

This manual is for reference and historical purposes, all rights reserved.
This creation is copyright© by M. Butkus, NJ, U.S.A.
These creations may not be sold or distributed without the expressed permission of the producer
I have no connection with any camera company

On-line camera manual library

If you find this manual useful, how about a donation of \$2 to:
M. Butkus, 29 Lake Ave., High Bridge, NJ 08829-1701
and send your e-mail address so I can thank you.
Most other places would charge you \$7.50 for a electronic copy or
\$18.00 for a hard to read Xerox copy.

This will allow me to continue this site, buy new manuals and pay their shipping costs.

It'll make you feel better, won't it?

If you use Pay Pal, go to my web site

www.orphancameras.com and choose the secure PayPal donation icon.

Nikon

F-401x

AF

AF

QUARTZ DATE

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	4
NOMENCLATURE	5-7

BASIC OPERATION	8-19
MOUNTING THE LENS	8
INSTALLING BATTERIES	9
CHECKING BATTERY POWER	10-11
LOADING FILM	12-13
BASIC SHOOTING	14-17
REWINDING FILM	18-19

FOCUS	20-27
AUTOFOCUS	20-23
With a stationary subject	20
With a moving subject	21
Taking pictures with an off-centre main subject	22
Autofocusing with AF illuminator	23
MANUAL FOCUS WITH ELECTRONIC FOCUSING	
CONFIRMATION	24
MANUAL FOCUS USING CLEAR MATTE FIELD	25
SPECIAL FOCUSING SITUATIONS	26-27

EXPOSURE	28-36
SHUTTER SPEED DIAL AND APERTURE DIAL	28
PROGRAMMED AUTO EXPOSURE MODE -	
AUTO MULTI-PROGRAM	29
SHUTTER-PRIORITY AUTO EXPOSURE MODE	30-31
APERTURE-PRIORITY EXPOSURE MODE	32-33
MANUAL EXPOSURE MODE	34-36
T setting	36

EXPOSURE METERING SYSTEM	37-43
MATRIX METERING	37
CENTRE-WEIGHTED METERING	37
MATRIX METERING VS.	
CENTRE-WEIGHTED METERING	38-41
CENTRE-WEIGHTED METERING FOR	
SPECIAL EXPOSURE SITUATIONS	42-43
AEL (Auto Exposure Lock) button	42
Manual exposure mode	43

SELF-TIMER	44-45
-------------------------	-------

FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY	46-64
AUTOMATIC BALANCED FILL-FLASH	46-47
Matrix Balanced Fill-Flash	47
Centre-Weighted Fill-Flash	47
USING BUILT-IN TTL FLASH	48-61
Notes on selecting aperture	48
Operation in programmed	
auto exposure mode	49-51
Operation in shutter-priority	
auto exposure mode	52-54
Operation in aperture-priority	
auto exposure mode	55-57
Operation in manual exposure mode	58-60
USABLE AF NIKKOR LENSES	61
BUILT-IN TTL FLASH SPECIFICATIONS	62-63
SPEEDLIGHT COMPATIBILITY CHART	64

IMPRINTING DATA

(for F-401x Quartz Date)	65-72
SETTING DATE AND TIME	66-69
IMPRINTING DATA	70-71
REPLACING LITHIUM BATTERY FOR	
DATA IMPRINT FUNCTION	72

LENSES	73-74
ACCESSORY COMPATIBILITY	75
CAMERA CARE TIPS	76-78
NOTES ON BATTERIES	78-79
SPECIFICATIONS	80-83
GLOSSARY	84-86
VIEWFINDER INFORMATION	87

FOREWORD

Thank you for purchasing this Nikon product. We hope you enjoy the Nikon F-401x, and we're sure it will make photography a bigger part of your life.

Get to know your F-401x, but before using it, be sure to read this manual thoroughly.

Nikon cannot be held responsible for malfunction resulting from the use of the camera other than as specified in this manual.

