

Nikon N80/F80

Nikon N80/F80 Camera Instruction Manual

Your comprehensive guide to operating and maintaining your Nikon N80/F80 35mm SLR camera.

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE NIKON N80/F80

The Nikon N80 (known as the F80 outside North America) is an advanced 35mm single-lens reflex (SLR) camera designed for serious amateur photographers. It combines traditional film photography with modern autofocus and metering technologies. This manual provides detailed instructions for setting up, operating, and maintaining your N80/F80 camera to help you achieve optimal photographic results.

Familiarize yourself with the camera's components and controls before proceeding with operation. Refer to the diagrams and descriptions in this manual for proper identification.

2. INITIAL SETUP

2.1. Battery Installation

The Nikon N80/F80 uses two 3V CR123A lithium batteries. Ensure the camera is powered off before installing or replacing batteries.

1. Locate the battery chamber cover on the bottom of the camera body.
2. Slide the cover latch and open the battery chamber.
3. Insert two CR123A batteries according to the polarity indicators (+/-) inside the chamber.
4. Close the battery chamber cover securely until it latches.



Figure 2.1: Correct battery orientation in the N80/F80 battery compartment.

2.2. Attaching a Lens

The N80/F80 uses the Nikon F-mount. Always attach lenses in a clean, dust-free environment.

1. Remove the body cap from the camera and the rear cap from the lens.
2. Align the mounting index (white dot) on the lens with the mounting index on the camera body.
3. Insert the lens into the camera's lens mount and rotate it clockwise until it clicks into place.
4. To remove, press the lens release button on the camera body and rotate the lens counter-clockwise.



Figure 2.2: Aligning the lens mounting index with the camera body index.

2.3. Loading Film

The N80/F80 is designed for 35mm film. Load film in subdued light to prevent accidental exposure.

1. Open the camera back by sliding the back cover release latch downwards.
2. Place the film cartridge into the film chamber on the left side.
3. Pull the film leader across to the red index mark on the take-up spool. Ensure the film perforations engage with the sprocket teeth.
4. Close the camera back firmly until it latches. The camera will automatically advance the film to the first frame.



Figure 2.3: Proper film loading procedure for the N80/F80.

3. OPERATING THE CAMERA

3.1. Exposure Modes

The N80/F80 offers various exposure modes to suit different shooting conditions and creative intentions. Select your desired mode using the mode dial.

- **P (Programmed Auto):** Camera sets both shutter speed and aperture for optimal exposure.
- **S (Shutter-Priority Auto):** You set the shutter speed, camera selects aperture. Ideal for controlling motion blur.
- **A (Aperture-Priority Auto):** You set the aperture, camera selects shutter speed. Ideal for controlling depth of field.
- **M (Manual):** You set both shutter speed and aperture. Provides full creative control.
- **Vari-Program Modes:** Scene-specific modes (e.g., Portrait, Landscape, Close-up, Sports) for simplified operation.

3.2. Metering Modes

The N80/F80 features three metering modes to measure light accurately.

- **Matrix Metering:** Evaluates brightness across the entire frame for balanced exposure in most situations.
- **Center-Weighted Metering:** Prioritizes the central area of the frame, suitable for portraits.
- **Spot Metering:** Measures a small area around the active focus point, ideal for precise exposure control in high-contrast scenes.

3.3. Autofocus System

The camera's autofocus system offers various modes and area selections.

- **AF-S (Single-Servo AF):** For stationary subjects. Focus locks when the shutter release button is pressed halfway.
- **AF-C (Continuous-Servo AF):** For moving subjects. Camera continuously focuses as long as the shutter release button is pressed halfway.
- **Dynamic AF:** Available in AF-C mode, the camera tracks subjects even if they briefly move from the selected focus area.

Use the focus area selector to choose between single-point AF or dynamic-area AF.

3.4. Exposure Compensation and Bracketing

Adjust exposure manually or automatically for challenging lighting.

- **Exposure Compensation:** Use the +/- button and command dial to lighten or darken images.
- **Auto Exposure Bracketing (AEB):** The camera takes a series of shots at different exposures (e.g., underexposed, normal, overexposed) to ensure one correctly exposed image.

3.5. Flash Photography

The N80/F80 supports various flash modes with compatible Nikon Speedlights.

- **Slow Sync:** Combines flash with slow shutter speeds to illuminate both the subject and background in low light.
- **Rear-Curtain Sync:** Fires the flash just before the second curtain closes, creating natural-looking light trails behind moving subjects.



Figure 3.5: Nikon N80/F80 with an external Speedlight attached.

4. CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Proper care ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Nikon N80/F80 camera.

- **Cleaning the Camera Body:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe the camera body. For stubborn dirt, slightly dampen the cloth with water or a mild cleaning solution. Avoid harsh chemicals.
- **Cleaning Lenses:** Use a lens brush or blower to remove dust. For smudges, use a specialized lens cleaning solution and a microfiber cloth. Never touch the lens surface with your fingers.
- **Battery Care:** Remove batteries if the camera will not be used for an extended period to prevent leakage. Store batteries in a cool, dry place.
- **Storage:** Store the camera in a dry, well-ventilated area, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. Use desiccant packets in humid environments.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your N80/F80.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Camera does not power on.	Dead or incorrectly installed batteries.	Check battery orientation. Replace with fresh batteries.
Film does not advance.	Film not loaded correctly; film leader not engaged.	Open camera back in subdued light, re-load film ensuring leader is on take-up spool.
Autofocus not working.	Subject too close or too dark; AF mode incorrect.	Ensure subject is within focus range. Switch to manual focus if necessary. Check AF mode selection.
Images are consistently too dark/light.	Incorrect exposure compensation or metering mode.	Adjust exposure compensation. Select an appropriate metering mode for the scene.

6. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Key technical specifications for the Nikon N80/F80 camera.

- **Camera Type:** 35mm SLR (Single-Lens Reflex)
- **Lens Mount:** Nikon F-mount (with AF coupling and AF contacts)
- **Film Type:** 35mm DX-coded film (ISO 25-5000)
- **Autofocus System:** Nikon Multi-CAM900 autofocus module with 5 focus areas
- **Metering System:** 3D Matrix Metering, Center-Weighted, Spot Metering
- **Shutter Speed:** 30 to 1/4000 sec, Bulb
- **Flash Sync Speed:** Up to 1/125 sec
- **Exposure Modes:** Programmed Auto (P), Shutter-Priority Auto (S), Aperture-Priority Auto (A), Manual (M), Vari-Program (5 modes)
- **Film Advance:** Automatic, up to 2.5 frames per second
- **Power Source:** Two 3V CR123A lithium batteries
- **Dimensions (W x H x D):** Approximately 141.5 x 103 x 71 mm (5.6 x 4.1 x 2.8 in.)
- **Weight:** Approximately 575 g (20.3 oz) without batteries and lens

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding warranty coverage, service, and technical support for your Nikon N80/F80 camera, please refer to the official Nikon website or contact an authorized Nikon service center in your region. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty claims.

Note: This manual is a general guide. Specific warranty terms may vary by region and retailer.