

A PUBLICATION OF THE NIKON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DEC. 31, 2012

NHS-118



NHS-CON14? - YES! - SAN FRANCISCO!
NIKON JOURNAL



THIS ISSUE
PG 1..EASTMAN HOUSE NIKON I.
PG 8..THE D1-NIKON'S 1ST PRO DSLR
PG. 11..THE 'AMAN' NIKONS?

ROBERT J. ROTOLONI
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NHS -119 DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of our *NIKON JOURNAL*, **NHS-119**, is **MARCH 1, 2013**. Please get all contributions and photos to me by that date so I can get the next issue out on time. Thank you. **RJR**.

EDITORIAL

I have yet another jam-packed issue again as I have been blessed with many articles & ideas from the membership. Since there are times when I have to struggle to fill these pages, such an ample supply of material, with even more in the pipeline, makes me very happy. I hope this flow of material continues because every society of any kind needs the active participation of its members. Thank you to all my contributors. But before I get into their various articles I have a sad note to relay to you.

IN MEMORIAM...

Jan Bos, who has attended nearly every NHS Convention including #13 in Paris, where he helped assemble the Tony Hurst Wall, was the victim of a sudden & tragic work related accident in early November. Jan died instantly from a massive head injury that occurred on a job he had only had for a few weeks. He had just turned 60. Jan was quiet and reserved and always willing to help. He appears in two photos in our coverage of NHS-Con13 in issue #116. Please look to pages 8 (left center) and 10 (left lower center) for the last photos I have of him. Jan was one of those people you just couldn't get angry at, who never had a harsh word about anyone. I really liked him and I will miss him, as will all who knew him.

As I said, we have a full issue again starting with photos by Bill Kraus of the actual Nikon I that has been the property of Eastman Kodak since mid-1950 and was the test camera in the famous Marjoram Report. See page 1.

On page 4 our resident expert on the German market 'NIKKOR F', Uli Koch, delves deeper into what was going on when Nikon could not use its name within the borders of Germany. An interesting tale about a strange chapter in the history of Nikon that they eventually overcame, outliving many German makers.

Dutch member Nico Van Dijk has written an article about the first completely Nikon-made professional DSLR, the landmark Nikon D1. Yes we have come a long way since 1999, but you will see that Nikon was out of the gate at a full gallop from the very beginning. Another reason why they have retained the professional digital market to this day with the 'best stuff' on the planet! See page 8.

Belgian member Chris Sap gives us part 1 of a 'fun' article about a series of Nikon film SLRs that I bet most of you have never heard of. After some words about the various Nikon 'N' & 'U' models, he goes into detail about the 'Lemix' & 'Anam' Nikons. The 'what you say'? See page 11 with more next issue.

Jeffrey Felton, who probably knows more about the early Nikon BCB & BC flashguns that anyone else I know, gives us a complete description of the electrical system used to fire those wonderful old bulb units. It is really more complicated than simply inserting a few batteries. Fascinating reading that Jeff will add to in the next issue. See page 14.

It is still almost 2 years to NHS-Con14 so too early for any news right now, but I will publish what I know as soon as I know it. Start making your plans to 'leave your heart in San Francisco' in 2014.

The new dues structure is in effect by the time you read this. Please see our masthead to the left. **RJR**

THE ACTUAL SPECIMEN USED IN THE 'MARJORAM REPORT'..SEE NHS-61!

GEORGE EASTMANS NIKON I... THE 'MARJORAM' CAMERA

By WILLIAM KRAUS

I've wanted to get a closer look at the Nikon I at George Eastman House, since I first saw it on display years ago. With help from Technology Curator, Todd Gustavson, the wish came true during a visit to Rochester this last July.

Of course, George Eastman (1854-1932) never saw a Nikon camera, but the company he founded, Kodak and the legacy that he left, provided for the largest museum in the world dedicated to photography.

Nikon I #609194 appeared in Rochester, New York, in 1948. A local camera repairman, E.B. Marjoram, was asked by Kodak to examine, in detail, and report on the new 35mm camera from Japan. That report * was issued in November 1948.

The camera's provenance is documented on a typewritten 3x5 yellow index card, the filing system used by Kodak to catalog its holdings, and now preserved in the museum. It shows that the camera entered the archives on May 27, 1950. The camera model is listed as '20-JK6/1'.

While the camera is virtually new cosmetically, the shutter no longer functions, and the focusing mount is essentially frozen. The shutter curtain did not appear to be original. There is one strip of leather covering missing, in the back, just under the top plate, from the eyepiece to the right strap eyelet. The missing leather reveals two circular spots on the corner of the body casting, but it is on the opposite end from where the eventual double prong flash sockets would be on the later synched model MS. *(Was NK thinking of flash synch this early? Doubtful, since the system finally used was designed by Adolph Gasser at least a year or so after this camera was manufactured. Another 'Nikon' mystery! RJR)*

The f2 Nikkor lens, #70822, matches the body both in vintage and cosmetics. It has a single aperture scale and a bright chrome finish. The glass is clear, but the diaphragm is frozen at f2. The lens cap is missing.

The original case shows some handling wear but the leather is in remarkably fine condition, as is the light blue-gray velvet lining. The original stitching on the nose is intact.

As for specifics:

Fine matte chrome finish matches on top, front and base plates. Engravings are 'fine'.

Back number matches: #s are 2mm high, 10.5mm total length.

MIOJ on base: letters 1.5mm high, inscription length 20.5mm.

'014' stamped inside bottom of base near the tripod socket.

3 rivet marks on the base are prominent around tripod socket.

Film image size (per Marjoram) is: 23.5 x 30.5mm.

Seven (7) tooth film sprocket.

Removable take-up spool.

Focus scale is in meters with closest distance marked '0.9'.

Hyperfocal ties marked: 2, 3.5, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 16, 22.

Shutter button without a red dot.

Museum identification number on camera back & case: 90:128:5



*E.B. Marjoram (Camera Repair Service, Rochester, NY) issued a comprehensive report on the camera and lens, dated November 1948. The report has been reproduced in its entirety in the Nikon Historical Society Journal #61, September 1998. However, the accompanying photographs in issue #61 are of camera #609322. Research on Marjoram revealed his full name, Ernest Baker

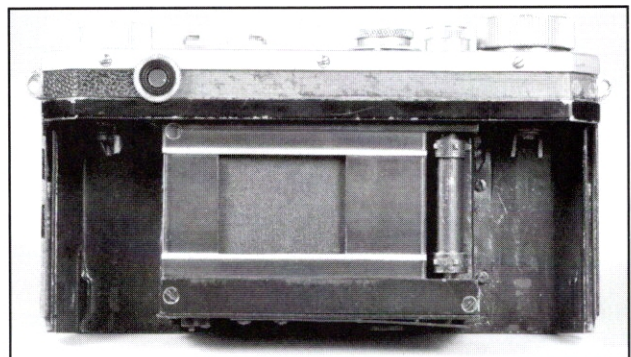
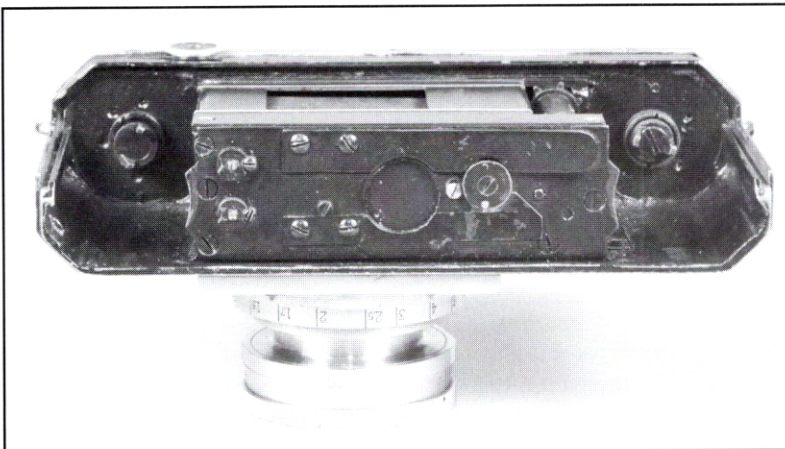
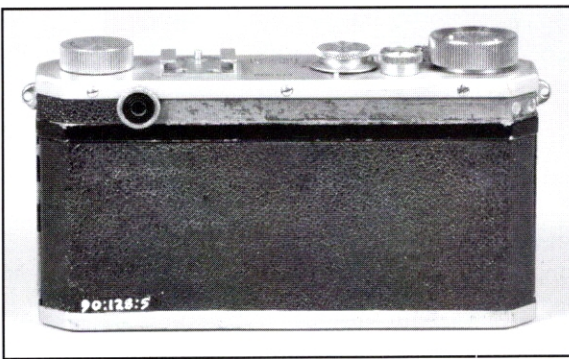


Marjoram, born July 23, 1920. After serving in WWII, opened Double 'M' Camera Repair Service with Raymond MacNally in 1946. He left Rochester in the mid-1950's for California where he continued working in the photo/optics industry. His name appears on several patents. He passed away July 11, 2002.

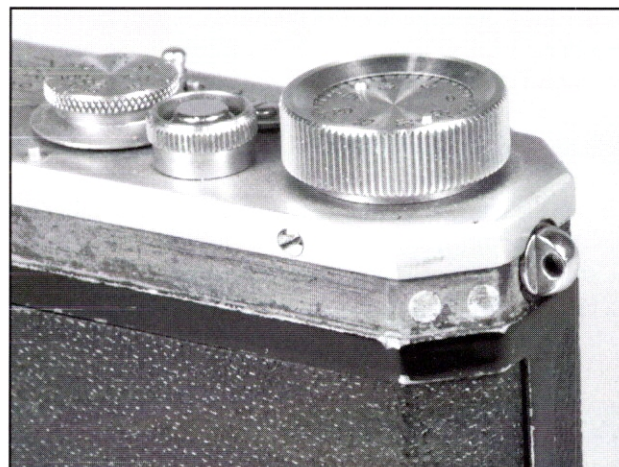
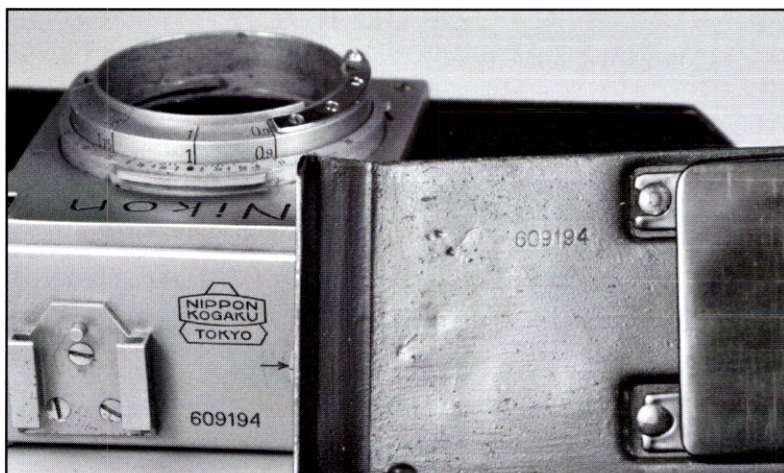
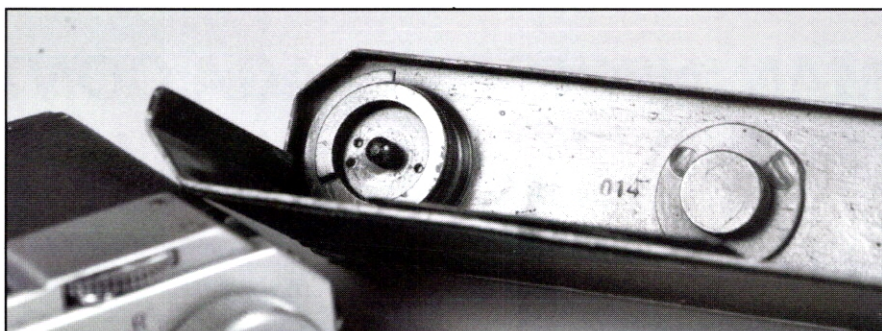
George Eastman House, 900 East Ave., Rochester, NY, is an independent nonprofit museum dedicated to photography and motion pictures, with

an extensive archive of prints, films and photographic equipment. The museum is also well known for its work in film restoration and preservation. www.eastmanhouse.org

