

Nikon F2 Photomic

Nikon F2 Photomic 35mm SLR Film Camera Instruction Manual

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the Nikon F2 Photomic 35mm SLR Film Camera. The Nikon F2 is a robust mechanical camera designed for professional use, featuring interchangeable viewfinders and a durable construction. This specific model includes the Nikkor-H Auto 50mm f/2 Lens and a working Photomic DP-1 Viewfinder, which incorporates a light meter for accurate exposure readings. Familiarize yourself with the camera's components and functions to ensure optimal performance.

PRODUCT COMPONENTS

The Nikon F2 Photomic camera package typically includes the following items:

- Nikon F2 Camera Body
- Nikkor-H Auto 50mm f/2 Lens
- Photomic DP-1 Viewfinder (with working light meter)
- Body Cap
- Vintage Camera Strap
- Fresh Batteries (for the Photomic Viewfinder)

SETUP

1. Battery Installation for Photomic Viewfinder

The Nikon F2 camera body operates mechanically and does not require batteries for basic function. However, the Photomic DP-1 Viewfinder requires batteries to power its built-in light meter. Fresh batteries are included with this package.

1. Locate the battery compartment on the Photomic DP-1 Viewfinder.
2. Open the compartment cover.
3. Insert the fresh batteries, ensuring correct polarity.
4. Securely close the battery compartment cover.



Image: Top view of the Nikon F2 Photomic camera, showing the Photomic DP-1 viewfinder and various controls. The viewfinder houses the battery compartment for the light meter.

2. Attaching the Lens

To attach the Nikkor-H Auto 50mm f/2 Lens:

1. Remove the body cap from the camera body and the rear lens cap from the lens.
2. Align the red dot on the lens barrel with the red dot on the camera's lens mount.
3. Insert the lens into the camera body and rotate it clockwise until it clicks into place. Ensure it is securely locked.



Image: Front view of the Nikon F2 Photomic camera body, illustrating the lens mount where the Nikkor-H Auto 50mm f/2 lens is attached.

3. Loading 35mm Film

The Nikon F2 uses standard 35mm film cartridges.

1. Open the camera back by pulling up the film rewind knob until it clicks.
2. Place the film cartridge into the film chamber on the left side of the camera.
3. Pull the film leader across to the take-up spool on the right side and insert the tip into one of the slots.
4. Advance the film slightly using the film advance lever to ensure it catches on the take-up spool's teeth.
5. Close the camera back firmly until it latches.
6. Advance the film two frames (by pressing the shutter release and advancing the lever) to wind past any light-exposed film. The film counter should show '1' after this.



Image: The Nikon F2 Photomic camera with its back open, revealing the film chamber on the left and the take-up spool on the right, ready for film loading.

OPERATING THE CAMERA

1. Setting Film Speed (ISO/ASA)

The film speed (ISO or ASA) must be set on the Photomic DP-1 Viewfinder to ensure accurate light meter readings. This setting is usually located on a dial on the viewfinder.

1. Refer to your film packaging for the correct ISO/ASA rating.
2. Rotate the ASA/ISO dial on the Photomic DP-1 Viewfinder to match the film speed.



Image: A detailed view of the Nikon F2 Photomic's top plate, highlighting the ASA dial on the Photomic DP-1 viewfinder, used for setting film sensitivity.

2. Metering and Exposure Settings

The Photomic DP-1 Viewfinder features a center-weighted light meter. This meter measures the light primarily from the center of the frame, with less emphasis on the edges.

1. Look through the viewfinder. You will see a needle or indicator that shows the exposure level.
2. Adjust the shutter speed dial on the camera body and/or the aperture ring on the lens until the meter indicator is centered, indicating correct exposure.
3. The shutter speed dial is located on the top right of the camera body. The aperture ring is on the lens barrel.



Image: A close-up of the Photomic DP-1 viewfinder and the shutter speed dial on the Nikon F2, essential for setting exposure based on meter readings.

