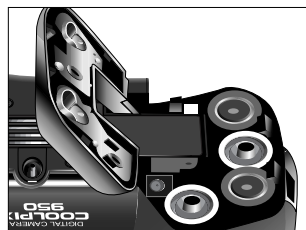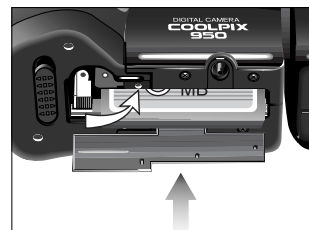# Fast Track Guide
Nikon
COOLPIX 950

This Fast Track Guide provides a brief introduction to the parts and functioning of the COOLPIX 950. Please be sure to read all other documentation fully.

1 Insert the batteries

The battery compartment may be found on the bottom of the camera. To open the compartment, unlatch the cover, slide it out, and flip it open. Insert four LR6 (AA) batteries as shown on the inside of the compartment, then close and latch the cover.
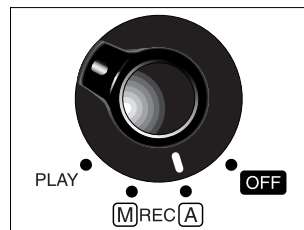
⚠ FYS   RM 4

2 Insert the memory card

The COOLPIX 950 uses compact flash memory cards to store photographs, in much the same way an ordinary camera uses film. The memory card slot is on the bottom of the camera. Open the cover, slide the card in as shown above, and fold the eject button over. Then close the cover.
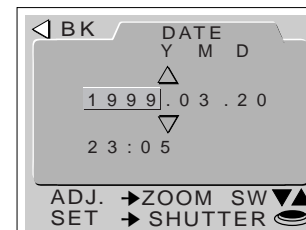
⚠ FYS   RM 5

3 Select A-REC

Turn the mode dial to A-REC. Check that the LCD display on top of the camera is on and that the battery indicator is not flashing.
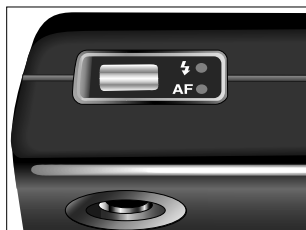
PLAY   OFF
M REC A

4 Set the time and date

◁ BK   DATE
Y M D
△
1999.03.20
▽
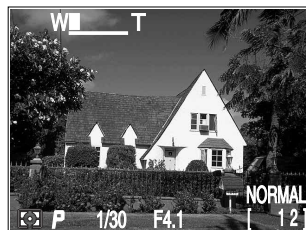23:05
ADJ. ➔ ZOOM SW ▼▲
SET ➔ SHUTTER

Press the MENU button to display the A-REC menu. Choose DATE and use the zoom buttons and shutter-release button to set the camera's internal clock to the current time and date.

PG 19   RM 6

5 Adjust viewfinder diopter

The dial next to the viewfinder allows the viewfinder to be adjusted to accommodate individual differences in vision.

6 Compose a photograph

W ▬ T
NORMAL
P 1/30 F4.1 [1 2]

Frame your subject in the viewfinder or LCD monitor. When the LCD monitor is on, the camera focuses continuously to give an impression of how the final photograph will look. If the LCD monitor is off, the camera focuses only when the shutter-release button is pressed half way.

PG 2–3

7 Check the focus and flash

Gently depress the shutter-release button half way and check the autofocus and flash indicators next to the viewfinder. The camera is ready to take a picture when the autofocus lamp (green) glows steadily and the flash lamp (red) is not blinking.

PG 3–4   RM 9

8 Take a picture

To take a picture, fully depress the shutter-release button.

9 Check the results

The picture just taken will be displayed briefly in the LCD monitor while the camera transfers it to memory. Press the ⊞ button to freeze the display for ten seconds. If you are not pleased with the results, you can press 🗑 to delete the photo before returning to shooting mode.

RM 10

Understanding the Control Panel Icons

Current settings are displayed in the control panel on top of the camera.