The Nikon autofocus SLR system is designed based on the premise that any of its components, such as the F4 series, F-801s, F-801, F-601, F-401x, F-401s, F-501, AF Nikkor lenses and Nikon accessories will be used integrally, with one another.

AF Nikkor lenses electronically communicate all the necessary information required for perfect operation within current and future Nikon autofocus SLR systems.

Nikon does not assume responsibility if malfunctions or damage occurs to the F-401x when lenses and/or accessories of other makers are used with it. For this reason, we recommend the use of AF Nikkor lenses and Nikon system accessories.

NOMENCLATURE

www.orphancameras.com

Aperture dial

Film rewind button

Frame counter

Dial lock-release button

Self-timer indicator LED

Shutter release button

Shutter speed dial

Handgrip

AEL (Auto Exposure Lock) button

Minimum aperture lock

Aperture scale

Focusing ring

Accessory shoe

Film plane indicator

Self-timer button

Flash lock-release buttons

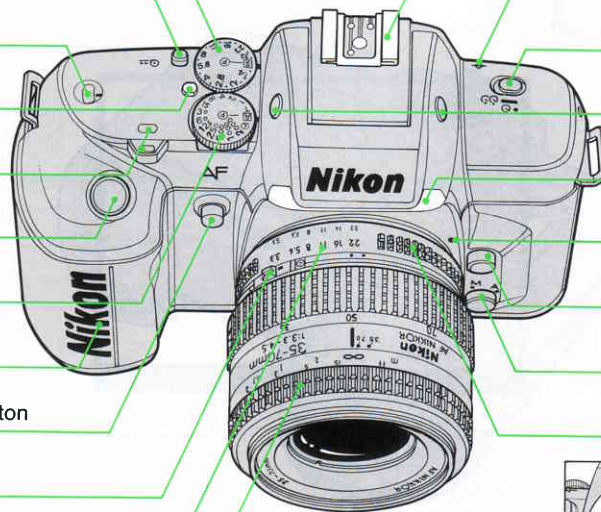
Flash head

Lens mounting index

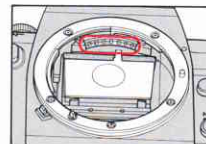
Lens release button

Focus mode selector

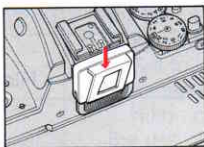
Aperture ring



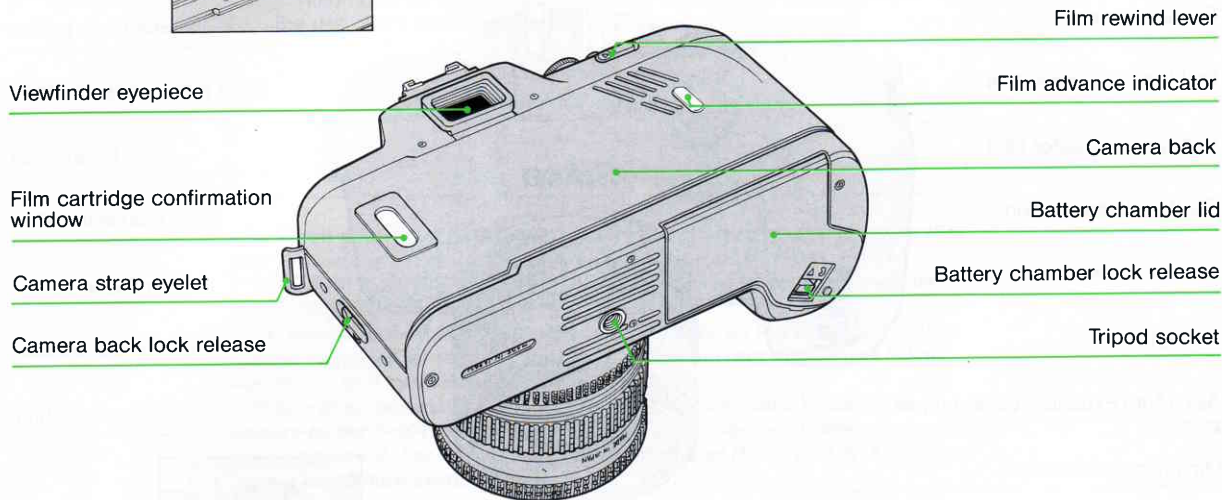
**Lens (AF Zoom-Nikkor
35-70mm f/3.3-4.5)**