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY WILLIAM KRAUS



Here we have various detailed photos of a very important and historic Nikon I camera. This actual camera, #609194, was used by Eastman Kodak to determine the quality and execution of the new Japanese 35mm from an unknown maker called Nippon Kogaku. They chose a local repairman, E.B. Marjoram, to disassemble & report his findings. I am sure they had in-house technicians that could have done this, but maybe they wanted a totally unbiased assessment. Whatever their reasons, it survives to this day.



PRODUCT	Nikon 35mm. Camera			
MODEL No.	20-JK6/1	CASE	SEC.	SHELF
Names of Mfr. and Agents		Dr. No.	Cat. No.	Page
Japan Optical Co. Ltd. Toyko				
Taken from list and letter sent to Mr. J. P. D'Alton Kingsway, London, W. C. 2-June 24, 1949				
Fitted with Nikkor f/3.5-F5cm. Coated Lens				
Price \$195 with case.				
<i>List returned to Bill Lane - Export Dept</i>				
See "National Photo Dealer" Oct. 1949-page 74				
Overseas Finance & Trading Co., 465 California St. San Francisco, Calif.				
MO 791	(Received 5-27-1950)		(ovw)	

Top..The number '014' is stamped inside baseplate near the tripod fitting. Above left..The back has the matching serial number lightly engraved. Above..The missing piece of leather along the rear just under the top plate reveals the presence of what looks like two filled in holes. In 1950, long after this body left the factory, N-K would adopt a 'bi-post' synch socket design that would need such holes. However, it was done on the 'opposite' end of the camera! Is it even feasible that N-K would have been thinking along those very same design parameters this early on? Seems unlikely, yet the very similar system was eventually marketed, albeit on the other end of the body. The cords would have been a constant nightmare on the winding end, getting in the way of advancing the film. The rewind end was a much wiser decision.

Here we have reproduced both sides of the 3x5 yellow index card Bill mentions in the text. This gives us a detailed provenance for Nikon I #609194. Above we can see that the camera and lens were received by Eastman Kodak on May 27, 1950. However, it appears that a Mr. J. F. D'Alton of London may have possessed of the camera at least as early as June 24, 1949. It also says that the 'list' was returned to Bill La??? in the 'Export Dept', but no date. Was it in London first and then it came to the U.S.? It is obvious Kodak knew of Overseas Finance in California. Did they get it from them? Right..the backside lists various sources of info and prices including Pop Photo & American Photography. It also notes the arrival of the Nikon Camera Co. at a new address.

See "Popular Photography" April 1951-page 80
Nikor f/1.4, 35mm. Camera <i>this is the 's'</i>
See "Photographic Trade News" April 1951-p.50
List price of the camera with the following lens equipment is;
with f/3.5 Nikkor-\$189.00
with f/2 Lens-----\$259.00
with f/4 lens-----\$349.00
See T2 Misc. T. Ms.--Nikko-start 11/30/1951
See "American Photography" June-July 1952-p.43
Rights to sell Nikon cameras and Nikkor lenses have been transferred to the Nikon Camera Co. Inc., 25 California St. San Francisco, Calif.

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THE GERMAN 'NIKKOR F' SAGA CONTINUES... HOW & WHY DID IT BEGIN & HOW DID IT END?

THE FIRST YEARS OF VARIMEX

To most of the members of the NHS it is well known that Nikon products were sold in Germany under the brand name 'Nikkor'. What was the reason?

At the 1960 Photokina NK was surprised by an injunction obtained against them by Zeiss Ikon because of the similarity of the names Nikon and Ikon. The result was that NK was not allowed to use the name Nikon in Germany just at the point of the arrival of the Nikon F. It took about 2 years for NK to find a solution & a distributor who was willing to merchandise Nikon products under a brand name other than Nikon.

Varimex GmbH, Frankfurt, (not to be confused with a Polish company of the same name who also distributed photographic products) became the sole distributor of Nikkor products for Germany in mid-1962. Offering products with a 'wrong' brand name was not their only problem. They had to somehow sell Japanese items, which had a reputation for both poor quality problems and a history of producing only knock-off or copycat merchandise. The German photo dealers, under pressure from the German photo industry, wanted to sell only better quality products so they ignored or refused to carry Japanese items. This did begin to change in the late 60's as Japanese products obtained high quality yet were offered at a lower price than German ones.

Varimex was founded in 1957 by Fritz Gross, Felix Wiener and Hendrik Wiener. The company specialized in the import of Japanese goods and they distributed Japanese Elmo cine cameras for a long time. The contact with NK was made by the German branch of Mitsubishi.

The main focus, after some internal discussions, was the semi-professional photographer and not department stores or catalog companies. The right decision from my point of view, and not difficult to make, because of the high prices NK had to ask for their products.

It was very difficult to distribute Nikon in Germany and I'll give you two examples of how Mr. Gross tried to stimulate sales.

He asked his relatives to visit camera shops and inquire about Nikon products and show their interest in them. It was hoped that this would cause the storeowners to become interested in carrying Nikon products. The problem was that the original investment was DM 5000 for the opening order, or start-up kit. Gross was told that this was the price of a VW Beetle. Most store owners were not willing to make this initial investment and had to ask themselves should I spend this money on Japanese equipment or offer my customers German cameras which he had in stock, such as those from Leitz and Zeiss.

Right from the beginning Varimex wanted to use the status of the Nikon F as 'the' camera of the photojournalist in the U.S.A., in Germany as well. What was known was that the German

By ULI KOCH

magazine 'Stern' (a very famous magazine similar to LIFE) had 3 staffers who were said to be using Nikkor cameras. In 1964 Mr. Gross approached the Stern publisher and had 19 of their staff photographers photographed with a Nikkor camera. The result was a 22-page brochure with a print run of 50,000 copies, which was meant to be inserted into the next Stern issue. As Mr. Gross told the story, the action was stopped when two camera companies pressured the publisher and the operation was halted before the issue was printed. Mr. Gross had to live with this and threw a great deal of the brochures into the trash, otherwise today we would have many more copies available on the market. The two camera companies were probably Ernst Leitz and Zeiss Ikon. A few years ago I met Thomas Hoepker, then still president of the Magnum photo agency, NY, at a Westlicht auction in Vienna and asked him about the incident. He told me he had to hold a Nikkor camera to be photographed with it and got an amount of money. At that time he only used Leica cameras. And so it was probably the same with a great number of the photographers in the brochure. For Varimex it was a significant setback and financially very expensive. The only way left to use these brochures was to give them to Nikkor dealers, whose number at that time was quite small.

The next Photokina, after the disaster in 1960, began unusually. Photokina 1962 had two ads in the corporate and product catalog, one by Varimex with Nikkor products and one by Nippon Kogaku, Japan, (even with the injunction) with Nikon products. Why did this happen? No one will ever know, but there was only one exhibition booth at Photokina. In 1966 and 1968, however, ads were only found with Varimex and Nikkor products.

The first print ad by Varimex appeared in the July 1962 issue of 'Fotomagazin'. Strangely there are pictured two Nikkorex cameras and the Nikon brand name also appears in this ad. No reference to the Nikkor F (possibly at that time the internal discussions as to target customers was not complete). The next ad in the November 1962 issue shows the same two Nikkorex cameras, and now with Nikkor designation, a Nikkor F as well.

Brochures from the early Varimex years unfortunately have no printing dates, but the first two Nikkor F brochures are unusual. On one hand their design is entirely different from Nikon brochures in other countries, such as Japan and the US. On the other hand, the first brochure shows a man with a camera in his hand. The probably immediately published second printing has the visual focus exclusively on the product. Unusual, too, the brochures were printed not in Germany but in Japan or Switzerland (there in 1961 the European distribution headquarters was founded). Not until the mid-1960's did the design of the Nikkor brochures match those of the worldwide promotion concept of Nikon products.

The color scheme of the instruction manuals was not in line with the rest of the world either. They partially used shocking colors. The cover of the first Nikkor F manual is bright yellow and ugly. One has to look twice to see what is printed on it. After a short time, probably as early as 1963, the design came into line with the worldwide scheme. Instruction manuals for accessories, and sometimes lenses, were also in different colors. A systematic approach but why one is printed in blue and one in pale yellow, with the same printing date of 1966, has evaded me. Also, why are some manuals printed in German and some in English? Did Varimex want to save the cost of translation because they assumed that the semi-pros spoke English?

As all products had to be sold in Germany under the brand name Nikkor, it is interesting to see how NK improvised to satisfy this requirement. Sometimes quite economically while other times at high costs. The first Nikkor F cameras came with a standard prism marked 'Nikon F' on the underside plate. Later, and only for a short time, this finder had no brand name at all, but instead a serial number, which is the only time the standard 'F' prism was ever numbered in any market! Later still it was labeled 'Nikkor F'. For other items the Nikkor name was engraved (high costs with low production quantities) or a Nikkor sticker was applied over the Nikon name. Finally, on some items the brand was completely omitted. A bundle of opportunities for collectors and an interesting field. If any of the readers have discovered a Nikkor

accessory I would appreciate the information. (Please email me at: nikon_uli@web.de).

Back to Varimex and the end of the Nikkor period. In early 1970 Mr. Gross was in tough negotiations with Zeiss Ikon because of the brand name and price fixing of photographic products in Germany. The result was that NK was finally allowed to use their Nikon brand name in Germany. Unfortunately, Mr. Gross had made a big mistake here because, in spite of his personal commitment to Nikon products, the contract was signed only between Nippon Kogaku and Zeiss Ikon. The result was that the contract between NK and Varimex was cancelled in the autumn of 1971!

This was the inevitable end for Varimex because beginning in January 1972, NK distributed its products through its own subsidiary, Nikon GmbH Dusseldorf. At the time Varimex had a network of 150 dealers.