Image Size   RM 16   XGA NORMAL
NO ICON   1,600 × 1,200 pixels
XGA   1,024 × 786 pixels
VGA   640 × 480 pixels

Image Quality   RM 16   NORMAL
HI   Fewer pictures, higher quality
FINE   ⇑
NORMAL   ⇓
BASIC   More pictures, basic quality

Focus Mode   RM 13   NORMAL ▲▲
NO ICON   Autofocus (30cm/12in.–∞)
▲   Infinity (∞)
🌷   Macro close-up (2cm/0.8in.–∞)
▲🌷   Manual focus (10cm/4in.–∞)

Self Timer   RM 15   ⏱◉ AUTO ⚡
NO ICON   Off
⏱   On

Multi-shot Mode   PG 11   NORMAL ⊞ AUTO
NO ICON   Single shot
⊟   Continuous
⊞   Continuous—16-shot
VGA ⊟   Continuous—high speed

Flash Mode   RM 11   AUTO ⚡
AUTO ⚡   Auto flash mode
(⚡)   "Flash Cancel" (off)
⚡   "Anytime Flash" (forced on)
SLOW ⚡   Slow synchronized
◉   Red-eye reduction

Exposure Mode   RM 18   P ▭
P   Programmed
A   Aperture priority
S   Shutter priority

Metering   PG 5   P ▭
▥   Matrix
•   Spot
◉   Center-weighted

Sensitivity   RM 17   100
NO ICON   Standard (ISO 80 equivalent)
5   Sensitivity adjustment in effect

Compensation   ⊠ + 1.0
NO ICON   None (±0EV)
⊠   Exposure compensation in effect

Battery Level   P ▭ (
▭   Battery fully charged
▭   Low battery
▭   Battery exhausted

Number Display   (16)
(16)   Number of exposures remaining
([ard)   No memory card detected
([FEr)   Card format error
[---]   Serial cable connected
[---]   Data transfer in progress

Focus Lock

The brackets in the center of the viewfinder (⊏ ⊐) show the autofocus position.

Using focus lock to focus on an off-center subject

1 If your subject is not inside the focus brackets, you can use focus lock to focus on the subject while blurring distant details of the background.

2 To focus on an off-center subject, position the subject in the focus brackets and depress the shutter-release button half way.

3 Keeping the shutter-release button slightly depressed, recompose your picture, then press the shutter-release button the rest of the way down to take the photograph.

The Mode Dial

The COOLPIX 950 offers a choice of three operating modes.

A-REC   RM 7
You control:
• Zoom
• Flash and focus modes
• Exposure compensation
• Image quality and size
All other settings are made automatically by the camera.

M-REC   PG 5
In addition to the items listed at left, you control:
• Exposure and metering modes
• Sensitivity
• White balance
• Brightness and contrast
• Multi-shot mode
• "Best-shot" mode
• Color mode (black-and-white or full color)
• Other settings

PLAY   RM 20
This mode allows you to play back and delete previously recorded photographs (see below).

Playback Mode

The zoom buttons and the three buttons under the monitor have special functions in playback mode.

🗑 DELETE
Select the current photograph for deletion.

Photo info
When a photo is displayed full size, turn the command dial to display or hide photo information.

⊞ THUMBNAIL
View nine photographs at once. Use the command dial to page through photos nine at a time. Use the ▼W/T▲ buttons to highlight individual photos. Press the thumbnail button again to view highlighted photograph at full size.

🔍/⊞ MAGNIFY
Zoom in on the current photograph. Press once to view at ×2, twice to view at ×3. Use the command dial to view different portions of the image. Press a third time to view photograph at full size.

▼W/T▲
Scroll through photographs one at a time.

Using the Menus

Separate menus are available for each operating mode.

To display and hide the menu
With the monitor on, press the MENU button. In menus with more than one page, you can move between pages by pressing the MENU button. Pressing the MENU button when the last page of the menu is displayed hides the menu.
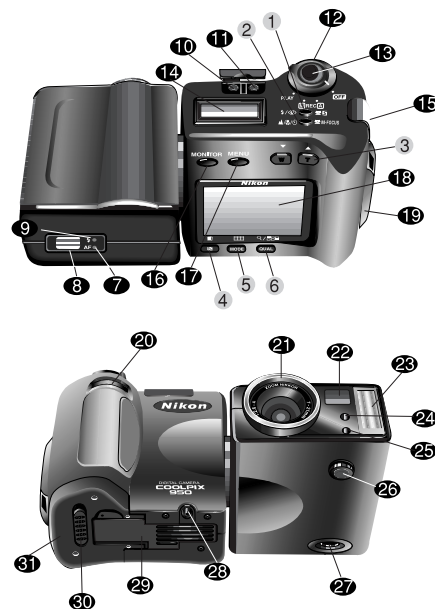
To highlight a menu item
Use the ▼W/T▲ buttons to move through menu items one at a time.