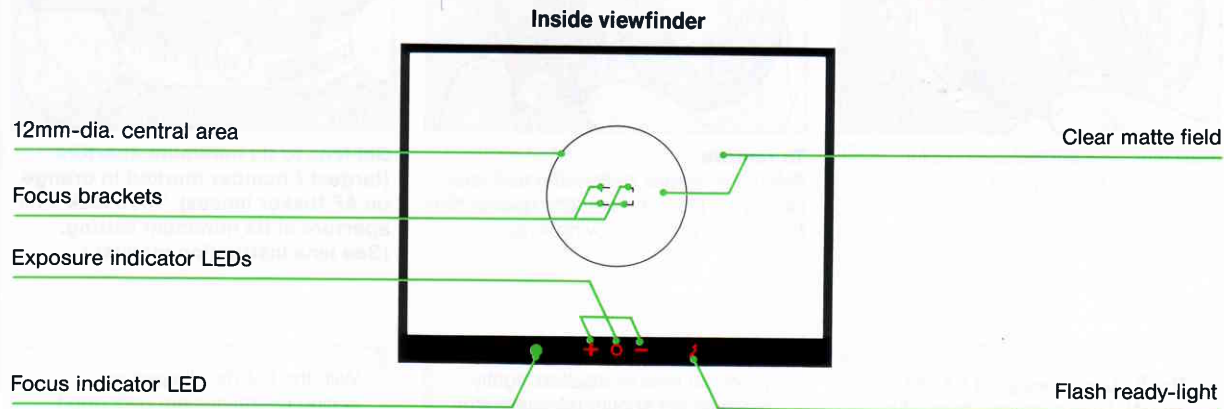


CPU contacts: Do not touch.



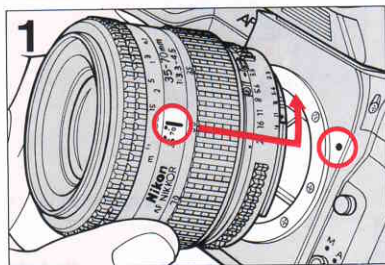
Eyepiece cover DK-5 (provided): Prevents stray light from entering viewfinder.



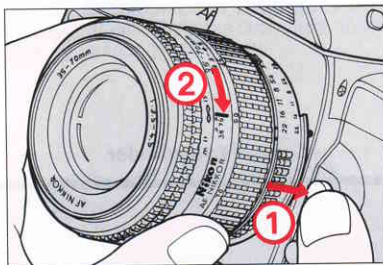


BASIC OPERATION

MOUNTING THE LENS

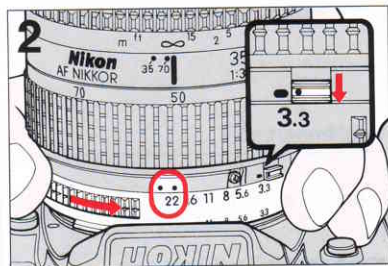


Twist lens counterclockwise until it securely clicks into place.



To remove

Push lens release button and turn lens clockwise. Do not push lens release button except when removing lens.



Set lens to its minimum aperture (largest f-number marked in orange on AF Nikkor lenses). Then lock lens aperture at its minimum setting. (See lens instruction manual.)

The F-401x is designed for use with AF Nikkor lenses, except AF-Nikkor 80mm f/2.8, ED 200mm f/3.5 IF, and Autofocus Converter TC-16/TC-16A. For limited use of non-AF Nikkor lenses, see pages 73 to 74.

