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Nikon

F-501

AF

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

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FOREWORD

Thank you for your kind patronage of Nikon. We hope the F-501 will make photography a much bigger part of your life.

Get to know your F-501, but before using it, be sure to read this manual well.

Nikon cannot be held responsible for malfunction resulting from the use of the camera other than as specified in this manual.

NOMENCLATURE

Focusing screen release latch

Focusing screen type B

Interchangeable with type E or J; don't touch!

AEL (auto exposure lock) button

Used to lock exposure value in automatic exposure mode. (See p.31.)

AFL (autofocus lock) button

Used to lock focus in Continuous Servo Auto-focus mode. (See p.23.)

Attaching index dots

Bracket

Battery chamber

AAA battery holder MB-4

Remove to change batteries; interchangeable with Nikon AA Battery Holder MB-3 to allow use of AA-type batteries

AF contacts

Keep clean, don't touch!

Lens mounting index

Lens release button

Remote control terminal

Use Nikon Remote Cord MC-12A

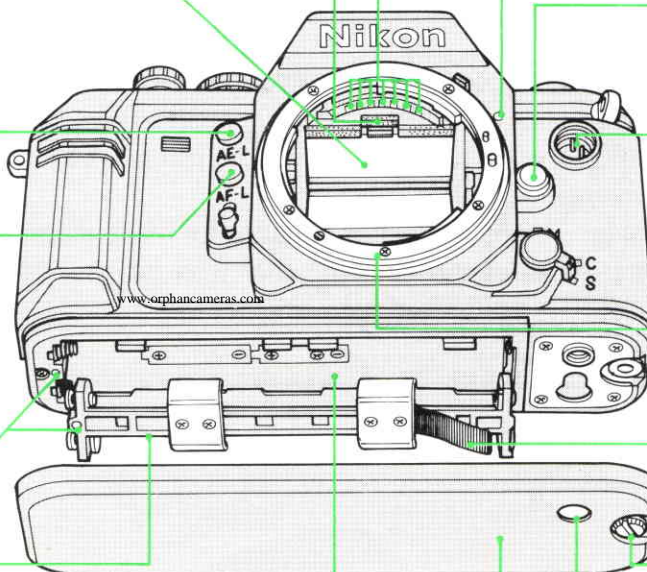
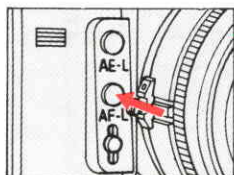
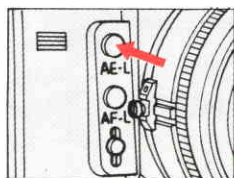
Lens mounting flange

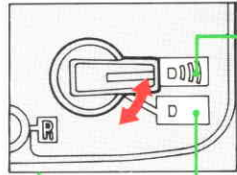
Bracket removing ribbon

Battery holder screw

Tripod socket

Optional Nikon Tripod Adapter AH-3 recommended

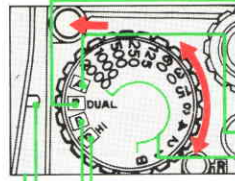




No sound

Audible warning switch

Bleeps (1) when non-DX-coded film with film speed scale set at DX is used; (2) when DX contacts require cleaning; (3) to indicate over- or underexposure, or possible picture blur in auto exposure modes; (4) at end of film and (5) during self-timer operation



Index

Exposure mode selector dial

For P DUAL, P, P HI and A positions, push lock button
Dual programmed auto exposure mode—camera automatically selects high-speed or normal program

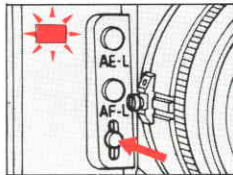
Aperture-priority auto exposure mode
Manual exposure mode; B is for time exposure
High-speed programmed auto exposure mode
Normal programmed auto exposure mode

Exposure mode selector dial lock release button

Frame counter window

Camera strap eyelet

Self-timer lamp

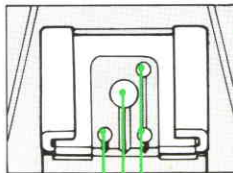


Self-timer button

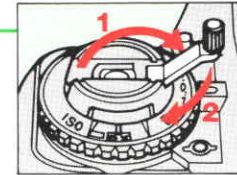
See p. 36.

