

Nikon FG

TYPE: 35mm eye-level single-lens reflex camera.

LENS: 50mm f/1.8 Nikkor, f/1.4 Nikkor or f/1.8 Nikon in interchangeable mount, apertures to f/22, focus to 18 in. (Nikon to 24 in.).

SHUTTER: Seiko MFC-E electronically-controlled metal blade focal-plane shutter with speeds from 1 sec. to 1/1000 sec. plus B, X sync, self-timer.

VIEWING: Non-interchangeable eye-level prism with central split-image rangefinder, microprism collar, full area focusing screen.

OTHER FEATURES: Two 1.5-volt silver-

oxide, alkaline or one 3-volt lithium battery powers silicon photo-diode circuit. Cell above viewfinder eyepiece measures center-weighted area of focusing screen. Aperture-preferred auto exposure (you set aperture, camera sets shutter speed) and program auto exposure (camera sets both speed and aperture) with full manual speed override; shutter speeds, over- and underexposure flash ready/O.K. diode signals in viewfinder, audible overexposure and 1/30-sec.-and-below warning signal, exposure-compensation button, auto-exposure-compensation scale, separate silicon cell reads flash from film sur-

face for through-lens auto flash exposure via dedicated hot shoe and special flash units, film box reminder slot, accepts motor drives and data back.

PRICE: \$419.50 with 50mm f/1.8 Nikon; \$557 with f/1.4 Nikkor; \$481.50 with f/1.8 Nikkor; \$322.50 body only; \$17 additional for black finish.

MANUFACTURER: Nippon Kogaku, K.K., Tokyo, Japan.

IMPORTER: Nikon Inc., Garden City, NY 11533.

PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS: 5¼ in. wide, 3½ in. high, 3⅞ in. deep.

WEIGHT: 1 lb., 6¼ oz. (with 50mm f/1.8 Nikon).

Once the bastion of bulky, heavy cameras, Nikon has bowed to the desires of many photographers and come up with an incredibly multi-featured camera in an amazingly light and small body at a surprisingly moderate price. It should interest amateurs and professional photographers alike.

Starting with the basic body casting of the simple auto-exposure-only Nikon EM, Nikon engineers have provided the same type of aperture-preferred auto exposure. However, by shifting the lockable, large, easy-to-operate knurled shutter-speed dial to its P (program) setting, the camera will now set both shutter speeds and apertures, providing an even progression of speeds and lens openings as light increases or decreases. A beginner can safely handle the camera and need only know that when he hears a "beep" it's warning him/her that there's too much light or a tripod should be used for exposures below 1/60 sec.

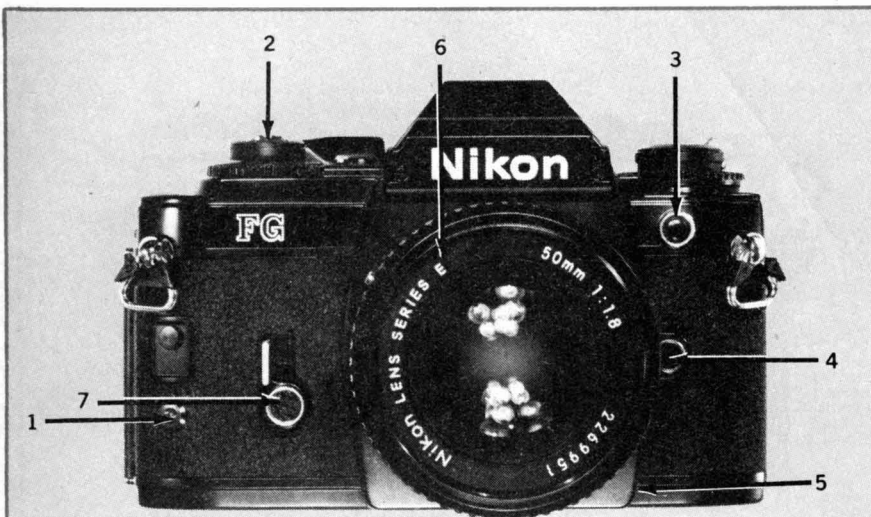
The viewfinder screen itself is near identical to that of the Nikon EM. While it is brighter than comparative screens on other Nikons, it appears somewhat less contrasty. However, the split-image rangefinder does seem to have a distinct advantage: it's usable with lenses of f/5.6 or even f/8. Thus you can focus teles such as 500mm f/8s well with it. This holds true too with the Nikon EM.

Besides having a +2 EV auto-exposure-compensation button for backlit pictures, and ± 2 EV auto-exposure-compensation dial, the camera has full manual control with the continuously-lit red diodes in the finder indicating the speed you've selected and the pulsing diodes suggesting the recommended metering setting. It's an easy task to bracket exposures or match diodes if you want to follow the camera's recommendations.

The FG features off the film, through-lens auto-flash exposure readings via a silicon cell set in the mirror chamber pointing backwards. An SB-15 flash unit provides the necessary dedication, showing a red LED in the finder when the flash is ready and a blinking warning if the light was insufficient.

The camera accepts all Nikon and Nikkor AI lenses, two motors (one up to 3.25 fps) and a data back. It handles well indeed.

Minus points? Few. But it doesn't have a depth-of-field preview, apertures visible in the finder or a PC connection. A full test will appear in MODERN shortly.



1. Removable hand grip. 2. Shutter-release button. 3. Exposure compensation button. 4. Lens release button. 5. Accepts motor drives. 6. Accepts Nikkor or Nikon AI lenses. 7. Mechanical self-timer. 8. Shutter-speed auto-exposure mode selector. 9. Audio warning on/off lever. 10. Dedicated flash accessory shoe. 11. ASA film-speed index dial. 12. Auto-exposure-compensation dial.

