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Nikon

FR3

high-eyepoint

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

NOMENCLATURE

① Shutter-speed dial locking button

② Depth-of-field preview button

③ Mirror lockup lever

④ Neckstrap eyelet

⑤ Self-timer LED

⑥ Backup mechanical release lever

⑦ Exposure memory lock button

⑧ Lens mounting flange

⑨ Reflex mirror

ADR window ⑭

Film rewind knob ⑮

ASA/ISO film speed/
Exposure compensation dial ⑯

Sync terminal ⑰

Lens mounting index ⑱

Lens release button ⑲

Meter coupling lever
release button ⑳

Meter coupling lever ㉑

Viewfinder illuminator ㉒

⑩ Motor drive coupling

⑪ Motor drive
positioning hole

⑫ Film rewind button

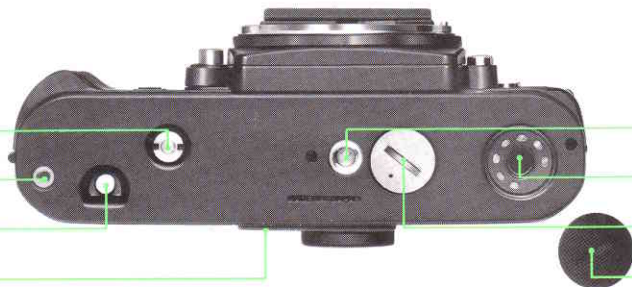
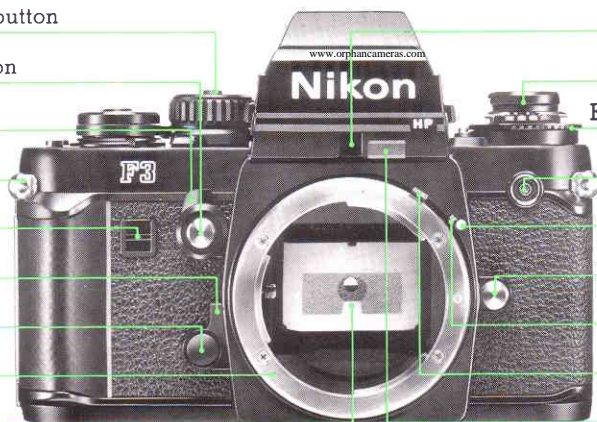
⑬ Memo holder

Tripod/Motor drive
coupling socket ㉓

Motor drive
electrical contacts ㉔

Battery chamber lid ㉕

Motor drive
coupling cover ㉖



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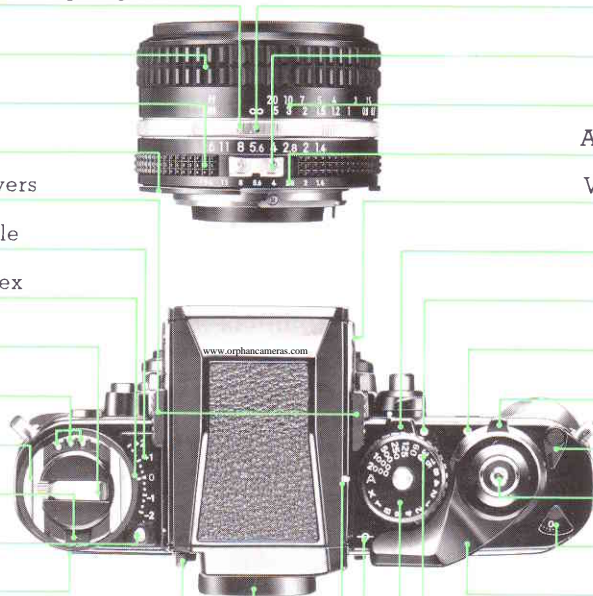
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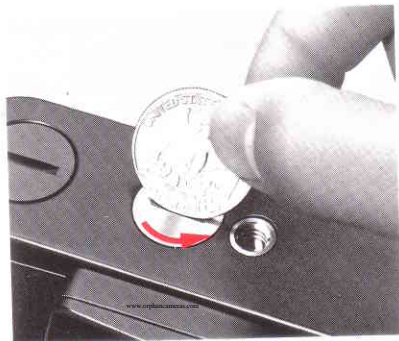
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Congratulations! You now own one of the most advanced and easy-to-use cameras on the market today. With a wealth of exciting features, the Nikon F3 High-Eyepoint camera is designed to be as up-to-date as you are in your approach to photography.

