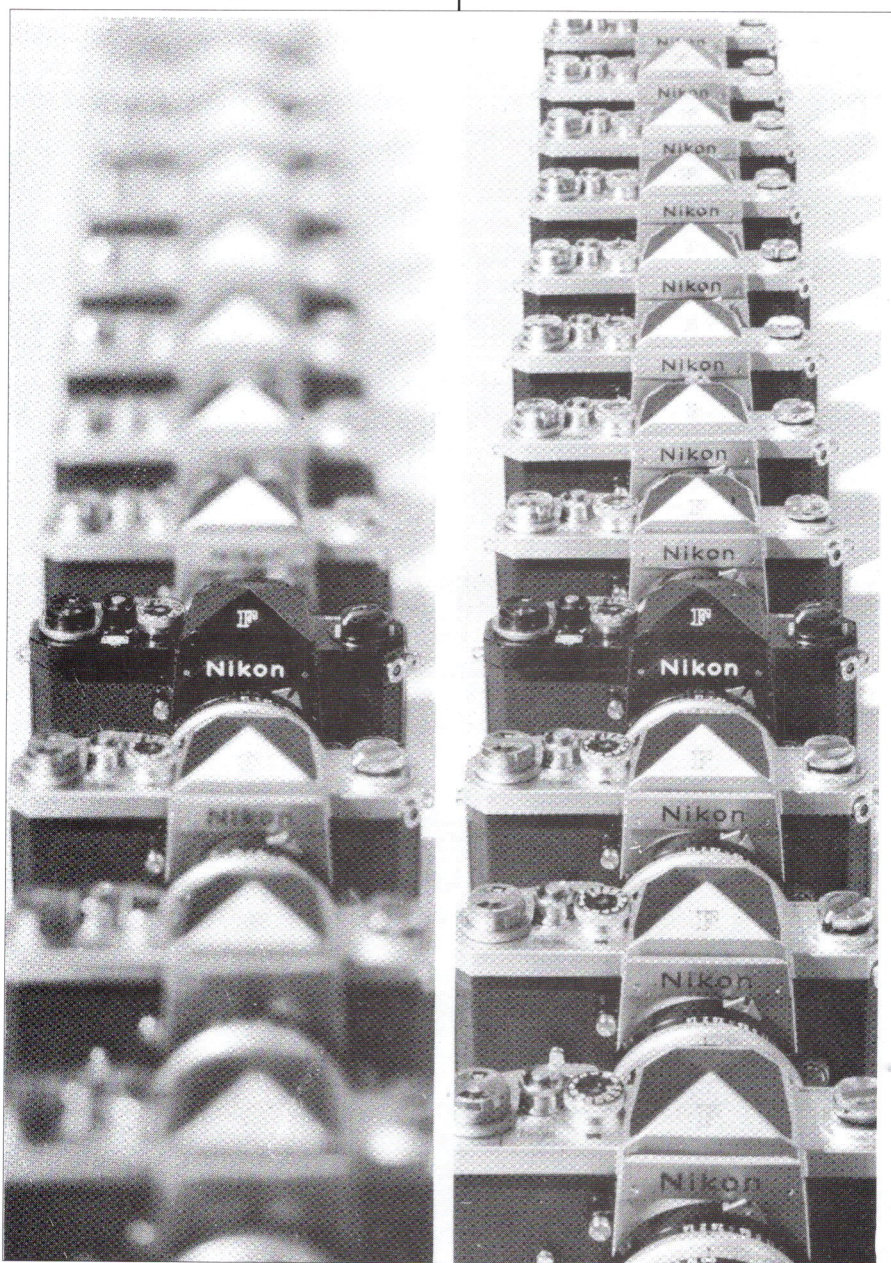


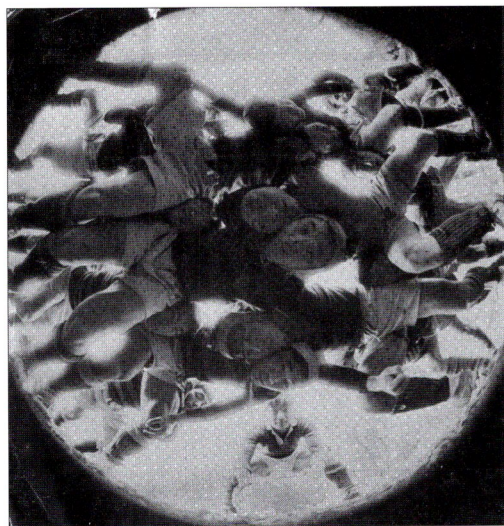
1959~2009

THE NIKON F AT 50!

Herewith some additional early and somewhat obscure Nikon F literature that may be new to some of you. One of my most important sources for the study of Nippon Kogaku and their Nikon camera going back to the very beginning, has always been the literature. This could be either in the form of official factory of importer instruction sheets/manuals, information sheets, internal communications, and product brochures, or print ads run in various magazines and journals. All types of facts can be gleaned from printed material including serial numbers, dates of production and/or introduction, different versions of products, some of

which may never have been produced or were only available for a short period before being quickly withdrawn and replaced. This can be interesting as well as fun and sometimes you will see something different that you were not aware of (such as the original type Fisheye finder seen on the following pages). Keep in mind that the F and its system began 50 years ago and much of what was made in the beginning is now decades out of production and quite obscure. Unless you have the literature at your disposal. Keep your eyes open for early Nikon and EPOI literature. You will learn volumes of information from it. RJR





Nikon



NIPPON KOGAKU K. K.
Shinagawa, Tokyo, Japan

(Printed in Japan) (62. 11. A) C

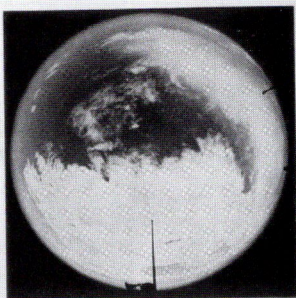
FISH-EYE NIKKOR

FOR
NIKON F CAMERA

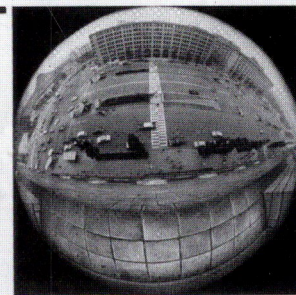
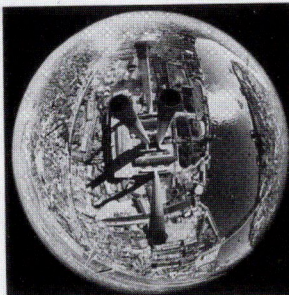


