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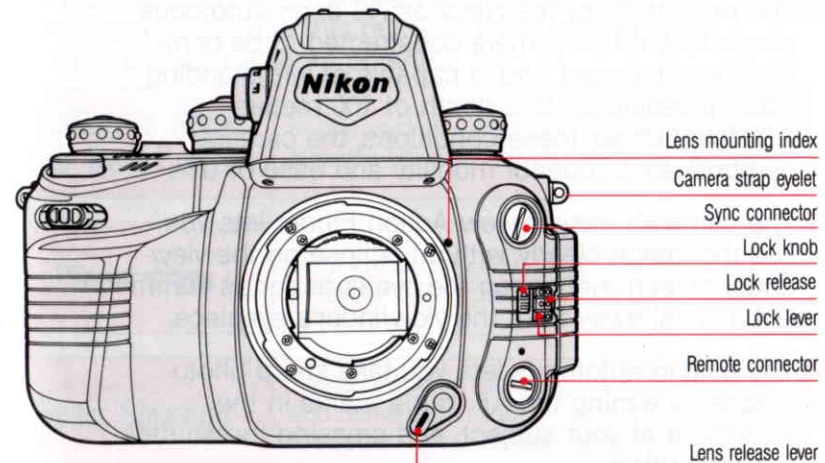
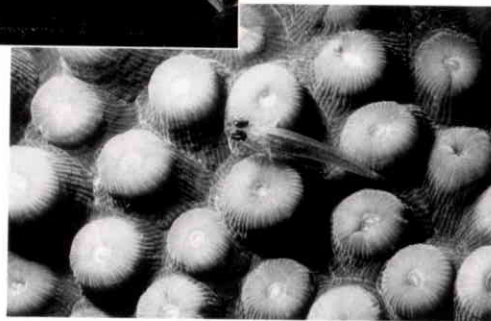
**NIKONOS RS AF**

Instruction Manual

**E**

## FOREWORD

Thank you for purchasing the Nikonos RS. This camera is an autofocus single lens reflex type. The Nikonos RS is suited not only for general underwater photography, but also for a wide range of commercial or research activities such as surveys of the ocean floor or the bottoms of vessels.