This model of the Nikon F3 features a special eye-level finder which allows you to see the entire viewfinder image, including all exposure information, with your eye located up to 25mm (approx. one inch) away from the eyepiece. That means if you wear glasses or shoot in high-glare situations requiring the use of sunglasses, you can still see everything comfortably without having to press your glasses tightly against the eyepiece and risk scratching the delicate lenses or damaging the frames. And even if you don't wear glasses, the Nikon F3 High-Eyepoint camera is very useful when shooting candid or sports because you can bring the camera quickly up to your eye and focus without your eye being directly behind the eyepiece.

Before actually taking pictures with the F3 High-Eyepoint camera, you should familiarize yourself with its basic operation as presented in the first section. For more detailed explanations and special picture-taking situations, refer to the second section, "Controls in Detail." A few minutes wisely invested now will pay off later in years of rewarding photographic experiences.

BASIC OPERATION



1. Remove the battery chamber lid.

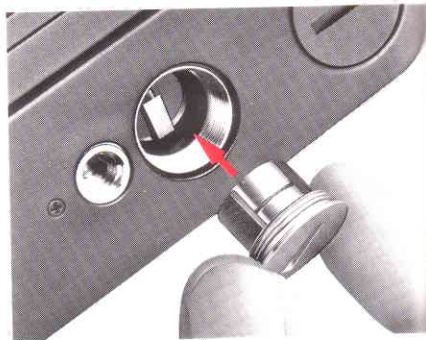
Use a coin to twist the lid counter-clockwise to unscrew it.



2. Install the batteries.

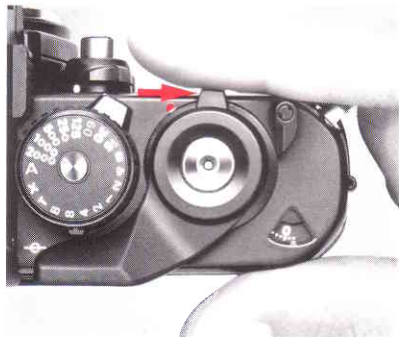
Insert the two 1.55V silver-oxide batteries or one 3V lithium battery supplied with the camera, making sure that the "+" signs are up.

Caution: Keep batteries away from infants and small children. In case a battery is accidentally swallowed, call a doctor immediately as the material inside the batteries can cause serious problems.



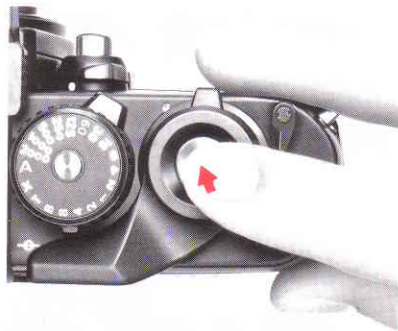
3. Replace the battery chamber lid.

Slip the battery clip back into the camera body and screw it tightly into place.



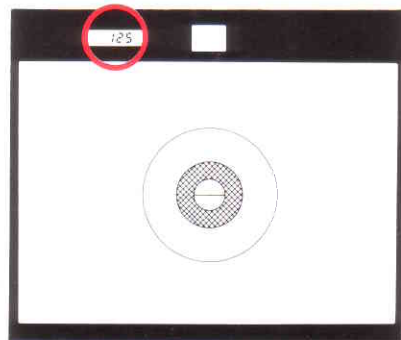
4. Move the power switch ④ to uncover the red dot ⑤.

This makes the camera ready for exposure reading and shooting.



5. Touch the shutter release button ⑤ lightly.

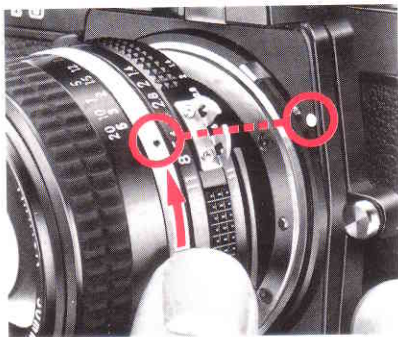
This activates the exposure meter. The meter stays on for 16 seconds after you take your finger off the button and turns itself off automatically to conserve battery power.



6. Check battery power.

Look through the viewfinder ④ at the liquid crystal display (LCD). The shutter speed should be displayed to show that the batteries have been properly installed and their power is adequate. If not, replace both batteries.