INSTRUCTIONS

HOW TO USE FISH-EYE NIKKOR

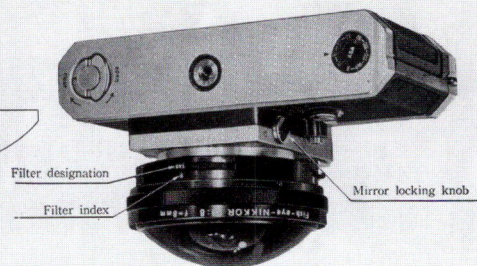
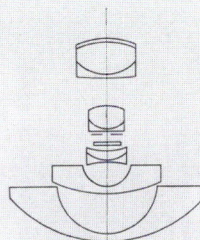
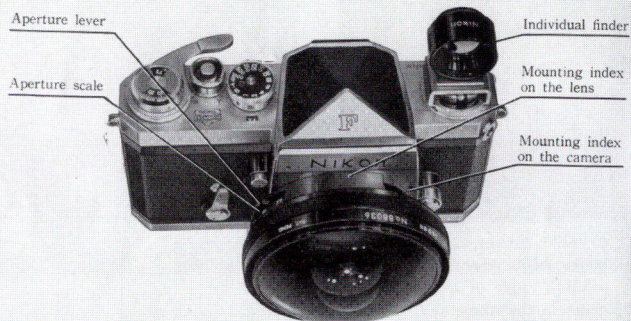


FOR NIKON F CAMERA



Fish-Eye-Nikkor, to be used on the Nikon F camera, is primarily designed to fulfill scientific requirements such as measuring the zenith or azimuth angle of astronomical objects, for showing the distribution of cloud in the whole sky, etc. Furthermore, the lens can sometimes be used to bring about deformation effects of picture peculiar to the eye.

HOW TO USE FISH-EYE NIKKOR



FOR NIKON F CAMERA

■ HOW TO USE FISH-EYE NIKKOR

SPECIFICATIONS

Focal length :	8 mm
Maximum aperture :	F : 8
Picture size :	24 mm in diameter
Lens construction :	5 groups, 9 elements
Focusing :	Fixed
Aperture scale :	F : 8, F : 11, F : 16 and F : 22
Lens mount :	Nikon F (bayonet)
Filters :	Built-in ; 6 filters on the turret
Dimensions of lens :	82 mm in dia. × 42.5 mm
Weight :	300 g

To put the lens into the case, attach the finder into the rear cap in this way:



FOR NIKON F CAMERA

魚眼レンズ用ファインダー（新型）

魚眼レンズは、カメラのミラーを上にはね上げ固定しなければ取り付けられませんのでカメラのファインダースクリーンは利用できません。そのため、専用ファインダーが必要となり、これをカメラのアクセサリシューに取付けて使います。この専用ファインダー（新型）の視野は約 160 度になつていますので、魚眼レンズの写角 180 度がカバーする被写界をほぼ全部見ることができます。

使用上の注意

このファインダーはそのレンズ前面が金枠より突出していますので、使用しないときは必ずキャップをつけておいて下さい。

（レンズの使用説明書に掲載されている写真は旧型のものです。）



日本光学工業株式会社

(63. 12. A) H

NEW TYPE VIEWFINDER
FOR FISH EYE NIKKOR

Since the mirror in the camera should be flipped up in position to attach the Fish-Eye Nikkor onto the camera, and therefore the Subject image cannot be viewed on the camera's finder screen, the use of an individual viewfinder designed exclusively for the Fish-Eye Nikkor is required. The finder attached onto the accessory shoe of the camera covers the viewing angle of 160°, that is, nearly the whole picture angle 180° of the lens.

Caution :

When not using finder, put the front cap to protect its remarkably projecting front lens surface.

The photograph found in the booklet "Instructions for Fish-Eye Nikkor" shows not the new type of the finder as described above but the earlier type, the production of which is now discontinued.



NIPPON KOGAKU K.K.

TOKYO, JAPAN

On this and the facing page is the original factory brochure for that landmark lens, the 8mm/f8 Fisheye-Nikkor, the first commercially available lens of its type ever. Soon the venerable 8mm/f8 was replaced by faster and wider versions and even an 8mm/f2.8 that was not only fast but usable with the mirror down! But the 8mm/f8 remains the lens any Nikon reflex collector must have. Looking through this vintage piece of literature take note of the accessories you will also need. Some of these are difficult to locate today. The plastic rear cap is very prone to damage especially the shoe for the included, and absolutely necessary, fisheye finder. But look closely at the finder shown in this brochure. Then read the last paragraph in the special insert sheet above. The illustrated finder, whose housing is nearly identical to the 35mm briteline made for the RFs, was quickly replaced by a much more accurate and elaborate version. However, this original type is the one to look for! Very rare today, it is worth nearly as much as the lens! (The brochure is dated 11/62 and the insert for the new finder is dated 12/63! This suggests that the original finder type lasted for only one year.)

Camera turning

For convenience in changing the position of the camera to horizontal or vertical, when using the lens with a tripod, the lens is provided with a fluted spring catch, by depressing of which the camera can be revolved 90 degrees until it clicks.

Leather case

When putting the lens into the case, turn the lens front downward. Four filters can be kept tucked on the inside of the lid of the case.

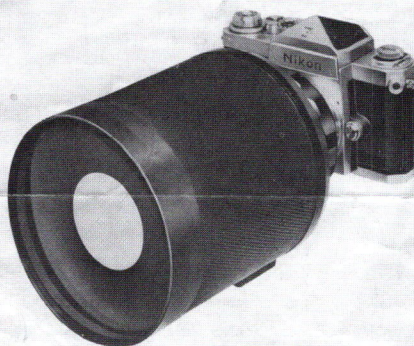


Nikon NIPPON KOGAKU K.K.
TOKYO, JAPAN

Printed in Japan

(57. 1. A) A

REFLEX-NIKKOR 500mm f/5



HOW TO USE

Mounting and removing the lens from the camera

Set the distance scale of infinity. Line up the black dot on the lens mount with that on the camera body. Then, turn the lens counter-clockwise until the lens clicks into position. To remove the lens, depressing the lock button, turn the lens clockwise until the black dot on the camera lines up with that on the lens.



