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Nikon FG-20

Nikon FG-20 35mm SLR Film Camera Body Instruction Manual

Model: FG-20 | Brand: Nikon

INTRODUCTION

The Nikon FG-20 is a 35mm SLR film camera body designed for ease of use and versatility. It features a program auto exposure mode and a vertical-travel metal focal-plane shutter with electronically timed speeds from 1 to 1/1000 second, as well as bulb mode and a mechanically timed 1/90-second speed. This camera is compatible with Nikon F mount AI lenses and is powered by two LR44 batteries.

SETUP

Battery Installation

The Nikon FG-20 requires two LR44 batteries for operation. To install or replace batteries:

1. Locate the battery compartment, typically on the bottom or front of the camera body.
2. Use a small coin or screwdriver to open the battery compartment cover.
3. Insert two fresh LR44 batteries, ensuring correct polarity (+/-) as indicated inside the compartment.
4. Securely close the battery compartment cover.

Video: How to load film into a camera. This video demonstrates the general process of loading film into a 35mm camera, which is applicable to the Nikon FG-20.

Film Loading

To load 35mm film into your Nikon FG-20:

1. Open the camera back by pulling up the film rewind knob.
2. Place the film cartridge into the film chamber on the left side.
3. Pull the film leader across to the take-up spool on the right and insert it into one of the slots.
4. Advance the film slightly using the film advance lever to ensure it catches on the take-up spool.
5. Close the camera back firmly until it clicks.
6. Advance the film two frames, pressing the shutter release button each time, until the frame counter shows '1'. This ensures fresh film is ready for exposure.

OPERATING THE CAMERA

Shutter Speed Settings

The Nikon FG-20 offers a range of shutter speeds to control exposure and motion blur:

- Electronically timed speeds: 1 to 1/1000 second.
- Bulb (B) mode: The shutter remains open as long as the shutter release button is pressed, ideal for long exposures.
- Mechanically timed speed: 1/90 second, available even without battery power.

Aperture Control

Aperture is controlled via the lens. The camera supports Nikon F mount AI lenses, allowing for manual aperture selection. The FG-20's program auto exposure mode will automatically select the appropriate shutter speed based on the aperture you set on the lens and the light meter reading.

Metering System

The FG-20 features a center-weighted light metering system. This means the camera prioritizes the light reading from the central area of the frame (approximately 60-70%) for exposure calculation, with the remaining portion coming from the perimeter. This is particularly useful for portraits or subjects positioned in the center of the frame, ensuring they are well-exposed.

Focusing

The camera supports manual focus (MF) with compatible AI lenses. Adjust the focus ring on your lens until your subject appears sharp in the viewfinder.



Image: Front view of the Nikon FG-20 camera body, showcasing the Nikon F mount for AI lenses. The lens mount is visible, ready for an AI lens to be attached.



Image: Top view of the Nikon FG-20 camera body, showing the shutter speed dial, film advance lever, and ISO/ASA setting dial.



Image: Rear view of the Nikon FG-20 camera body, highlighting the viewfinder and the film door latch.

MAINTENANCE

General Care

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Nikon FG-20 camera:

- Keep the camera clean and free from dust and debris. Use a soft, lint-free cloth for cleaning the body.
- Avoid exposing the camera to extreme temperatures, humidity, or direct sunlight for prolonged periods.
- Store the camera in a dry, cool place, preferably in a camera bag or case when not in use.

Lens Cleaning

Use a lens brush or air blower to remove loose dust from the lens surface. For smudges or fingerprints, use a specialized lens cleaning solution and a microfiber cloth, applying gentle circular motions.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Camera Not Powering On

- Check if the batteries are correctly installed with the proper polarity.
- Replace old batteries with fresh LR44 batteries.
- Ensure the camera's power switch (if present) is in the 'ON' position.

Shutter Not Firing

- Verify that the film advance lever has been fully wound.
- Check battery status; a low battery can prevent the electronic shutter from firing.
- If using the 1/90s mechanical speed, ensure it is selected correctly.

Film Not Advancing

- Ensure the film leader is properly engaged with the take-up spool.
- Check if the film is correctly loaded and not jammed.

SPECIFICATIONS

Brand	Nikon
Model Name	FG 35mm
Model Number	FG-20
Compatible Mountings	Nikon F
Photo Sensor Technology	Film
Aspect Ratio	3:2
Maximum Shutter Speed	1/1000 seconds
Minimum Shutter Speed	1/1000 seconds (electronically timed), 1/90 seconds (mechanically timed)
Exposure Control	Automatic (Program Auto Exposure Mode)

Metering Description	Evaluative, Center-weighted
Focus Type	Manual Focus (MF)
Battery Type	LR44 (x2)
Viewfinder	Optical
Color	Black
What's in the Box	Camera Body & Lens

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

This Nikon FG-20 camera body comes with a 90-day limited warranty. For further support or warranty claims, please refer to the seller's contact information or the Amazon Renewed Store.