O-ring

Battery chamber cover

Viewfinder eyepiece

Inner cover

Inner cover release latch

Camera back release/ lock buckle

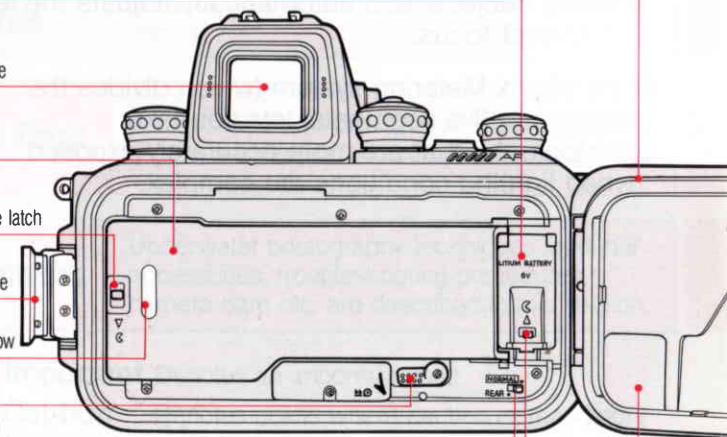
Film cartridge confirmation window

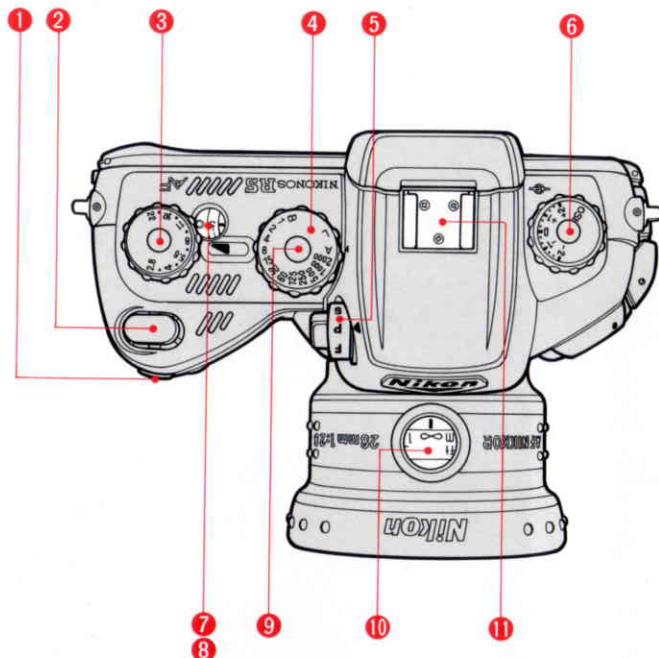
Film rewind lever

Sync mode switch

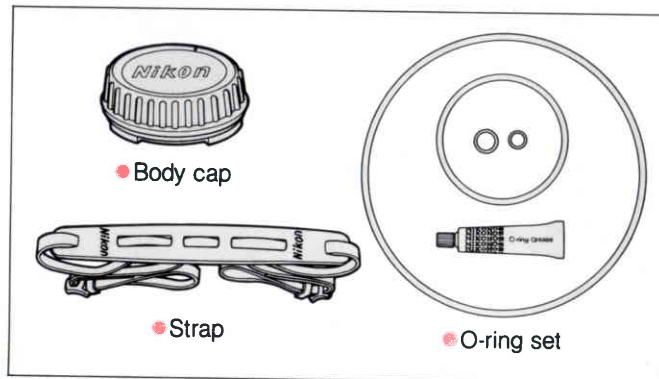
Battery chamber cover lock release

Camera back





## Accessories



- 1 Power Manual Focus Control** (See pages 57 ~ 58.)  
When the focus mode is set to "F" (freeze focus), or "P" (power manual focus), the focus can be adjusted manually by using the Power Manual Focus control.
- 2 Shutter Release Button** (See page 25.)  
The Shutter Release Button connects with the power switch when depressed slightly. When the Shutter Dial is set to a position other than "L," slightly pressing the shutter release button activates the autofocus and exposure metering functions, and when pressed further, the shutter is released.
- 3 Aperture Dial** (See page 39.)  
The Aperture Dial is used to set the f/stop of the lens opening (aperture) in half stop increments.
- 4 Shutter Speed Dial** (See page 51.)  
The Shutter Speed Dial also serves as the main switch. When the dial is set to "L," the power is off, and when it is set to any other position, the power will turn on when the shutter release button is depressed slightly (about halfway down). In "A" setting, the Aperture-Priority Auto Exposure mode is selected. When the dial is set to any other position, the shutter speed is set manually.
- 5 Focus Mode Switching Control** (See pages 52 ~ 59.)  
Use this dial to select from the four focusing modes; (S) Single Servo Autofocus, (C) Continuous Servo Autofocus, (P) Power Manual Focus, and (F) Freeze Focus.
- 6 Exposure Compensation Dial** (See pages 30 ~ 32, 65 ~ 66.)  
The Exposure Compensation Dial is used to set exposure compensation in 1/3 EV deviations in exposure control from the ISO standard, and to set the film speed.
- 7 Frame Counter LED (red) Warning Indicator**
- 8 Frame Counter LED (green) Indicator**
- 9 Dial Lock Release Button**
- 10 Distance Scale Window (with illumination)**
- 11 Accessory Shoe**



## Main Features

- The main body of the Nikonos RS is an autofocus single lens reflex camera constructed to be completely water-proof and is capable of withstanding water pressure up to a depth of 100 meters (328 feet). Under these conditions, the camera demonstrates superior mobility and ease of use.
- The camera's easy-to-view Action Finder lets you see the image clearly without eclipse on the viewfinder screen even when the eye is as far as 60mm (2.4 inches) away from the viewfinder's eyepiece.
- The built-in autofocus lets you take sharp photographs by aiming the AF frame marks in the viewfinder at your subject, and pressing the shutter release button.
- The Focus Tracking feature predicts the position of moving subjects and automatically adjusts the lens for correct focus.
- The Matrix Metering system (which divides the scene into five segments) lets you take photographs that are more accurately exposed when lighting conditions are complex.

## About this Manual

This Instruction Manual has been organized as follows for easy reference. Use this guide to learn how to make the most of your camera's potential.

### Getting to Know Your New Camera

In this section we explain the features of the Nikonos RS, how to use it for best results.

### Preparations

Here we explain how to get the Nikonos RS ready for taking pictures.

### Basic Shooting

The procedures for taking pictures in the simple and convenient mode — Aperture-Priority Auto Exposure — are explained in this section.

### Basic Operation of Controls

This section explains how to operate specific parts of the camera in order to obtain certain results.

### Controls in Detail

In this section we provide some useful information on a variety of photographic techniques.

### Other Information

Underwater photography techniques, optional accessories, troubleshooting procedures, camera care etc. are described in this section.

- **Important** Denotes an important point.
- **Caution** Denotes points where caution or mandatory action is required.
- ◆ **Note** Denotes a useful point that should be remembered for future reference.

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## **Matrix Balanced Fill-Flash Operation**

A method of flash photography which combines flash illumination and ambient light, and keeps flash brightness in balance with the ambient light. Matrix balanced fill-flash operation is possible with the Nikonos RS in Aperture-Priority Auto Exposure (A) mode and Speedlight SB-104, 103, or 102.

## **Matrix Metering**

The matrix metering sensor determines exposure by dividing the scene into five segments. The camera's computer evaluates the brightness from these five segments to determine the correct exposure for the main subject in virtually any lighting condition without requiring manual exposure compensation.

## **Center-Weighted Metering (75%/25%)**

The center-weighted metering method concentrates 75% of its sensitivity on the center of the viewfinder outlined by a 12mm circle. This metering, recommended for selective exposure control, is useful for taking special photographs where correct control of exposure is based on a center-dominated subject.

## **Exposure Compensation**

Exposure compensation refers to an adjustment that intentionally deviates from normal exposure settings.

## **Power Manual Focus**

Power Manual Focus allows manual focusing by moving the power manual focusing control to the left or right, moving the lens forward or backward, to obtain correct focusing.

## **Single Servo Autofocus (S) mode**

One of the autofocus modes which works when pressing the shutter button slightly to achieve correct focusing automatically. In this mode, once the subject is in focus, the focus is locked for as long as the shutter button is pressed slightly.

## **Continuous Servo Autofocus (C) mode**

Focus detection and autofocus servo remain working as long as the shutter release button is lightly pressed.

## **Autofocus Lock function**

In the "S" mode, the focus can be locked once the subject is in focus. Autofocus Lock is convenient for keeping a subject in focus when it is not positioned in the center of the viewfinder.

## **Freeze Focus function**

In this mode, the shutter can be released the instant a subject appears within a prefocused range.