After recording serial numbers of Nikkor F cameras for 15 years (database of about 250 cameras), my conclusion is that more than half of the recorded bodies were produced in 1969. In previous years, especially before 1967, only a few Nikkor F cameras appeared. Conclusion: Varimex initially had an extremely difficult time bringing Nikkor products into Germany, and only towards the end of the Nikkor era did the 'F' become established in the German market.

The opinion of Mr. Gross is that NK did not appreciate the pioneering work of Varimex in Germany and, therefore, did not honor it accordingly. The view on the part of NK may have been different. The Nikon F was produced in the late 1960's at the rate of 100,000 per year. The sale of several hundred pieces at that time in Germany probably did not fit into NK's plans. Varimex was liquidated in 1972 and Mr. Gross and the Wieners turned to other activities.

Left..The promotional brochure that was at least partially wishful thinking, as the famous photojournalist Thomas Hoepker (top) admits. However, a few years later it was reality for many of them, as the Nikon F became an integral part of their everyday working equipment.



Thomas Hoepker, 28 Jahre alt, studierte Kunstgeschichte und Archäologie. Bis er sich ganz der Fotografie zuwandte. Er arbeitete zunächst freiberuflich, dann als fester Mitarbeiter großer deutscher Magazinen. Im Sommer 1964 begann er seine Arbeit als Foto-reporter beim STERN. Auf dem Reisen der letzten Jahre entstanden Reportagen über eine Lepre-Station in Äthiopien, über die Arbeit eines Unwurzleres bei den Indianern in Peru, über das Erdbebengebiet in Pakistan, über Hilfsmittel für Flüchtlinge in Israel und Jordanien. Berichte über alte Menschen in Deutschland, Rassenprobleme in Israel sowie ein großes Bild-Essay über die amerikanische Provinz. Thomas Hoepker reiste im Auftrag des STERN durch Portugal, flog mit dem Pajot nach Indien und berichtete über den Dschungelkrieg indonesischer Guerillas auf Malaysia.



Fred Irtz, Jahrgang 1918, fotografierte anschließend in verschiedenartigen Kameratypen. 1945, gefangenentlassen, ging er als der 7. US-Army. Später arbeitete er „Heute“, dann für die erste deutsche Rheinische Illustrierte. Seit 1960 gibt er das STERN. Fred Irtz blieb immer der Reporter für Beispiel Erdbebenkatastrophe in Skop Menachen vor dem Richter. In seinen Berichten aus Asien, Afrika, auch in seinen Deutschland-Reportagen sächlich der journalistische Gehalt eines

Right...Pictured is one of the very first NIKKOR F cameras sold in Germany. It is #6479572 & it is listed as 'NIKKOR CAMERA Model F.' What is interesting is that the warranty card is in English? Also shown is a Micro-Nikkor f3.5/55mm with its card, also in English. Cameras up to mid-1966 came with the uppcase 'NIKKOR' engraving. Later cameras came with 'Nikkor' nameplate for some unknown reason.





Sonderdruck aus INPHO 20/1969:

Das System der Nikkor F und Nikkormat FTN

- 1 Ich kenne die Handhabung der Nikkor-Kamera. Die im Prinzip gleichen Grund-Bedienelemente finden sich bei anderen Kameras ähnlicher Provenienz häufig. Heute bin ich hier, um mich über die Ausbaufähigkeit der Kameras und die Unterschiede, die das Modell Nikkor F von der Nikkormat unterscheiden, zu informieren.
- 2 Ich freue mich, daß Ihr Wissensdrang über das übliche Maß hinausgeht. Ich möchte Sie immer ein Vergewisserter sein, wenn ich mich etwas ausführlicher mit den Nikkor- und Ihren Systemen beschäftigen kann.
- 3 Ich möchte Sie bitten, mir über diese beiden Nikkor-Kameras etwas mehr zu erzählen, mehr als mir eine Bedienungsanleitung sagt.
- 4 Hier habe ich die Modelle. Außerlich unterscheidet sich die Nikkor F von der Nikkormat durch das aufsetzbare, jedoch zu einer Funktionseinheit mit ihr verbundenen Photomic FTN-Sucher.
- 5 Mir ist bekannt, daß dieser Aufsatz zur Feinmessen dient; aber sagen Sie, warum ist er dafür groß, bei der Nikkormat ist das Prisma doch kleiner?
- 6 Aber nicht auswechselbar! Der Photomic FTN-Sucher kann gegen ein Standardprisma ausgetauscht werden. Weiter steht ein Sport-Prisma-Sucher und ein Lichtschuldsucher zur Verfügung.
- 7 Ich kenne zwar die normalen Sport-Sucher, meist einfache Metallrahmen, die umgedreht ein Bildsichtfenster anzeigen. Ein Sportprisma hingegen ist mir neu.
- 1 Es ist auch eine Nikkor-Spezialität. Dieser Suchertyp wurde vor allem für die Flugfotografie, geflüchtete Selbst beim Tragen einer Seesackbrille kann der Fotograf bei einem Augenabstand von 80 bis 80 mm das gesamte Sucherfeld überblicken. Aber wie der Name schon sagt - der Sucher wird auch zur Sportaufnahme, Schnappschüsse und Reproduktionen verwendet, also überall dort, wo man auf Distanz scharf einstellen will oder muß. Besonders Brillenträger möchten von diesem praktischen Zubehörgen Gebrauch, da sie das gesamte Sucherfeld überblicken können.
- 2 Sie sprachen eben noch von einer weiteren Möglichkeit, dem Lichtschuldsucher.
- 3 Ja, eine weitere praktische Ergänzung zur Nikkor F. Mit diesem Sucher wird ein Filter ermöglicht, über die Kopfe anderer hinweg zu fotografieren. Sie schützen einfach von oben hin, während Sie die Kamera hoch über sich halten. Eine weitere Verwendungsöglichkeit bietet sich bei Nahaufnahmen oder Reproduktionen, also dann, wenn Sie von oben auf die Mattheibe sehen müssen. Fotografieren Sie z. B. eine Pflanze in Bodennähe, können Sie von Ihrem Standpunkt in die Kamera gehen, das erleichtert das Arbeiten beträchtlich.
- 4 Güte nur des wechselfähigen Suchersystem der Nikkor F noch weitere Vorteile!
- 5 Ja, z. B. die verschiedenen Mattheiben, es sind nicht weniger als 14. Sollen einen weiteren Baustein im Nikkor-System. An Hand dieser Tabelle läßt sich die für Ihre spezielle Kamera-

Objektiv-Kombination nötige Mattheibe mit den optimalen Eigenschaften herausfinden.

- 1 Das ist richtig. Zur exakten Ermittlung der Lichtmenge steht Ihnen bei beiden Kameras das gleiche präzise arbeitende System zur Verfügung.
- 2 Ich habe schon viel von der zuverlässigen Maßmethode der Nikkor-Lichtmessung gehört. Worin unterscheidet sie sich von anderen Methoden?
- 3 Die Nikkor-Kameras nur die Lichtmenge zur Auswertung heran, die durch das Objektiv auf den Film trifft. Da bei einer Spiegelreflexkamera vor dem Film der Spiegel angehoben ist, trifft das einfallende Licht zuerst hier auf, wird in das Prisma gelenkt und dort ausgewertet. Hier scheiden sich nun die Geister der Kamerakonstrukteure. Die einen bedenken sich der Integration, die anderen der schnelleren Auswertung des einfallenden Lichtes. In den Nikkor-Kameras finden Sie die Vorteile beider Methoden adäquat vereint.
- 4 Erklären Sie mir das doch bitte genauer. Das Hauptkriterium in der Fotografie stellt schließlich die Belichtung dar, deshalb möchte ich darüber gerne mehr wissen.
- 5 Das sehen Sie richtig. Lassen Sie mich dazu etwas technisch werden. Das Licht wird über den Spiegel durch die Mattheibe in das Prisma reflektiert.

Since the promotional material produced for the 'NIKKOR' body of equipment was unique it is, in itself, of collectible interest. Left.. An early Varimex ad that looks very good. However, Varimex had only 7 employees in 1971 & it is doubtful they had their own advertising department. Right.. Interested dealers were personally visited by one of the Varimex owners as this letters states. BTW..this dealer, Foto Walter (& Leica) products. Below left.. Basically the same brochure but the one on the right was printed in Japan while the left one was done in Switzerland! There are a few slight differences in printing. Below right.. Two different brochures illustrating the use of both types of camera nameplates!

FRANKFURT AM MAIN, 2511 44
TELEFON 293034/55

Personenr. VARIMEX 200 FRANKFURT AM MAIN, 2511 44

Firma
Foto Walter
Inh. Günter Walter
7500 Tübingen
Postfach 1880

19. April 68

Sehr geehrter Herr Walter,
wir danken Ihnen für Ihr Interesse an dem Nikkor System. Unser Herr Grosse will versuchen noch in Laufe dieses Monats zu Ihnen zu kommen, er wird sich vorher bei Ihnen telefonisch absprechen.
Wir verbleiben
mit freundlichen Grüßen
VARIIMEX
Ein- u. Ausfuhrhandels-Gesellschaft
Frankfurt am Main, Kanto Nr. 96-008
Postfach, Frankfurt am Main, Kanto Nr. 72 43
Erfüllungs- und Gerichtsamt in Frankfurt am Main

NIKKOR-FTN

Das PHOTOMIC-System ist eine Kombination eines mit dem Objektiv gekuppelten Belichtungsmeßers und Suchers. Der Lichtfall auf die Cadmium-Sulfid-Photozelle (CdS) kann mittels einschraubbarer zusätzlicher Lichtfallbegrenzer zwischen 70° und 180° verändert werden durch die Verwendung eines Optisplines, das von der Photozelle abgegebene Licht durch eine Quarztafel-Batterie noch wirkungsvoll verstärkt.

Beim PHOTOMIC ist der Einstellwert auf der Oberseite der Kamera und im Sucher oberhalb des Bildes eingepreßt und jederzeit ablesbar. Ein besonderes Spiegelssystem ermöglicht durch ein auf der Schrägen eingelassenes Fenster jeweils die Kontrolle der eingestellten Blendöffnung.

Der in der NIKKOR-F einbaubare Standard-Sucher kann leicht gegen das PHOTOMIC-System ausgetauscht werden.

