

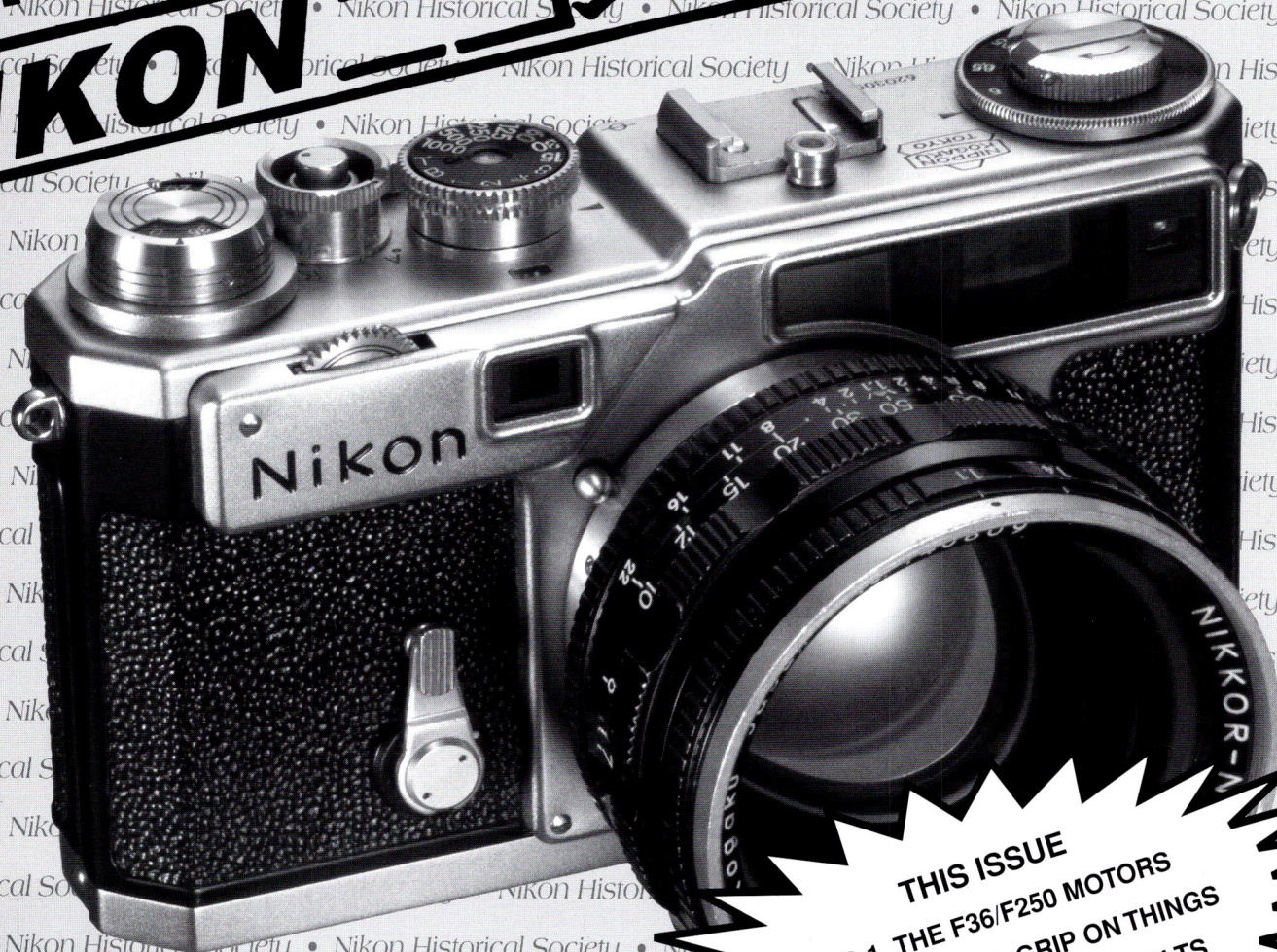
A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 31, 2011

NHS-111



NHS-CON13...PARIS...JUNE 2012
NIKON JOURNAL



THIS ISSUE
PG 1..THE F36/F250 MOTORS
PG 8..GETTING A GRIP ON THINGS
PG 15..NHS SURVEY RESULTS

ROBERT J. ROTOLONI
EDITOR/PUBLISHER



THE NIKON ISSUE JOURNAL #111

VOLUME TWENTY EIGHT – NUMBER TWO – MARCH 31, 2011
THE NIKON JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES

A YEAR BY “RJR” PUBLISHING, INC.,
At P.O. Box 3213, Munster, Indiana 46321 U.S.A.

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U.S./CANADA	1 Year \$35	3 Years \$85
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NHS-112 DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of our NIKON JOURNAL, NHS-112, is June 1, 2011. Please get all your correspondence and photos to me on time so I can bring it out on schedule. Thank you. **RJR.**

EDITORIAL

The quake in Japan is her most devastating in decades and I know that we all wish the best to her & her people. I have many personal friends in Japan, some of whom I have known for over 20 years, & I hope that each of them is safe as well as their families & friends. I am writing this on March 13th, so more concise info will probably be known to you by the time you get this issue. A death figure of 10,000 is in the news today. It will surely go higher. The Sendai Nikon plant was damaged but will probably be up & running by publication date. However, it is the human story that is really important. May God be with them all.

Our questionnaire results are on page 15. One item you mentioned has already been addressed. Our Webmaster, Fred Krughoff, sent me this info, and I quote: “*I have turned the NHS into a Blog, and now will feature more about the Journal issues, with an eye toward more subscriptions, much like we do on the magazine I work for. (<http://www.bombsite.com>) We also have an additional domain name: www.nikonhistoricalsociety.com as well as the old one. Both will continue to work as before. The switch to the new site should be complete within a couple of weeks. However, the new site now has archives of all the old site in place.*” Many of you are not aware that Fred has spent a great deal of time maintaining our site, and will continue to do so in the future. His willingness to upgrade and update our site is extremely valuable to our organization. Please support it, and Fred, my personal thanks and gratitude.

We have a full issue for you. Chris Sap covers the unusual facts and features of the Nikon F36 and F250 motor drives beginning on page 1. A lot of info is presented.

Starting on page 8 we have coverage of two interesting non-Nikon made gunstocks brought to you by Uli Koch with some Tony Hurst images to supplement Uli’s shots. Check out that Bronica item.

Speaking of Tony Hurst, those of you who receive Gray Levett’s “**Nikon Owner**” magazine will find in the new issue #33 a 10 page interview of Tony by Gray featuring over a dozen stunning color shots of our favorite equipment done as only Tony can. You have seen his work in the Journal and his slide shows at our Conventions, so you know from where I speak. Congrats Tony!

We also cover the auction scene (pg. 14) and results of our first membership survey (pg. 15) and a whole bunch of Book Updates including the final proof of what was before now just a subjective statement (pg. 16).

On page 17 we have the first ‘formative’ info on NHS-Con13 scheduled for Paris in June of 2012. It is just enough to get things started with much more coming in future issues. But it is time to start thinking about it. By the time you get this issue we will be only 14 months from the meeting date.

Finally, some sad news. I have been informed of the death of Mr. Tatsuhiko Arakawa. Arakawa-san has been a source of priceless information about the early years of the Nikon. I have met with him twice in Japan and learned much from him. Chris Sap has written about his meetings with him (more to come in #112) and also learned from him. I have been to his home and enjoyed every minute of it. Arakawa-san passed away on December 18, 2010. He was born May 4, 1916 and lived a long and productive life. My condolences to his wife and son. **RJR**

THE NIKON F36/F250 MOTORS SOME RARE & UNUSUAL ONES

By **CHRISTOPHE SAP**

In Uli Koch's wonderful book 'The F Trilogy', he describes in detail the different models of the F36 motor (p 90~98) and the F250 version (p 98~103). But since its publication we looked for and have found other variations.

THE NIKKOR/NIKON F250 NAMEPLATE

In NHS-107, pages 10/11, you find an article about some very rare Nikkor/Nikon F250 motors, but it wasn't known why a Nikon sticker or plate was put over the original Nikkor name, nor why the white dot was present.

After reading the article I mailed photos to my friend at Nikon and he gave me the answers. Like so many things it turned out to be simple. The answer from Nikon Japan reads as follows: "To put the Nikon plate on the F250 is for (a) sudden changing of the export place (destination), or it may be that it was to make good use of the stock of parts." So this is clear. For photos refer to NHS-107.

THE WHITE DOT

In Uli's book page 103, he has a photo of F250 #102904 and also mentions #s 101432, 102826 & 103027 as having this white dot in front of the serial number. He doesn't speak about the white dot in the F36 chapter, but there are also F36's with such a marking. So now we know that there are 'white dotted' F36 & F250 motors and the question became stronger "Why?"

We got the answer during our last meeting at Nikon Tokyo in February 2010 (Fig 1). Together with Bill Kraus and Yuki Kawai, we were most happy to meet the designer of the F250, Daitoku-san (Fig 2). He had been the boss of Matsukawa-san, the designer of the extremely rare F2H-F250 motor drive (NHS-94). Only 10 were ever made and, since this article, a second one has surfaced, #7850536, with its special MD100 as well. However, the special back MF-1A is missing.

The answer to the 'white dot' question is: White dot in front of the serial number on both the F36 & F250, is a recognition mark, as those motors were made by another manufacturer, either Japan Micromotor Co., and later Copal (Fig 3-4).

But I also found a white dot on an older Nippon Kogaku Apo-Nikkor, but here the white dot follows the serial number. Unfortunately, they did not know the answer (Fig 5).

As we know, F view screen markings exist in 3 colors: white, yellow and red. But there are also F screens with a white dot in front of the letter. Here also, we do not know why. So far I have

seen five: a white 'A' screen, two (different) white 'F' screens, a white 'G1', a white 'H1' and a white 'G4' (Fig. 6a & Uli page 60). There is a theory saying that Nikon made improvements, and used the old frames, just putting a white dot in front, and after that they went to the yellow lettered screens. It is a theory, but could be, as when I compared normal 'A' & the one with the white dot, the inner circle on the white dotted screen is much more pronounced (Fig. 6b). On the 'H1' the same, but hardly visible as the inner circle is not etched and I could not compare normal 'F' & 'G1' screens with white dotted ones, as I have none. Both 'F' screens are different, one has 2 white etched vertical lines at about 4mm at each of the small sides (Fig. 6c).