Focusing

Looking into the camera's viewfinder, rotate the focusing ring to the right or left until a sharp image of the subject is obtained on the viewfinder screen.

Filter

A filter is to be screwed into the rear end of the lens before the lens is mounted on the camera. Five filters are provided: neutral density, UV, yellow, orange and red. All the filters are designed to avoid focus difference

when changed each other. Even when focusing, use any one of the above filters, particularly the UV filter.

Since the lens is not provided with an aperture diaphragm, to stop down the aperture of the lens, use one of the neutral density filters, equivalent f-numbers of which are as follows:

Denomination	Equivalent f-number
ND 2.5X	8
ND 3.2X	9
ND 4X	10
ND 5X	11
ND 6.3X	12.5

Hood

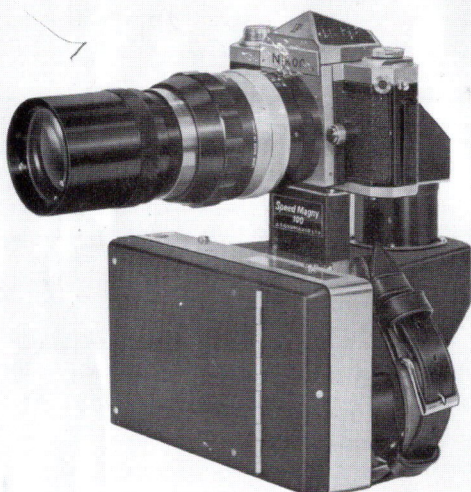
Inside of the lens barrel is sufficiently light-baffled against stray rays. The hood is only needed for protecting the lens.

Tripod socket

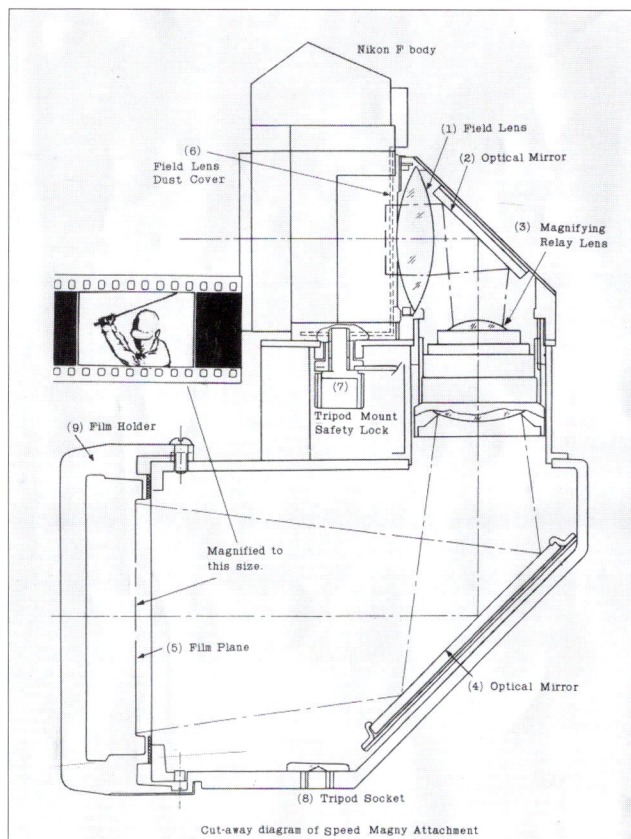
A tripod is attached to the tripod socket found on the side of the lens. The socket permits also use of the pistol grip, with or without the Motor Drive.

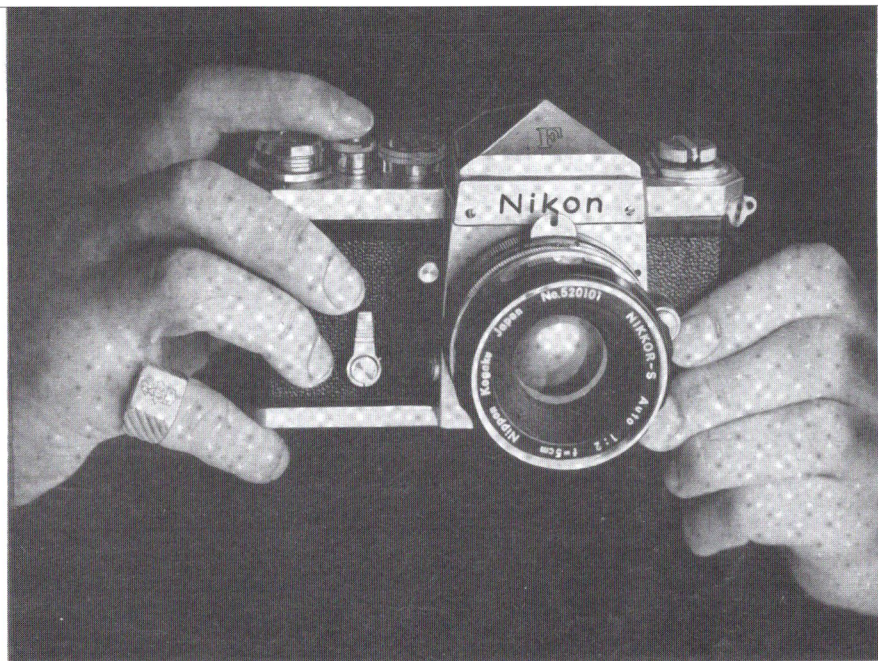
The 500mm/f5 Reflex-Nikkor reigned as the fastest mirror type lens throughout most of the sixties. It was eventually replaced by a smaller, and slower, f8 optic in the very early seventies. Although quite large it is not as heavy as it appears. Today clean examples, including its correct case and filters, are not easy to find. The Speed Magny series is often forgotten now that the digital age has eliminated any advantage that the Polaroid system ever had. At least 4 versions were made based on which film stock used and camera model it fit. Look how complicated it was. A lot of design work went into what must be considered a very limited use item. But did you know Nikon did not really make it? Note below that it is distributed by Asanuma but actually made by Mikami! That's right, Mikami. Remember them from NHS-103? The very same people who made the baseplate trigger wind!!