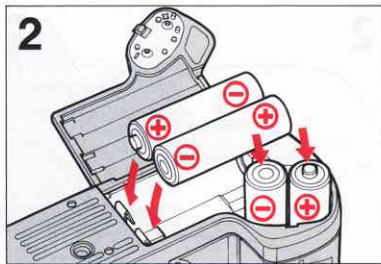
When no lens is attached, lightly pressing the shutter release button in programmed auto, shutter-priority auto or aperture-priority-auto exposure mode causes shutter to lock and self-timer LED to start blinking.

With the F-401x, all aperture setting operations are performed using the aperture dial on the camera body. Do not move lens' aperture ring once it is set to its smallest aperture (largest f-number).

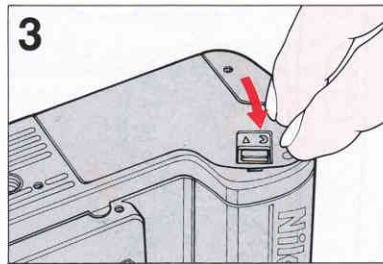
INSTALLING BATTERIES



1
Open the battery chamber lid by sliding the lock release.



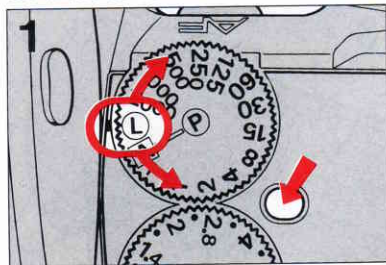
2
Install four fresh AA-type batteries with "+" ends positioned as shown inside the battery chamber.



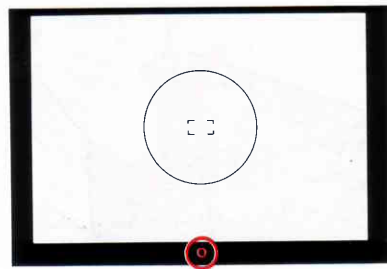
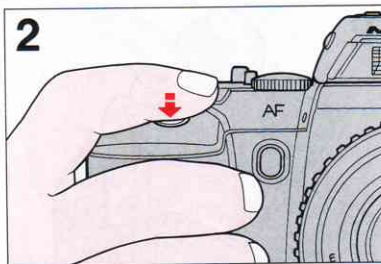
3
Close the battery chamber lid.

Batteries with a "+" terminal exceeding 6mm in diameter cannot be used.

CHECKING BATTERY POWER

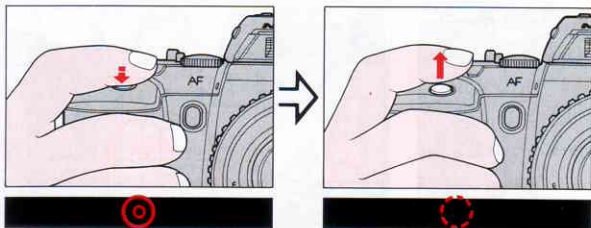


To turn the camera power on, rotate the shutter speed dial from L to another setting while pressing the dial lock-release button.

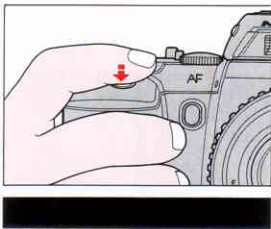


Lightly press shutter release button and check viewfinder exposure indicator LED(s) (+, ○ and/or -) to make sure battery power is sufficient. Exposure indicator LED(s) lights up or blinks if power is sufficient, and stays on approx. 8 sec. after you take your finger off the button.

When not using the camera, be sure to set the shutter dial to L, to turn off power and conserve battery power.



If LED goes off approx. 2 sec. after finger is removed from button, batteries need replacement.



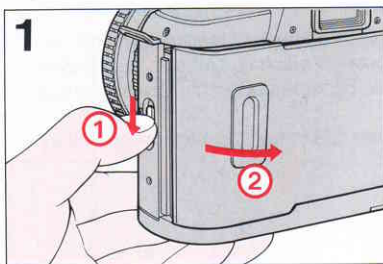
No LED, and shutter locks. Check battery installation or change batteries.

Battery power can also be checked by film-advance speed, operation speed of autofocus lens or flash recycling time. When these become noticeably slower, change batteries.