THE FIVE DIGIT F36 MOTOR

Nothing special about a 5-digit F36 you might think, since the F36 series began with #97001. In Fig 7 you see two such 5-digit F36s, but these are just normal models.

When we speak about the 5-digit F36's here it is about those F36's that should be in the normal 6-digit series! Indeed, until now, just six are known to have only 5 digits but in the serial number range of 100000 to 161958. There is a digit missing. But because we only know of six such motors, we

cannot figure out 'which' digit is missing. Those six are; 15716, 16108, 16134, 16155, 16218 & 16226 (courtesy of Uli Koch). So it could be a figure missing at the end but it also can be one somewhere in the middle. The answer is still unknown. Number 16155 (Fig 8) was sold on eBay France in January 2010.

THE 7 DIGIT F250 & A DUPLICATE MYSTERY

Well, there are not only 5-digits, but there is also a 7-digit F250 known, #1057441. And here we have the answer. It is a duplicate number! Does someone have #105744? This is like the duplicate Nikon S bodies, not the so-called 8-digit ones, but real duplicate numbers (see "The Complete Nikon Rangefinder System", Rotoloni, page 86). Those duplicate S body numbers are rare, and only 7 are known. These duplicates are in the 6094xxxx range: -4991, -5101, -5131, -5161, -5201, -5231 & -5261 (Fig 9).

With the F250, it is exactly the same. A '1' has been added at the end. While, with the S bodies it was an engraved number on both the top plate and back door, with the F250 it is engraved on the outside, but painted in the inside (Fig 10~12).

Talking about duplicate numbers, on lenses we know that in the rangefinder era (see Bob's book) they used a colon (:) to indicate a lens was a duplicate.





FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4



FIG. 5

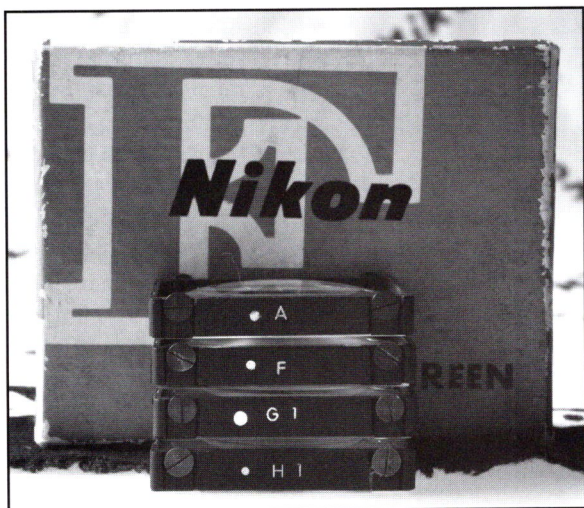


FIG. 6A

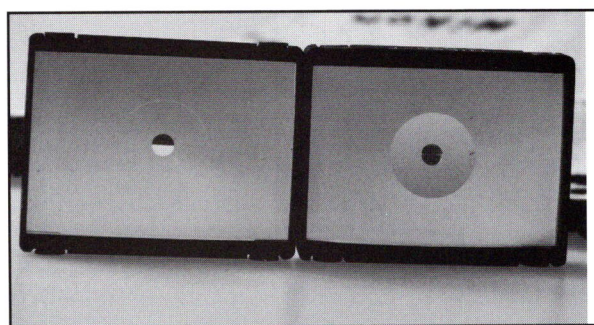


FIG. 6B

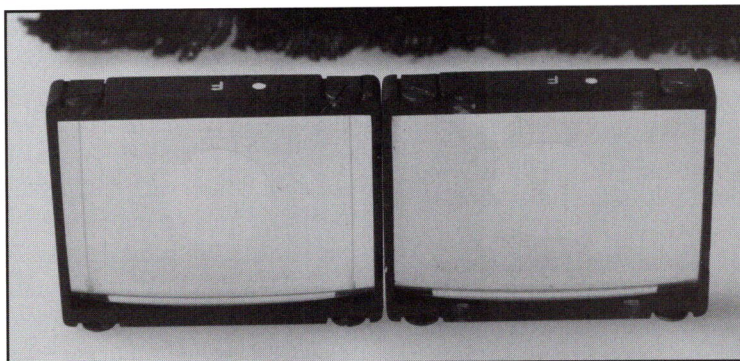


FIG. 6C

Uli sent me to the website of Richard de Stoutz. Under the 'zoom' chapter you will find a list and photos of some 7-digit Nikkor 43~86mm zooms that normally should have only 6 digits.

Nikon's answer is:

"I would like you to know the reason for being two types of 7-digits and 8-digit serial numbers. The parts manufacturer sometimes engraved (the) same serial number on the part by accident. When we could not give up (discard) those parts we added a digit behind the original serial number to prevent overlapping. Normally the digit added was a '1'."

So, another mystery is solved. But, this means that duplicate numbers might be found on other lenses too. Those with normally 6 digits can have 7, and those normally with 7 digits can have 8, so look very closely at any lens number ending with a ONE!

Courtesy of Richard de Stoutz, the duplicate number he has recorded for 43~86 zooms are in the 440xxx range. They are: 4400001, -0371, -0471, -0551, -0751, -0851, -0901, -1171, -1281, -1621, -1681, -2171, -2281, -2331 and -2851. Herewith, picture of 4400001 (Fig 12b). These duplicates are in the range 440000 up to 440285. You can 'visit' 10 of them on his beautiful website: <http://www.destoutz.ch/nikon-f.html>

A SPECIAL SIX DIGIT F36

Well, 'you ain't seen nothing yet'. Sometimes we say that products have been made on a lousy Monday. Well, have a look at this one. Is it F36 #159697, a late six-digit, but it may have been made after a wild night of sake! (Fig 13)

And no, it isn't finished yet, as the best is still to come.

NIKON F250 #99002

Yes, the second one ever made! (In Uli's book it is said that 99020 was the first one.) Number 99002 was on eBay ending Nov. 30, 2009. The closing bid was \$371, but it did not meet the reserve. It was described as follows:

"Nikon F250 Motor back #99002. The 2nd One Ever Made." (Fig 14-15). This is an unbelievable chance to get a piece of Nikon history. This is the 2nd Nikon F250 motor ever produced, serial #99002. Included are 2 film cassettes. There is still film loaded in the back. There is no stamped serial number in the back cover. When facing the motor just to the left of the 'F' is the #35 stamped into the metal."

Since I had purchased several items from this seller before, I contacted him and made a deal. When this motor arrived I noticed several differences compared to other F250's:

- 1) Two metal plates at the side instead of one.
- 2) The one plate needed to open the back is slightly thinner.
- 3) The pull up metal on 99002 is directly next to the film spool keeper while normally is it more to the center.
- 4) The side pins to lock the back are shorter on 99002, making locking more difficult.
- 5) In the inside there is no pin next to the roller.
- 6) The shape of the locking device appears handmade.

I sent photos to Nikon Ohi, and they replied that the designer of the F250 is still employed. His name is Daitoku-san, and yes, I could meet him. They asked that I mail my questions before the meeting, scheduled for February 2010. And yes, I could bring some friends along.

So I mailed my photos and Bill and Yuki were most happy to join me. And here are the answers we got from Daitoku-san and other Nikon staff present at our meeting:

- Rock pin: this round pin on back plate is to prevent the rotation of the small film cassette (36 exp). Early model was designed only for the big cassettes, but sometimes cameramen found it necessary to use small cassettes. So Nikon put a round pin for anti-rotation (Fig 16, no rock pin, #99628 also lacked the pin, Fig 17 rock pin on later motors)
- Rock pins on the early motors were too short to prevent rotation so Nikon made them longer
- Engraved (in fact stamped) numbers hidden behind a small front plate might be trials, we are not sure. Thanks to Uli we know of five more early F250's with such an internal number: #99002 has '35', #99020 has '2', #99023 has '33', #99034 has '29' & #99039 has '3'. So, if you have an early F250, screw off the small metal plate (2 screws) just to the left of the 'F', and it may reveal another number. Why they kept this metal plate, and what was its use (except for these stamped #s, but which could have been hidden elsewhere) is not known (Fig 18)
- The second side plate on 99002 is to reinforce the other one. It was an emergency repair by Nikon (Fig 19-20).
- After production of the first motors, a small piece of foam was added to the inside of the back, not only to keep light out, but also for friction. It is noted that the length of the foam was increased on later motors.
- The inside numbering system also changed. Initially there were no matching numbers on the inside of the back door. Then 2 numbers are seen: one matches the motor number while the other denotes the matching camera body number. And later, the body number was dropped (Fig 21~23).

Following the discussion in Tokyo in 2010, they concluded: "We think #99002 was special prototype for the press photographer (possibly LIFE) but we cannot find the record". While they did not have a record, this might be right, as both cassettes are marked "LIFE", written in felt tip marker (Fig 24).

This leaves one more detail to mention and I am sure it passes almost unnoticed. Did you ever have a close look at the motor plates needed to couple the body to the motor? Well if not, have a look. You will find a number, a letter and sometimes a stamped seal, and those all can be different. We asked what this meant. The answer: "Motor plates have numbers, these are die cast numbers to recognize the makers". So in the example here (Fig 25) we find the maker's stamp; in this case it is a Tanaka die cast.

So most of our questions were answered, and for that we thank Nikon for its tremendous help.

Gentlemen, it would be a pleasure to hear from you if you have any of this equipment, so we may add to our knowledge. And specifically, if you have information about 5-digit motors (not in the 99xxx range), 7-digit motors, or internal casting numbers, please be so kind as to send us a note, and hopefully, photos. Csap@skynet.be & Uli_Koch@t-online.de

Thank you very much.