Speed Magny



Distributed by: Asanuma & Co., Ltd. Tokyo, Japan
No. 1, 2-chome, Hirakawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Manufactured by: Mikami Co., Ltd. Tokyo, Japan





check and see how the automatic features of the new
NIKON F AUTOMATIC REFLEX
have been developed to ultimate perfection

1. The automatic features of the Nikon F—Instant-Return Mirror, Instant-Reopen Diaphragm, Instant-Action Preview Control—are internally coupled.

2. The Instant-Return Mirror automatically returns to precise focus position regardless of the angle of the camera—even if held upside down.

3. The Instant-Reopen Diaphragm automatically stops down and instantly reopens without disturbing or moving the diaphragm setting—even if that setting is between aperture markings.

4. The Auto-Nikkor lenses for the Nikon F Automatic Reflex may be interchanged at any time. And the automatic diaphragms remain fully operative whether they are interchanged before or after the shutter is released.

5. The Instant-Reopen Preview Control for observing depth-of-field does not have to be re-set manually. Press the button, and the diaphragm automatically closes down to 'taking' aperture. Release the button, and the diaphragm reopens instantly—automatically.

6. The Instant-Action Preview Control is entirely independent of the shutter release mechanism. When using the Preview Control it is impossible to cause an accidental exposure.

7. The automatic action of the mirror and diaphragm is so incredibly fast, it is virtually imperceptible in the finder. Even with the camera and accessory Electric Motor Drive—shooting at the rate of 8 frames per second—the

still a continuous, bright image constantly visible in the finder. The image never blacks out; never dims.

The qualities we have enumerated are especially revealing of the maker's intense devotion to perfection. You will discover many more qualities in the New Nikon F Automatic Reflex, each equally deserving of your admiration, and each further demonstrating that the Nikon F is the finest automatic reflex you can own. See for yourself.

Nikon F Automatic Reflex with 50mm Auto-Nikkor f2 lens, \$329.50 at your Franchised Nikon Dealer. For fully descriptive literature write to Dept. MP9 Nikon Inc., 111 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. 3.

In Canada: Anglphoto Ltd., 390 St. Patrick Street, Montreal, P.Q.



combines eyelevel prism finder with coupled CdS exposure meter

The new Photomic Prism-Meter System is Nikon's answer to the many people who have expressed interest in a Nikon F with built-in exposure meter. Readily interchangeable with the standard Nikon F prism finder, the Photomic combines the facility of a prism finder with the convenience of a sensitive, built-in Cadmium Sulphide (CdS) exposure meter.

The meter system couples directly to the shutter-speed dial and to the Auto-Nikkor lens diaphragm. The needle indicator is clearly visible in the finder. Correct focus, composition and exposure are achieved without removing the eye from the camera. The needle can also be seen in the window on top of the Photomic housing. Every change of shutter speed or lens aperture changes position of the needle. With the correct speed-aperture exposure combination, the needle is centered.

For standard Nikkor lenses, having no provision for diaphragm-to-meter coupling, the Photomic indicates the correct aperture at every speed setting. Or, after selecting a desired aperture, the needle can be centered for correct exposure by rotating the shutter-speed dial. The Photomic meter employs a sensitive, accurate CdS cell energized by a standard, long-life mercury

battery. It covers film speeds from 10 to 1600 ASA, and it can be preset to compensate for filter factors up to 4X.

The acceptance angle of the meter window is 75° — ideally suited for normal and wide angle lenses under normal conditions. Where a narrower acceptance angle is desired for spot readings or when using tele lenses, a screw-in converter tube reduces the angle to about 15°. A screw-in opaline disc is also supplied for making incident light measurements.

Initially the Photomic Prism-Meter System will only be available as original equipment with Nikon F cameras:

Nikon F with Photomic System and Auto-Nikkor f2...	\$371.50
Same, but with Standard Prism Finder.....	329.50
Nikon F with Photomic System and Auto-Nikkor f1.4	417.00
Same, but with Standard Prism Finder.....	375.00
Photomic System (when available separately).....	89.50

See the Photomic System at your Nikon dealer today. For complete details write to Dept. PP-7.

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MEMORIES OF MR. NIKON MASAHIKO FUKETA....

FATHER OF THE NIKON F

BY PETER LOWNDS & PHOTOS BY TONY HURST

I could just kick myself. All the correspondence, Christmas cards and letters I had received from Masahiko Fuketa over the years I had put away in a safe place. In fact it was so safe I couldn't remember where it was! My mind went blank and I think I had one of those 'senior moments'. But recently I was rummaging through an old box when I found the missing Fuketa envelope. Cries of Eureka (which is Greek for 'I found it'). Joy of joys. I had given up on ever finding it again. I felt an urge to celebrate so I made a big mug of tea and treated myself to a large sticky bun from the bakery. I had my letters and cards back!

I started to write Fuketa-san just after Bob Rotoloni had his first meetings with him in 1991. I think he enjoyed writing. I sent him a copy of a Dutch photo magazine, letters and a Christmas card. Within a week there would be a hand written reply.

As the first convention in Tokyo approached (NHS-Con5 in 1996) I sent Fuketa-san a Christmas card. A week later came the reply with complements of the season and 'I look forward to meeting you in February'. He was looking forward to meeting me? It should be the other way around. Then the day of the Convention came. Ah Japan...I can't get enough of Tokyo, a magic place and the meeting would be held in the Asia building on the 4th floor. I was out of bed at 5AM that morning. I was going to meet Fuketa-san. I felt like the boy who had been given a new bike for Christmas. We left the hotel in good time to get across Tokyo following Jim Martin's wife and her red flag. We lost no one. The Asia building was fantastic to look at in the early morning light and begged to be photographed. Paul & Mark Bonner and myself took pictures from all angles and when we looked around all the NHS members had disappeared! Gone!!! We found another lost soul walking around and together we made our way to the 4th floor. We turned left..woops..wrong room! We heard 300 chairs move back and 300 people bowed and said good morning in Japanese. We should have turned right. Anyway, the leader of this group guided us to the proper room.

There waiting at the door was Fuketa-san. What a magical moment. I was speechless, something that doesn't happen very often. He greeted me, 'Peter-san at last we meet. What a great honor'. For me it was an even greater honor. What should I do, curtsy, salute, go down on one knee, give him a big kiss? But we kept our welcome to the more conventional method. He shook

my hand and wished me welcome. What a start to a great day.