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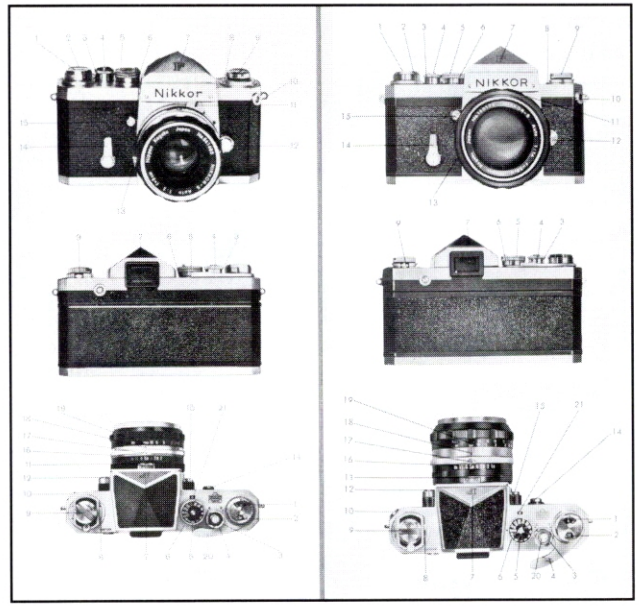
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Generalvertretung für Europa:
NIKON AG, Linnemattstrasse 177, Zürich 49 (Schweiz)

Generalvertretung für Europa:
NIKON AG, Linnemattstrasse 177, Zürich 49 (Schweiz)

Überreicht durch den autorisierten Händler



Nikkor WAIST-LEVEL FINDER FOR NIKKOR F

The waist level finder, permitting viewing the frame through the viewfinder above, provides great convenience in close-up, reproduction, motion picture, and other photography.

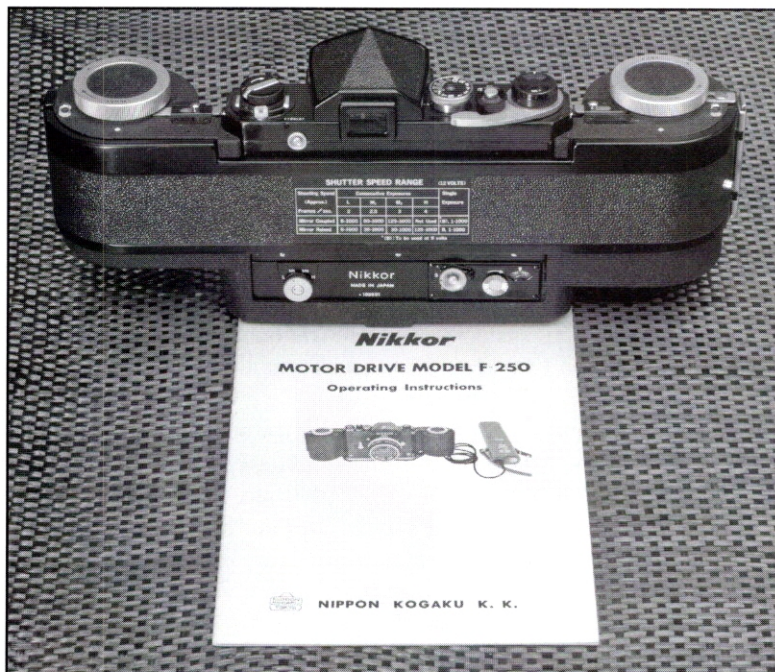
When opened, the finder shows the view which will appear in the frame. The finder is plainly visible at all times. The mounting plate and the finder are fitted and locked easily by spring and clamp the top cover.

An effort was made to mark each & every accessory, no matter its size or importance, with the 'NIKKOR' name to prevent any legal problems. Left.. The waist level finder, its box & instruction sheet were so marked! Right.. Even the Action Finder, whose only nameplate is hidden when it is mounted, was marked as 'NIKKOR', as was its instruction sheet. So all the boxes & literature, not just the products, were specially produced by N-K for this limited market.

Nikkor ACTION FINDER FOR NIKKOR F

The Action Finder, fitted on top of the Nikkor F camera, in place of the Eye Level, Photomic F or the Finder, permits viewing the subject in the viewfinder even through the viewfinder. It is 20 mm in diameter and 10 mm in length vertically and 24 mm in 1/3 inch lateral axis. The entire viewfinder can be loaded over the camera without the need of any special accessories. The camera cannot be held close to your eye, such as:

- In taking picture of rapidly moving objects, as in sport photography.
- For photographers who like to wear eyeglasses while viewing through the finder.
- In close-up or photographing where the photographer must look into the viewfinder.



This practice of marking each item with the 'NIKKOR' name has resulted in some relatively rare items that enhance our enjoyment of Nikon collecting these 50 years later. Above left.. The very rare F250 shot 'Nikkor' motor is a perfect example. Above.. The F36 version, though not as rare, is still very much sought after. Below.. Even the cordless battery pack was so marked. Notice that all the literature also uses the term 'NIKKOR'. Not shown are the various accessories for the motors, all of which are also marked 'NIKKOR'.



Above.. Yet another accessory with the 'NIKKOR' name. All of the various Photomic models were so marked. The 'NIKKOR' name could be found as an engraving, embossing or printing, or even left off entirely! Below.. Probably the rarest item that resulted from the law suit was the 'NIKKOR J', which we have covered in these pages previously. Still to this day a very difficult item to obtain and a true rarity.



ALL PHOTOS BY ULI KOCH

(This article & these photos, plus many others, originally appeared in the Oct/Nov/Dec issue of 'Photo Deal', published in Germany by NHS member Rudolf Hillebrand)

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NIKON'S FIRST PROFESSIONAL DSLR...THE NIKON D1

By NICO VAN DIJK

It is really amazing with which speed digital photography – a.k.a. imaging – has swept film photography away during the last decade. Although Sony and Canon were developing digital cameras in the early 1980's, Nikon introduced a 'still-video' camera in 1986, followed by its first 'serious' digital camera, the Nikon QV 1000C, in 1990. Kodak made use of many Nikon SLR bodies (e.g. Nikon F3, F801/8008, F90X/S, Pronea, etc.) to present its Digital Camera System (DCS). Together with Fuji Inc. Nikon developed the Nikon/Fujix E-series. These co-operations ended in 1998.

Nikon started to develop, entirely on its own, a professional digital SLR in 1996. A special department was set up under the supervision of Mr. Kiyoshige Shibazaki, who started his career in developing video cameras. Based on the body of the Nikon F5, Nikon Corp. officially announced the D1 on June 15, 1999. The camera became available in September 1999 at a staggering \$5,850 in the USA and 6000+ Euro in Europe.

The development of the camera was quite an exercise for the team of engineers. It took 2 years to succeed in powering the image sensor. It may seem ridiculous now that that 23.7x15.6mm RGB CCD sensor has a 2.66 effective Mp, but those pixels are rather large (11.8 micron) when compared to those used in many Coolpix and SLR cameras. The D1X and D1H have the same sensor, but the D2X has a Sony sensor with 12.4Mp of 5.5 micron each, while the D3 has a Renesas 12.1 Mp sensor of 8.45 micron and the D4 has a Renesas 16.2Mp sensor of 7.3 micron each.

Mr. Shibazaki in a 2006 interview: "I guess that it's now safe to reveal that the D1 image sensor, with specifications noting a pixel count of 2.7 million, actually had a pixel count of 10.8 million. The technical reason for an actual pixel count 4 times greater than that indicated publicly lies in the need to achieve high sensitivity and a good signal-to-noise ratio. Unlike current cameras, for which final pixel counts account for individual pixels, we had to include multiple pixels in each pixel unit with the D1. In short, our development of an image sensor with so many pixels at such an early stage in the history of digital cameras indicates the importance placed on SLR camera development at Nikon. Keeping all of this in mind, our ability to offer high-speed drive technology that made 5 FPS shooting of 10.8 million pixel images possible is something I am truly proud of."

As stated above, the body of the D1 was in fact that of the sturdy Nikon F5. If you would (but better not!) open the back of any D1 you'll see the space, where once the film take-up spool resided, is now used to house the memory card. The door of that memory card compartment brings me to the few drawbacks of the camera. The rubber coating of the entire body will give a lot of problems after several years of intensive use; the rubber coating of that little door will drive you crazy after some weeks! Also the rubber cover of the connector at the lower right backside of the body will come off easily. Most D1's have an improved replacement cover used on the D1X/D1H.

The exposure meter with the 1005-pixel CCD comes from the F5, although the viewfinder seems to come from the F100. The autofocus system (CAM 1300 module) with 5 sensors can be found in the F5 and the F100 too. The autofocus detection works from EV -1 to EV 19 (at ISO 100).

However, in comparison to what the competitors had to offer in 1999 the Nikon D1 was and still is a very nice workhorse. It has a high shutter speed of 1/16,000 sec. And a flash synch of 1/500 sec. The physical shutter does not have much impact on those high speeds as the shutter speeds are handled electronically. The shutter curtain and the sensor are not very reflective so only DX-flashes may give a right exposure. Most older (non-DX) flashes are measuring the flash reflection off the film as soon as the shutter is opened. So, if there is no decent reflection (of the sensor) measuring the intensity of the flash light will be difficult and/or inaccurate. Each image shot with the camera in NEF/RAW will result in 'eating' only 7.5Mb of your memory card. Prints on DIN-A4 (now ISO 216) or US-letter are no problem. Given the fact that most newspapers and magazines are printed in a resolution of 300 dpi, those 2.66 Mp are more than enough. Interesting fact is that this camera is one of the very rare Nikon digital SLR's that never needed a firmware upgrade in all those years! The software in the camera uses FAT16 (File Allocation Table), introduced in 1996 by Microsoft (Windows 95). Nikon introduced post-processing imaging software (call Nikon View) to process NEF images taken with the Nikon D1 series. Newer cameras (Nikon D2 series & later) are using FAT32 making newer Nikon View (NX) software necessary to process NEF images. Oddly enough a photographer had to pay an additional and serious amount (up to US \$500!) for the Nikon software which made it possible to process NEF images!

It is advisable to shoot in NEF only as this is the only format that contains exactly the data that comes from the CCD. All NEF images will be saved in 12-bit RGB, all others (JPG & TIFF) will be saved in 8-bit RGB or will be compressed (1/4, 1/8, 1/16). Saving images is possible on Compact Flash cards or IBM Micro drives with a memory capacity up to 2GB. Memory cards with a higher capacity will be seen by the camera as a 2GB card.

An interesting feature is that one can use nearly all AI-Nikkors (MF & AF) produced since 1977 and those older Nikkors that were converted to AI. Even non-AI lenses will fit, though for stop-down metering only. But be careful not to touch/hit the electronic contacts in the D1's F-mount. Due to the smaller format of the CCD there is that famous crop factor, which is, for most Nikkors, around 1.5. An advantage is that you will use the central area of the lens, which means that light falloff is reduced, chromatic aberration is less and the corners of the image will be sharper. A standard 50mm Nikkor will become a 75mm portrait lens. Wide-angle lenses will lose a lot of their angle, but teles will increase their magnification power by 1.5. Bellows and some macro-rings (PK-11a, PK-12, etc.) can be used as well.