To select a highlighted menu item
Press the shutter-release button. Where several different settings are possible for an item in the main menu, you can highlight the menu item and press the shutter release button to display a submenu of options, or use the command dial to make changes to settings directly from the main menu.
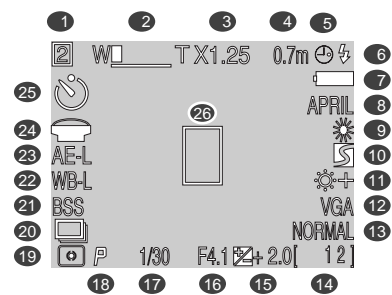
Nikon

Using This Guide

This guide is intended as a brief intro-duction to the parts and functioning of the COOLPIX 950. **Please read all other documentation fully.** This guide provides cross-references to sections of other manuals where topics are covered in greater detail. The following abbreviations are used:

FYS *For Your Safety*. Be sure to read these references before use.

PG *Pocket Guide*.

RM *Reference Manual* (on CD).

RM 11–12

1 **Flash mode/ sensitivity button**

Press this button to change the flash setting. In addition to automatic, "Flash Cancel" (off), and "Anytime Flash" (forced on), the COOLPIX 950 offers the following settings:

SLOW ⚡ Slow sync
Balances the flash and back-ground lighting. Ideal for low-light photography at night.

AUTO ⚡ 👁 Red-eye reduction
Before the flash fires, a red-eye reduction lamp lights up, causing the pupils in the subject's eyes to contract and minimizing the "red-eye" effects a flash can sometimes produce.

Sensitivity **RM** 17
In M-REC mode, sensitivity can be adjusted by turning the com-mand dial while holding down the flash mode button. Sensitivity can be set to a value corresponding to ISO 100, or further increased by factors of +1.0 or +2.0. Select **dEF** to restore sensitivity to a value equivalent to ISO 80.

Increased sensitivity is useful when you want to freeze motion or capture distant objects under low light conditions. Note however that noise may appear in pictures taken at settings other than **dEF**.

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7 Autofocus lamp
8 Viewfinder eyepiece
9 Flash-ready lamp
10 Video cable connector
11 Power jack for optional AC adapter
12 Mode dial
13 Shutter-release button
14 Control panel
15 Serial cable connector
16 MONITOR button (press once to hide settings, press again to turn monitor off, press a third time to turn monitor on)
17 MENU button

18 LCD monitor
19 Eyelet for camera strap
20 Command dial
21 Lens
22 Viewfinder
23 Built-in flash
24 Red-eye reduction lamp
25 Photocell
26 Connector for external flash
27 Diopter adjustment dial
28 Tripod socket
29 CompactFlash card slot
30 Battery chamber latch
31 Battery chamber cover

Icons in the LCD monitor (A-REC/M-REC)

1 User set number
2 Zoom indicator
3 Digital zoom
4 Focus mode/manual focus distance
5 "Date not set" indicator
6 Flash mode
7 Battery indicator
8 Current folder
9 White balance program
10 Sensitivity
11 Brightness/contrast
12 Image size
13 Image quality

14 Number of exposures remaining
15 Exposure compensation
16 Aperture (f number)
17 Shutter speed
18 Exposure mode
19 Metering mode
20 Multi-shot mode
21 Best-shot mode
22 White-balance lock
23 Auto-exposure lock
24 Lens converter settings
25 Self timer
26 Auto-exposure target (spot metering)

RM 13–15

2 **Focus mode/self-timer button**

▲ Infinity (∞)
Captures distant scenes with maximum clarity.

🌷 Macro close-up (2cm/0.8in. from lens–∞)
Use this mode when taking photos of small objects at close range. At the middle optical zoom position, you can focus on objects as close as 2cm (0.8in.) from the lens (a yellow 🌷 icon in the LCD monitor tells you that the current zoom setting is right for close-range photography).

⏱ Self-timer
The shutter is released automati-cally ten seconds after the shutter-release button is pressed once (press twice for a three-second delay). A light flashes before a picture is taken. Ideal for self-portraits.

▲▲🌷 Manual focus
In M-REC mode, focus can be set according to the distance to your subject. Turn the command dial while holding down the focus mode button. Focus distance from the lens will be displayed in meters or feet: a range of settings from 10cm (4in.) to infinity is available.

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4 **Exposure compensation**

Turning the command dial while the exposure compensation button is held down allows you to select a value for compensation of from -2 to +2 EV in increments of $^1/_3$ EV. Higher values create photographs that bring out details in shadows while "washing out" brightly lit objects. Lower values can be used to bring out details of brightly lit objects. The effects of exposure compensation can be previewed in the monitor.