The morning session was very interesting as we were allowed to play with all kinds of prototypes but after lunch the meeting became much more informal. I showed Fuketa-san my pride and joy, the very first Nikkor lens made for a single lens reflex. My 135/f4 #611185 in Exacta mount (see it in Bob's book, page 325). After close inspection a big smile came over his face. He said something to Fukuoka-san and they both had a good laugh. What was said we would never know. I sat down with the two great men of Nikon and we chatted. Both had spent time in New York at the start of the sixties and had returned home to prepare for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. I made a few jokes, which they both enjoyed, as you can see from the photos. (I had made photo mounts that would allow for photos to be later mounted in a signed mount) Two older gentlemen with a great sense of humor. I asked Fukuoka-san about his hands as I could see he had trouble with rheumatism. He told me that his joints were giving him trouble and that he spent an hour a day in a hot mineral bath to get some relief from the pain. These were the same hands that had designed the S36 Motor Drive for the S2E and SP/S3/S3M.

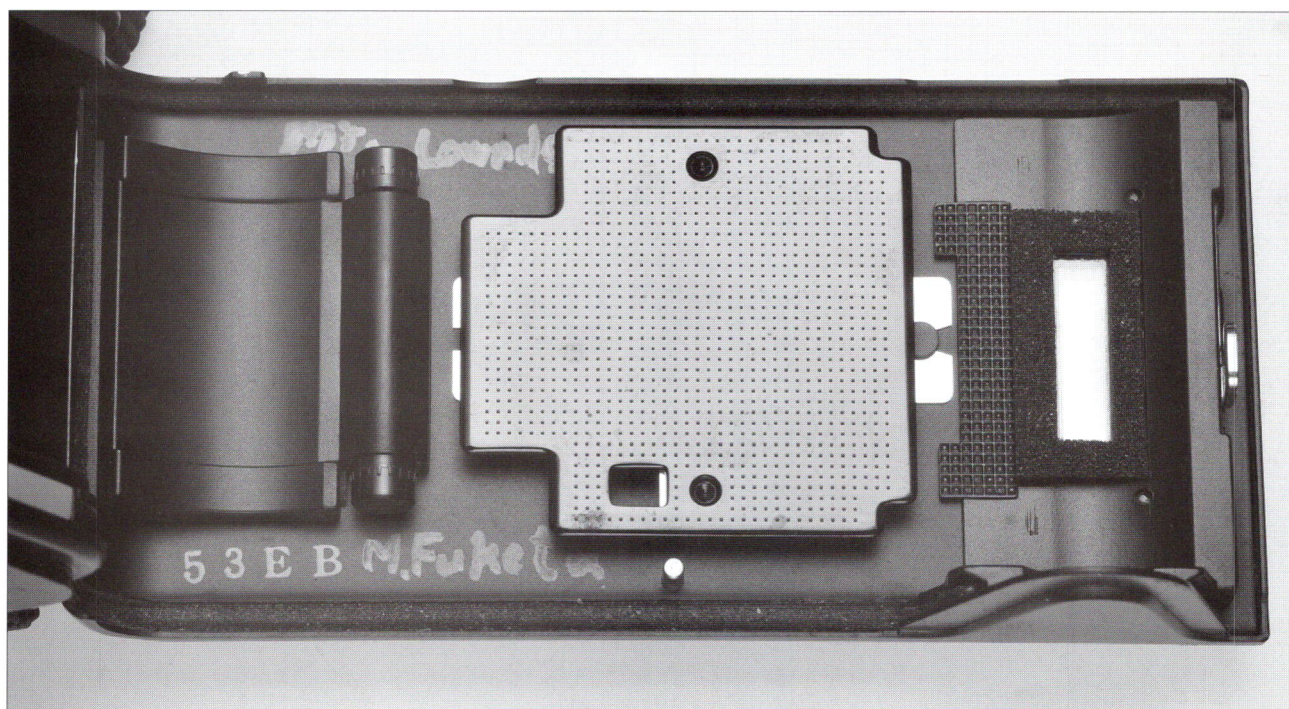
On the way out of the convention room we were asked to leave our name badges in a large glass bowl. I have never been

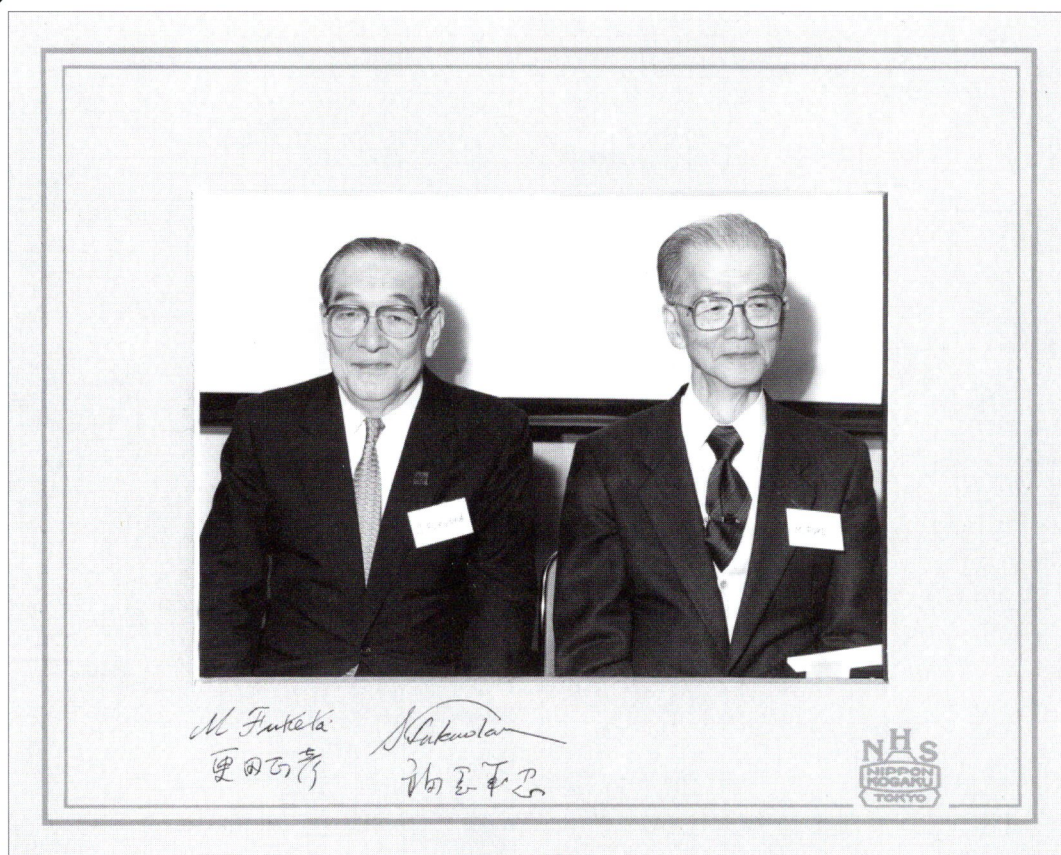
known to have sticky fingers, but..... I placed my badge in the bowl like the nice Nikon man had requested, and low and behold, the badges of both Fuketa and Fukuoka just stuck to my fingers! These things do happen and they would have only been thrown away. So clever old me has in my collection the badges worn by the two great men of Nikon.