(Chris, to get feedback started let me report that I have F36 motor #125390 with a white dot and that I once saw a 21/f4 reflex Nikkor with a dot but failed to record the number. RJR)

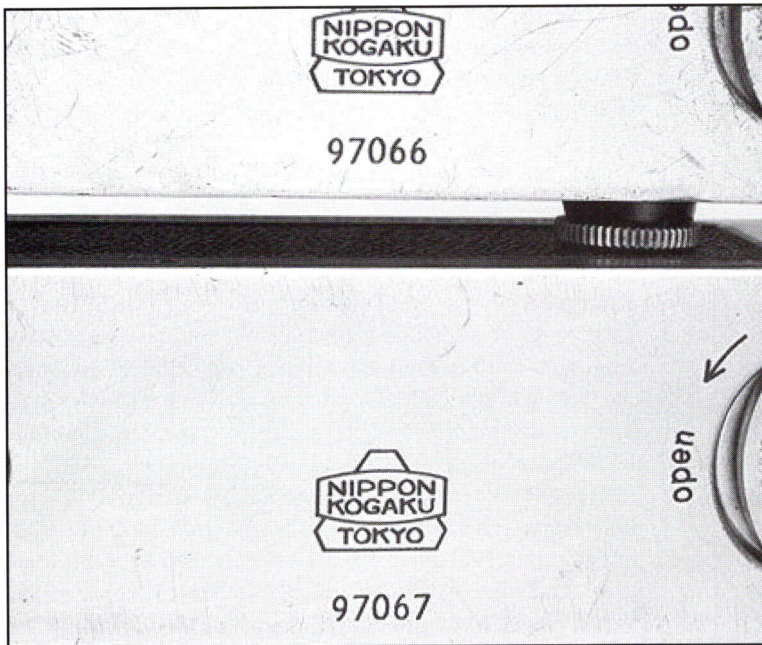


FIG. 8

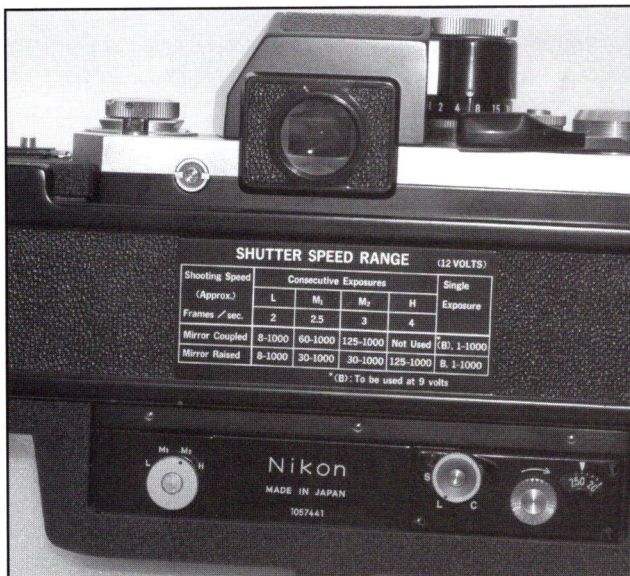


FIG. 10



FIG. 9



FIG. 11

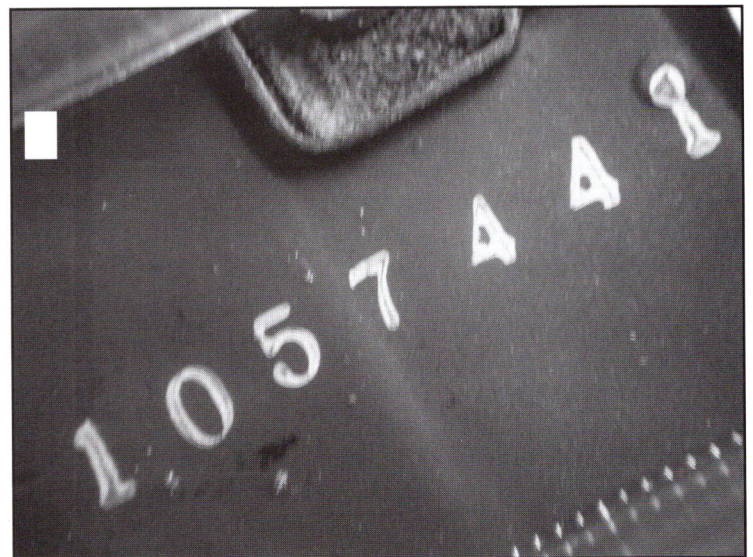


FIG. 12



FIG. 12B



FIG. 13

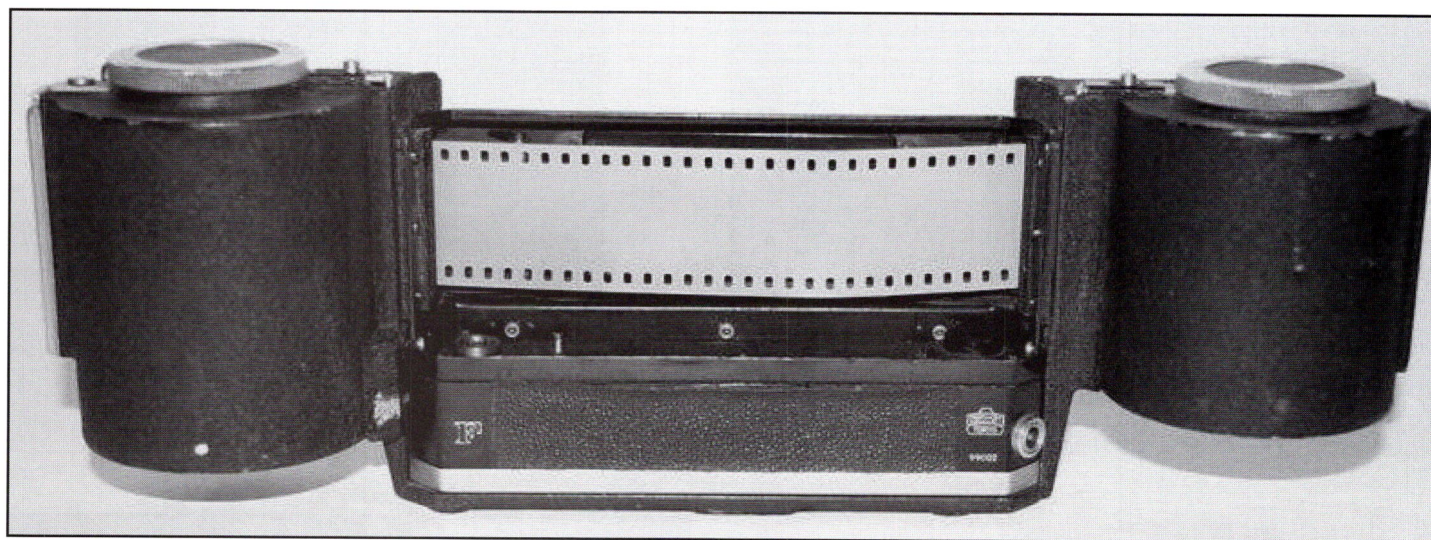


FIG. 14



FIG. 15

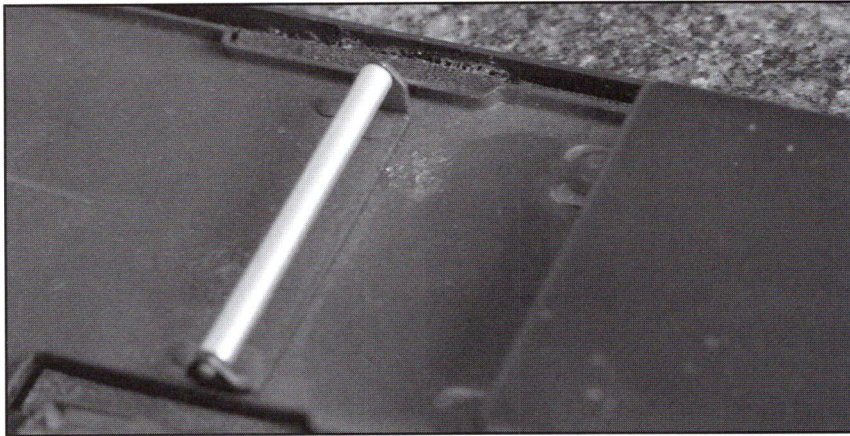


FIG. 16

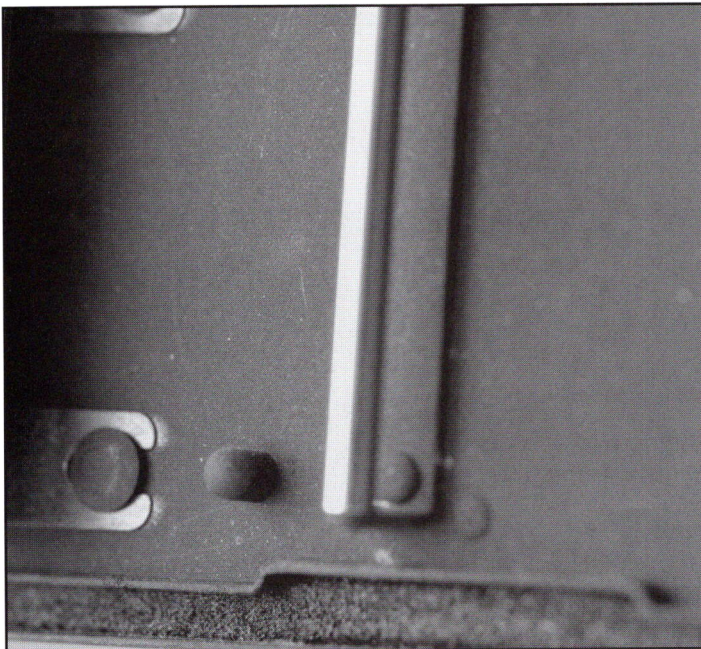


FIG. 17

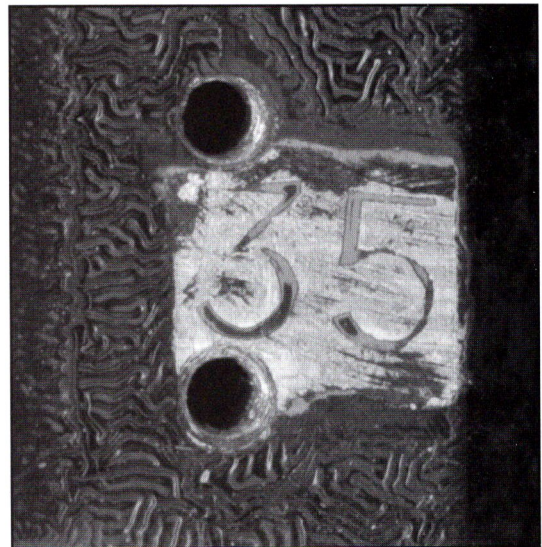


FIG. 18



FIG. 19

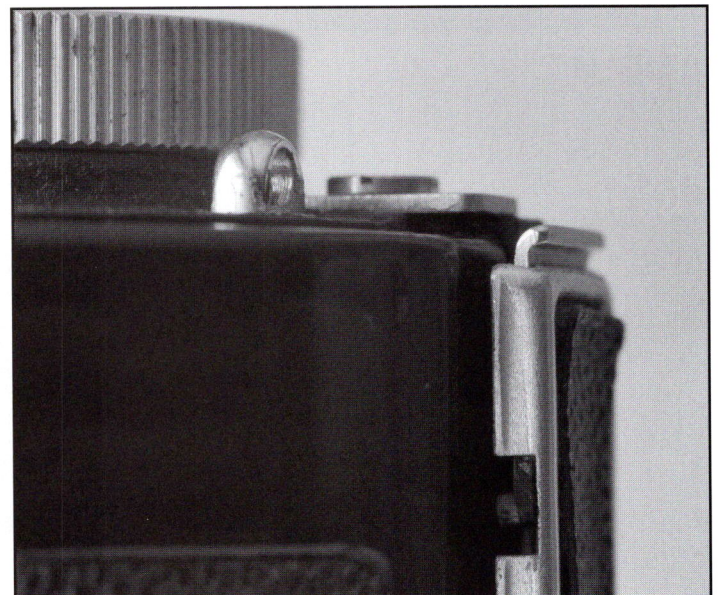


FIG. 20

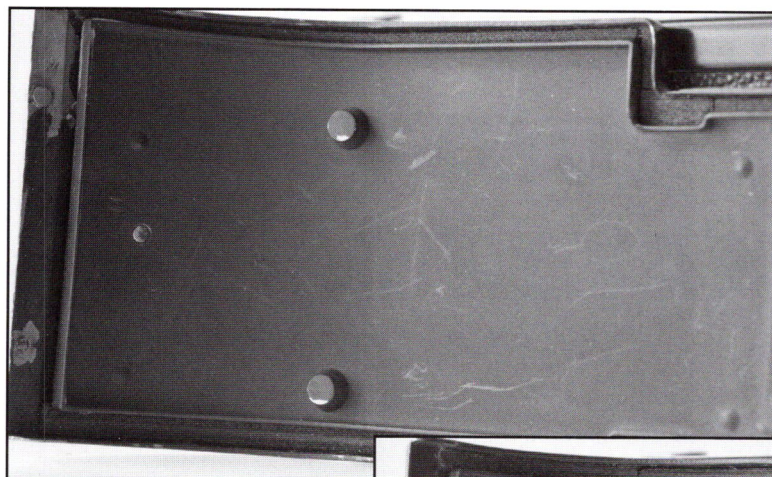


FIG. 21



FIG. 22

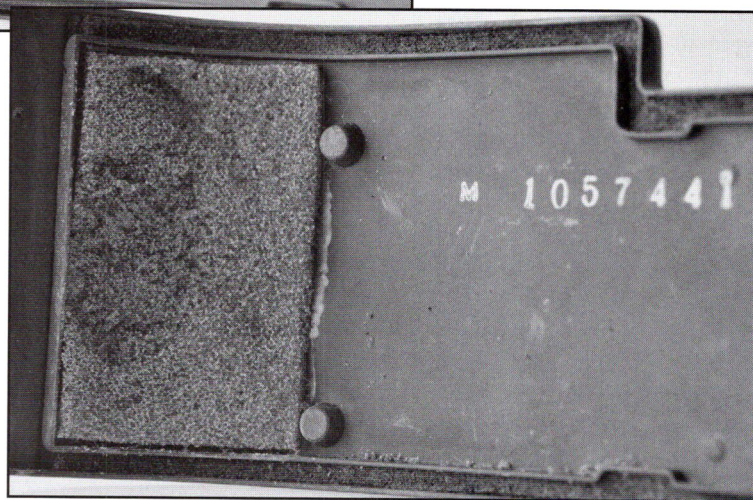


FIG. 23

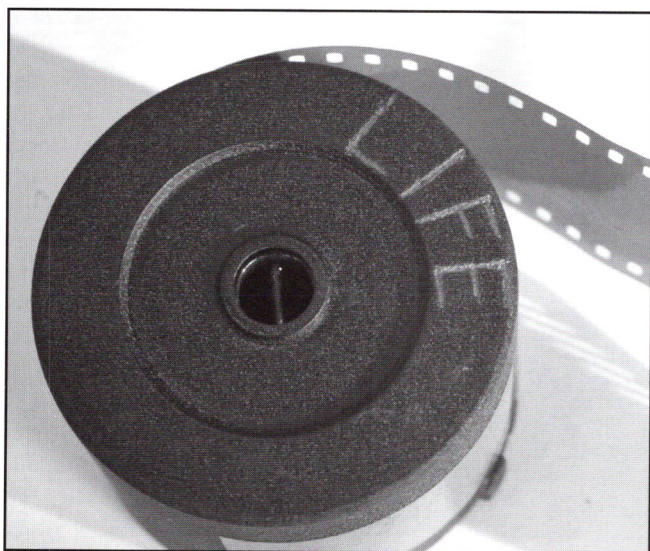


FIG. 24



FIG. 25

GETTING A GOOD GRIP ON THINGS

TWO USABLE GUNSTOCKS

'WELL MAYBE'...

By ULI KOCH with TONY HURST

Nippon Kogaku never offered a gunstock, as was the case with many other camera makers. We will never know why, but one of the reasons could be that most gunstocks did not have ideal handling characteristics. I will clarify why later in this article. Over the years I was able to find two interesting gunstocks which were produced to fit Nikon/Nikkor products.

THE 'DASCO' GUNSTOCK

Produced by a company called "David Specialty Co., Chicago", this gunstock was designed for use with various camera models and telephoto lenses. Not manufactured specially for the Nikon F, the picture on the box shows a chrome Nikon F Photomic FTn camera with a non-Nikkor lens as well as in the instruction sheet.