Accessory shoe

For electronic flash; see p. 33



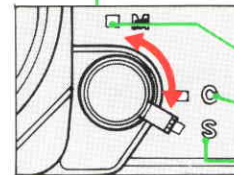
Electrical contacts



Film rewind crank

Fold out to rewind film

Camera strap eyelet



Focus mode selector

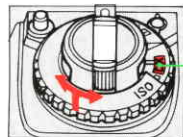
For focus-assist operation/manual focus
For Continuous Servo Autofocus
For Single Servo Autofocus

Reflex-mirror

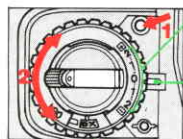
Don't touch!

Film speed ring/Exposure compensation dial

To set film speed, lift and turn; for exposure compensation, push lock release button and turn



ISO film speed scale (DX setting for DX-coded film; 12 to 3200)



Exposure compensation settings (+2 to -2)

Index

Exposure compensation dial lock release button

Film cartridge window

Film plane indicator

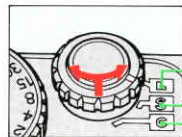
Exact distance between lens mounting flange and film plane is 46.5 mm

Red indicator lamp

Blinks (1) when non-DX-coded film with film speed scale set at DX is used, (2) when DX contacts require cleaning, (3) at end of film, and (4) when shutter is released

Film advance mode selector/Fingerguard

To select film advance mode, lift and turn



Locks shutter release/turns power off

For single-frame shooting

For continuous shooting

Shutter release button

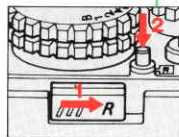
To activate auto-focus function and exposure meter, lightly press to fingerguard position; to release shutter, depress fully

Fingerguard position

Fully depressed

Film rewind button

Press while sliding lever



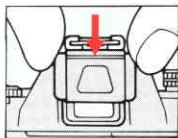
Film rewind lever
Slide to right

Film advance indicator

Rotates to show film is properly loaded and being advanced

Eyepiece cover DK-5

Attaches to viewfinder eyepiece to keep out stray light during self-timer and remote control operation



Viewfinder eyepiece

Film rewind fork

Film cartridge chamber

DX contacts

For automatic film speed setting with DX-coded film; keep clean; don't touch!

Shutter curtains

Don't touch!

Film sprocket

Film takeup spool

Camera back hinge release

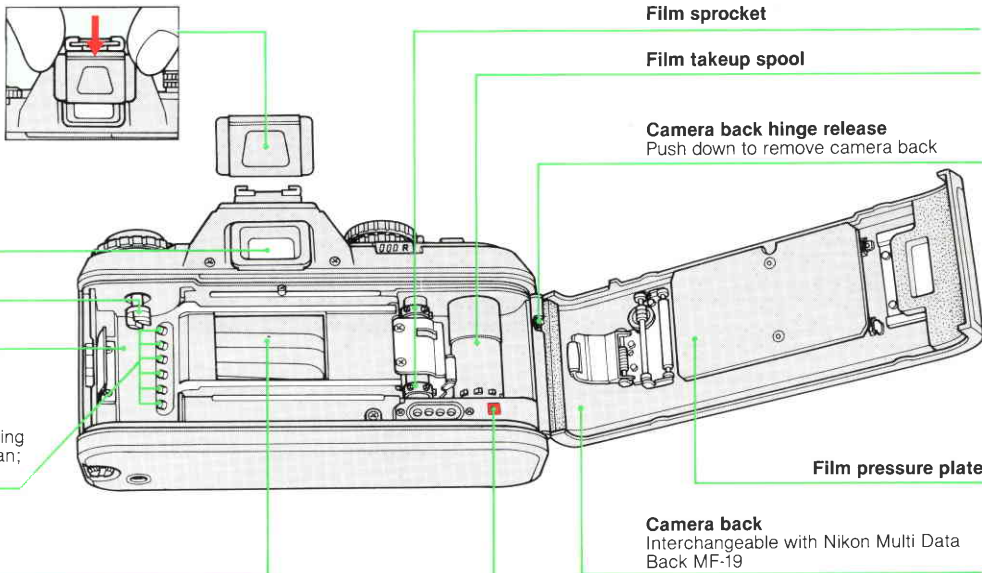
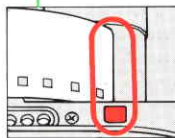
Push down to remove camera back