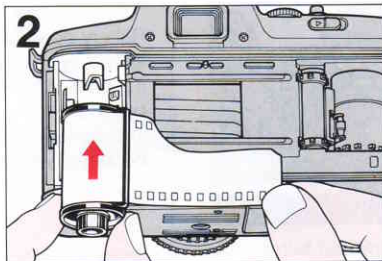
The self-timer indicator LED may also blink when battery becomes weaker.

The microcomputer in the F-401x may turn the camera off, even when batteries with sufficient power are properly installed. To start or resume operation, remove batteries and install again.

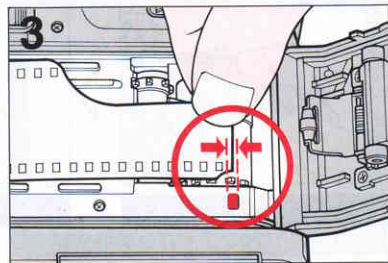
LOADING FILM



Slide down camera back lock release to open camera back.

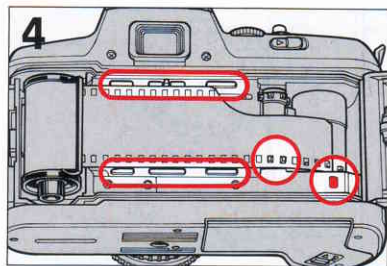


Insert film cartridge.

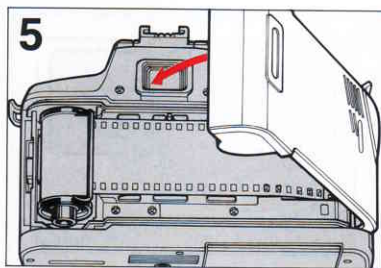


Pull film leader out to red index mark.

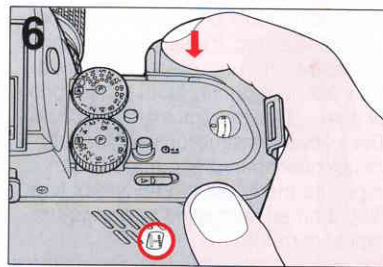
- Use only DX-coded film.
- Usable film speed range for DX-coded film is ISO 25 to 5000.
- All non-DX-coded films are automatically set to ISO 100.
- Avoid loading/unloading in direct sunlight.



Check to make sure film is positioned properly, with no slack.

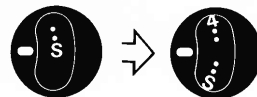
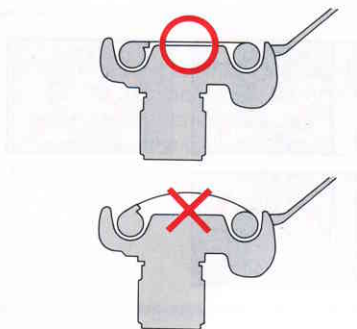


Close camera back and confirm lock-release snaps closed.



Fully depress shutter release button to automatically advance film to frame "1." Observe film advance indicator rotation to confirm proper film installation and transport.

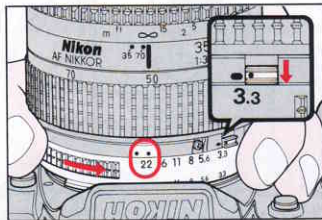
● If film is not correctly installed, the self-timer indicator LED blinks. Set the shutter speed dial to L, then reset the dial to another setting while pressing the dial lock-release button. The self-timer indicator LED will disappear. Reload the film.



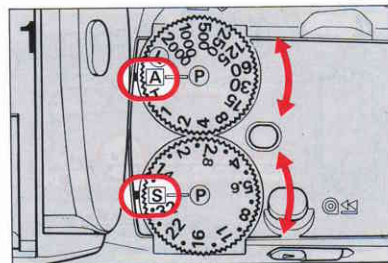
BASIC SHOOTING

The Nikon F-401x offers both auto and manual focusing. It also gives you three auto exposure modes — programmed auto, aperture-priority auto, shutter-priority auto — plus manual exposure control. The following instructions are for auto-focus shooting in programmed auto exposure mode with an AF Nikkor lens. Programmed auto is the easiest-to-use exposure mode.