RM 16–17

6 **QUAL** **Image quality/ image size**

Image quality and size can be selected by turning the command dial while the image quality button is held down. To store more photographs on a single memory card, choose a smaller image size (VGA or XGA) or select an image quality of BASIC. To capture fine details, select an image quality of FINE. For maximum quality, a setting of HI (uncompressed) is available when the camera is in M-REC mode.

PG 2–3

3 **W T** **Zoom buttons**

The **T** button zooms the camera in, increasing magnification and reducing the field of view. Press the **W** button to zoom the camera out. The amount of zoom is displayed in the monitor when either button is pressed. If the **T** button is held down for two seconds at maximum zoom, the camera will enter digital zoom mode, allowing you to enlarge the image a further ×1.25–×2.5. Note that the LCD monitor must be on or the camera connected to a TV set for digital zoom to take effect.

RM 18–19

5 **MODE** **Exposure mode button**

In M-REC mode, exposure mode can be chosen by turning the command dial while the exposure mode button is held down.

P Program
Point-and-shoot, full auto expo-sure mode.

A Aperture priority
Turn the command dial to choose from among three apertures. At wide apertures (low f numbers), details of the background are blurred. A small aperture (high f number) brings both background and foreground into focus.
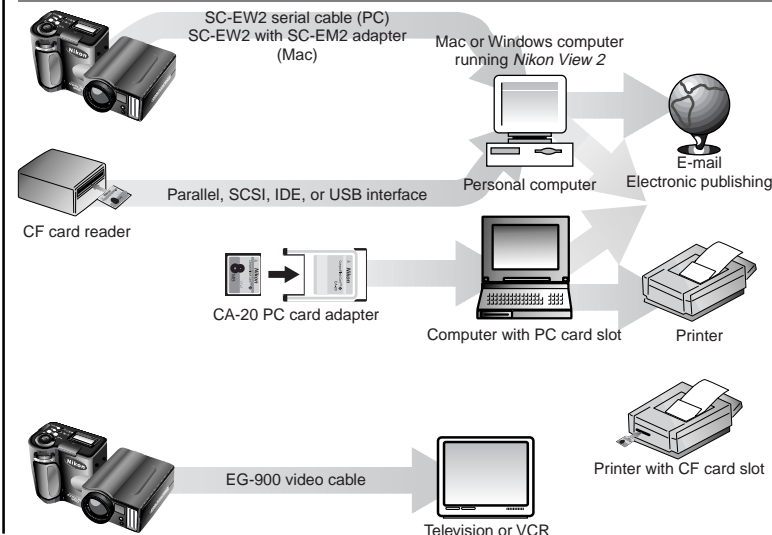
S Shutter priority
Turn the command dial to select a shutter speed from eight to $^1/_{500}$ seconds. This mode is ideal for controlling action. Use a high shutter speed to freeze motion or a low shutter speed to suggest movement by blurring moving objects.

If the aperture or shutter speed does not change when you turn the command dial, press the mode button once and then turn command dial to change the setting.

Viewing and Printing Photographs on External Devices

SC-EW2 serial cable (PC)
SC-EW2 with SC-EM2 adapter (Mac)

Mac or Windows computer running *Nikon View 2*

Parallel, SCSI, IDE, or USB interface

CF card reader

Personal computer

E-mail
Electronic publishing

CA-20 PC card adapter

Computer with PC card slot
Printer

EG-900 video cable

Printer with CF card slot

Television or VCR

Principal Features

- A half-inch, 2.11-million pixel CCD allowing photographs of up to 1,600 × 1,200 pixels in size.

- Motor-driven ×3 optical zoom. Digital zoom allows pictures to be enlarged a further ×1.25–×2.5.

- Nikon's 256-element matrix metering and intelligent in-camera processing guarantee superb image quality.

- Shutter speed, aperture, and focus can be set automatically or manually.

- Minimum delay between exposures and fast switching between record and playback.

- Internal memory buffer allows continuous, rapid shooting (about ten exposures at an image quality of "normal" and an image size of 1,600 × 1,200 pixels).

- Manual mode offers a choice of black-and-white or color photography, digital image enhancement, spot metering with auto-exposure lock, "best shot" mode, and a choice of multi-shot modes.

- LCD monitor offers continuous preview while shooting, allow-ing evaluation of scene com-position and settings. Images are played back after shooting for the user to keep or delete.

- Operation similar to conven-tional Nikon cameras, includ-ing a built-in flash, adjustable viewfinder diopter, and a high-quality Nikkor lens.

Fast Track Guide

Nikon

COOLPIX 950