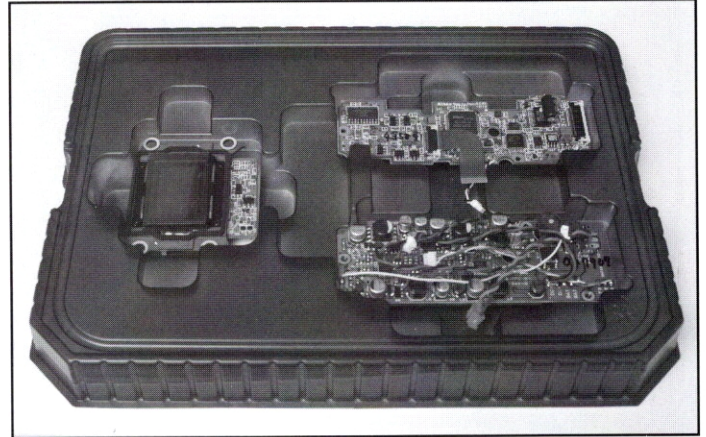
Today used Nikon D1 cameras are easy to find at very reasonable prices. For less than \$150 a D1 is yours. Some 40,000 were produced, unknown how many survived. The camera was replaced by the D1X and D1H in the summer of 2001. Developments in digital photography are going so fast that the D1 cannot be connected to PC's running under Windows Vista or Windows 7/8. You'll need a memory card reader to transfer images to your PC.

Since the D1 is the very first digital SLR made entirely by Nikon it will become a very collectible camera. Including the relatively expensive EN-4 batteries, EH-4 AC (100-240V) adapter, battery charger MH-16 (100-240V AC) and MH-17 (12V DC).

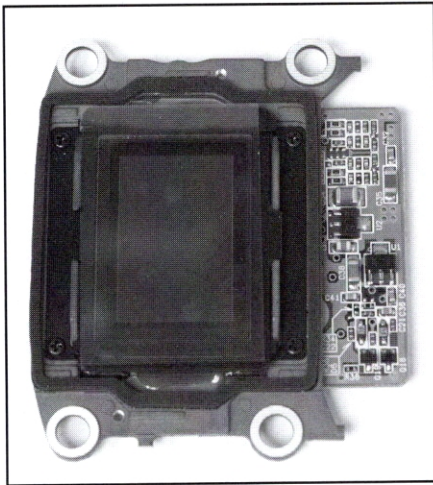
*Above..The D1 and its successors: Nikon D1X and Nikon D1H.
Below right..Front view of the Nikon D1.
Below left..Rear view of the D1.*



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Above left..Body #5000009, one of the very first sold! Above..Spare sensor plus additional hardware. Left..The Nikon D1 sensor exposed. Below..The menu buttons and screen on the rear of the camera.



A personal note: All of the over 1,300 B&W photos in my Nikon RF book were taken with a Nikon D1 w/60mm Micro-Nikkor. In all I fired off over 12,000 frames to do the book. The D1 worked flawlessly! A superb camera indeed. RJR



Above..Nikon D1 from July 1999 plus Nikon 5.8cm/f1.4 from March 1960 mounted. Nearly 40 years apart & still compatible! Right..Nikon D1 + box + Battery EN-4 + AC adapter EH-4 + MH-17 auto (12V) battery adapter (MH-16 battery adapter came with camera) + D1 focusing screen E.



ALL PHOTOS NICO VAN DIJK

ABOUT 'FUN'...

THE 'LEMIX' AND

'ANAM' NIKONS..PART I

By CHRISTOPHE SAP

Many of you may have heard about Nikon Lemix. Braczkowski's books (Nikon Handbook & Nikon Fascination) mention one, the FM2 Lemix. None are mentioned in his Pocket Book.

The Nikon F & the Nikon N

Nikon F: as we all know, the 'F' comes from Fuketa, but there is also the Nikon 'N' series, which are normally found in the USA. Nikon told me "*The 'N' was used as a measure against the grey market & to make some difference between US & European models. This might have been done on demand from Nikon USA. The 'N' might mean Nikon.*"

All two-digit model numbers: 50,55,60,70,75 & 80 also exist as N50, N60 etc. versions, both black & chrome, the 90 only in black & as N90 Transparent, a fully functional model.

All three-digit model numbers: 301,401,501,601 & 801 do not exist with 'N' denominations. They were given a new numbering system for the USA market (including the QD versions). The equivalents are listed below:

F301 = N2000 F401 & S = N4004

F401X = N5005 F501 = N2020

F601 = N6006 F601M = N6000 F801 = N8008

I also asked Nikon why, for instance, F50 & N50, & why for instance F301 & N2000 instead of N301? Their answer: "*We do not know about why N5005 & not N501. Is it the USA people's taste? They also added: "But the flagship models have the global unified name."*

The flagship models being: F4, F5, F6, are single-digit designations. There is one exception, the F100, a three-digit model without an "N" brother.

THE NIKON U

Collecting is F-U-N. We know about the 'F' & 'N', but what about the 'U'? When you search eBay for 'Nikon N', you can find most N-bodies. If you search 'Nikon U', only accessories with a 'U' in the name turn up. If you limit the search to only cameras, you might find the U.S. Navy types (KS80A) or F's engraved "U.S. GOVERNMENT PROPERTY".

The "U" cameras I am now writing about are neither of these, & have nothing to do with the USA or with the Irish rock-band U2! In fact, the U-type I am referring to, I never found one on eBay or any Internet search. Where I did find the first one was in a small shop in Osaka. Another in a shop dealing in modern Nikons in Tokyo.

There are three 'U' types:

Nikon U	F65/N65 type
Nikon Us	F55/N55 type
Nikon U2	F75/N75 type

So the 55, 65 & 75 exist as F's, U's & N's. F-U-N for all to find and collect. And this is what Nikon Tokyo wrote me:

"U, Us & U2 are original names only for the Japanese market. The target user of these cameras is the beginner, so Nikon chose a more friendly name in Japan. The sound of 'U' is very comfortable for Japanese people, because it is the same sound of the Japanese character that means 'friend'. Another reason is a countermove against the grey market. The independent naming prevents irregular import & export."

The Nikon ANAM

Now after some F-U-N, lets come to the ANAM Nikons. Many of you might know the FM Lemix mentioned above, and some might have noticed the name Anam in Braczkowski's book where he wrote: "*The FM2 Lemix was built under license by Anam Precision company in Korea, with a stylish "L" as Lemix logo. It was produced only for the Korean market & there were no plans for export.*"

During one of my visits to the late Arakawa-san, he gave me a book in which I found a picture of a Nikon Anam camera and stating that it was assembled in South Korea from parts shipped by Nikon.

So Anam is the name of the manufacturer, which also used the name Lemix for certain models.

The Nikon Lemix

The first Lemix I ever saw was the picture in Braczkowski's book. The first Lemix I found was on eBay, listed August 13, 2009, as 'Nikon Lemix FM2n camera + Nikkor 50/1.4 + case.'

The description reads as follows:

- 1) Nikon Lemix FM2n, made in JAPAN, Near Mint
- 2) Nikon Lemix Nikkor 50/1.4
- 3) Nikon Lemix leather case
- 4) Nikon Lemix wide camera strap
- 5) Nikon L37 52mm filter
- 6) Nikon front lens cap

I got excited and contacted the seller in Australia. I was the winning bidder. So this picture of the Anam and the arrival of the Lemix were the start of a search for 'why'!

What Did I Find?

First to Wikipedia. When I searched Nikon Lemix the response was: 'Did you mean Lumix?' What a shame, Lumix and Nikon.... But when I asked for Anam, bingo! A lot of answers, unfortunately irrelevant: Australian National Academy of Music, a band from the British Isles. etc.

On the Internet a little better:

- "I have an FM3n with an 'L' script, perhaps someone felt a need to customize the body."
- "The 'L' stands for Lemix. These were Nikon models assembled in Korea by Anam Precision."
- But another asked: "If it was made in Korea, why does it say 'Made in Japan'? Is it considered inferior to a Japanese made one?"
- Someone tried to sell an FM2L claiming it was from Nikon's special series for NASA that was never sold in stores.
- "I live in Korea and have experienced the Anam Nikon F401s and F801 for over 6 years". He gave this as an answer to someone who was anxious about buying a Korean production.
- One from Singapore replied: "Anam also have made FM2s, F801, F401s, SQD, F301, Nikon RD, TW-20 and some other compacts. Should be as good as made in Japan Nikon."
- Someone from Poland mailed me he has an FM2 and an FG-20 in Lemix/Anam.

And from websites the following:

http://camaracoleccion.es/Nikon_F.html (click on "camaras Nikon" & then on the camera type for a full description & photos) This is a Spanish site & they report: "The Korean company Anam Precision made FM2 Lemix since the 80's. Anam was a Nikon subcontractor for the Korean & Vietnamese markets. In fact they just assembled the parts coming from Japan. Besides cameras they also made lenses, batteries & other accessories."

<http://www.nicovandijk.net/> (site of NHS member Nico Van Dijk. Click on Nikon Anam & Lemix). Shows some of these products. "Anam also assembled cameras for others including Canon & Panasonic. Most of what they made was sold on the Asian market, making them potential collection pieces."

An Italian website commented similarly about the FM2: "In order to compete in price, Nikon chose a cheaper way of production & chose Anam." It shows the different FM2's, the FM2 Lemix and an FM2 88 Seoul Olympics!

So now we have documented three 'foreign' Nikons: FM2 Lemix, Anam & Olympics.

And finally, someone in France offered a Nikon F50 described as follows: "My nephew brought it for me from Korea, but the seller has written his name on it, 'Anam Nikon'! I was able to buy my first Anam, with lens, strap & case! Amen."

So a lot was learned from the Internet study, but nowhere could I find a full list, nor the complete 'why'. So, back to Nikon with a questionnaire.

To be continued next issue:

- What Nikon wrote to me
- A dozen?
- Numbering
- Some Anam history
- Accessories

Many thanks to my nephew Bart, who brought me 11 of those Lemix-Anam Nikons straight from Seoul where he worked several months in 2009. And also to Bill Kraus for his corrections of my English. Bill I owe you a Belgian beer during our next stop in Tokyo.



The Nikon N55



The Nikon N60



The Nikon F55



The Nikon U



*The Nikon U-
(also made in black)*



The Nikon U2



The Nikon FM2 Lemix



The Nikon FM2 ANAM, which was not intended to be made



*Above...The Nikon Lemix F-801 with matching strap
Right...The Nikon F 90X ANAM*



*Above...The Nikon F 601 QD ANAM
Right...Nikon F50 ANAM with "sellers
name on it"!*



FIRING THE NIKON BCB & BC FLASHGUNS IT'S AN 'ELECTRICAL' THING.....

By **JEFFREY FELTON**

The early Nikon BCB & BC flashguns used combustible bulbs that were ignited (fired) by an electrical current. There were a variety of ways by which this current was provided and delivered to the bulb. The BCB-II flashgun alone could fire in 4 different configurations. Fundamentally, 2 different methods were used to provide the current. 1) directly from batteries, and 2) by the battery capacitor (B-C) system. The B-C system was introduced in a bulletin titled "Flash Photography and B-C Photoflash System", published in June 1950 by the Eveready Corp. That same year the Minicam Research Corp. in Tokyo introduced its laminated-battery-capacitor (L-B-C) system. Soon nearly all flashguns were using the B-C principle, until they were replaced by strobe flashes a decade or two later.