Film pressure plate

Camera back

Interchangeable with Nikon Multi Data Back MF-19

Film leader index



Inside Viewfinder

12mm-dia. central area

Placing main subject in this area assures correct exposure

Focus brackets

Centre brackets on the main subject

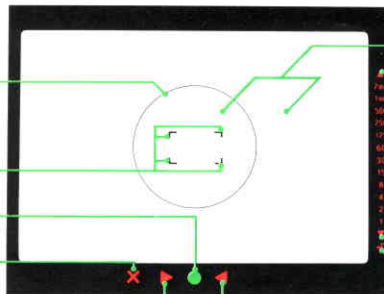
Focus indicator LEDs

In-focus indicator

Focus-not-possible warning

Focus-to-right arrow—for too distant subject

Focus-to-left arrow—for too near subject



Clear matte field

Exposure indicator LEDs

Overexposure warning

Shutter speed indicators

Underexposure warning

Flash ready-light

Lens

Focusing ring

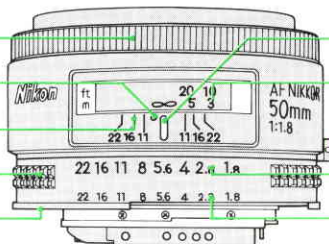
Used for focus-assist operation/manual focus

Infrared compensation index

Depth-of-field indicators

Aperture ring

Meter coupling ridge



Aperture/distance index

Distance scale

Minimum aperture lock

Used in P DUAL, P, P HI exposure mode

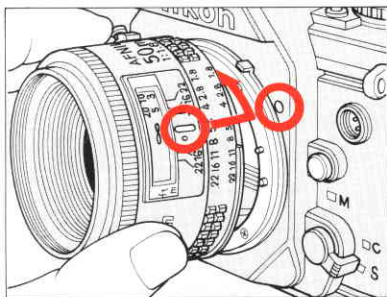
Aperture scale

Aperture-direct-readout scale

Not used with F-501

BASIC OPERATION

MOUNTING THE LENS

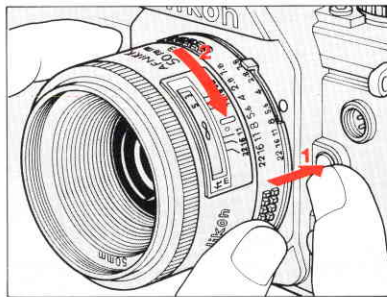


1. Mount lens.

Twist the lens counterclockwise until it clicks into place.

Do not push the lens release button when mounting.

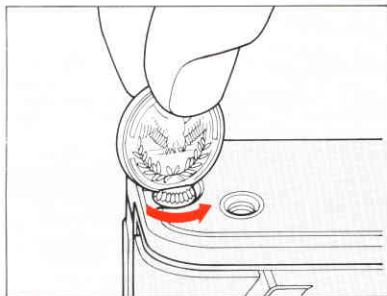
See p.45 for list of usable/
unusable lenses.



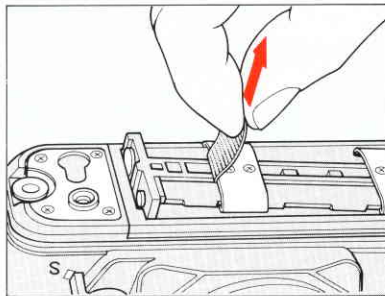
To remove

Do not push the lens release button except when removing lens.