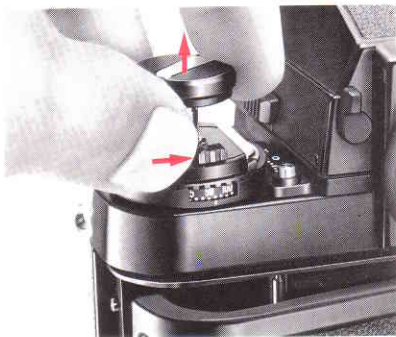
BASIC OPERATION—continued



7. Mount the lens onto the camera.

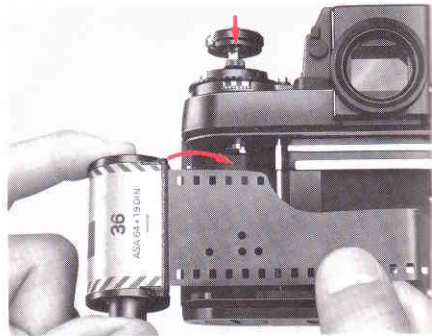
Grasp the lens by its mounting ring (27). Then line up the focusing index (43) on the lens with the white dot (18) on the camera body and twist the lens counterclockwise until it clicks into place.

To remove: Push the lens release button (19) and turn the lens clockwise until it comes off.



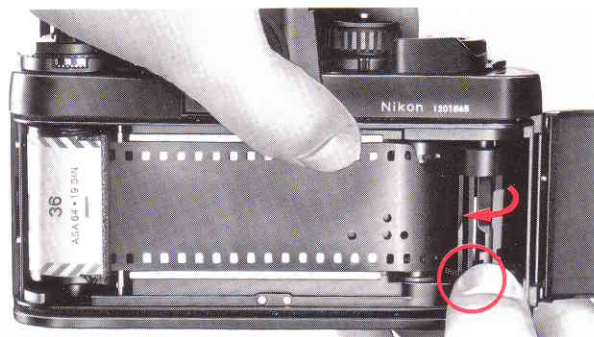
8. Open the camera back.

Push the camera back lock lever (37) to the right with your thumb while lifting the film rewind knob (15). The camera back will pop open.



9. Install the film cartridge.

Drop the film cartridge into the film cartridge chamber so that the film leader points towards the takeup spool, and push the rewind knob back down into place.



10. Insert the film leader in the takeup spool.

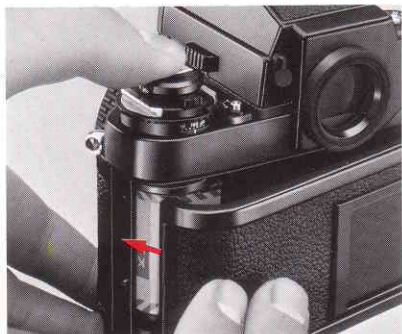
Pull the leader across the camera and insert it into one of the slots in the film takeup spool.

Note: The two data back contacts located inside the camera below the film guide rails are for use with the Nikon Data Back MF-14.



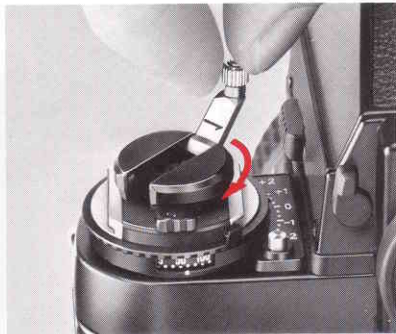
11. Wind the film advance lever 55 to advance film onto the takeup spool.

Wind the film advance lever and depress the shutter release button until the film sprockets engage the perforations on the edges of the film.



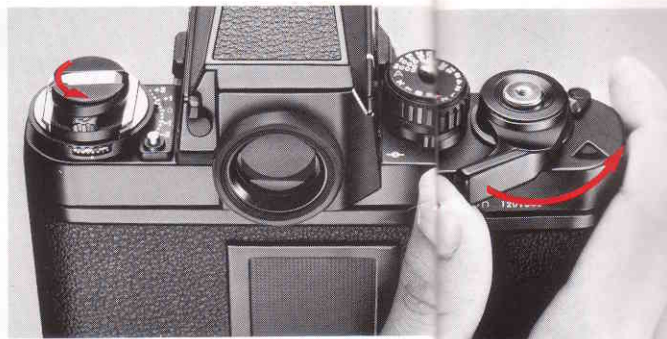
12. Close the camera back.

Close the camera back until it snaps shut.



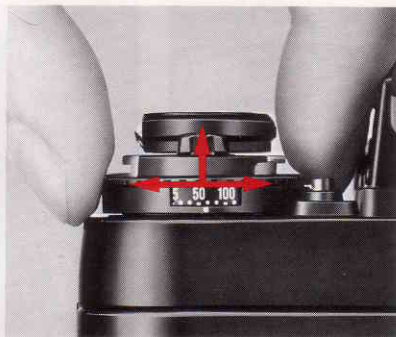
13. Take up the film slack.

Fold out the film rewind crank ³⁴ and rotate it in the direction of the arrow until it stops. Then fold the crank back in.