A battery can deliver current only slowly, at a voltage & rate limited by its electrochemical reaction. As a battery is used, it becomes depleted, and its voltage drops. It becomes less & less able to deliver the current to consistently fire a bulb in the required time interval, exactly the same each time. But even a partially depleted battery can fully charge a capacitor; it just takes a little longer to deliver sufficient current & all that charge is then stored in the capacitor. When a capacitor is discharged, all the stored electrical charge is released in an instant, exactly the same way every time. Once it is fully charged it does not matter whether it was charged quickly by a strong battery or more slowly by a weaker one. Either way, when it discharges it yields the same powerful surge of current each time, sufficient to ignite the bulb in a consistent manner, as required.

So the battery-capacitor system is much superior to a simple-battery method. The B-C system is more efficient & uses less electrical energy to fire each bulb. Thus the B-C system can fire many more bulbs before exhausting the battery's charge.

The B-C system uses lamination batteries that have higher voltage than ordinary batteries. Common carbon-zinc or alkaline batteries deliver 1.5 volts. Lamination batteries are built up by stacking, or laminating, multiple thin 1.5 volt cells in series to add up to a higher voltage. Fifteen laminated 1.5-volt cells yield a battery producing 22.5 volts.

The Nikon BCB system used a 22.5V lamination battery, which was commonly referred to as a hearing-aid battery, because these rectangular batteries were used to power old fashioned hearing aids around 1950. The Eveready No. 412 is a version of that battery which is still available. The Eveready No. 505 is a smaller 22.5V battery for later Nikon BC fan-flashes, also still made.

The capacitors used in the Nikon BCB system were referred to as Power Units. These were made in two sizes. The larger one was the size & shape of a D-cell battery, the smaller one was that of a AA-cell. The capacitance of a capacitor is measured in microfarads, and flashgun capacitors may range from about 100 to 700 microfarads. Eight working AA-size Nikon Power Units were tested at 25 volts, & their capacitance ranged from 428 to

600 microfarads, with an average of about 500. Although I have 3 of the larger D-size Power Units, none of them are functional, so I have not been able to measure their capacitance.

The small AA-size Power Unit for the BCB-II & BC-III is a simple design. It has only two electrical contacts, one on each end: up (+) & down (-). The large D-size type for the BCB-I is the same +/- configuration but is more complex. In addition to its flat bottom surface, it has 3 more electrical contacts on the top: a coiled brass spring on one side, a simple domed contact that sits on a ring of insulation in the middle, & a flat metal spring almost 2 inches long that extends over & down the side. I consulted with an electrical engineer, S. Vinayagamorthy, about the possible functions of these 4 contacts. We are not certain, but we are fairly confident of the following:

1. The bottom surface contacts the positive terminal of the 22.5 volt lamination battery. This is where the electrical charge enters the capacitor.
2. The long flat metal spring on the side is the ground for charging the capacitor. It makes contact through the long metal tube of the flashgun, through the bottom cap, to the negative terminal of the battery. No actual current travels through this grounding circuit. It just creates the electrical potential that allows the capacitor to charge.
3. The domed contact is the point where the current leaves the capacitor when it discharges. When the firing switch is closed, the current instantly flows through the flashbulb firing it, then through the closed switch, then through the grounding circuit for capacitor firing, & back to the negative terminal of the battery. This also uses the main flashgun tube & base cap as part of the circuit.
4. The function of the top coiled spring is not so obvious, but we believe it may be a ground for the chassis of the capacitor, or alternatively it may control a switch that allows the capacitor discharge to reach the top center domed contact. It joins the grounding circuit for firing, in between the flashbulb & the firing switch.

We welcome comments from anyone who understands the 4 contacts of this large unit better than we do.

The first Nikon flashgun, the Walz-for-Nikon unit, did not employ the B-C system. It used 2 D-cells, or, with a short extension tube, a third D-cell could be added for higher voltage.

The B-C system was introduced with the Nikon BCB (or BCB-I) flashgun. The BCB-I could also use the same simple-battery system as the Walz-for-Nikon unit, & had the same short extension tube. On page 6 of the instruction book for the BCB-I (with a gold cover) it says, "For a shutter speed of 1/500 sec. Or when more than 2 flash bulbs are consumed on the circuit, increase the battery voltage to not less than 4.5 volts." This means to use 3 D-cells instead of 2, & to add the short extension tube. This instruction is also given in the N-K leaflet for the bullet-head flash.

The B-C system for the BCB-I did not use the extension & did not use ordinary D-cell batteries. It had a Power Unit (capacitor) which was the same size as a D-cell battery. It also had a 22.5V lamination battery, which was also D-cell sized. These D-size 22.5V lamination batteries are very rare. I have never seen one, & even if one was found it would be dead after 60 years. The instruction book for the BCB-I unit shows (on page 13) a picture of the 22.5V D-size lamination battery, & also a picture of the D-size Power Unit. The D-size Power Units are also rare, but I have been able to acquire 3 of them. I have tested all 3, but none of them work. I still have hope of turning up a functional D-size Power Unit, because functional AA-size Power Units from the same era are not uncommon.

In order to test my 3 D-size Power Units I had to devise a substitute for the non-existent D-size 22.5V battery. I decided to use the Eveready No. 412, a 22.5V lamination battery, which is about the size & shape of an ordinary 9V battery. I believed it should work, but I needed to make it fit securely into the tube of a BCB-I flashgun. To make it round like a D-cell I added small semicircular strips of wood, attached with 2-sided sticky tape. And to make it as long as a D-cell I added a cylindrical metal spacer made from six 34mm Filipino 1 piso coins from the 1970's.

To test a D-size Power Unit I put it into a BCB-I unit with the 22.5V battery I made & the metal spacer, & checked to see if it would fire a bulb. A control experiment was done using 2 ordinary D-cell batteries, which was successful. But none of my 3 D-size Power Units would fire the bulb.

I cannot be certain that my test system is a good one, because I do not have a good D-size Power Unit to use as a positive control. It may be that my (new) No. 412 lamination battery is not able to cause any D-size Power Unit to fire a bulb. But from theory it ought to work, & my best guess is that all 3 D-size Power Units are defective.

If anyone has a D-size Power Unit that you would like me to test for you, contact me at jfelton@westernu.edu. I will take good care of it & send it right back to you after testing it.

It may be possible to repair one of my D-size Power Units, but I do not know how to do it. I don't know what happens to a capacitor when it fails.

So there are 3 ways to fire a BCB-I flashgun: 2 D-cells (total 3V); 3 D-cells (total 4.5V); B-C system (D-size Power Unit plus D-size 22.5V lamination battery).

The Nikon BCB-II flashgun has a shorter tube than the BCB-I, & a correspondingly longer extension tube. The BCB-II can be fired with 3 ordinary D-cells (1 in the main tube & 2 in the extension tube). It is also possible to fire it using only a single D-cell battery in the main tube, & without using the extension tube. However, it is not intended to be used this way, & it may not work if the battery isn't very fresh. Another way to fire the BCB-II in the simple-battery mode is to use the black plastic case (with maroon cap) that holds 3 AA-cell penlite batteries, without involving the long extension tube.

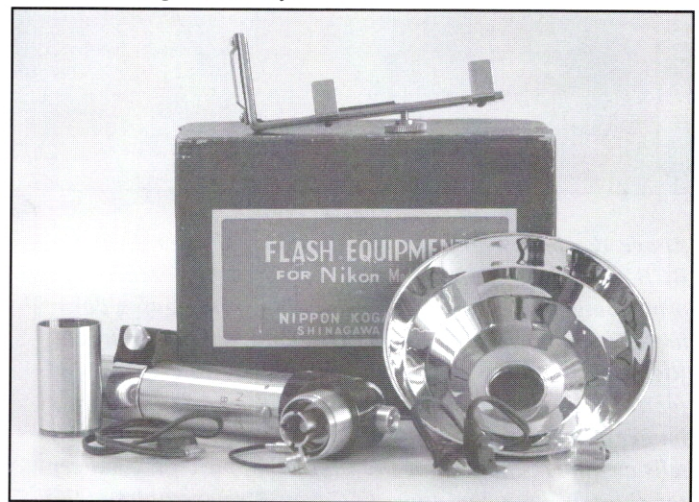
The BCB-II can also be fired in the B-C mode, using the other black plastic battery case, which holds an AA-size Power Unit & a rectangular 22.5V Eveready No. 412. The extension tube is not used when the flashgun is fired in this way. The plastic case with small Power Unit & hearing aid battery (No. 412) is placed, alone,

into the main tube of the BCB-II.

There are 4 ways to fire a BCB-II flashgun: 3 D-cells (total 4.5V); 3 AA-cells, in case (total 4.5V); B-C system (AA-size Power Unit plus 22.5V hearing aid battery, in case); & (not recommended) 1 fresh D-cell (total 1.5V) in main tube.

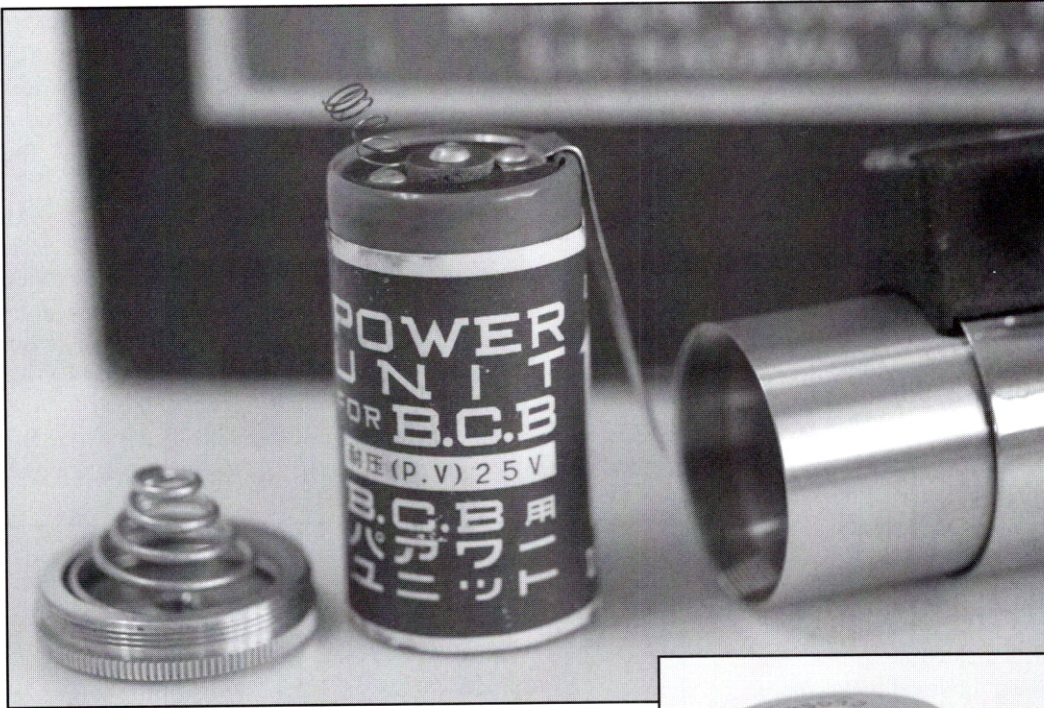
The BC-III flashgun comes in 2 types, early & late. The early type has ASA-bayonet connectors to attach the synch cord, & the late type has the more modern PC type sockets. Neither of these has an extension tube, & both are made to be used only in the battery-capacitor mode. They both have a battery case that is gray plastic (unlike the black one in the BCB-II), & holds one AA-size Power Unit & one 22.5V hearing aid battery.

