

Nikon FA

Nikon FA SLR Film Camera User Manual

Model: FA

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the proper use, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your Nikon FA 35mm SLR Film Camera. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating the camera to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Nikon FA is an advanced 35mm Single-Lens Reflex (SLR) film camera, renowned for its innovative Automatic Multi-Pattern (AMP) metering system. It offers both automatic and manual exposure control, making it suitable for a wide range of photographic applications.



Figure 1: Front-right view of the Nikon FA camera body. This view highlights the lens mount, the "FA" model designation, and the "Nikon" brand name on the prism housing. Various control dials are visible on the top plate.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

Upon unboxing, please verify that all the following items are included:

- Nikon FA 35mm Film Camera Body
- Original User Manual
- Original Packaging (including styrofoam inserts)
- (Note: Lens is not included with the camera body)

SETUP

1. Battery Installation

The Nikon FA requires batteries to power its metering system and electronic shutter. Locate the battery compartment, typically on the bottom of the camera. Insert fresh batteries, ensuring correct polarity as indicated inside the compartment.



Figure 2: Bottom view of the Nikon FA camera. This image shows the battery compartment cover and the tripod mounting thread.

2. Lens Attachment (if applicable)

Align the red dot on the lens with the red dot on the camera's lens mount. Gently twist the lens clockwise until it clicks into place. To remove, press the lens release button and twist counter-clockwise.

3. Loading Film

1. Open the camera back by pulling up the film rewind knob.
2. Place a 35mm film cassette into the film chamber.
3. Pull the film leader across to the take-up spool and insert it into one of the slots.
4. Advance the film slightly using the film advance lever to ensure it catches on the sprockets.
5. Close the camera back firmly.
6. Advance the film two frames, pressing the shutter release button after each advance, until the frame counter shows '1'.



Figure 3: Rear view of the Nikon FA camera with the film door open. This view illustrates the film chamber on the left and the film take-up spool on the right, ready for film loading.

4. Setting Film Speed (ISO/ASA)

Rotate the ISO/ASA dial on the top plate to match the speed of the film you are using. This setting is crucial for accurate exposure metering.



Figure 4: Top view of the Nikon FA camera. This perspective highlights the ASA/ISO dial on the left and the shutter speed dial on the right, both essential for exposure control.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Exposure Modes

The Nikon FA offers several exposure modes:

- **Programmed Auto (P):** The camera automatically sets both aperture and shutter speed for optimal exposure.
- **Shutter-Priority Auto (S):** You set the shutter speed, and the camera selects the appropriate aperture.
- **Aperture-Priority Auto (A):** You set the aperture, and the camera selects the appropriate shutter speed.
- **Manual (M):** You set both aperture and shutter speed independently.

Focusing

Look through the viewfinder and rotate the focusing ring on your lens until the image appears sharp. The FA's focusing screen includes a split-image rangefinder and microprism collar for precise manual focusing.

Taking a Picture

1. Set the desired exposure mode.

- 2. Frame your shot through the viewfinder.
- 3. Focus the lens.
- 4. Lightly press the shutter release button halfway to activate the meter and confirm exposure settings in the viewfinder.
- 5. Press the shutter release button fully to take the picture.
- 6. Advance the film using the film advance lever for the next shot.



Figure 5: Rear-top view of the Nikon FA camera. This image displays the viewfinder eyepiece and the film advance lever, key components for composing and capturing images.

MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and performance of your Nikon FA camera.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, lint-free cloth to wipe the camera body. For the lens and viewfinder, use a specialized lens cleaning solution and cloth. Avoid touching optical surfaces with bare hands.
- **Storage:** Store the camera in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. If storing for extended periods, remove the batteries to prevent leakage.
- **Handling:** Always handle the camera with care. Avoid dropping or subjecting it to strong impacts.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Camera does not power on	Dead or incorrectly installed batteries.	Replace batteries with fresh ones, ensuring correct polarity.
Shutter does not fire	Film not advanced; camera in self-timer mode; low battery.	Advance film; check self-timer setting; replace batteries.
Film advance lever is stuck	Film is at the end of the roll; film is improperly loaded.	Rewind and unload film; re-load film correctly.
Images are too dark/light	Incorrect exposure settings (aperture, shutter speed, ISO); faulty metering.	Verify ISO setting matches film; adjust exposure settings; if problem persists, seek professional service.

SPECIFICATIONS

- **Model Name:** FA
- **Film Format Type:** 35mm
- **Exposure Control Type:** Manual, Programmed Auto, Shutter-Priority Auto, Aperture-Priority Auto
- **Viewfinder Magnification:** 0.9x
- **Item Weight:** 16 ounces (approx. 453g)
- **Package Dimensions:** 7 x 4.2 x 3.4 inches (approx. 17.8 x 10.7 x 8.6 cm)
- **Manufacturer:** Nikon
- **Date First Available:** February 2, 2011

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

This product is a vintage item. Specific warranty information may vary depending on the seller and purchase date. Please refer to your purchase documentation for details regarding any applicable warranty.

For technical support or service inquiries, it is recommended to contact a reputable camera repair specialist or refer to online resources for vintage Nikon cameras.

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ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page’s manual context to help answer it.

Name

Anonymous

Email

you@example.com

After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. [Privacy details](#).

Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question