The gunstock is made of wood with a shoulder butt and two handles. On the front handle a trigger is fixed with a release cable that fits to the shutter release fitting of the camera. On the rear side of the butt a rubber grip is glued on for better fitting of the stock to the shoulder. With two eyelets and a neck strap the camera/lens combination mounted on the gunstock could be easily carried. On top of the gunstock a larger tripod socket plate is mounted. The problem with this DASCO gunstock is that this plate is screwed to the stock in such a way that it does not allow for the proper alignment of camera/lens combination with the stock. The mount of the camera/lens is asymmetrical and this is not good for overall handling.

However, there are two more handicaps a photographer has to deal with when using the DASCO unit:

- 1) First, the huge and heavy camera/lens combination is fixed only by a small screw and one is not able to tighten it so it will not turn round when holding the outfit in a side ways position.
- 2) Secondly, the photographer needs one hand (the right) for holding the gunstock and could release the trigger with a finger of the same hand. The left can be used to focus/zoom the lens

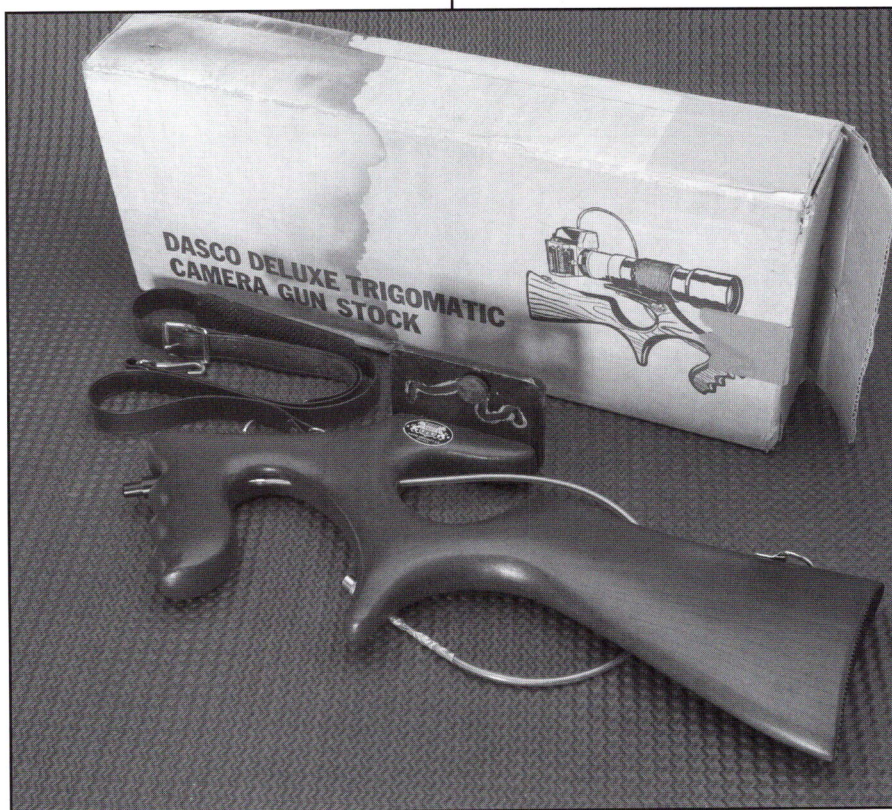
but the tripod socket plate impacts this function for by turning a ring on the lens you have to stop before contacting the plate. If you were lucky enough to focus accurately, have released the trigger and wish to take the next shot, you have to change the hands, as you normally use the right hand for the trigger, but now need it for winding the camera. This handicap is minimized by using a motorized camera, but the trigger is only for use with a wire release cable.