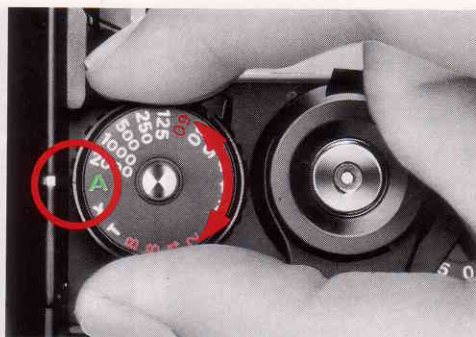
14. Make blank exposures until the frame counter ⁵⁴ shows "1."

Continue to wind the film advance lever and depress the shutter release button until the frame counter shows "1." While making blank exposures, watch the rewind knob to see that it rotates. This indicates that the film has been loaded correctly and is being advanced.



15. Set the ASA/ISO film speed.

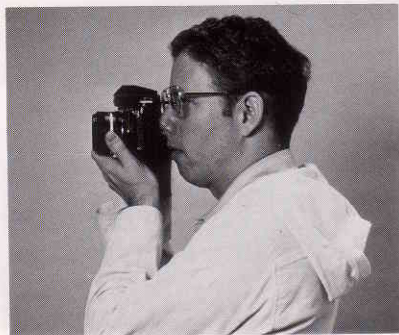
Lift up the ASA/ISO film speed dial ⑮ and rotate it in either direction until the white dot is opposite the ASA/ISO film speed in use. Also make sure the exposure compensation dial is set to the red "0." This programs the camera's exposure meter so that it may provide a proper exposure for the type of film being used.



16. Set the camera for automatic operation.

Rotate the shutter speed dial ⑯ until the "A" is opposite the white dot ⑭. The built-in locking mechanism ensures that the dial cannot be accidentally shifted from the auto position during shooting.

BASIC OPERATION—continued



17. Hold the camera steady.

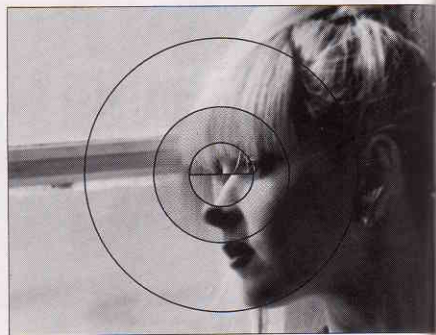
Wrap the fingers of your right hand around the camera body so that the index finger rests comfortably on the shutter release button and the thumb fits between the body and film advance lever. Then, cradle the camera in the left hand with the thumb and fingers grasping the lens focusing ring (28). The camera may be switched from horizontal- to vertical-format shooting in this position. Even with your eye located up to 25mm (approx. one inch) away from the eyepiece, you can still see the entire viewfinder image, including all exposure information.



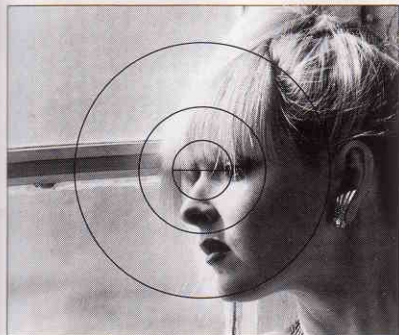
18. Focus on the subject.

Turn the lens focusing ring until the image in the viewfinder becomes sharp.

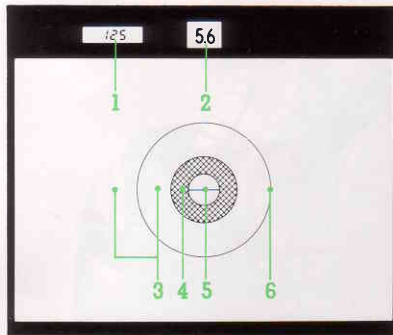
The K focusing screen comes with the camera as standard equipment. With the split-image rangefinder, turn the ring until the split image becomes whole. With the microprism grid, turn the ring until the shimmering image appears sharp. With the matte outer field, turn the ring until the image appears sharp. The split-image rangefinder works well for subjects having definite lines or boundaries. The microprism collar is for fast-moving subjects or ones with indistinct lines, while the matte outer field is suitable for close-ups. In fast-moving or candid shooting situations, you can measure or estimate the distance between you and the subject and preset it on the lens using the distance scale (45) engraved both in feet and meters.