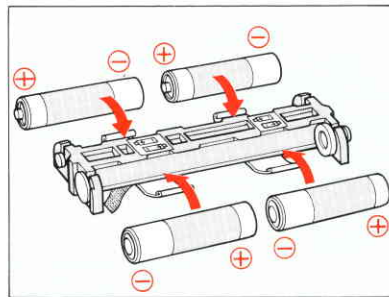
INSTALLING BATTERIES AND CHECKING POWER



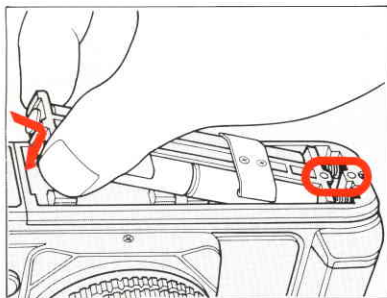
2. Remove AAA battery holder MB-4.



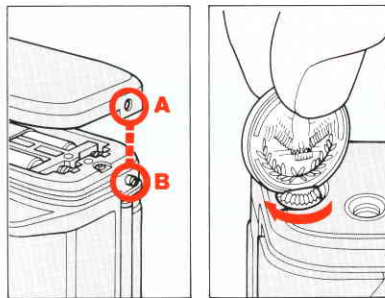
3. Remove bracket.



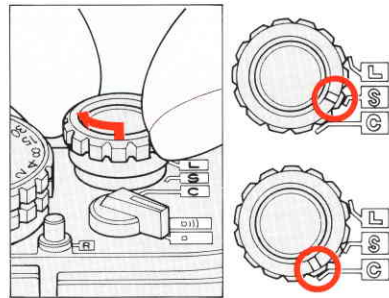
4. Install four AAA-type batteries.



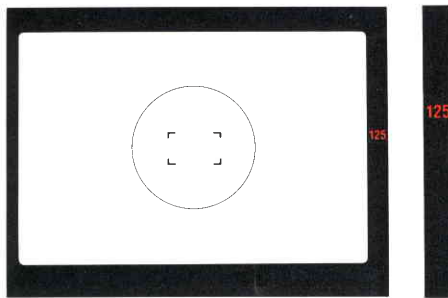
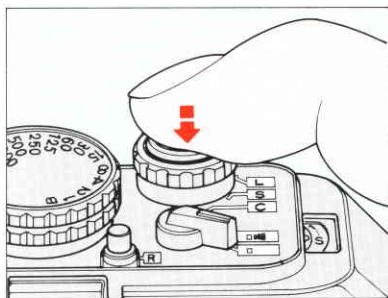
5. Align white dots and put back bracket.



6. Line up hole "A" with post "B" and reattach battery holder.



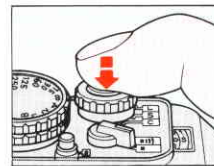
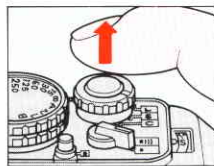
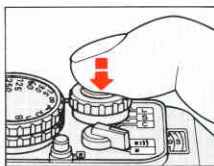
7. Set film advance mode selector.



Lit-up LED
Sufficient battery power

8. Lightly press shutter release button to finger-guard position and check viewfinder exposure indicator LED(s) to make sure battery power is sufficient.

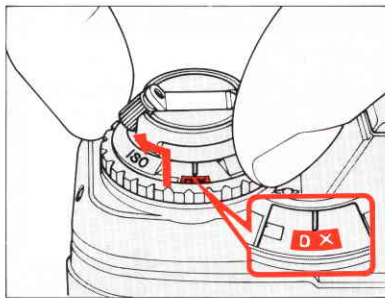
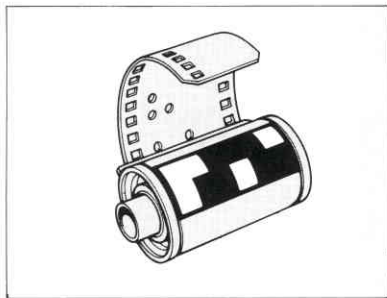
Exposure indicator LED(s) lights up if power is sufficient, and stays on for 8 sec. after you take your finger off the button, unless you release the shutter. Upon shutter release, the exposure indicator LED(s) turn off 1 sec. after you remove your finger from the button.