Conclusion: A nice outfit to look at and to have in a collection, but not good for handling.

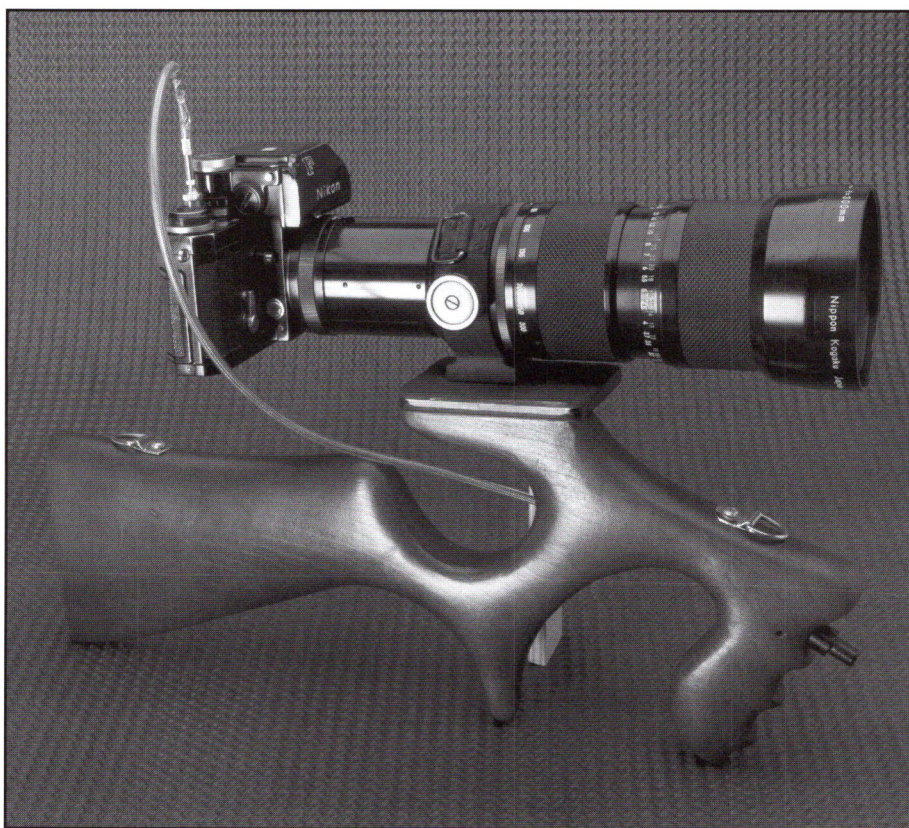
Therefore, it is easy to

understand that you will not find a lot of these gunstocks, even if the price was reasonable.

(I have had this article from Uli on these two gunstocks for some time waiting for space to run it, when Tony Hurst gave me a few photos of his example of the DASCO unit. So with two units and great photos from both owners, now was the time. On the following pages (11~13) is the second part to Uli's article, this time on a very usable gunstock I truly wish I owned. RJR)

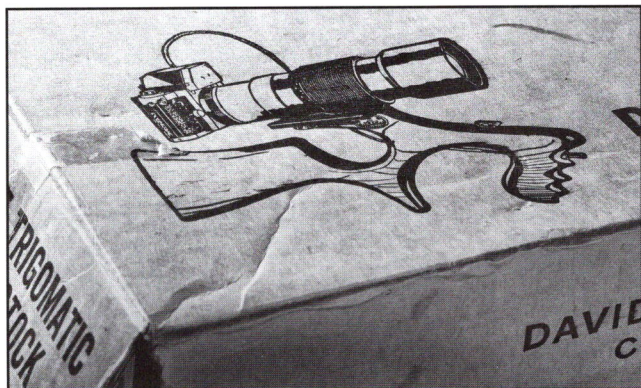


(ALL PHOTOS PAGE 8-9 BY ULI KOCH)





(ALL PHOTOS ON THIS
PAGE BY
TONY HURST



DO YOU NOTICE
A DIFFERENCE?
COULD THIS BE
AN 'IMPROVED'
MODEL?

THE 'BRONICA/NIKKOR' GUNSTOCK

By ULI KOCH (ALL PHOTOS BY AUTHOR)

This gunstock was manufactured by Zenza Bronica for their camera in combination with a Nikkor long telephoto lens. This unusual accessory showed up in 1964 and was still found in a brochure in 1970. As we all know, Nippon Kogaku produced various lenses for the early Zenza Bronica cameras. Also, N-K manufactured a special focusing unit for Bronica that allowed for the use of their series of interchangeable Nikkor Telephoto lens heads ranging from 400mm to 1200mm. The benefit of this design was that a professional photographer was able to use the same lens heads with his Bronica 120 system as well as his Nikon F 35mm system by simply using the correct focusing mount. As these Bronica focusing mount units can be found today, it seems that this system was popular. Besides, it gave Bronica the most extensive telephoto system ever seen for a medium format camera, no matter the maker!

Perhaps the developers at Zenza Bronica saw the need for a better handling system for the Bronica/Nikkor combination or perhaps professionals asked for it. For whatever reason, Bronica offered a custom gunstock for its camera and the Nikkor series of telephoto lens heads.

This gunstock is well made with a high quality mechanism and the use of fine wood. In comparison with the DASCO unit, the solution for fixing the camera/lens combination is much better. This very heavy setup was fixed by two tripod sockets and both are aligned with the gunstock. On the front tripod mount the focusing unit can be fixed in various positions to find out the best balance point when using different lens heads, with their different lengths and weights. With the second screw the camera is fixed in position. But how can the unit be focused, as the focusing unit will extend by turning from infinity to a closer position? The answer is tricky. The camera is fixed to the screw mount but not fixed to the gunstock, so it is movable. Therefore, the camera is able to move back and forth when turning the focusing ring.

The gunstock has two handles and a shoulder butt. The large trigger is on the rear handle and the mechanism is activated by a cable release to the Bronica camera. There is no rubber grip on the rear side of the butt and no eyelets for a neck strap. This gunstock has additionally its own tripod socket on the bottom front end.


The handling of this gunstock is much better than the DASCO unit but still not really usable—the reason:

- 1) First, the weight of this combination with 'only' the 400mm lens head is 4,650gm (10.25 lbs) with a Bronica C body. This is too heavy to take pictures by hand. If you use the tripod socket of the gunstock it will only be an additional rest point. You always have to hold the stock in your hands, as the tripod socket does not allow the entire rig to balance on its own. The only advantage is that you could use the gunstock as the cradle grip for the Bronica with the long Nikkors, thus relieving stress to the helical mount allowing for smoother focusing.
- 2) Secondly, take a picture with this combination! Handling it to focus the lens, fire and wind the camera for the next shot is not

easy. You have to remove the outfit away from your shoulder to wind the camera then return it to the shoulder position. If you use the tripod socket on the front side of the gunstock the handling is much easier.

Conclusion: A well-made outfit and great to have in your collection but not really good in handling. As the price was high you don't find a lot of these impressive Zenza Bronica gunstocks around these days.
Uli Koch



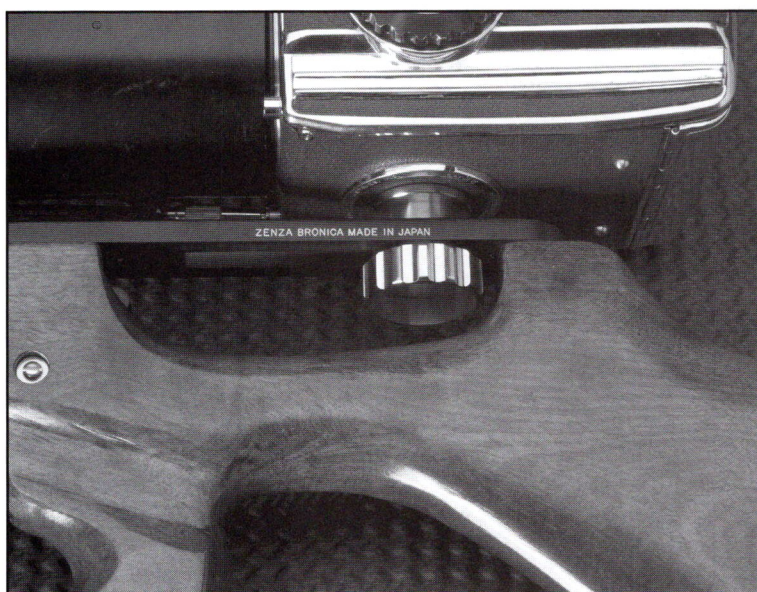


INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE APERTURE SCALE OF THE FOCUSING UNIT

The 400mm, 600mm, 800mm and 1200mm Nikkor telephoto lenses are made up from two separate components, the rear focusing unit and the front lens heads, with the focusing unit being interchangeably used with all four lens heads. The following points must be remembered when using the focusing unit with the different lens heads.