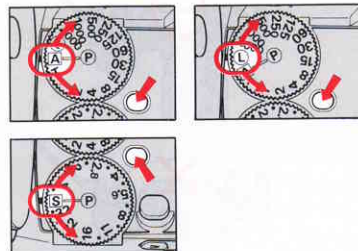
For details about other focusing methods and exposure modes, see pages 20 to 27 and 28 to 36, respectively.



Confirm lens is set to smallest aperture (largest f-number); if lens is incorrectly set, the shutter release locks and + and - LEDs blink alternately inside the viewfinder. The self-timer indicator LED will also blink.



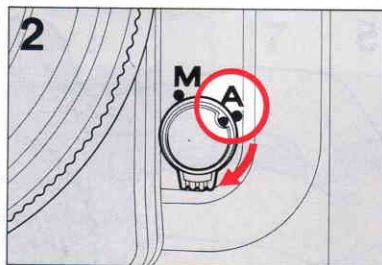
Set shutter speed dial to A, and aperture dial to S.



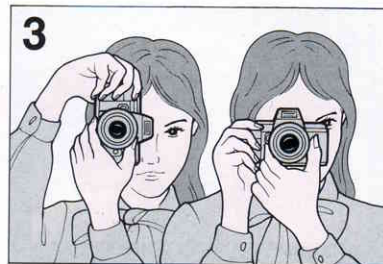


When both A and S are set, programmed auto mode is in operation.

The shutter dial locks at the A or L position, and the aperture dial locks at the S position. To release them, rotate the shutter or aperture dial while pressing the dial lock-release button.



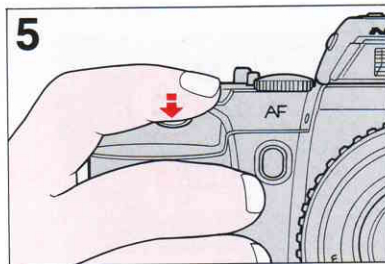
Set focus mode selector to A (autofocus). If the lens in use has an A-M switch, set the switch to A.



Aim camera at the subject.



Position the viewfinder focus brackets (C) on the main subject.



Lightly press the shutter release button.



Confirm the green focus indicator LED ● and the red exposure indicator LED ○ light up.

- If focus indicator LED ● blinks, see pages 26 to 27.
- If subject moves, remove your finger from shutter release button, then lightly press again to start autofocus with focus tracking.
- For details about autofocus, see pages 20 to 23.

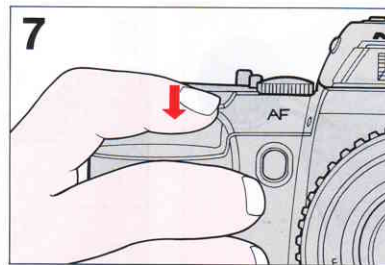
○ **blinks** **Picture blur possibility (shutter speed is 1/[focal length] sec. or slower).**
Use tripod to avoid camera shake, or use built-in TTL flash or accessory Nikon speedlight to synchronise shutter speed at 1/125 sec.

+ **lights up** ***Overexposure warning.**
Too bright — very rare condition; use film with lower ISO speed.

— **lights up** ***Underexposure warning.**
Too dark — use built-in TTL flash or accessory Nikon speedlight.

⚡ **blinks** Use built-in TTL flash or accessory Nikon speedlight. See pages 46 to 64.