## **Focus Tracking**

Focus Tracking predicts, through a series of computer calculations, where the subject will be when the shutter is released, to obtain correct focusing (in Continuous Servo Autofocus (C) and Single Servo Autofocus (S) modes).

## **ISO**

The international standard for representing film sensitivity (the speed at which it reacts to light). The ISO film speed scale is geometrical: a film speed of ISO 200 is twice as fast as ISO 100 and half the speed of ISO 400 film.

## **DX code**

Film speed information code printed on the film cartridge. The Nikonos RS automatically senses the film speed (ISO 25 to 5000) of DX-coded film the instant the film is loaded.

## **Aperture-Priority Auto Exposure (A) mode**

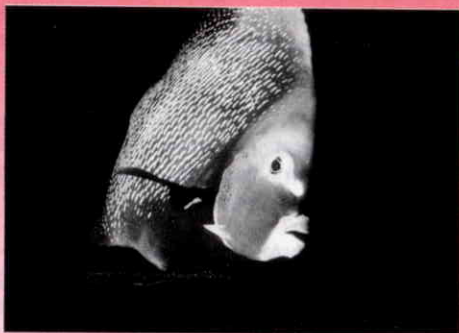
After you have manually selected the lens aperture, the camera's computer will automatically control the shutter speed for precise exposure. As you can select any aperture, this mode is ideal for controlling the depth of field. The result is overall uniform sharpness or a softening of the background so that the main subject of the photograph stands out.

## **Manual Exposure mode**

This mode allows you to make both aperture and shutter speed settings to suit your creative purposes. You can take pictures with special effects or under special conditions.



## Getting to Know Your New Camera...



## Tips on Camera Care

### ***Be sure to take trial shots first...***

When taking important photographs, be sure to take one or more trial shots first to be sure the camera works properly.

### ***Have Nikon clean and check your camera regularly...***

Because the camera is a precision instrument, we recommend customers to have their camera serviced annually.

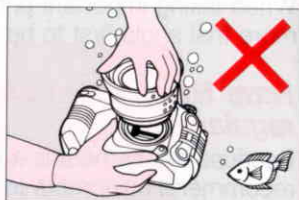
—We recommend this service especially when the camera is being used for commercial applications.



## Notes of caution

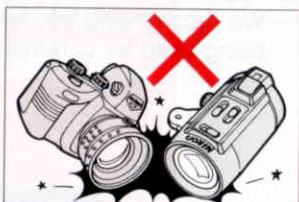
### Do not change lenses or film under water.

When getting your camera ready for taking pictures, never attempt to change the lens, load film, or connect the speedlight underwater. It is best to carry out these activities indoors to avoid exposure to direct sunlight, wind, sand or other potentially harmful elements.



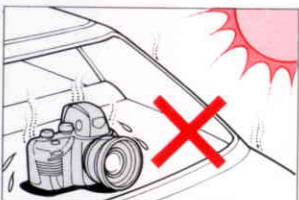
### Do not subject your camera to vibrations or shock.

Because the camera is a precision instrument, do not subject it to strong vibrations or shock. When carrying the camera and speedlight in a car or boat, for instance, pack each unit in protective case so that they do not bump against each other.



### Keep your camera away from direct sunlight or prolonged periods.

Avoid leaving your camera for prolonged periods of time in direct sunlight or inside an enclosed space, such as a car, that is subject to sunlight and high temperatures.



### Do not jump into the water while holding your camera.

When entering the water from a boat, first enter yourself and then have someone hand the camera to you, or lower the camera with a rope and then enter the water yourself. Damage may be caused by the shock of the camera hitting the water if you jump into it holding the camera.



### Do not disassemble the camera.

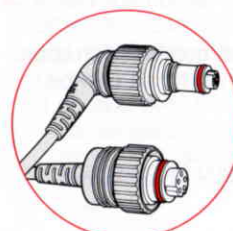
Never disassemble or remodel the camera if damaged.

## Checking O-rings

### Checking the O-rings

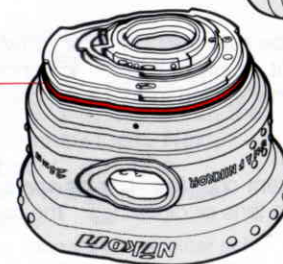
This camera uses O-rings to ensure that it is well sealed and water-proofed. Because water will leak into the camera if the O-rings are not functioning properly, it is important to check all of the camera's **O-rings and their contact surfaces**, including the lens mount, camera back, sync connector and remote control connector, as shown in the illustration below, prior to each photography session.

### ■ Areas where O-rings are used

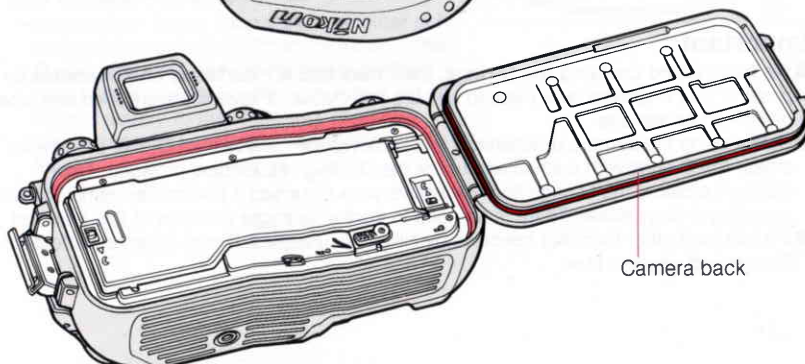


Two O-rings on sync cord (optional)

Lens mount



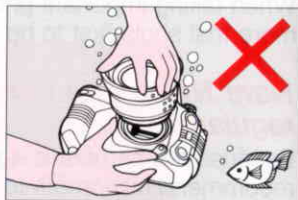
Camera back



## Notes of caution

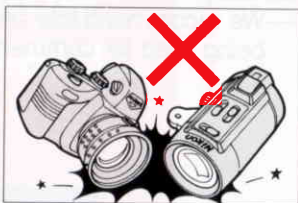
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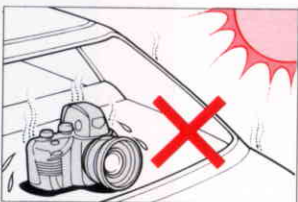
### Do not subject your camera to vibrations or shock.