There is only one way to fire a BC-III unit. That is by the B-C method, using the gray plastic battery case with AA-size Power Unit & hearing aid battery.

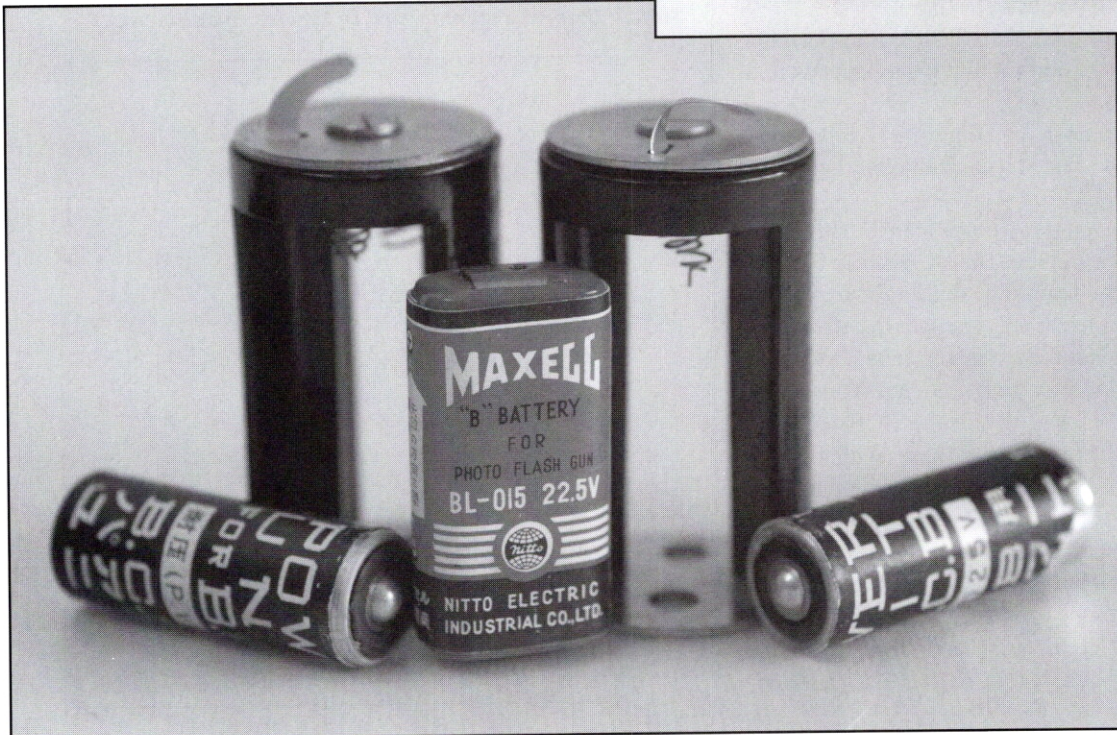


Above..The Nikon BCB-I with all its parts. Extremely well made & more complicated than you might think. Below..The later BCB-II is even more elaborate with an additional flash bowl as well as holders for 2 types of batteries. It is the electrical firing system that we are interested in for this installment.





Above & above right..An original 25V 'Power Unit for BCB' mentioned in the text. Note the three top contacts, the protruding coil spring & the grounding spring going down the side, all of whose functions are explained in this article. Right... Two examples of the 2nd type battery holder designed for three AA-size penlight batteries. Modern AAs are slightly longer than those from the 50's and do not fit. However, Jeff tells me that a smart tap to the contact nipple on the battery top shortens them just enough. Below.. Two examples of the black plastic 'battery holder' for the rectangular hearing aid type battery and the AA-size capacitor.



TESTER BULBS

Another thing I want to mention is the use of tester bulbs to check the function of the flashgun & the synchronization circuit of the camera, to test the batteries in the flashgun, & to test flashbulbs.

One could test their flashgun using regular flashbulbs, but since the bulbs are consumed when they fire (one-time-use) & since they are fairly expensive, this would be wasteful.

Many Nikon BCB outfits come with a separate, reusable tester bulb. These bulbs are small, with a spherical globe about 18mm in diameter. They have a 15mm bayonet (Swan) base, the same size as a regular flashbulb. When the flashgun is fired with the tester bulb in its socket, either using the trigger on the flashgun or the camera shutter release with a synch cord, the filament in the tester bulb will glow. The bulb can be used repeatedly for these tests.

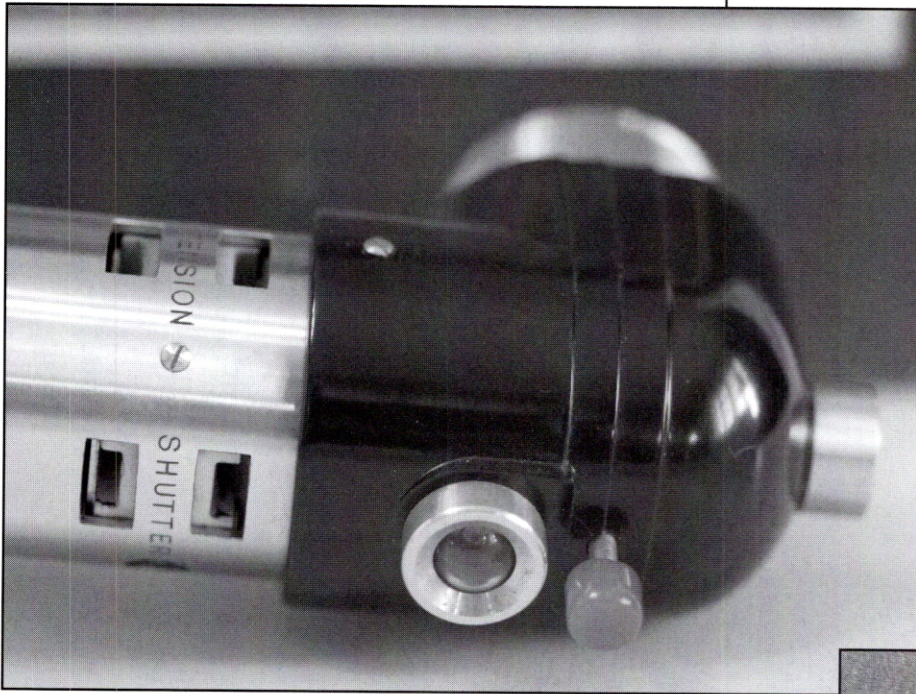
The BCB-I, BCB-II, & BC-III flashguns also have tester lamps built into them. On the BCB-I and BCB-II there are 2 built-in tester lamps, one on top of the black plastic (Bakelite) head of the flashgun & another on the rear side of the head. On the BC-III there is only 1 built-in lamp, which is on the rear side of the gray

plastic head of the gun.

On the BCB-I, the top lamp is used to test the flash unit & the camera synch circuit. The rear lamp is used to test the battery. On the BCB-II, the top lamp is also used to test the flash unit & camera circuit. But the rear lamp is used to test flashbulbs & to detect ones that have already been fired. These built-in lamps are described as 6.3 volt, 150mA bulbs used in a radio set, & are marked 6V. They are peanut-shaped, & have a screw base with a wire spring coiled around it and soldered to it. On the BC-III, the single lamp at the rear is used for testing the circuits of the flashgun & camera, & also for testing flashbulbs.

Detailed instructions for performing all these electrical tests are provided in the instruction booklets for the bullet-head, BCB-I, BCB-II, & BC-III flashguns.

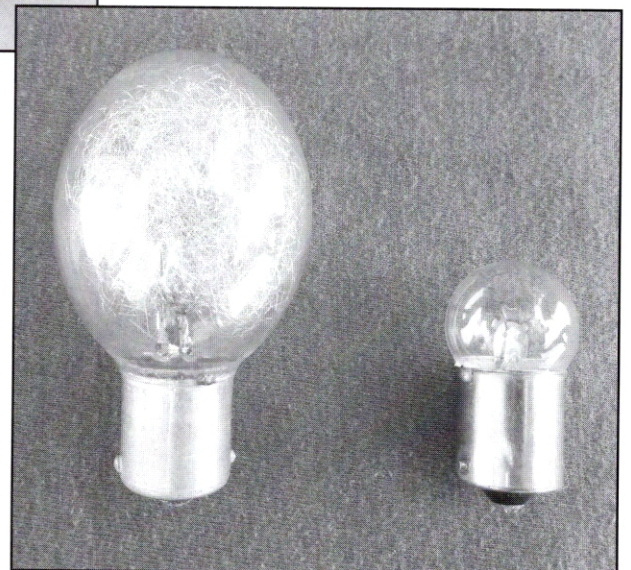
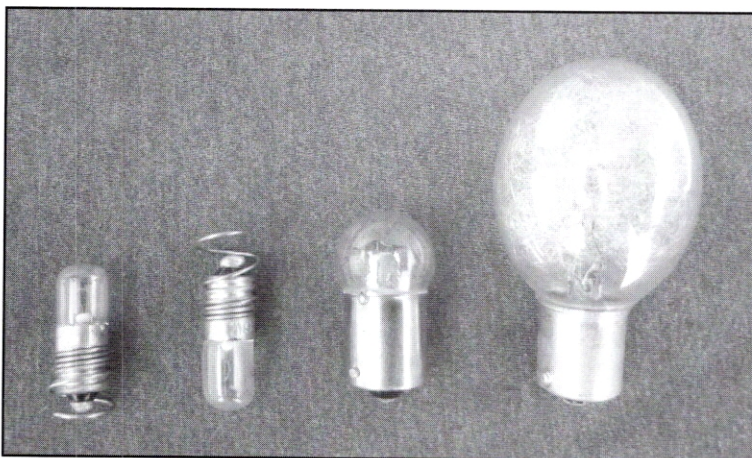
The term 'midget' bulb, or lamp, is used in a confusing way in the Nikon literature, & may refer to either a regular flashbulb (Swan-type), the built-in test lamps, or the separate tester bulb with 18mm spherical globe & Swan base.



Left.. The BCB-I and BCB-II units came with built-in tester bulbs whose various functions are explained in the text. As you can see there is one both on the top and on the rear of the black bakelite housing, and they have different functions. They are removeable but be very careful!

Below left... The 4 illustrated bulbs in the photo include (L-R); 2 examples of the built-in tester bulb that have been carefully removed from the bakelite housing; an example of the 'reusable' tester bulb also discussed in the text; a standard M5 flashbulb whose base is the same 'Swan' size as the reusable tester bulb. Below right... A closer view of the standard M5 type flashbulb and the reusable tester bulb. Note that they have the same 'Swan' type screw-in base.