I wrote Fuketa-san just after I had started my Nikon museum in Rotterdam. I asked him very politely if he had an old Nikon camera that he had used himself. I wanted to have something from him on display. (A black Model One would be OK!) One week later back came the reply that he was sending me one of his personal cameras signed to me. A few days later the parcel arrived.

He had sent me a Nikon L35AF with yet another letter. This little camera has pride of place with my Model One. It makes me smile every time I show the little camera to anyone interested. The lens cap is held on with brown string and this from the man who designed everything from the Model One to the Nikon F! Wonderful!!!!







Above...Fukuoka-san (designer of the S36) on the left and Fuketa-san on the right, at NHS-Con5 held in Tokyo in 1996. Both are now gone but their legacy lives on.



NHS-CON12--WILL BE IN BRUGES, BELGIUM MAY 10~16, 2010

Plans for NHS-Con12 to be held in Bruges, Belgium continue as we are now less than one year from our meeting. The additional information I have for you this issue include the hotels, meeting room and other items including some 'preliminary' costs figures. Many of you have contacted us to say you plan to attend (at least 40 at the time of publication!) so it appears that we will have a great turnout. Those of you already on our list (and those who will be) will receive up-to-date information as it becomes available via email so please make sure you give us your current address. One change has occurred. Chris Sap, who was very instrumental in setting up our itinerary, has decided not to be co-chairman because of health problems. He is still recovering from back surgery and needs more time. Therefore, Hans Ploegmakers will be handling the convention from this point forward so send all your correspondence to either Hans or myself. We will use Chris' ideas for our daily events and, of course, he will be there.

In addition to the previously published itinerary, here are more facts and figures for you:

We have booked 40 rooms in the Novotel and 20 rooms in the Ibis hotels. Both hotels are located on the same square in the center of Bruges and 3 minutes walk from the marketplace. The Novotel has a terrace and a heated swimming pool. Both hotels offer rooms with twin beds, bathroom, TV, telephone and wireless Internet. The following 'estimated' prices include 'continental breakfast'!

For the Novotel a single with breakfast is 145 Euro per night. A twin/double is 165 Euro per night.

For the Ibis a single is 90 Euro per night with the double price to come later. (When contacting Hans make sure you specify which hotel you prefer!) For those of you who drive there is a parking daily charge of approximately 9 Euro. Prices include VAT and taxes.

Our contract for the meeting room at the Novotel will include two coffee/tea breaks as well as a sandwich lunch (your choice) with soup, salad bar, dessert bar, coffee, tea and juice.

We feel that the Convention Fee for NHS-Con12 will remain the same as in the recent past, that is approximately 150 Euro. We hope to have this figure finalized for the next issue and also info on how to pay. This fee will cover the convention gift for each attendee, gifts for the speakers as well as all the costs for the meeting room and lunch. As for transportation costs to and from our various events we will know more by the next issue. The busses for the trips can stop at the back of the Novotel. The trip to Brussels will take an entire day because of the distance and the dinner that night at the Atomium. The city of Bruges

has offered us a special price for tickets to the museums. A single ticket is usually about 4-6 Euro but we may get a special price of 6 museums for 15 Euros. More later.

We will have more travel info later but here are some facts. You cannot fly directly into Bruges, as it is too small a city. From Schiphol airport in Amsterdam it is 2 hours by train with 2 trains running per hour. From Brussels it is 1 hour by train with 2 trains every hour. More later.

As you can see there are some unknown costs at this time. The busses for the various day trips; the dinner in Brussels; the closing dinner for the convention. As we know these figures we will let you know and we hope to include as much as possible into the Convention fee. As always, no profit is to be made from our Convention.

Fees will be sufficient to cover costs only.

So start making your plans. Contact Hans or myself as soon as possible to get on the mailing list for future updates. Even if you are not 100% sure you can make it please let us know. You still have time to decide either way. However, I assume that by the next issue in September (or before!) hotel and convention reservations will have to begin. So keep in touch! Contact Hans or myself with any questions:

Hans Ploegmakers
Robert Rotoloni

ploegmakers@talensfoto.nl
rotoloni@msn.com
r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net



NIKONS IN THE HANDS OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS...

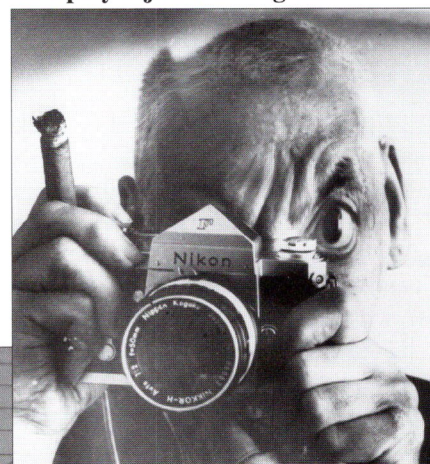
I need some help with this little section. Over the years I have seen many photos of well known people using Nikon cameras, either RF or reflex. In my mind's eye are many such images yet I cannot seem to put my hands on any of them. I have been going through my old literature and magazine files but so far I am coming up almost empty handed. Just off the top of my head, knowing I am definitely forgetting people, here is a list of those I can recall: Sammy Davis Jr., Frank Sinatra, Richard Nixon, Che Guevara, Ringo Starr, George Harrison, Weegee (shown here), Gina Lollobrigida (also in this issue), and hinted at but never actually seen by me, John Wayne.