Because the camera is a precision instrument, do not subject it to strong vibrations or shock. When carrying the camera and speedlight in a car or boat, for instance, pack each unit in a protective case so that they do not bump against each other.



### Keep your camera away from direct sunlight for prolonged periods.

Avoid leaving your camera for prolonged periods of time in direct sunlight or inside an enclosed place, such as a car, that is subject to sunlight and high temperatures.



### Do not jump into the water while holding your camera.

When entering the water from a boat, first enter yourself and then have someone hand the camera to you, or lower the camera with a rope and then enter the water yourself. Damage may be caused by the shock of the camera hitting the water if you jump into it holding the camera.



### Do not disassemble the camera.

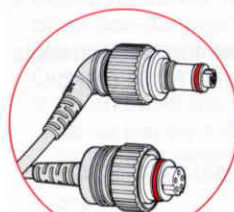
Never disassemble or remodel the camera if damaged.

## Checking O-rings

### Checking the O-rings

This camera uses O-rings to ensure that it is well sealed and water-proofed. Because water will leak into the camera if the O-rings are not functioning properly, it is important to check all of the camera's **O-rings and their contact surfaces**, including the lens mount, camera back, sync connector and remote control connector, as shown in the illustration below, prior to each photographic session.

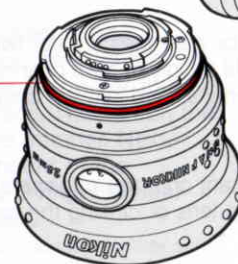
### ■ Areas where O-rings are used



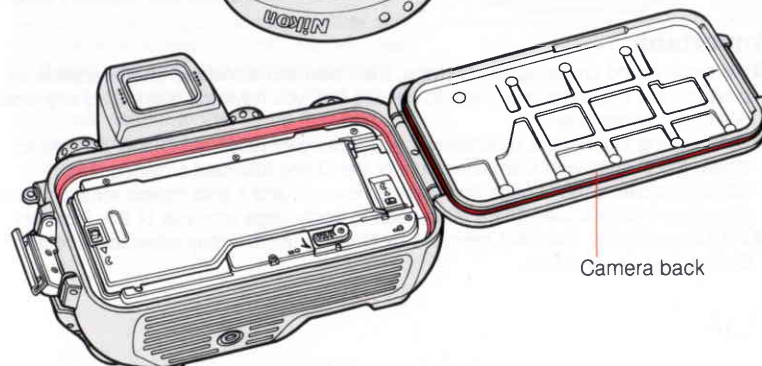
Two O-rings on sync cord (optional)



Lens mount



Sync connector cap  
Remote control connector cap



Camera back



## Checking the O-Rings

### Dirt and sand on the O-rings and in the channels

If there is any dirt, sand, hair or other foreign matter on the O-rings or inside the channels where they are installed, these areas must be cleaned. Soak the O-ring in fresh water and wipe it dry with a clean, soft cloth. Wipe the O-ring channels with a damp cloth or swab. Water leaks may result if dirt or sand is not completely removed.

### Damage to O-ring channel surfaces

Check the O-rings for damage such as cuts, cracks, or flat compression spots. If you discover any damage, take the camera to your nearest Nikon service center. Too much lubricant can cause water leakage.

### Damage to the O-rings

Check the O-rings for damage such as cuts or cracks. If you discover any damage on an O-ring, replace it with a new one.

### Distorted O-ring shapes

Check the shape of the O-rings to be sure they are not twisted, stretched or otherwise distorted, and that they fit snugly in their channels.

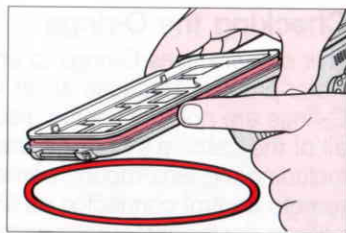
Check to see that the O-ring is evenly seated into the channels, otherwise it may cause water leakage.

### Smear O-ring lubricant

Smear a small amount of the lubricant onto **the channels and the O-ring's contact surfaces** when mounting a lens or closing the camera back.

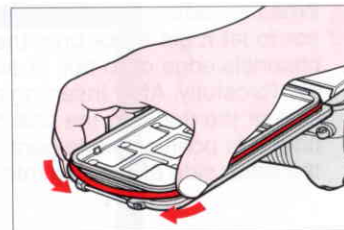
## ■ Important

- We recommend checking **the O-rings, their contact surfaces and channels** by passing your fingertips over them to be sure that you have not overlooked any small bits of dirt or damage.
- Before using the camera or whenever you remove or reseat an O-ring, be sure to smear the O-rings with a small amount of the O-ring lubricant provided. This lubricant protects the O-rings from excessive wear, and it also makes removing and reseating O-rings easier. There is no need to apply large amounts of this lubricant.
- If a lubricant other than that specified by Nikon is used, it may adversely affect the O-rings and cause a leak.