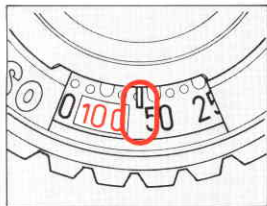
If LED goes off immediately after finger is removed from button, batteries need replacement.

No LED
Change batteries, or re-install them properly.

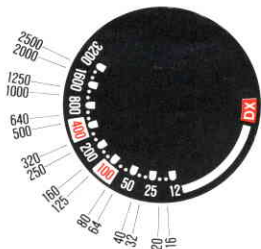
LOADING FILM



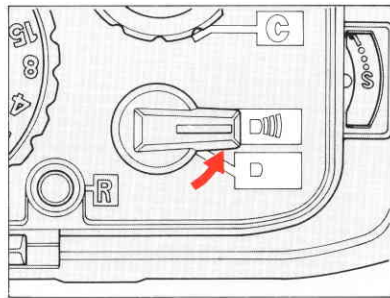
- 9. With DX-coded film, set film speed index at DX.**
Usable film speed range for DX-coded film is ISO 25 to 5000.



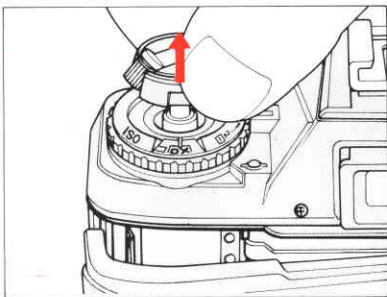
With non-DX-coded film, set to appropriate film speed.



The two dots between numbers stand for intermediate settings.

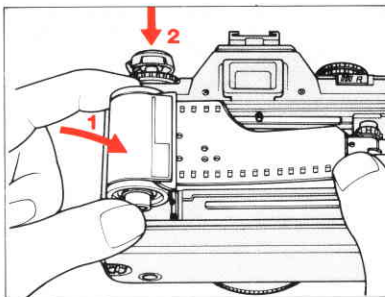


- 10. Set audible warning lever to  position.**

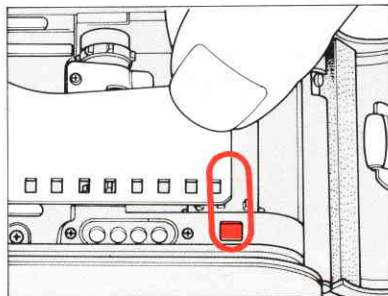


11. Open camera back.

Pull up film rewind knob until camera back springs open.



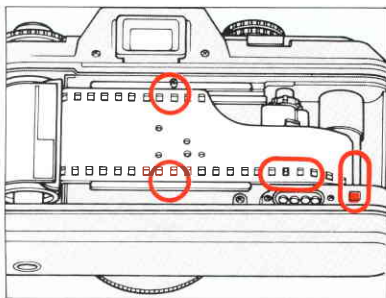
12. Position film cartridge.



13. Pull film leader out to red index mark.

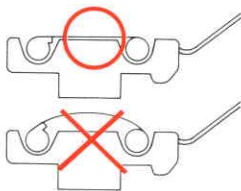


Avoid loading or unloading film in direct sunlight.

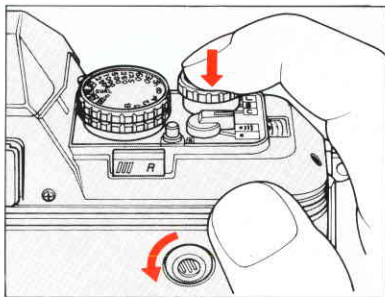


14. Check film position and close camera back.

The shutter curtains remain closed while the camera back is open to prevent damage.

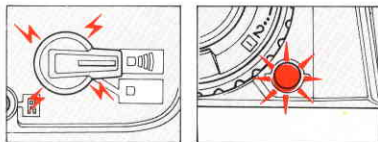
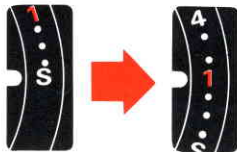


Pull out the film leader gently to avoid film slack.



15. Fully depress shutter release button to automatically advance film to frame "1."

Make sure the film advance indicator rotates to show proper film installation.