Of course there are those actors and actresses seen using Nikons in various movies (although they may not in real life) including Clint Eastwood, David Hemmings, Nick Nolte, Robert Ulrich, Dennis Hopper and others. If you have access to any photos showing the 'rich and famous' using Nikons of any vintage please scan them and send them to me. This is just for fun but it might prove interesting as well. Especially during the 60s' through the 80s', any time a 35mm photographer was needed on the screen, Nikons were invariably chosen for the part. And why not? For those two decades (and beyond) nearly everything worth recording was preserved with Nikons. Let's see what you can dig up.

For this issue I have a shot (actually a self-portrait) of Weegee using a Nikon F as only Weegee would do it. Also I have reproduced a segment of a ledger that, if you look closely, has the name John Wayne beside a black Nikon S2. Has anyone ever seen a shot of Wayne with a black S2? Finally, I recieved an email from Swiss member Philippe Salomon noting a website that has a film clip of Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida shooting

with a Nikon F and a 180/f2.5 Nikkor! I have seen this before plus I once had a magazine all about Gina and her photography for which she used Nikons, but now I cannot locate it. Go to this site to view the clip:

<http://archives.tsr.ch/player/jeu-lollobrigida>

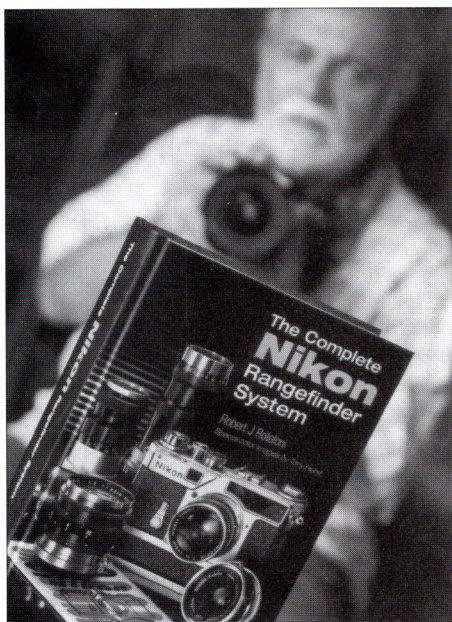


Above..Weegee shooting Weegee with a Nikon F and his ever present cigar.

Left..Note the name 'John Wayne' beside black S2 #6194052. Has anyone ever seen a photo of John Wayne with any Nikon?

6185 848	B.D.	
6185 735	B.D.	
6187 067		
6189 625	B.D.	
6189 878	B.D.	
6190 578	B.D.	
6190 700	B.D.	
6191 044	B.D.	EP feet
6194 051	BLK.	
6194 052	BLK.	John Wayne!
6194 109	BLK.	
6194 142	BLK.	
6194 148	BLK.	
6194 598	B.D.	
6194 982	B.D.	
6195 272	B.D.	
6196 314		
6196 414	B.D.	
6196 620	B.D.	

NOW AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT



I am pleased to announce that the US inventory of my book is in place and all orders can be processed for immediate shipment. Since it became available the beginning of March, I have been shipping within 48 hours of receiving payment.

I am happy to announce that I have sold over 240 copies myself with at least 125 of those going to NHS members. That still leaves quite a few members who have not ordered as yet (although many overseas are buying locally), and remember that I do sign and label those copies ordered through me.

Those of you who wish to obtain a signed copy from me need only to contact me and it will be done. I did not mention previously that, besides signing the book, I have also had made up labels stating to the fact that 'this copy has been purchased directly from the author'. Prices are as follow and include postage:

United States	\$100 including Priority shipping.
Canada	\$115 including Int. Priority shipping.
Europe	\$125 including Int. Priority shipping.
Japan/Australia	\$130 including Int. Priority shipping.

I can accept checks (US/Canada only), money orders, bank wires, cash or PAYPAL. My email addresses (rotoloni@msn.com & r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net) are my Paypal account numbers. Please make all checks/money orders payable to RJR PUBLISHING or myself (NOT THE SOCIETY!)

LETTERS...LETTERS..

From Robert Rayzak...

On page 229 of your book you note the oddity, and so far uniqueness, of the serial number of the 50/f2 lens #230027: in SM. Could it not be an engraving error with the '7' juxtaposed from the beginning to the end? That is, the serial number would have been #723002. The colon could have been meant to denote another and duplicate #723002. But the engraver got the basic number wrong and did not notice it. Do you have the duplicate (either SM or BM) in your database? (Robert I do not have any lens #723002 recorded to date. Also, if my lens was meant to have been such a late number it probably would have had a black aperture ring and look more modern than mine does. It looks too early to have had such a number. Still a mystery!) I have 50/f1.4 'colon' lens #321417: and wonder if you have its duplicate in your data. (As of this moment I do not have it recorded. Anyone out there know of it?)

I have some suggestions for articles. I would like to see the topic of Nikon RF instruction books covered in detail in the Journal. There is only a smattering so far and no comprehensive word or picture descriptions I have seen. Such an article should include interior contents as well. (I have plans to reproduce the original S3M manual in the near future, and others could definitely follow. A good idea.)

To me as a serious beginning Nikon collector (and past car collector) I am most drawn to the serial number gaps that exist with Nikon RFs. I think an article that would give all the caveats to be aware of when considering serial numbers and production position, etc, would be most welcomed. My collector background began with cars where complete serial number and production history is well known by the factories (e.g. Ferrari, Porsche, Mercedes, etc). I think this work should also recognize and expand on the very good lens-to-body matching study started by William Fraker before his sadly too early passing. I really would have gotten along with him! If I were more knowledgeable at this stage I would take a stab at such a serial number article. Perhaps after a few more months and deep discussions with like-minded fellows in Bruges next spring at NHS-Con12 would be an appropriate time.

One final suggestion would be a study of lens caps for the normal RF Nikkors. This would include front and rear caps as well as what is correct and what is incorrect, all nicely illustrated. Determining the correct caps is especially difficult for those lenses made during and shortly after the Occupation.

.....
From Jeff Felton...