## Removing and Reseating O-rings

- 1 Squeeze the O-ring on both sides between your thumb and index finger to produce some slack in the ring. Then remove it with your other hand.



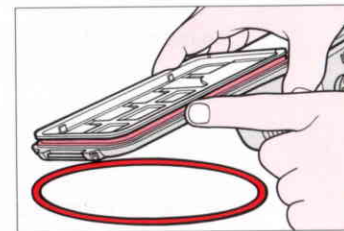
- 2 If you have trouble getting it off, insert the corner of a plastic card or other non-damaging object into the channel behind the slack in the O-ring and gently pull it off by raising it up and over the channel's edge.

— Do not use any sharp metal objects when removing or reseating O-rings, as this can cause damage to the O-ring or its channel.

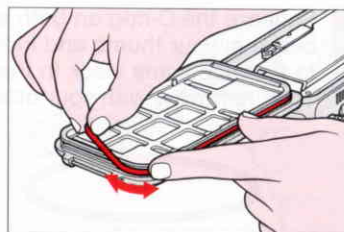


- 3 Clean **the O-ring channel and contact surface** and be sure that there is no dirt, sand or other foreign matter on its surface. Then clean the O-ring in the same manner. Next, smear a small amount of the lubricant onto **the O-ring, channel and contact surface**.

— Use a clean finger, sponge, or other soft material to smear the lubricant onto **the O-ring, channel and contact surface**. Avoid using materials which shed lint as lint will adhere to the O-ring and may cause imperfect sealing, resulting in a leak.

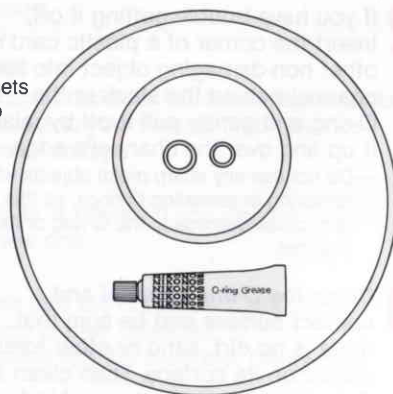


- 4** When reseating the O-ring, take care not to let it get stuck onto the channels edge or to pull or twist it too forcefully. After inserting one side of the ring into the channel, hold it in position while gently rolling the other side of the ring into place.

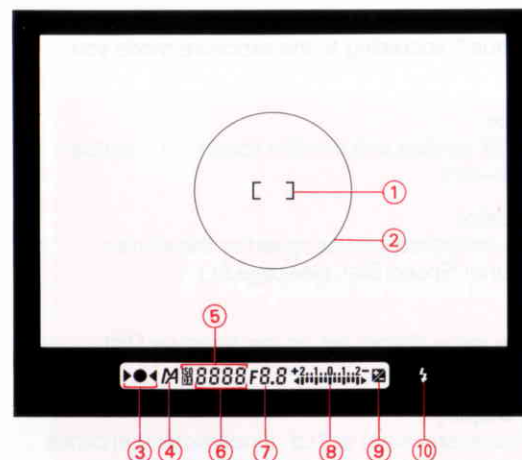


### ◆Note

An O-ring set (four O-rings and O-ring lubricant) has been provided with the Nikonos RS as an accessory. Additional sets are available optionally. Be sure always to have a set with you when you go out with your camera.



## Viewfinder Indications



### ① Focus Brackets

In autofocus mode, position the subject within the focus brackets in the viewfinder and shoot the photograph.

### ② 12mm-dia. reference circle

For center-weighted metering

### ③ Focus Indicators

- **In-focus indicator** Appears when the stationary subject is in focus, and blinks when not in focus. (See pages 53 ~ 57.)
- ▶ **Focus Tracking indicator** Appears when the camera detects that the subject is moving and activates the Focus Tracking mechanism. (See pages 53 ~ 57.)
- ▶ **Focus-to-right arrow (front focus)** Appears when the subject is out of focus and the area in front of the subject is in focus. (See page 57.)
- ▶ **Focus-to-left arrow (rear focus)** Appears when the subject is out of focus and the area behind the subject is in focus. (See page 57.)



④ **Exposure Mode Indicator**

Displays "A" or "Manual" according to the exposure mode you set. (See page 60.)

⑤ **Film Speed Indicator**

Displays the ISO or DX symbol and the film speed (ISO number) you set. (See pages 29 ~ 32.)

⑥ **Shutter Speed Indicator**

Displays the camera-controlled shutter speed or the shutter speed set on the Shutter Speed Dial. (See page 51.)

⑦ **Aperture Indicator**

Displays the aperture value (f/stop) set on the Aperture Dial. (See page 39.)

⑧ **Electronic Analog Display**

Appears when "Hi" (overexposure) or "Lo" (underexposure) blinks in Auto Exposure mode, and always appears in Manual Exposure mode. (See page 64.)

⑨ **Exposure Compensation Indicator**

Appears when exposure compensation has been set. (See pages 65 ~ 66.)

⑩ **Ready-Light**

Appears when the speedlight has been recharged, and blinks when flash is fired at full output. (See page 66.)

## Preparations



# Installing the Battery

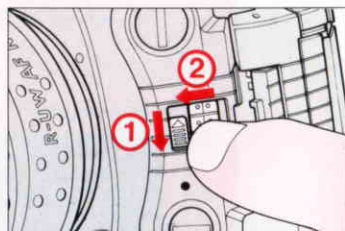
## ■ Important

The Nikonos RS uses the following battery:  
6V lithium battery pack  
(DL223A or CR-P2 type)  
See pages 93~94 for more details on the battery.