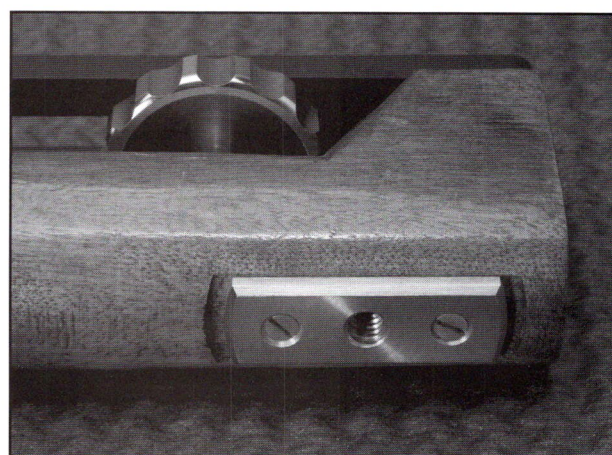
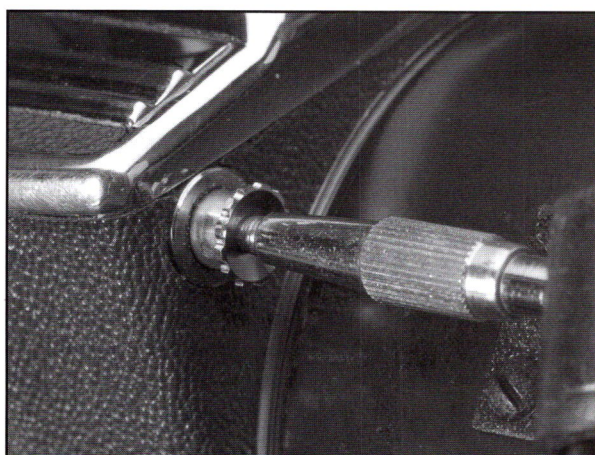
Lens	How to Use the Aperture Scale of the Focusing Unit
Nikkor 400mm F4.5	Use the aperture scale without any restrictions.
Nikkor 600mm F5.6	Since the maximum aperture of the lens head is F5.6, the aperture scale of the focusing unit should be used at F5.6 or larger with this lens head. Even when used at F4.5, the actual lens opening will only be F5.6, in this case.
Nikkor 800mm F8 Nikkor 1200mm F11	When using these lens heads, use the aperture scale of the lens head and set the aperture scale of the focusing unit to the maximum opening of F4.5. Do not set the aperture scale of the focusing unit to a smaller lens opening than F4.5 as the subject area will not be fully covered by the lens, in such cases.

ZENZA BRONICA INDUSTRIES, INC.
25, 2-chome, Minami-Tokiwadai, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

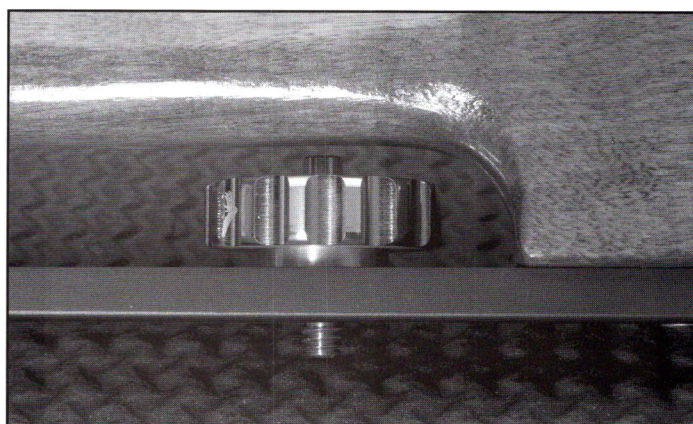
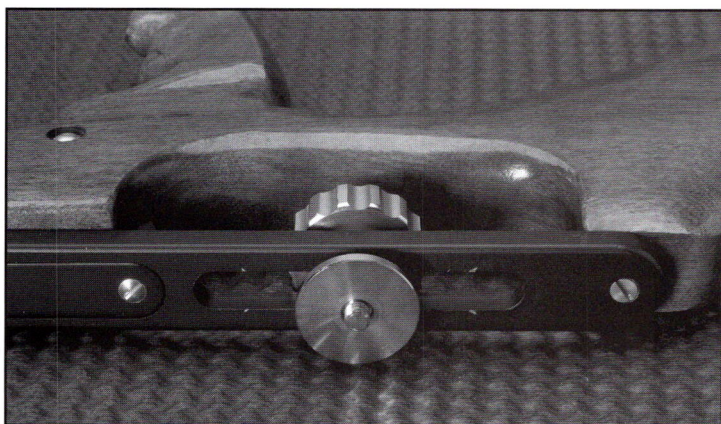


From the photos on these two pages, it is quite obvious that this Bronica unit was a very well designed and executed product. The fit and finish appear first rate with no apparent shortcuts. Note how the attachment screw is adjustable to allow for different length lenses and is a very high quality chrome plated brass fitting. Nippon Kogaku would not have been in error if they had made such a unit available for those really long and heavy Tele-Nikkors. RJR





Searching through my literature I was able to find two price-sheet listings for this gunstock as well as one brochure that illustrates it in detail. In both the May 1974 and the December 1975 EPOI price sheets it is listed at \$299.50 (a lot of money back then!) and is referred to as the "Tele Lens Rifle Stock". In an undated full color Bronica S2A brochure not only is the 'rifle stock' shown in the overall group shot of the entire system, it is also shown in use on a black Bronica S2A with the 1200mm Tele-Nikkor mounted! Talk about a cannon! So it definitely was available during the S2A & EC/EC-TL era. Being a Bronica user since 1971, I always wanted one but I have never seen one for sale. RJR



THE AUCTION SCENE

Only one auction to report on this issue and that is the 26th Rare Camera sale from Tamarkin Photographica, held on February 20th in Woodbridge, Connecticut. As usual it was heavy in Leica gear but Nikon, both reflex and RF, was well represented with some very interesting items. Here are some results, including the 17.5% buyers' premium:

Nikon F straight prism chrome body	\$352
Nikon F straight prism black body.....	\$323
Nikon 21mm finder w/RF foot.....	\$705
Nikon Variframe black w/case & box	\$940
28mm attachment for Varifocal finder, boxed.....	\$323
Nikkor 35mm/f3.5, w/caps/case/box/instructions.....	\$352
Nikkor 35mm/f1.8	\$822
Nikkor 35mm/f1.8 w/bubble..in Leica SM	\$1410
Nikkor 50mm/f1.1 in external mount	\$3760
Nikon 35mm Mini-Finder.....	\$1410
Nikon S4 w/f1.4 Nikkor & ORIGINAL BOX!.....	\$3650
Nikon SP w/f1.4 Nikkor, chrome.....	\$1880

And now for the two most interesting items.....

Nikon SP #6202660 BLACK..near Min..... \$18400

Nikon Meter Retainer Clip..... \$295

Note that the SM 35/f1.8 went for much more than the BM version. Interesting. The 50mm/f1.1 was reasonable while the Mini Finder went for a high price. Even the chrome SP did well while the boxed S4 was a beautiful set at a good price. S4 boxes are quite hard to find. Of course the mint and gorgeous black SP went for a substantial sum but keep in mind its condition and how hard it is to find them like this today.

However, take a look at the Meter Retainer. The hammer price of \$295 is actually about right. I have seen them go for more in the past. Although the black SP is the most expensive item it is the Retainer that steals the show. Why? Well, the SP sold for nearly 48 times its original price of about \$375. But, the Retainer sold for 393 times its original 75 cent suggested retail price! How is that for a hedge on inflation?



RESULTS OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Thanks to all who participated in our NHS survey. Here is what you said about the Society, the Journal, the Website, the Conventions, and what subjects you would like to hear more about in the future.

You live in 24 countries, and have been a member an average of 13 years. A number of you responded as 'Charter' members, which means you joined in 1983, and virtually all of you (94%) would like to have a Directory of Members.

25% frequently (at least weekly) visit our Website, 57% occasionally, but 18% said they never do. Of those who do, 79% do not wish to have a restricted 'members only' forum.

62% have attended a Convention. And as for the location of future meetings, 40% chose the USA, 38% Europe, and 18% Japan. You would like the meeting to be convenient to a major airport (78%), and, if possible, tied-in to a camera show or photographic event. 73% want the Conventions to continue on a two-year cycle.

The Journal gets high marks. Surprisingly, the overwhelming reply to what you found most useful was that it gave you an avenue to connect with others of similar interests. As for favorite subject matter you said (in decreasing order); history, rare items and 'Odds n' Ends', auction results, technical reviews, and the convention report.

In the future, you would like to read more about:

- Early history, including photographs taken at that time.
- Pre-war products, Nikko, etc., including their history.
- Other cameras with Nikkors: Nicca, Canon, Bronica, etc.
- Practical service tips, repairing, trouble shooting, etc.
- Comparison of the performance of old and new lenses.
- Photos taken with the RF's.
- Notice of upcoming auctions and photo events.
- Relatives 'by mount': Komura, Tanar, Soligor, Zunow, etc.
- Rare, exotic prototypes and early production/earliest SN's.
- Include the F2 and accessories. It's now 'old enough'.

On review of all the comments, no surprise.... it seems that most everyone who responded is interested in most everything connected with Nikon. There were some contradictions, like 'moreF/no more 'F', more serial numbers/no more serial numbers, etc....but that would be expected.

Thanks again for participating. As promised, we have thrown all the respondents names in a hat and have drawn three winners... **Kiu Kaffi (US), Veli Miettinen (Finland), Andy Price (England).**

Tabulated by Bill Kraus.

(A few personal thoughts on the results of our questionnaire. The number of respondents (about 60) was a bit disappointing to me. Not only does it represent only 1 in 5 members, it tends to reduce the accuracy of the survey. Some things might have been different if more of you had responded with your opinions. A membership directory seems in order. I have talked to a member who may be able to take on this task. But first we would need a 'definite' OK from those who wish to be included, so if we are to have such a directory I would need to ask for each of you your permission. Only positive replies would be listed. I am sure there are some who will decline. There is news of an improved Website in this very issue. Our webmaster, Fred Krughoff, has made it better and easier to use. I am surprised that Convention coverage scored so low on the list. Very surprised. It is our only chance to get together on a personal level and all those who attend seem to enjoy themselves. Do we not want to meet each other? Convention coverage is meant to encourage such contact. I will try to address items on your want list but I would need some help. If anything listed (or anything else) gives you an idea for an article please let me know. I need article material so feel free to write something. Don't be shy. If you feel something needs to be addressed why not try it yourself.

Some things surprised me, others did not. After 26 years I am still trying to keep the Journal interesting and informative but if I need to change direction let me know. Thank you to those who did respond. (A personal thank you to Bill Kraus who took the time to tabulate these results for us. Thanks Bill. RJR)

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 2008, I have been shipping within 48 hours of receiving payment.