Out of focus



— In focus —



— Inside the viewfinder —

1. LCD exposure information
2. ADR f/number
3. Fine matte/Fresnel outer field
4. Microprism collar
5. Split-image rangefinder spot
6. 12mm ϕ reference circle

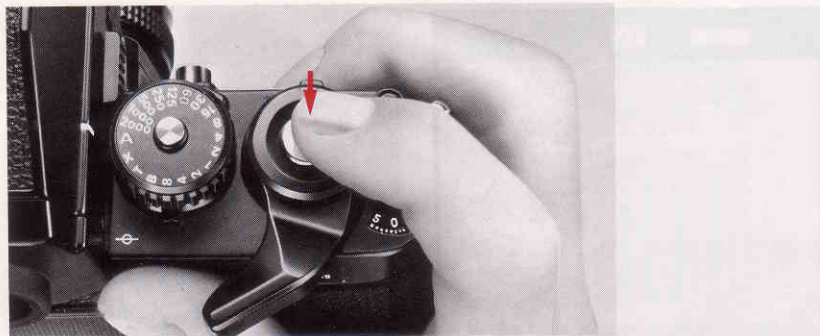
Note: The meter reads the light over the entire focusing screen but is distinctly biased toward the central 12mm ϕ area.



19. Set the lens aperture.

Turn the lens aperture ring ⑲ until the desired f/number is opposite the index mark on the lens. The selected f/number appears in the viewfinder for convenient reference.

BASIC OPERATION—continued



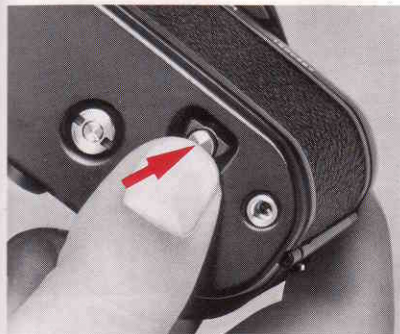
20. Take the picture.

Look through the viewfinder and press the shutter release button lightly to turn on the exposure meter. The shutter speed display indicates the shutter speed selected by the camera. As long as neither $+2000$ nor -8 appears in the shutter speed display, the camera gives the correct exposure. If either indication should appear, adjust the aperture ring on the lens until a desirable shutter speed is indicated. Should either indication appear even after all possible lens apertures have been tried, then the available light is too bright or too dim for the meter's range. Use either artificial light to increase the subject's brightness or a neutral density filter to reduce the amount of light reaching the film.



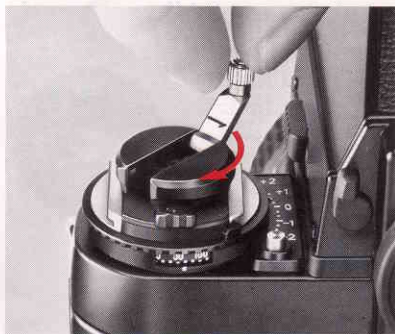
21. Advance the film.

Stroke the film advance lever to transport the film to the next frame and get the camera ready for the next shot.



22. Push in the rewind button ⑫.

After the last exposure has been made, the film advance lever will stop working. You must then rewind the exposed film back into its cartridge. To do this, first turn the camera upside down and depress the rewind button to disengage the film sprocket drive.



23. Rewind the film.

Lift the film rewind crank and turn it in the direction of the arrow to rewind the film. When you feel the tension lessen, continue winding one or two more turns until the film leader is rewound completely back into the cartridge.



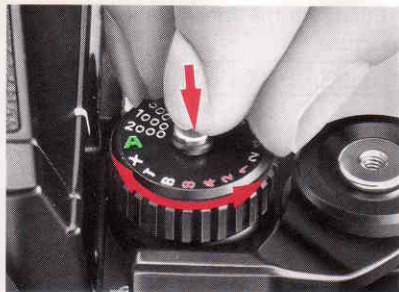
24. Remove the film cartridge.

Open the camera back and take out the film cartridge. Avoid unloading the film in direct sunlight. If there is no shade available, turn your back on the sun and use your own shadow to shield the camera while unloading film.



25. Turn the camera off. Press the **Power** button.

23. Turn the power switch off while the camera is not in use. This prevents inadvertent battery drain in case the shutter release button is accidentally depressed.

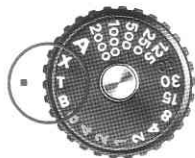


Shutter speed dial 57

In addition to automatic stepless shutter speed control, the Nikon F3 High-Eyepoint camera offers manual control of all shutter speeds from 1/2000 sec. to 8 sec. including X, B, and T. To move the shutter speed dial off "A," depress the locking button ① as you rotate the dial counterclockwise to the 1/2000 sec. setting. You can then rotate the dial freely between any setting except "X" which, like "A," is a locked setting. Shutter speeds from 1/2000 sec. to 1/2 sec. are engraved in white, 1 to 8 seconds in orange, and "B," "T" and "X" in white. 1/60 sec. is in red, indicating the highest manual shutter speed for proper synchronization with electronic flash except "X."