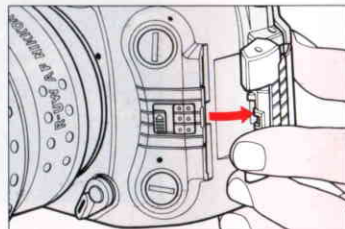
## ● Caution

When installing a battery, be sure first to turn OFF the power switch and ensure that the contact terminals (+ / -) are correctly oriented as marked on the battery chamber.

- 1 Holding down the lock knob ① to the white mark, slide the lock lever ② in the direction of the arrow to remove the lock release.



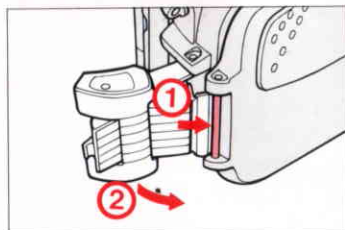
- 2 Raise the lock release in the direction of the arrow and open the camera back release/lock buckle.



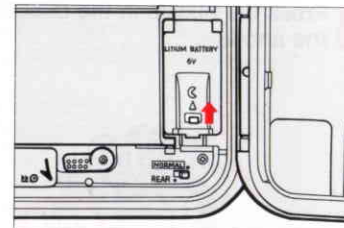
## ● Caution

When opening the camera back, be sure to wipe moisture off the camera or your hands.

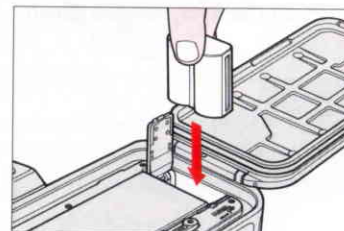
- 3 Release the camera back release/lock buckle from its hinge. Next push the release/lock buckle in the direction of the arrow to open the camera back.



- 4 Slide the battery chamber release/lock knob in the direction of the arrow and open the battery chamber cover.



- 5 Install a new battery into the battery chamber, making sure that the contact terminals (+ / -) are correctly oriented as marked on the battery chamber.



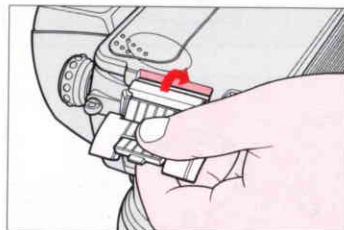
- 6 Close the battery chamber and push it down until it clicks shut.



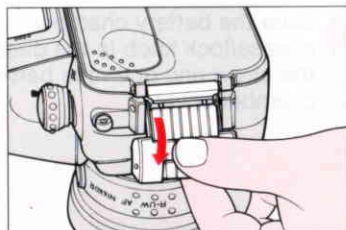
## ● Caution

While opening the camera back, do not try to lift the camera by the camera back.

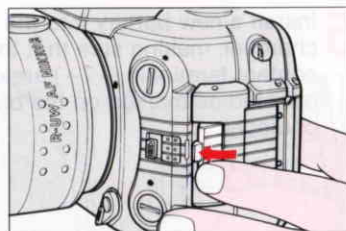
- 7 Check to be sure that the O-ring is not pinched when closing the camera back. Fasten the hook of the camera back release/lock buckle.



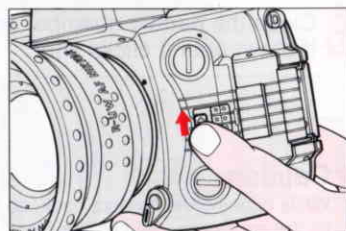
- 8** Press the buckle in the direction of the arrow.



- 9** Push the lock release down.



- 10** Slide the lock knob in the direction of the arrow to lock it securely.



## Checking Battery Power

Be sure to check the battery power of the camera after installing a fresh battery or prior to a photography session in order to avoid inadvertent failures.

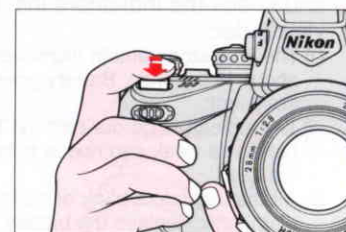
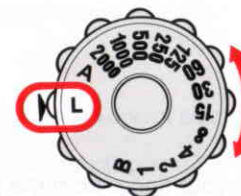
### ■ Important

#### ■ Main switch

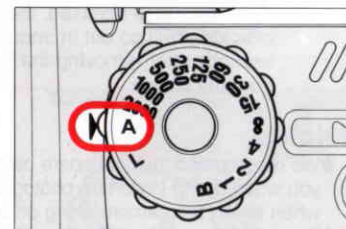
The Shutter Speed Dial on the Nikonos RS is also the main power switch. When the dial is set to any position other than "L," power is on; when it is set to "L," power is off.

#### ■ Halfway switch

When the shutter release button is pressed slightly (about halfway down), power is supplied to the autofocus, exposure meter, and other functions.

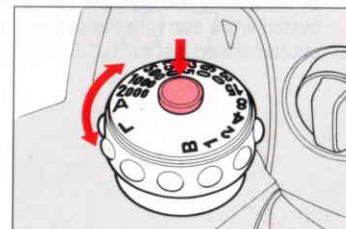


- 1** Set the Shutter Speed Dial to any position other than "L".