(The two bottom photos by Shin Nimura)



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SOME BOOK UPDATES

A recent find is S #6112700 w/**ALL BLACK 1.4 #331118..A SET!!**
A new **HIGH NUMBER** for the RF 1000mm/f6.3 is lens #100682!
An additional **HERMES** enlarging lens has been seen.....#55426
Two Nikon M cameras reported are #s M6092531 and M6092686
I have two additional Bellows to report. They are #s 56013 & 56133
Two additional 135mm/f3.5s in Exacta mount are #263725 & 263775. **And finally, a really important item to report to you. Another verified S2E is camera #6194194! I have inspected it myself!**

FEEDBACK ON THE '358s'

My article in #116 on the wild bunch of f1.4 Nikkors in the '358' batch has some interesting additions.....

I have only two numbers to report this issue but they are very significant and early! I hope to have photos in the near future;

They are lenses #358004 & 358006:, both in chrome! Interesting!

Speaking of colons...I have recorded 1 other lens so marked while browsing on Ebay. It is 135mm/f3.5 Nikkor #253649:.

BROWSING EBAY....

Without a doubt the largest source of information today, including serial numbers and prices, is to be found on Ebay. For years I culled a very large part of my serial number database by looking over what was for sale on the tables at countless camera fairs and stores. Well, those days are gone my friend. The shows are fewer and smaller with less to see and many of the stores are gone or no longer carry vintage used equipment. So where do we go to find what is for sale? It's Ebay, like it or not.

So I thought I would start a new section in the Journal to list various interesting items that I and others have seen on Ebay. Many of the numbers in the above two sections came to me that way, so we might as well continue with it. I feel it will turn out to be a good way to track what is showing up and you can already see in this small sampling that there is a lot of information out there to learn from. So here goes....

Black Nikon SP body #6202494 w/S36 Motor Drive #94496
Black Nikon S2 body #6180769 with 'EP' on rewind! Uncommon
US Navy KS80A #6857239 w/F36 Motor Drive #100244. Rare!
50mm/f3.5 Rigid SM Nikkor for the early Nicca cameras #213621
50mm/f1.1 Nikkors #119666 & #120071, both in Internal mounts
50mm/f1.1 'SM' Nikkor for sale for \$26,000!! CRAZY!!

How about a Boxed Shade for your 50mm/f1.1? Only \$5000!

More reasonable is 21mm Nikkor #621117 w/caps/fdr for \$7800!

Screw Mount lenses seen include:

50mm/f3.5 Micro-Nikkor #523264 with the rare Collar for \$8900
85mm/f1.5 SM Nikkor #2644854. Not very common & quite nice
50mm/f1.5 SM Nikkor #907611 w/metal can! rare! For \$3900
50mm/f1.4 SM Nikkor #50051774. Very early Type One for \$380
50mm/f3.5 SM Nikkor #61021. **Very, Very early!!**

Nikon F RED DOTs seen are ch #6597208 & BLACK #6597602!

Two Nikon Ones were on eBay. They are #609331 w/798314 for \$33,000 & #609500 w/708649 for 'only' \$21,000! As of this writing they have not sold!

I really think we are going to see some even more interesting items pop up on our monitors so we might as well track them. Let me know what you find as I can't see everything! **RJR**

THE AUCTION SCENE..

I have two sales to report on this issue from our most prolific sellers, Tamarkin & Bertoldi and Westlicht. Here goes;

Stan's sale was Oct. 27/28 & as always was heavy in very collectible Leicas, but also this time with a ton of Hasselblad gear. Our favorite, Nikons, were present but not in large numbers & the real gem did not sell. All prices quoted here always include buyer's premium.

21mm/f4 Nikkor w/finder in reflex mount sold for\$420
RF body cap..not a common item went as expected.....\$120
Nikon Panorama head for the surprising amount of.....\$215
55mm/f1.2 AIS went for a whopping amount(!?).....\$990
Four 105mm/f2.5s for RF went for between\$265~\$300

What didn't sell was surprising. Five SPs (3 black & 2 chrome) did not sell & one of the blacks was MINT! I can't explain it. Stan's next auction is scheduled for April 28, 2013.

Peter Coeln's 22nd Westlicht auction was held on Nov. 24th & featured all sorts of items including some really nice Nikon pieces. Here are the hammer prices converted to dollars;

SM 135mm/f4 Nikkor 2nd batch w/hood/caps.....\$1660!
SM 500mm/f5 Nikkor..a truly rare lens w/hood/caps.....\$4600
Nikon S2 BLACK W/ALL BLACK 1.4..nice!.....\$23,000!
Nikon S3 BLACK OLYMPIC W/CORRECT F1.4.....\$4,900
50MM/F1.4 Nikkor #358006: chrome dupe!!\$339
1000mm/f6.3 Reflex-Nikkor in RF mount.....\$19,970!
50mm/f1.1 External mount in user condition\$4150!
Nikon F2 High Speed complete set BOXED!\$3690
Nikon F2 TITAN BOXED! Sold for.....\$2900
Nikon 'NIKKOR' F250 motor (see Uli Koch article)\$2,000!

And finally, last but not the least we have;

6mm/f2.8 Fisheye-Nikkor w/caps & case for\$55,300!

All I can say is..... WOW!

A few surprises as always. Some items went cheap (f1.4 #358006: for instance) while others went really high (Black S2). others were on target even that 6mm/f2.8 Fisheye! **RJR**

FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT

I am pleased to announce that the US inventory of my book is in place and all orders can be processed for immediate shipment.

Those of you who wish to obtain a signed copy from me need only to contact me and it will be done. Besides personally signing the book, I have also had made up labels stating to the fact that 'this copy has been purchased directly from the author'. Prices are as follow and include all shipping and postage costs. There has been a significant increase in Priority shipping costs but I will hold these prices as long as possible.

United States	\$100 including Priority shipping.
Canada	\$115 including Int. Priority shipping.
Europe	\$125 including Int. Priority shipping.
Japan/Australia	\$130 including Int. Priority shipping.

I can accept checks (US/Canada only), money orders, bank wires, cash or **PAYPAL**. My email addresses (rotoloni@msn.com & r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net) are my Paypal account numbers.

Please make all checks/money orders payable to:

RJR PUBLISHING or myself

(PLEASE, NOT TO THE SOCIETY!).

THANK YOU.....RJR

CLASSIFIED ADS

SELL LIST... I will still try to put together at least two sell lists per year and will email those when they are done. **HOWEVER...I am now on EBAY on a regular basis!** Now that I have time. You might want to make me a preferred seller so you can keep track of what I have currently listed. Since July 1st I have had 100 auctions (not all Nikon). My call letters are '6091'! My latest sell list has grown to 7 pages & is now ready for those who have not yet been on my list & wish to be. I can send it via email or regular mail. Just contact me anytime to add your name. **RJR rotoloni@msn.com & r.rotoloni@sbcglobal.net Remember my ebay seller ID is '6091'.**

WANTED...NIKON F 'RED DOT' BLACK BODY; exposure meter for Nikon F model 1-type 1 (Uli Koch pg. 20-The Accessories) possibly with incident light plate & booster; telescope adapter for Nikon F in case with its filters & screen in plastic bags. **Carlo Rivolti, Italy. please email to rivolti@libero.it**

WANTED... 8mm/f2.8 **FISH EYE NIKKOR**, 13mm/f5.6 **NIKKOR**, 120 **FISH EYE SKY NIKKOR**, experimental **NIKON** cameras and/or lenses/accessories, even if broken. **NIKON S2 & SP (BLACK)**, **ALUMINUM 5cm F1.4 NIKKOR**. **PH Van Hasbroeck, 56 Albert Court, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BE. tel: 0044 (0) 20 7584 0077. Fax: 0044 (0) 20 7591 3848. email address: HASBROECK@AOL.COM**

WANTED... Common models of Autographic Kodaks, & also large size Ansco models. Contact: **Tony Hurst (Dublin) at email nippon54@hotmail.com or telephone me at (353) 1288- 4896.**

FOR SALE... **Nikon FM2 'Half Frame'**, only 34 were made for the Norwegian police, mint-, 5000 euro; **Nikon S3M black body #6600207**, 27,000 euro; **Nikon Model One #609319 w/f2 #708723**, 15,000 euro. Please call or email me for photos. **Peter Lownds, tel. 0031 654694193(Holland) qcsman@gmail.com**

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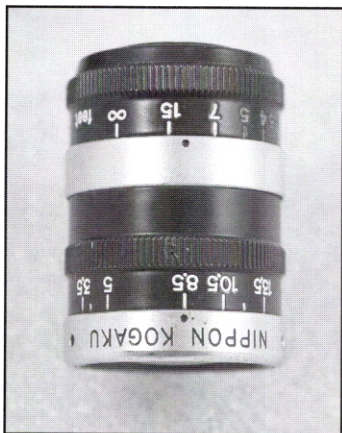
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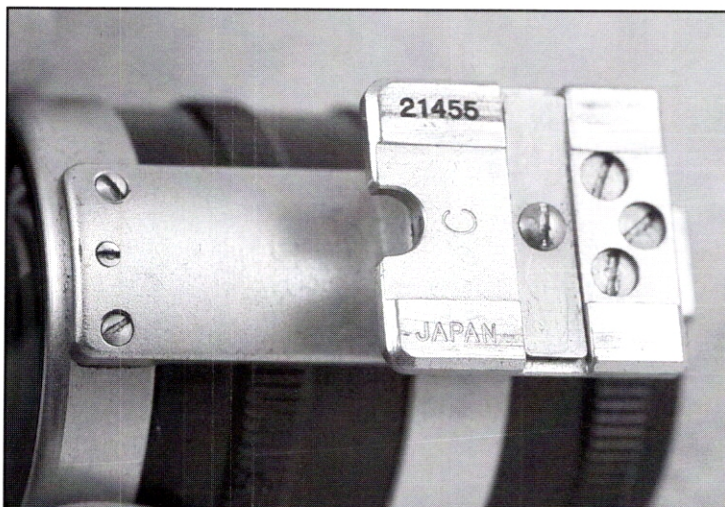
odds 'n ends

RECENT DISCOVERY...A NEW VARIATION OF THE TYPE II VARIFOCAL!

By JIM EMMERSON



If you look on pages 472~475 of my book where I cover in detail both versions of the Nikon Varifocal Zoom finder, you will notice that I have included the 'Contax' version of the Type I Varifocal. We have known about the Contax-type mounting foot on the Type I Zoom as well as individual finders from at least the 35mm through the 135mm. They have only been seen in the chrome optical finders, not the later black britelines, probably because N-K was no longer interested in building for and selling to the Contax users. Makes sense as they were busy producing everything for their own system by the time the black finders were released & really didn't have time to cater to other systems. They would discontinue all Leica SM lenses in 1960 at the latest. Because of this we never thought that N-K would have produced a 'Contax' version of the Type II Zoom, which did not arrive until after the SP in late 1957. Well.....we were wrong! Jim Emmerson has discovered a 'Contax' version of the Type II Zoom! And like the Type I, it has its own unique serial number! It is #21455 with the special Contax foot and the letter 'C' engraved. A perfect example of the fact that we will never know everything and no book or article can ever be the 'final word' on anything! Fun, isn't it?



CREATED FOR THE "NHS" BY Tony Hurst