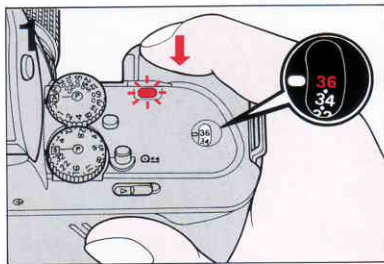
**Shutter is locked.*



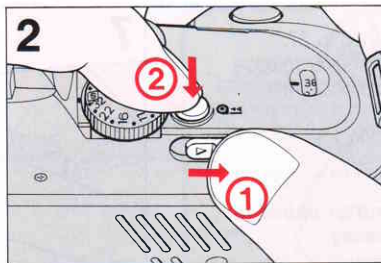
Fully depress shutter release button to take picture. This automatically advances film by one frame.

- Upon shutter release, the exposure indicator LED(s) turns off approx. 2 sec. after you remove your finger from the button.
- If camera detects abnormality during film advance (when film is loaded), the self-timer indicator LED blinks for a few seconds. If this happens, set the shutter speed dial to L (lock), then proceed as usual.

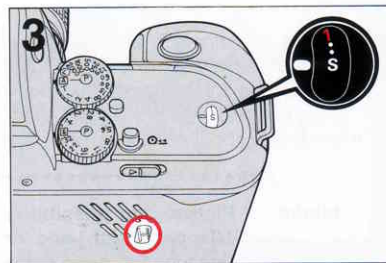
REWINDING FILM



The film advance stops automatically at the end of the roll. Then, the self-timer indicator LED blinks for a few seconds and the shutter locks.

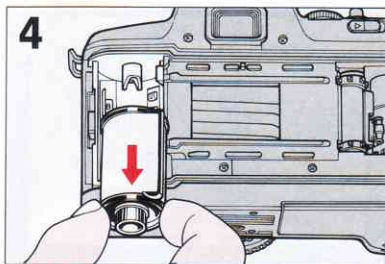


While sliding film rewind lever, push the film rewind button.



After rewinding stops, confirm film frame counter has returned to "S" and the self-timer indicator LED blinks (stops after approx. 2 seconds.)

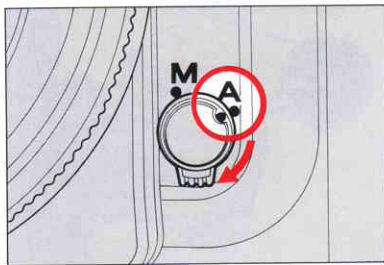
If you do not rewind the film when you come to the end of the roll, each time the shutter release button is depressed, the self-timer indicator LED blinks for a few seconds to remind you to rewind it.



Open camera back and remove film cartridge.

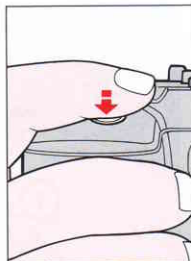
FOCUS

AUTOFOCUS



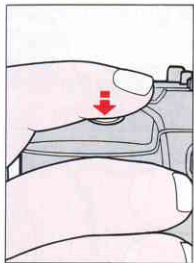
In autofocus mode, the shutter cannot be released until the subject is correctly focused, and once in focus, the focus is locked as long as the shutter release button remains lightly pressed.

If subject is moving, focus tracking works automatically. The focus tracking system enables the camera to analyse the speed of the moving subject according to focus detection data, and drive the autofocus lens by anticipating the position at the exact moment of exposure. So you can get correctly in-focus-pictures for most moving subjects, as well as stationary subjects.



With a stationary subject

When subject is in focus, autofocus stops and ● appears. Once subject is in focus, focus is locked. If subject moves, remove your finger from shutter release button, then lightly press it again to start autofocus with focus tracking.

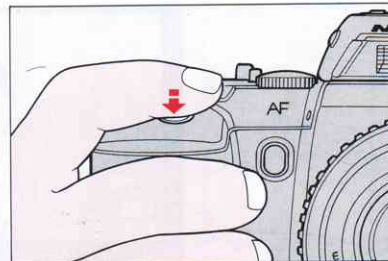


With a moving subject

Focus tracking is automatically activated when you lightly press the shutter release button, as the lens is being driven. As soon as in-focus image is expected, ● appears, indicating that you can release shutter. If subject stops, focus is locked. If subject moves again, remove your finger from the shutter release button and lightly press it again to start autofocus with focus tracking.