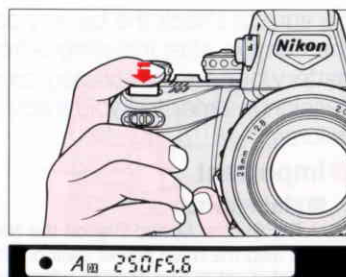
### ● Caution

At the "L" or "A" setting, the Shutter Speed Dial is locked and cannot be turned. To unlock the dial, hold down the lock release button while turning it.





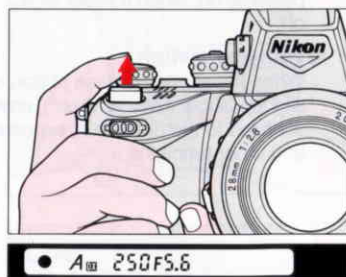
- 2** Press the shutter release button slightly to illuminate the indicators inside the viewfinder.



- 3** Remove your finger from the button and check the indicators inside the viewfinder:

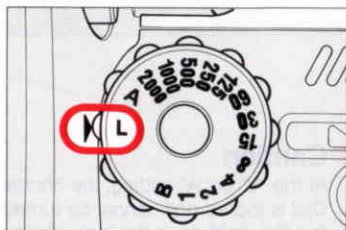
- (1) The indicators remain illuminated for about 16 seconds: Battery power is sufficient;
- (2) The indicators go out quickly: The battery is weak and needs to be replaced.
- (3) All the indicators blink or no indicators illuminate: Replace the battery with a fresh one.

—If the shutter is released, the indicators will go out in about four seconds after removing the finger from the button.



### ◆Notes

- ◆We recommend taking a spare battery with you when taking important photographs or when taking the camera along on a trip.
- ◆To prevent the power from being turned on by accidentally bumping the shutter release button while carrying the camera, set the shutter speed dial to "L."



## Mounting and Releasing the Lens

### ■Important

The following lenses can be mounted onto the Nikonos RS:

- R-UW AF Nikkor 28mm f/2.8
- R-UW AF Micro-Nikkor 50mm f/2.8
- R-UW AF Zoom-Nikkor 20-35mm f/2.8

These are the only lenses that can be used with the Nikonos RS.

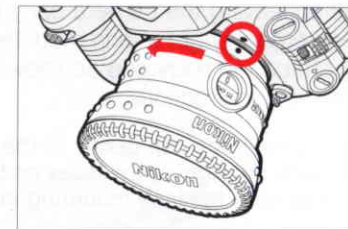
### ●Caution

- Do not change lenses in direct sunlight.
- Before mounting a lens, apply a small amount of O-ring lubricant around the O-ring section of the lens. (See pages 15 ~ 18.)
- Be sure not to damage the O-ring of the lens when mounting or releasing it.

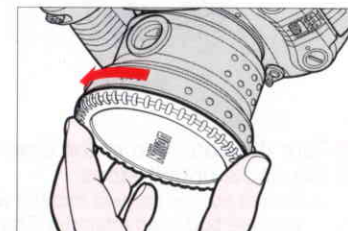
### Mounting the Lens

- 1** Align the lens mounting index to the index on the camera body, insert the lens gently into the body, and turn it in the direction of the arrow until it clicks stop.

- Turn the lens until the lens distance index line comes uppermost.
- Be sure to mount the lens while keeping the lens to be at a right angle to the body.



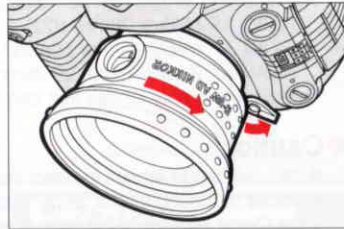
- 2** The lens cap is removed by turning it counter-clockwise.





## Releasing the Lens

- 1 Press the lens release lever all the way in the direction of the arrow until it stops. Then turn the lens in the direction of the arrow and gently pull it out of the body.



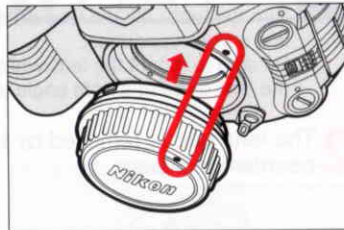
## Caution

Be sure to wipe the water off the camera and lens. When releasing the lens, point the lens down to prevent water from getting inside the camera.

## Mounting the body cap

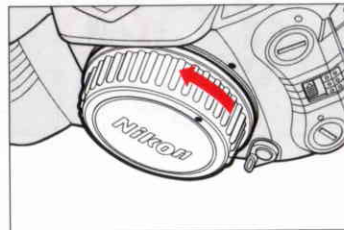
When leaving the camera body for a long time without a lens mounted onto it, attach the body cap as shown in the following instructions.

- 1 Fit the body cap gently to the camera body by aligning the index on the body cap with the lens mounting index.



- 2 Turn the body cap in the direction of the arrow until it stops.

—Do not put the camera into the water with the body cap attached. The body cap is not waterproof.



When DX-coded film is used, the camera can automatically set the film speed. However, if non-DX-coded film is used, the film speed must be set manually. If the film speed is not correctly set, the proper exposure will not be obtained.