When the camera is on manual, an "M" appears to the left of the liquid crystal shutter speed display inside the viewfinder. In addition, above the "M," the following symbols appear: "-", "+", and "- +" indicating underexposure, overexposure and correct exposure, respectively. To obtain correct exposure, simply turn the shutter speed dial and/or aperture ring until the "- +" symbol appears.

M 500	Underexposure
M + 125	Overexposure
M - + 250	Correct exposure



The F3 High-Eyepoint camera has two separate settings for time exposures. On "B," the shutter remains open for as long as the shutter release button is depressed. On "T," the shutter stays open until the dial is rotated to another setting, making it ideal for really long time exposures. Being a mechanical setting, "T" will not cause battery drain regardless of how long the shutter remains open.*

"X" provides a shutter speed setting of 1/80 sec. It is used to provide proper synchronization with electronic flash units other than the Nikon SB-12.

The amount of light reaching the film plane is determined by a combination of the shutter speed and the lens aperture. Since the two are interrelated, different combinations will give the same degree of exposure. A one-step change in shutter speed, or a one-stop change in aperture setting, will either halve or double the degree of exposure. For example, a shutter speed of 1/125 sec. lets in twice as much light as a setting of 1/250 sec., and only half as much light at 1/60 sec. For an aperture setting of f/11, twice as much light as f/16 and half as much as f/8, is let in. Thus, if the correct exposure for a particular picture-taking situation is 1/125 at f/11, then 1/60 at f/16 or 1/250 at f/8 will give the same exposure.

The following table illustrates the interrelation between shutter speed and aperture.

Shutter speed (sec.)	1/1000	1/500	1/250	1/125	1/60
Aperture (f/number)	4	5.6	8	11	16

The best combination will depend on the results you want. Use fast shutter speeds to freeze motion; use slow speeds to produce a deliberate blur. (See the example pictures on the opposite page.). Also, small apertures give greater depth of field, while large apertures restrict sharp focus to the main subject. (See page 26.)

A good rule to follow in preventing camera shake is to select a minimum shutter speed which is the reciprocal of the focal length of the lens in use. For example, when using a normal 50mm lens, select a speed no slower than 1/60 sec. (the closest number to 1/50). For a 500mm super-telephoto, use no less than 1/500 sec., and so forth.

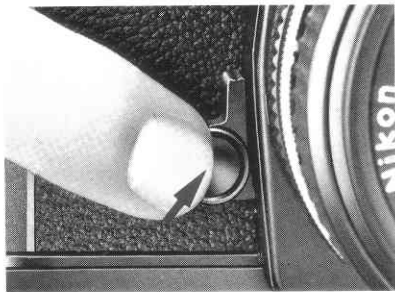
**To make a mechanical release, turn the power switch off and make sure the LCD inside the finder is not displayed. Then, trip the shutter using the backup mechanical release lever.*



(Stop action)



(Subject motion blur)



When there is a substantial difference between the main subject and the background, unimportant bright spots or dark spots are likely to fool the camera's metering, resulting in underexposure or overexposure (see Fig. 1). One way to make exposure compensation is to use the memory lock. This control allows you to lock in an exposure reading with the camera on automatic control. To compensate for an excessively bright or dark background, center the main subject in the viewfinder or move in close to the subject, depress the memory lock button and hold it in; then recompose and shoot (see Fig. 2).

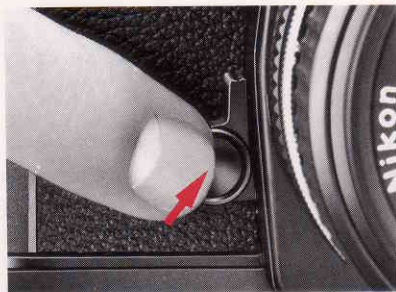


(Fig. 1)



(Fig. 2)

CONTROLS IN DETAIL—continued



Exposure memory lock button ⑦

When there is a substantial difference between the main subject and the background, unimportant bright spots or dark spots are likely to fool the camera's metering, resulting in underexposure or overexposure (see Fig. 1). One way to make exposure compensation is to use the memory lock. This control allows you to lock in an exposure reading with the camera on automatic control. To compensate for an excessively bright or dark background, center the main subject in the viewfinder or move in close to the subject, depress the memory lock button and hold it in; then recompose and shoot (see Fig. 2).