With a moving subject, depending on subject status and lens in use, slightly-out-of-focus picture may result.

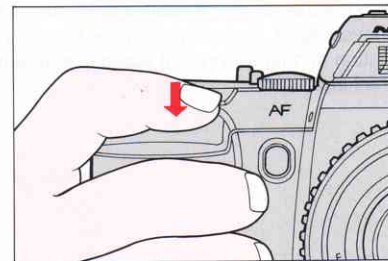
Taking pictures with an off-centre main subject



1. Centre the focus brackets on the subject and lightly press the shutter release button.



2. Confirm the focus indicator LED lights up.

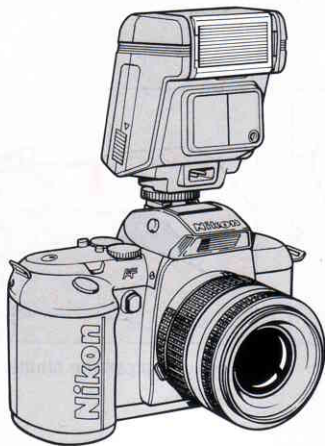


3. Keeping the shutter release button lightly pressed, recompose and fully depress the shutter release button.

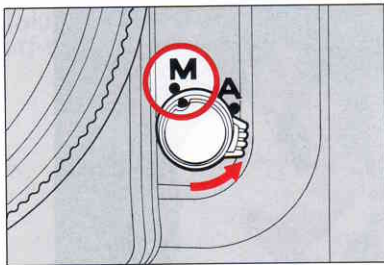
Autofocusing with AF illuminator

If existing light is insufficient for autofocus operation:

1. Mount Nikon Autofocus Speedlight SB-24/SB-23/SB-22/SB-20 on the accessory shoe of the F-401x.
2. Lightly press the shutter release button.
3. The speedlight's AF illuminator lights up to start autofocus operation. For details, see speedlight instruction manual.



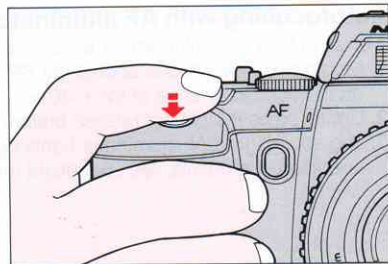
MANUAL FOCUS WITH ELECTRONIC FOCUSING CONFIRMATION



1. Set focus mode selector to M (manual). If the lens in use has an A-M switch, set the switch to M.



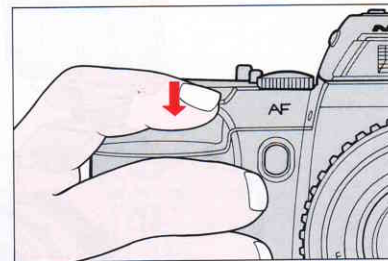
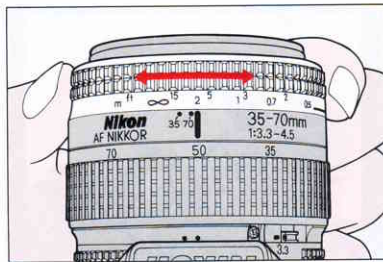
2. Look inside viewfinder and centre the focus brackets on the main subject.



3. Lightly press the shutter release button.

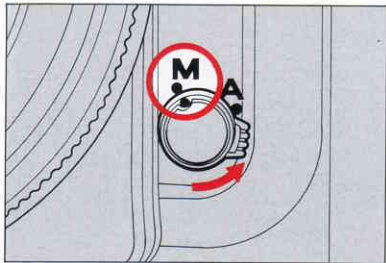


4. Keeping the shutter release button lightly pressed, watch the focus indicator LED in the viewfinder and rotate the lens focusing ring manually until the focus indicator LED lights up.



5. Fully depress the shutter release button.

MANUAL FOCUS USING CLEAR MATTE FIELD



1. Set the focus mode selector to M (manual).



2. Focus subject using the clear matte field.