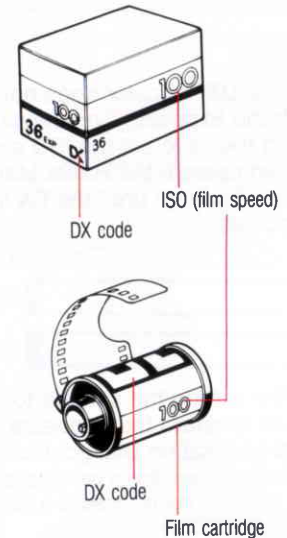
## Important

The following film speeds can be used on the Nikonos RS:

- (1) DX-coded film: ISO 25 — 5000
- (2) Non-DX-coded film: ISO 6 — 6400

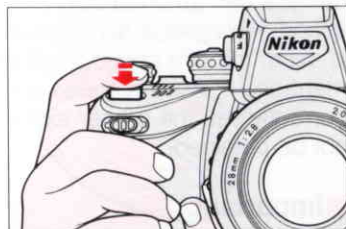
## Note

DX codes and film speeds are marked on the outside of the film box.



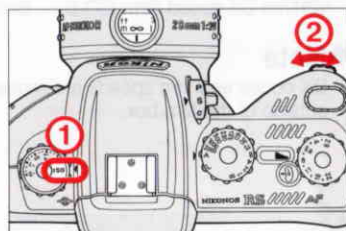
## Setting the Film Speed (When loading DX-coded film)

- 1 Depress the shutter release button slightly. If the DX indicator is visible inside the viewfinder, the film speed has been set automatically.



● A 250F5.6

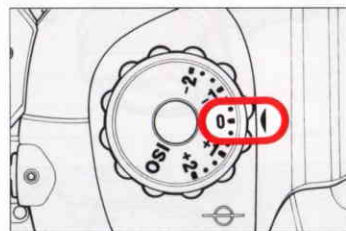
- 2 If the DX indicator does not appear, lift the Exposure Compensation Dial and turn it to set the ISO settings. Then operate the Power Manual Focus control until the DX indicator appears.



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- 3 After setting the camera to "DX," be sure to return the Exposure Compensation Dial position to zero.

- The shutter cannot be released if the setting is not returned to a position other than "ISO."
- When using this dial to compensate exposure, set it to the desired compensation position. (See pages 65 ~ 66.)

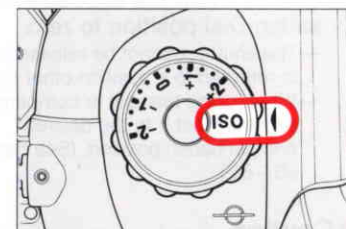


### ● Caution

If the non-DX-coded film is loaded in DX mode, the camera will not operate even when the shutter release button is pressed after blank exposures. Viewfinder indications (DX/ISO and "Err") inside the viewfinder will also blink to alert you.

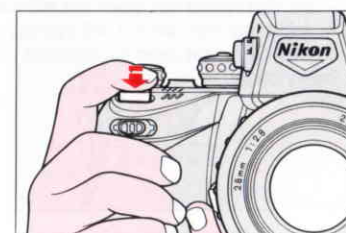
## Loading non-DX-coded film

- 1 Lift the Exposure Compensation Dial and turn it to set the ISO mark to the index.



- 2 Depress the shutter release button slightly and check the indicator inside the viewfinder:

- (1) If the film speed indicator shows the DX mark, the camera is set to DX. (If no film is loaded, only the DX mark will appear.)
- (2) If the ISO mark and the value set for the film speed appear, the camera is set for non-DX film.

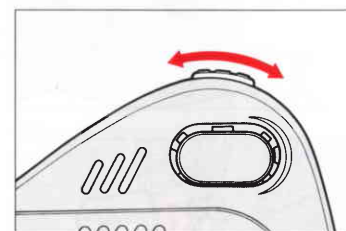


(1) 100

(2) 100

- 3 Move the Power Manual Focus control left or right to set the film speed value:

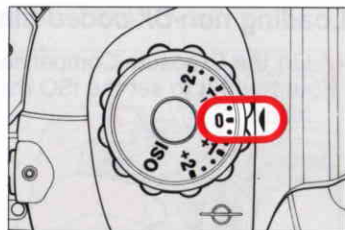
- The value increases when the control is moved to the left, and decreases when it is moved to the right.
- The film speed can be set to any value from 6 to 6400.



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#### 4 After the film speed has been set, be sure to return the Exposure Compensation Dial position to zero.

- The shutter cannot be released unless it is returned to a position other than "ISO."
- When using this dial to compensate exposure, set it to the desired compensation position. (See pages 65 ~ 66.)



#### ● Caution

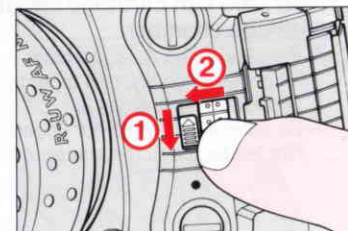
If the film speed has been set manually, keep in mind that the camera will operate according to this ISO value even if DX-coded film has been loaded.

## Loading the Film

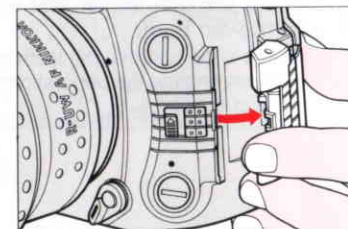
#### ● Caution

- When opening the camera back, be sure to wipe moisture off the camera or your hands.
- When opening the camera back, keep the camera flat or point the lens upward to prevent drops of water from getting inside the camera body.
- Be sure to prevent water from your wet suit or hair from entering the camera body.
- Do not load or unload film in direct sunlight.

#### 1 Holding down the lock knob ① to the white mark, slide the lock lever ② in the direction of the arrow to remove the lock release.



#### 2 Raise the lock release in the direction of the arrow and open the camera back release/lock buckle.



#### 3 Remove the camera back release/lock buckle from its hinge. Next open the buckle in the direction of the arrow and open the camera back.