Those of you who wish to obtain a signed copy from me need only to contact me and it will be done. Besides personally 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 all shipping and postage costs:

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
(PLEASE, NOT TO THE SOCIETY!).
THANK YOU.....RJR

BOOK UPDATES....NEW DISCOVERIES... AND A MYSTERY FINALLY SOLVED

I am constantly getting new information reported to me from all over the world. With the recent trip to Japan by three of our members where they saw items in private collections as well as on display at the annual Matsuya show, I have much to report on this issue. Some are simply new numbers but if it is a relatively rare item then any new number is significant. We also have some price info from the Matsuya show on some rather esoteric items as well. In addition I have three newsworthy items to report on including a 'super fake' and, finally, definite proof for something I have believed in for decades but now can say 'we know it for sure'!

I gave you some new numbers last issue on the very rare Hermes enlarging lens raising known examples from 6 to 11. Well Chris Sap & Yuki Kawai tell me that Nikon has two more in their possession, #s 957 and 55426. Now there are 13!

A trio of Exakta mount 135s have surfaced and they are #s 261453, 263018 & 264457. Quite dispersed as usual.

Numbered 28mm finders are practically unknown but we can add #408505 to our knowledge. Also a new high for the Type IV Microflex has been reported. It is #32328.

I only knew of 22 examples of the '906' type Nikon M when writing my book. For this issue of the Journal I am able to add 3 more bodies to that list; M9061588, M9061811 & M9061854.

I am also able to add two new examples to our 'short' list of S72 motors for the S3M. Probably made in less than 100 pieces, we now know of 15. Please add #s 94922 on S3M 6600098 and 95103 on S3M 6600037, all items chrome finish.

Another Nikon One has surfaced. Chris Sap reports body #609301 exists and has mounted 5cm/f2 Nikkor #708222.

Before I get to 3 really interesting items here are some prices seen at the Matsuya show in Tokyo reported by Chris Sap.

(100 Yen is equivalent to \$1.22 US)

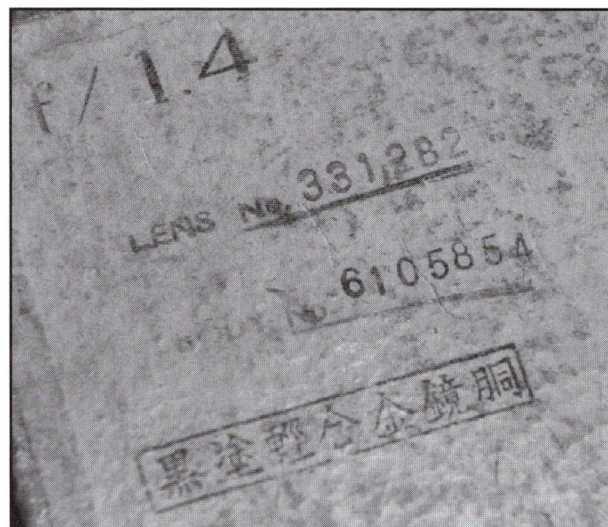
S3M black #6600061 (repainted)	5,145,000 Y
Stereo Nikkor #241976 (lens only!).....	1,890,000 Y
Micro-Nikkor w/collar in blue box	300,000 Y
Nikon S4 DOUBLE BOXED!	190,000 Y
M9061811 w/box, cs & all papers	987,000 Y
One #609470 w/708304 (releathered)	3,780,000 Y
One #609604 w/collapsible lens (synch added).....	4,095,000 Y
One #609736 w/811185	1,680,000 Y
S2E #6194254 w/S36 #94057 & sardine pack	1,000,000 Y

(more on this item later)

This also reports seeing **DUMMY SP #6219622 w/F1.1 Nikkor #120589, also a DUMMY!** We have known of at least one Dummy SP for some time, but this Dummy f1.1 is the first ever reported to me.

And now for some final proof. As far back as the mid to late 1980s I have said that I felt the first batch of all black f1.4 Nikkors (331xxx) were originally sold with Nikon S cameras, since they predate the release of the S2, the first Nikon available in black to the public. However, although we knew of a few of these lenses being discovered on S bodies (and at least one Japanese ad with one mounted on a chrome S), we could never be sure they were actually mated at the factory. Well, Chris sent me some photos of Nikon S #6105854 w/all black #331282 and its original paperwork. **It is a 'matched pair' from the factory.** What does it say on the box bottom in Japanese? It translates to **"Black Painted Light Alloy Barrel"**. So now we finally know for sure.

Back to that S2E. The black S2 is #6194294, which is a genuine black camera. Motor was #95057, an early example. However, at least 3 people who personally examined the item believe it to be a fake S2E! Although the body and motor are not in question, the coupling for the motor did not appear to be correct. Word has it that it did sell at the asking price. Very interesting.





This photo, and the two on page 16, are ample proof that the first series of all black f1.4 Nikkors that were made 'before' the release of the black Nikon S2 in 1955, were actually mated and shipped with chrome Nikon S bodies. We have thought this to be true for years, but now we have documented proof. Just look at these photos of a boxed Nikon S with all black f1.4 and all its paperwork, including the bottom of the box. Photos by Chris Sap.

NHS-CON13 IN PARIS

JUNE 2012!!

After this issue, there are only 4 more Journals before NHS-CON13 in Paris. Though a little early to list any real specifics, rest assured that a great deal has already been discussed and some things accomplished. I will let you know some of our plans, give you an idea of a schedule, list contact info and websites to see, and ask for some speedy feedback from the members. But first our current 'plans and ideas'.

The exact date is still not set, as we need to determine when the show in Bievres will occur. It is 'usually' the first weekend in June but as soon as we know for sure we will announce it. Bievres is a Sat/Sunday event and I am sure everyone will want to see it. Therefore, unlike previously, our meeting must be held on Friday and not Saturday. It follows that the closing dinner would be Friday night. Thierry has some really interesting ideas about the dinner, which we will keep to ourselves until confirmed. But I think you will really like them.

This would leave basically Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday for some sightseeing (maybe Monday if enough people are present). We would hope to visit Versailles and the Louvre, both of which might take a day each. The Eiffel Tower & Notre Dame are closer in and quicker. But Paris is a great place just to walk and we will cover as much as time allows.

So the week will fill up quickly. As for the actual meeting Thierry is discussing this with Nikon France who are willing to help. They have already produced a video on the history of Nikon with the help of Thierry and Chris Sap to be shown on Friday. Currently in French, a translation is being worked on. To view it now go to: <http://nikon.teachoip.net/e-school-formations-en-ligne/la-saga-nikon> and look under 'Nikon School'.

Every effort will be made to retain the same Convention fee as in the past but we need to start talking to hotels. Therefore, we **NEED YOUR FEEDBACK ASAP**. Please, if you plan to attend (or even just seriously thinking about it) contact us and let us know. We need a head count so we can negotiate room rates. You can contact Thierry, Chris or myself with any questions, thoughts or ideas. But do not hesitate to contact us.

Thierry terry@magicworld.fr

Chris csap@skynet.be

Myself rotoloni@msn.com & r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net

Once you email us with intentions of attending you will go on a list and be kept informed of our plans. In addition, Thierry has set up a website for the Convention, which should be up and running by the time you read this:

<http://web.me.com/magicworldofimaging/NHS-CON-13>

You can also visit Thierry's own website for more info as well as his personal collecting & Nikon photography:

<http://www.nipponkogakuklub.com>

It is time to also put out a call for speakers. We already have a few but if you are interested please contact us ASAP. We will only have so much time so it would be a 'first-come-first-served' situation. But please contact us.

Although I cannot give many specifics this issue, it is obvious that a schedule of events is in place and that plans are underway. We do need to hear from you so we can move ahead.

Please consider joining us in Paris. A beautiful city full of photo ops with plenty to do and see and it will be 'Springtime in Paris'. What more can you ask?

RJR

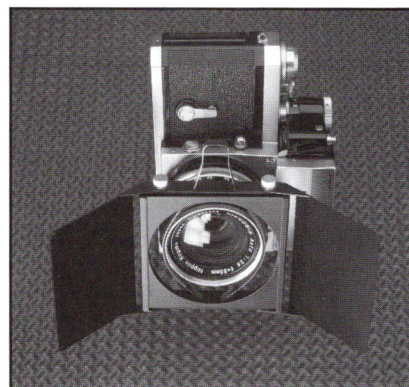
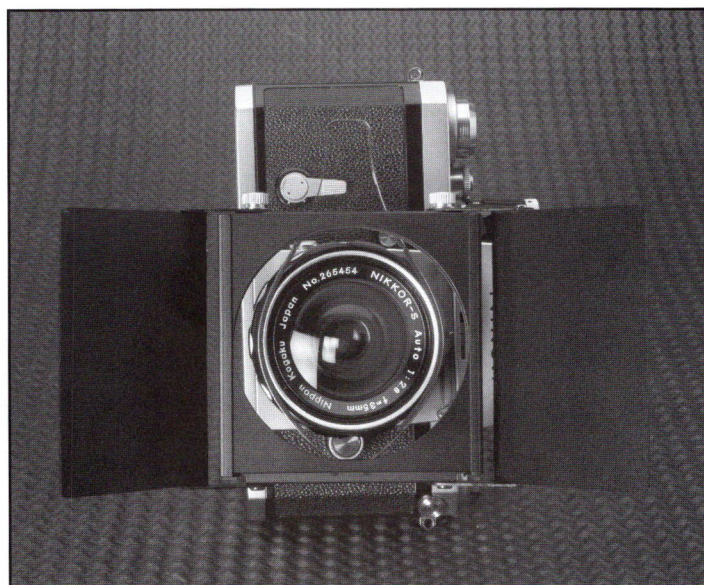
THE VOSS FILTER HOLDER