250

5.6



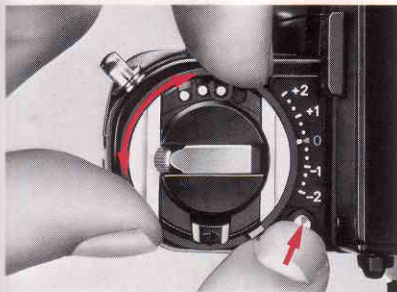
(Fig. 1)

50

5.6



(Fig. 2)



Exposure compensation dial ⑩

Another way to correct exposure is to use this dial. Push the locking button ③⑨ while rotating the dial. The dial is graduated in one-third stop increments. -1 and -2 indicate one and two stops underexposure, whereas +1 and +2 indicate one and two stops overexposure.

At ASA/ISO 6400, the compensation extends to only -1; at ASA/ISO 12, up to +1. The following table indicates the recommended settings for various subjects. After use, make sure you set the dial back to "0."

Original Type of film	Repro-copying & slide-copying			Photo- micrography
	B & W color photo	Letters or figures on light background	Letters or figures on dark background	
Panchromatic film for general use	No compensation necessary	+1-1/2 stops	-1/2 stop	+1 stop



ASA/ISO film speed dial ⑩

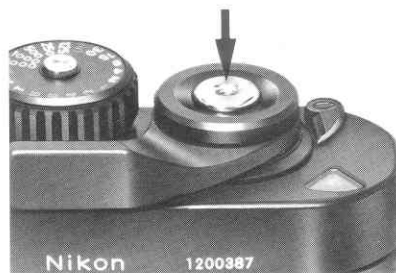
The scale ③⑨ on the ASA/ISO dial has numbered settings for speeds from ASA/ISO 12 to 6400. Two dots between each pair of ASA/ISO numbers stand for intermediate settings, such as 64, 80, etc. The table below gives the speeds for all intermediate settings.

12	25	50	100	200	400	800	1600	3200	6400								
16	20	32	40	64	80	125	160	250	320	500	640	1000	1250	2000	2500	4000	5000

ASA/ISO is a numerical rating of the film's sensitivity to a given amount of light. The higher the number, the greater the sensitivity, and vice versa. The ASA/ISO of your film is indicated on the cartridge itself. It is also printed on the film carton and on the data sheet packed inside.



As a reminder of the film type and the number of exposures on the roll in use, clip off the end of the film carton and insert it into the memo holder.

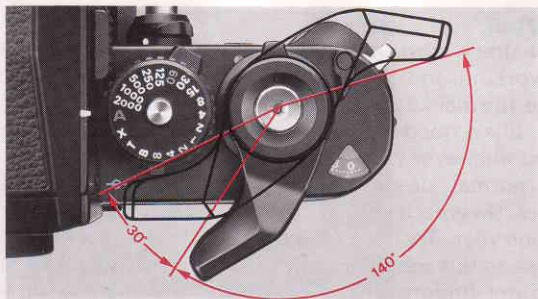


Slight pressure on the shutter release button switches on the exposure meter. Pushing the button all the way down releases the shutter. The shutter release button is threaded at the center to accept a standard cable release.

When battery power fails, the F3 High-Eyepoint camera's electromagnetically controlled shutter ceases to operate. You cannot release the shutter release button unless you use the backup mechanical release lever ⑥.

To lock the shutter release button when the camera is not in use, turn the power switch to the "OFF" position.

Note: At the "B" setting, unless you hold the shutter release button down all the way, the shutter may close prematurely.



Film advance lever 55

The film advance lever is specially contoured to fit the thumb and is coaxial with the shutter release button. It has a 30° stand-off with a throw of 140° and may be operated in one complete stroke or a series of shorter ones.



Frame counter 54

To keep track of the number of exposed frames, the frame counter is graduated from two frames below 0 up to 40. Blue numerals appear every 5 frames (0, 5, 10, etc.) with dots in between. White marks at 12, 20, 24, and 36 indicate the number of frames available on most film cartridges. When making blank shots with the shutter speed dial set to "A," the shutter will fire at 1/80 sec. until the frame counter reaches "1." In addition, the LCD shows 80 in the finder. Or if you set the dial manually between 1/125 and 1/2000 sec., the shutter will still fire at 1/80 sec. In the finder, an "M80" is displayed. However, if the speed is manually set to 1/80 sec. (X) or below, the shutter will fire at the speed set and the speed will be displayed by the LCD. Therefore, to speed up film loading, set the dial to "A" or to 1/80 sec. (X) or above. "T" should not be used when making blank shots as the shutter will remain locked open.

