

Nikon Photomic FTN

TYPE: 35mm eye-level single-lens reflex.
LENS: 50mm f/2 or f/1.4 Nikkor with interchangeable bayonet mount, stops to f/16, focus to 2 ft.

SHUTTER: Cloth covered titanium foil focal-plane with speeds from 1 to 1/1000 sec. plus B, FP, X sync., self-timer.

VIEWING: Interchangeable eye-level prism with interchangeable full focusing screen, central split-image rangefinder, fine focusing collar.

OTHER FEATURES: Mercury battery-powered CdS exposure meter, behind lens, measures center weighted spot at full aperture, instant-return mirror; lock-up button; quick-return diaphragm, meter visible through finder and top of meter housing, shutter speed visible in finder.

PRICE: With 50mm f/2 Nikkor-H, \$381; with 50mm f/1.4 Nikkor-S, \$443; cameras in black, \$19.50 additional; Photomic FTN finder alone (when available), \$119.50.

MANUFACTURER: Nippon Kogaku, Japan. **IMPORTER:** Ehrenreich Photo Optical Industries, Garden City, N.Y.

PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS: 5¾ in. long, 4 in. high, 3¾ in. deep. **WEIGHT:** 37 oz.

For a while there, the Nikkormat was one up on the Photomic, offering an automatic indexing ASA index system to set each interchangeable lens plus the shutter speed visible in the finder. But with the Photomic FTN replacing the TN at no increase in price, the Nikon gains these features, and a much superior (over the TN) camera locking device but loses the battery check button of the TN (of questionable value anyhow). The metering system is centrally weighted, concentrating approximately 60 percent of its light gathering on a 12mm central circle and allotting 40 percent of its ability to the outer area. MODERN's check with the Aerotronic P-803 meter tester indicated meter accuracy to be within ½ f/stop over the entire range, which measures down to ⅛ sec. at f/1.4 with an ASA 400 film. It gave accurate readings in backlit situations, contrasty scenics and shooting into dark areas surrounded by brightness. (However, in very difficult lighting situations, close-up readings are still needed.) The centrally weighted meter also tends to minimize erroneous readings caused by lens brightness edge fall-off at large apertures and possible mirror cut-off with long lenses. And gone is the awkward necessity of matching the ASA index of the film with the aperture of each lens used.

While the new Photomic FTN no longer has an additional feature in the battery check button, the meter is quite sensitive to the actual viewing screen in use. With focusing screens other than the A (split-image rangefinder)

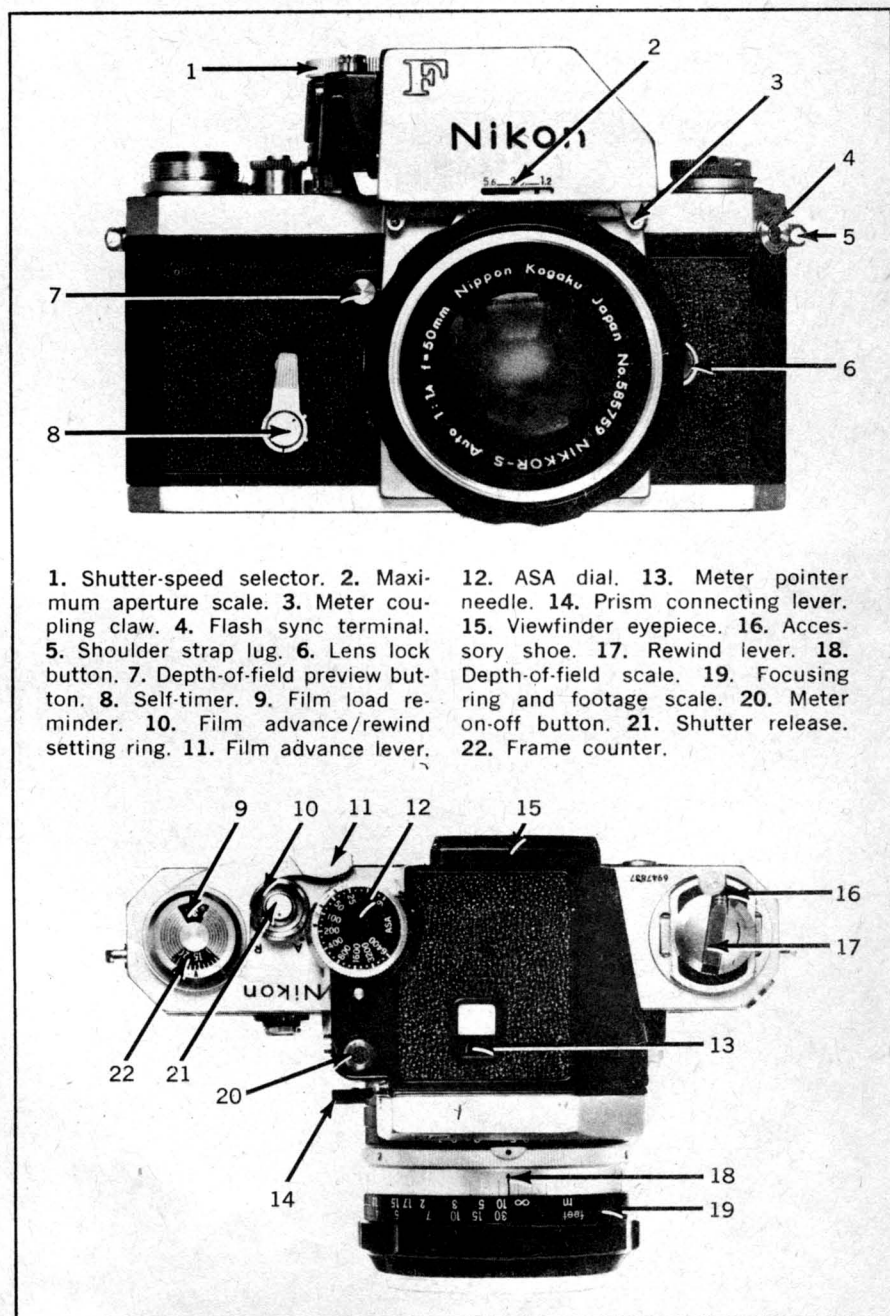
and B (fine focusing center with Fresnel lines), additional adjustments must be made. However, the ASA dial atop the camera has correction marks for just this purpose.

As far as the camera itself is concerned there is little that MODERN should analyze. It's the same extremely durable versatile instrument that amateurs and professionals have made the SLR-by-which-all-others-are-measured. While you can do some nit-picking over the removable back, which isn't as handy as a swing away back, and the size of the rapid-rewind lever (17) which could be larger, the Nikon F

deserves its sterling reputation fully. Here's how you set exposure with the Photomic FTN. Viewing through the finder you will see a small top cutout window outside the field of view.

By changing either shutter speed (1) or aperture, you can center the needle for the right exposure. There's a duplicate needle and centering circle on top of the prism housing (14). You can thus set the exposure while holding the camera at waist level or even while facing in another direction.

The meter can also be used with non-coupling lenses, with bellows units, extension tubes or other devices.



1. Shutter-speed selector. 2. Maximum aperture scale. 3. Meter coupling needle. 4. Prism connecting lever. 5. Flash sync terminal. 6. Viewfinder eyepiece. 7. Accessory shoe. 8. Rewind lever. 9. Depth-of-field scale. 10. Focusing ring and footage scale. 11. Meter on-off button. 12. Shutter release.