By ULI KOCH



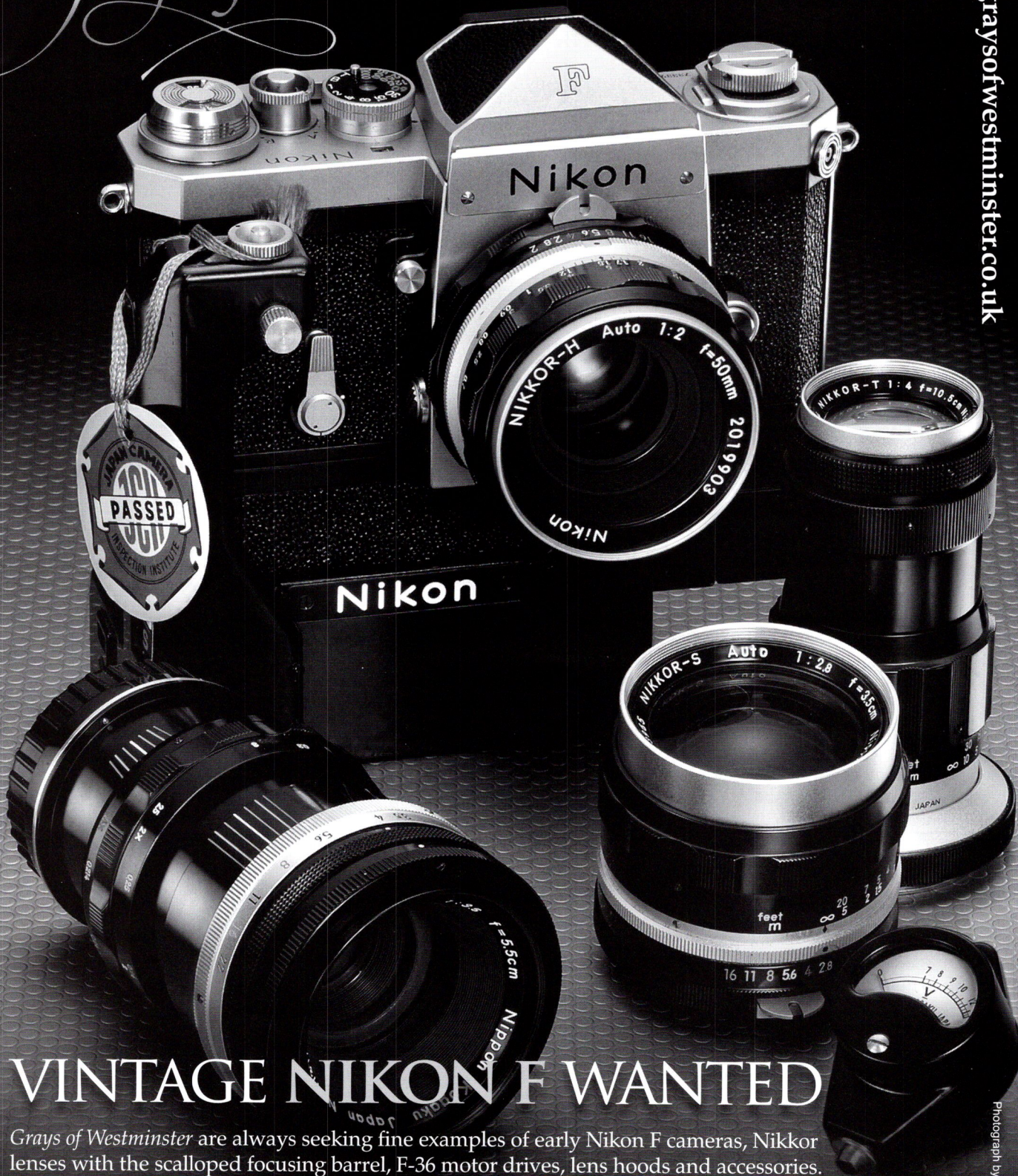
This filter holder is not specifically made for Nikkor lenses, but it does show a Nikon F Photomic FTn (with the Nikon name retouched out!) on the front side of the box as well as on the instruction sheet. Nothing is known about the company. The names sounds very German, but on the filter holder a 'PAT. JAPAN' is printed. This means that this type of filter holder is protected within Japan and perhaps other countries. So, where was the company located?

The patent protected innovation has to do with the way the filter holder is fixed to the lens. This is done by a large spring, which is flexible, and affixes the holder onto the front rim of lenses from 20mm to 70mm diameter. One has to push the spring onto the holder and the spring will open and can easily slip on the front rim of a lens. Two textured straps are glued on the spring, so the holder will not turn easily in the fixed position. A built-in shade with two large lens shields is part of the holder. The photographer can use gelatin filters such as the Kodak Wratten series.



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Photograph by Tony Hurst

CLASSIFIED ADS

SELL LIST... My latest sell list is available to whomever wishes to see it. Many Nikon RF items. I can send it via email or regular mail. Just contact me anytime. **Robert Rotoloni** rotoloni@msn.com

FOR SALE... Transparent Nikon F90, mint in box, one of only 26 made, 950 euro; **Nikon F2 High Speed**, mint-, 4500 euro; **Nikon Model H hand microscope**, neck chain & all correct pieces, mint-, 3500 euro; **Nikon FM2 'Half Frame'**, only 34 were made for the Norwegian police, mint-, 5000 euro; **Nikon S3M black body #6600207**, 27,000 euro; **Nikon Model One #609319 w/f2 #708723**, 15,000 euro. Please call or email me for photos. **Peter Lownds**, tel. 0031 654694193 (Holland) qcsman@gmail.com

WANTED... Looking for MF-1 with inside numbers; B7850536 & M 785462. Please email me at csap@skynet.be. **Christophe Sap**

TRADE... Wish to trade a Leica thread-mount camera mount adapter outfit for a Nikon/Contax Rangefinder camera mount adapter outfit for the Nippon Kogaku 2&1/2" telescope. **Mike Symons**: 1-250-383-6456 or email me at: msymons6456@telus.net

WANTED... Nikon 'ANYTHING', items good or spares. Have Manfrotto, Sunpak, Lowepro, darkroom items, wildlife/landscape books & magazines, cine/Bolex, Pentax, studio items, watches, etc., to offer in trade or p/x. Send for lists/ask for your wants. **Ian DC Shephard**. email: dcian@fastemail.us

FOR SALE... Unused Noct Nikkor 58/f1.2 AI-S lens in box w/ US warranty papers & instructions. \$4500 +S&I. **Rare UV/IR package** consisting of a mint UV-105mm quartz optics lens in box & a mint **Nikon SB 140 IR/UV flash unit** complete with filters, battery pack, cords, etc. in box, \$7000 +S&I. Rare in box unused **Nikon Model H** microscope with leather case, straps & instructions. Has 4X, 10X, 40X & 100X (oil immersion) objectives with a 10X ocular giving mags from 40X to 1000X & is about the size of a Nikon RF camera. Also included is a very rare, **unused, Nikon Toma's blood counting chamber** & a polarizer/analyzer, both especially made for this model. \$11,000 +S&I. **Professor Edward Stanley**, 717-651-0786 or eas.aquila7@verizon.net.

WANTED... Ultra-Micro Nikkors, APO EL Nikkors, Nikkor-O 55mm/f1.2 in screwmount, 50mm/f2 collapsible Nikkor ser #609xx batch, 50mm/f3.5 Nikkor collapsible in Nikon mount, W.A. Apo-Nikkors f9, Vivitar 135mm/f1.5, Nikkor 180mm/f2.5 mint in box, Nippon Kogaku Seiki camera, Ihagee Nachtkamera, Nachtrelex 4.5x6cm & 6.5x9cm. **Biagio Guerra**. Tel (702) 683-7338 or guerrabn@aol.com

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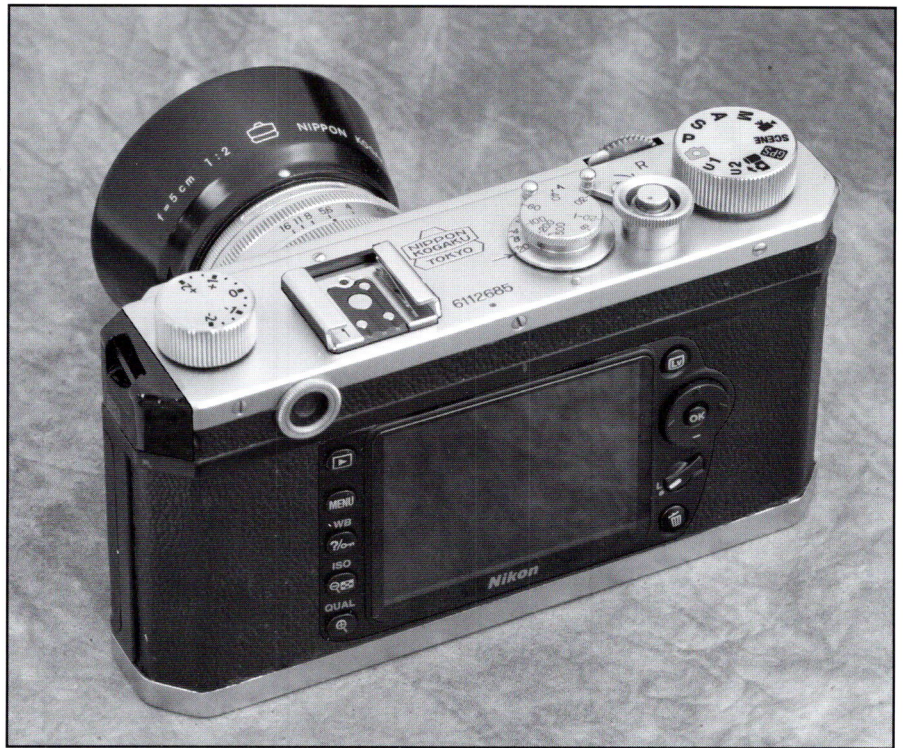
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odds 'n ends

THE WHIMSICAL DIGITAL NIKON S700 CREATED BY GREG BERLUCCHI



Member Mike Symons recently sent me these two photos of an item he ran across while in Arizona. It was done just for fun by Greg Berlucchi of FOTO FORUM, 4834 North 7th St. in Phoenix. Cobbled together from various parts, it tends to stimulate more talk about a Nikon Digital RF camera somewhere in our future. We've talked about such an item in these pages before and I feel that as Nikon gets closer to an interchangeable lens RF digital camera (note the new P7000), that they will surely enter the market to compete with the Olympus, Sony & Panasonic offerings. Wouldn't that be interesting. Until then we can only dream (and put together interesting conversation pieces like the Nikon S700). Thanks to Mike for putting me together with Greg, who kindly supplied these photos.



CREATED FOR THE "NHS" BY *Tony Huxford*