CONTROLS IN DETAIL—continued

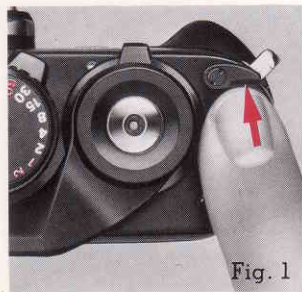


Fig. 1

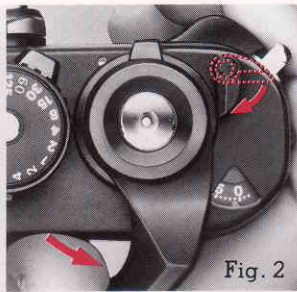


Fig. 2

Multiple exposure lever 52

Double or multiple exposures are easy to accomplish with the F3 High-Eyepoint camera's multiple exposure lever. Follow this procedure:

1. Take the first shot.
2. Then to recock the shutter without advancing the film, push the multiple exposure lever forward (Fig. 1), and stroke the advance lever. Immediately the multiple exposure lever will spring back to its normal position (Fig. 2).
3. Now you're ready to take the second shot on the same frame. For more than two shots on the same frame, just repeat the same procedure for each additional exposure. When you've finished, simply advance the film normally to the next frame. While making multiple exposures, the frame counter doesn't advance.

Note: If you wish to cancel the multiple exposure setting after moving the lever to the "out" position, cover the lens with the lens cap, make a blank shot, then advance the film to the next frame.

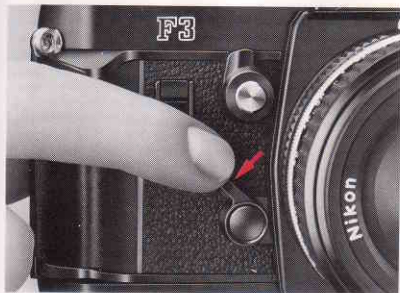
Batteries

When battery power fails, the camera's exposure meter stops working and the shutter won't work either unless you use the backup mechanical release lever. For this reason, it is a good idea to carry an extra set of batteries with you whenever you set out to take pictures.

Under normal usage, one set of 1.55V silver-oxide batteries (Eveready EPX76 or equivalent) will last for about one year. Try not to touch the + or - surfaces of the batteries as this may result in poor electrical contact. If you do get fingerprints on the battery terminals, wipe them off with a soft cloth.

At below-freezing temperatures, battery performance deteriorates. The use of a fresh set of batteries is recommended to ensure reliable service at low temperatures. In extremely cold climates, it is recommended to use the F3 High-Eyepoint camera in conjunction with the MD-4 Motor Drive. With the motor drive attached, the camera gets all its power from the batteries in the motor drive. Thus, if you use a NiCd battery, the camera/motor drive will operate down to -20°C .

Note: At -10°C or below, the LCD may exhibit a slight delay in response time. This is natural and should not be cause for concern. However, exposure to extremely high temperatures (80°C and above) may actually shorten the life of the LCD.

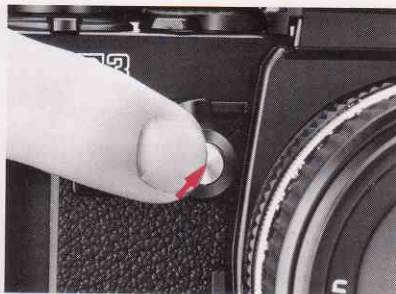


Backup mechanical release lever ⑥

This lever is provided as an alternative method of tripping the shutter in case the camera's batteries become weak or completely exhausted. To operate the lever, first use your fingernail to pull it down to the ready position. Then push it down to trip the shutter. The shutter operates at a mechanical speed of approx. 1/60 sec. at any setting on the shutter speed dial except "T." At "T," the shutter remains open until the dial is turned to another setting. To conserve battery power, it's recommended to use the backup mechanical release lever to trip the shutter at "T." Turn the power switch off, and make sure the LCD shutter speed is off before tripping the shutter. This prevents battery drain.

Caution: If you advance the film while holding down the backup mechanical release lever, the shutter will fire immediately at the completion of the film advance stroke, thus wasting a frame.

Also if you fail to advance the film completely and then use this lever to trip the shutter, the mirror ⑨ will remain in the "up" position until the advance lever stroke is completed.



Depth-of-field preview button ②

This control allows you to get a visual impression of the various parts of the scene in front of and behind the main subject which will appear sharp in the final photograph (see the photos on the next page.) To operate this control, push the button while looking through the viewfinder. If the lens is set to anything other than maximum aperture, the image on the focusing screen will give you an indication of exactly what will be in focus in the final photo. The image progressively gets darker as the lens aperture gets smaller.