Enclosed please find a copy of a short article, in Japanese, about the Mikami Rapid Winder and the Mikami Speed Magny. Also included is an article entitled "The Men Who Made Miranda". It has information about Makoto Mikami and his brother Takashi Mikami, who were involved. (I never knew that Mikami was involved with Miranda. RJR) These two articles were published in Camera Style #13 (World Mook 338) in November 2001. The article on the Mikami rapid Winder is on pages 1 ~ 3. Also there is an article on the Mikami Speed Magny in NHS-41 dated Sept. 30, 1993.

THE AUCTION SCENE

I have only one auction to report on this issue but it concerns one of the major players. Peter Coeln's 15th. Westlicht Photographica Auction was held in Vienna on May 23rd. and, as always, contained many items of interest to the NHS members. Also, as always, there were some surprises. All prices quoted here are converted from Euros to US Dollars and include the buyer's premium, so these prices are what the winners paid.

Nikon I #609405 w/5cmf3.5, rare cap & even rarer original yellow instruction book & blue box!..mint-.....\$36,500
Nikon M #M6092442 w/f1.4 (very early) w/case & original inspection cards & manual.....no box.....\$5,500
Nikon S2 #6157565 (BLACK!) w/f1.1 Nikkor. Camera is original black & both items in B condition.....\$11,350
Nikon S3 #6307453 (BLACK!) w/f1.4/case/manual/box. This is an original 'non-Olympic' Black S3 & rare!.....\$8,900
Nikon SP #6208422 (BLACK!) w/1.4 & box.....\$11,350
Nikon S3 #6322178 (BLACK OLYMPIC!) w/Olympic 1.4 & warranty cards & DOUBLE BOXED...NEW??.....\$8,100
Micro-Nikkor in original box!.....\$3,500
Collar for Micro-Nikkor...mint.....\$1,325
50mm/f1.5 Nikkor in Nikon Mt w/rare front cap.....\$2,750
50mm/f1.1 External Mt with cleaning marks!.....\$2,600
85mm/f2 #801172 w/caps & shade.for Nikon I.....\$2,100
Nikon Diopter Corrector....very rare.....\$1,500
90 degree prism for reflex housing....very rare.....\$10,500
Nikon SP case for f1.1 Nikkor.....\$970

Some surprise here. I feel the Nikon One went cheap considering that it had the original manual and the quite rare f3.5 lens with cap. The M was a bit high and the Black S2 too high for condition. The two Black S3 were right on as was the Black SP. And look at that Micro and collar combo at about \$4800. That is not bad at all. The f1.5 was a solid performer while that first run 85/f2 should have gone for a bit more (at least \$2500). However, the last 3 items listed are very interesting. The Diopter Corrector was just right while the 90 degree prism really floored me. Around \$7~8000 seems more realistic. Finally the SP case for the f1.1 at almost a grand is steep. I have seen them change hands at \$600 or so but never for this much.

So some surprises but what was good to see was that nearly all the Nikon gear sold and most went for good money. What recession? RJR

BOOK UPDATES

Not much to report this issue save for a little confusion over a black Nikon S3M with motor for sale in Japan. I have had two different reports both of which list the same serial number for the camera, which is #6600041. However, I have had two different motor numbers reported, 94720 & 94870. At this time I lean towards the 2nd as being more accurate based on the source. Also reported to me recently is another S3M, this one in chrome. It is #6600096 and not currently motorized, which is usually the case with the chrome bodies.

20

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE...The following Nikon RF cameras & accessories are priced according to recent eBay & other auction actual sales. All very, very nice! 1)Nikon S2 CD #6137729, 5cm/f1.4 ch. Nikkor #351118, snap-on NKT logo cap, original correct 'bubbles' manual showing those body & lens numbers written in by original owner, a superb early matching number back, dull 'leather' version. M-, **USD850.00.** 2)Nikon S2 BD #6191382, 5cm/f1.4 bl. Nikkor #391602, snap-on NKT logo cap, 'funnel' NKJ shade, ER case, correct original 'yellow Xs' manual, all superb, M-, **USD850.00** 3)Nikon S3 #6310769, 5cm/f1.4 bl. Nikkor #406150, snap-on NKT logo cap, virtually flawless except lens has 0.5mm x 2mm scratch in middle of front element, M--, **USD1,150.00** 4)Nikkor 3.5cm/f2.5 ch W-Nikkor #248119, correct front & rear caps, leather case, M- **USD225.00** 5)Nikon Varifocal fdr. #351355, leather case, last version, M-, **USD150.00** 6)Zeiss Opton Sonnar, 50mm/f1.5, no caps, almost imperceptible mark on outside of filter ring, M- **USD225.00..... Robert at 416-960-5700 or email bobr.skunklabs@sympatico.ca**

WANTED...Nikon RF Nikkors: 21/f4.0 w/fdr, 50/f2 collapsible #609xx, 50/f3.5 collapsible in Nikon BM, 35/f1.8 with Black Front Rim!, 50/f1.5 #907xx & #905xx, 50/f1.4 #316xxx & #33128x, 85/f2 #903xx, Variframe fdr #705xx or #712xx, Nikon I 5 digit serial #, Nikon M 6 digit serial #, 'Sardine' type battery pack for S36, Varifocal 'Zoom' finder 'MIOJ', Nikon Periscope Attachment. **Biagio Guerra Fax.....702-492-6269 or email guerrabn@aol.com**

WANTED: Nikon F, F3, Nikonos spares. **FOR SALE/TRADE ITEMS...** Nikon literature, books, adverts, brochures, manuals, promo/dealer items, Gray's of Westminster magazines & ads, etc. Also Canon, Olympus, Pentax items & literature. **Ian DC Shephard at this email address dcian@fastemail.us. Thanks**

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odds 'n ends

A 'COOL' PAIR OF EARLY TIC MARK NIKKORS *By MATTHEW LIN*



Member Matthew Lin is really into the history of the Nikon F system. You've seen my listing of his web site where he keeps a running list of the 'red dot' F bodies in addition to many other interesting aspects of the early F. Matthew emailed to ask if I would be interested in photos of an interesting pair of tic mark 5cm/f2 Nikkors. When he told me what made them special I said 'send them'! Here we have two photos of a pair of early reflex Nikkors that would make any collector envious. Why? Because they have consecutive serial numbers! Lenses 5233574 and 5233575. Make sure you visit Matthew's website... www.matthewlin.com





Created For The "NHS" By Tony Hunt