3. Focusing

The Nikkor-H Auto 50mm f/2 Lens requires manual focusing.

1. Look through the viewfinder.
2. Rotate the focusing ring on the lens barrel until your subject appears sharp in the split-image or microprism focusing aid within the viewfinder.

4. Taking a Picture

1. Ensure the camera is wound by advancing the film advance lever.
2. Compose your shot and achieve correct focus and exposure.
3. Gently press the shutter release button located on the top of the camera body.
4. After taking a picture, advance the film advance lever to prepare for the next shot.



Image: A close-up view of the film advance lever and shutter release button on the Nikon F2 Photomic, key controls for capturing images.

5. Rewinding Film

Once all frames on the film roll have been exposed, the film must be rewound back into its cartridge before opening the camera back.

1. Press the film rewind release button on the bottom of the camera.
2. Fold out the crank on the film rewind knob and rotate it clockwise until you feel the tension release, indicating the film is fully rewound into the cartridge.
3. Pull up the film rewind knob to open the camera back and remove the film cartridge.



Image: Bottom view of the Nikon F2 Photomic camera, showing the film rewind release button and the "Made in Japan" engraving.

MAINTENANCE

Cleaning

- **Camera Body:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe the camera body. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth can be used, followed by a dry one. Avoid excessive moisture.
- **Lens:** Use a lens brush or air blower to remove dust. For smudges, use a specialized lens cleaning solution and a microfiber lens cloth. Clean gently in a circular motion from the center outwards. Avoid touching the lens glass with bare fingers.
- **Viewfinder:** Use a soft brush or air blower to clean dust from the viewfinder eyepiece.

Storage

- Store the camera in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- If storing for an extended period, remove the batteries from the Photomic Viewfinder to prevent leakage.
- Keep the body cap on the camera when no lens is attached, and use front and rear lens caps when the lens is not in use.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Light meter not working	Dead or incorrectly installed batteries in Photomic Viewfinder.	Check battery polarity; replace with fresh batteries.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Film not advancing	Film not properly loaded onto take-up spool; film advance lever not fully engaged.	Re-load film, ensuring leader is securely attached. Ensure film advance lever is moved fully.
Shutter not firing	Film advance lever not fully wound; self-timer engaged; camera in 'B' or 'T' mode without proper release.	Ensure film is advanced. Check self-timer. Verify shutter speed setting.
Film rewind knob not turning freely	Film rewind release button not pressed.	Press the film rewind release button on the camera bottom before rewinding.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	Nikon
Model Name	F2 Photomic
Model Number	f2
Form Factor	SLR (Single-Lens Reflex)
Film Type	35mm
Lens Mount	Nikon F
Included Lens	Nikkor-H Auto 50mm f/2
Focus Type	Manual Focus
Metering System	Center-Weighted (via Photomic DP-1 Viewfinder)
Shutter Speed Range	1/2000s to 10s (mechanical), 'B' (Bulb), 'T' (Time)
ISO/ASA Range	Adjustable on Photomic Viewfinder (e.g., 6 to 6400 ASA)
Viewfinder	Optical, interchangeable (Photomic DP-1 included)
Power Source	Viewfinder requires batteries (e.g., two 1.5V silver oxide cells)
Weight	Approximately 1.8 Pounds (body only)
Color	Black and Silver
Country of Origin	Japan

WARRANTY INFORMATION

This Nikon F2 Photomic 35mm SLR Film Camera is sold without a manufacturer's warranty. As a vintage item, it is important to understand that support and parts may be limited. Please refer to the seller's return policy for any issues upon receipt.

SUPPORT AND SERVICE

For technical assistance or service inquiries regarding vintage camera equipment like the Nikon F2, it is recommended to consult with specialized camera repair technicians. Many independent repair shops have expertise in servicing classic mechanical cameras. Online forums and communities dedicated to vintage photography can also be valuable resources for advice and troubleshooting.

ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

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