If audible warning bleeps and red indicator lamp blinks for 8 sec., check the following:

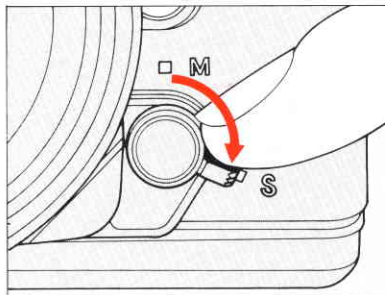
- (1) Are you using DX-coded film? (For non-DX-coded film, see p. 12)
- (2) Are the DX contacts clean? (See p. 38.)

BASIC SHOOTING

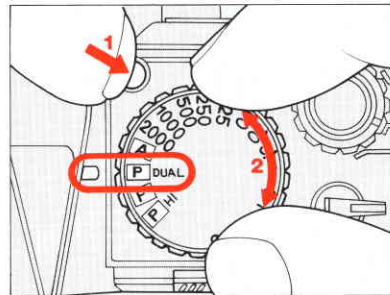
The Nikon F-501 offers dual autofocus modes, focus-assist operation, and manual focus, plus four automatic exposure modes, and manual.

The following instructions are for Single Servo Autofocus shooting in the P DUAL auto exposure mode with an AF Nikkor lens—the easiest setting for most picture-taking situations.

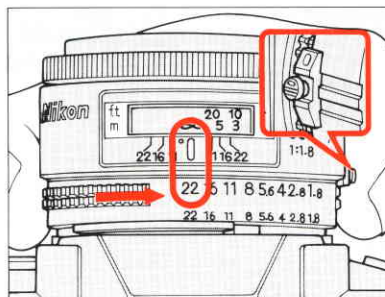
For details about other focusing methods and exposure modes, see pages 20 to 27, and 28 to 32, respectively.



- 16. Set focus mode selector to S for Single Servo Autofocus.**



- 17. Set shooting mode selector dial to P DUAL.**
Turn dial while pressing lock button.



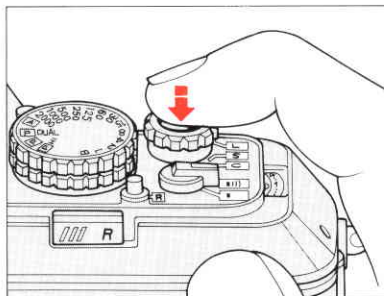
- 18. Set lens to its minimum aperture (largest f-number).**

With AF Nikkor lenses, lock lens aperture at minimum setting. (See the lens instruction manual).



19. Compose.

Centre the focus brackets inside the viewfinder on the main subject.



20. Lightly press shutter release button to fingerguard position.

The F-501 automatically secures the correct subject focus. When the green in-focus indicator LED lights up, you can release the shutter. In S (Single Servo Autofocus) mode, shutter cannot be released until the green in-focus indicator LED lights up, and once it does light up, the focus is locked as long as the shutter release button remains lightly pressed.

If subject moves and focusing distance changes, refocus by briefly removing your finger from shutter release button and lightly pressing it again to restart Single Servo Autofocus function.

Autofocus function stops and the lens focusing ring position is fixed when you remove your finger from button.

If there is no warning bleep, correct exposure is assured.

Main subject is in focus.



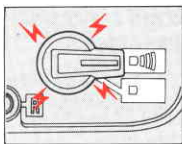
If in-focus indicator LED does not appear:



While **×** remains lit, autofocus is impossible with the subject and shutter cannot be released. Set focus mode selector to M and focus manually on clear matte field. (See p.26 to 27 for subjects which cannot be shot on autofocus.)



While **◀** remains lit, the subject is closer than the closest focusing distance of the lens in use. Move back from the subject.



If you hear a warning bleep, check exposure indicator LED for the following:



(1) Picture blur possibility (1/30 sec. or slower)

Use tripod to avoid camera shake, or use a Nikon speedlight to synchronise shutter speed at 1/125 sec.



(2) Top LED triangle blinks—Overexposure warning

Use neutral density (ND) filter.



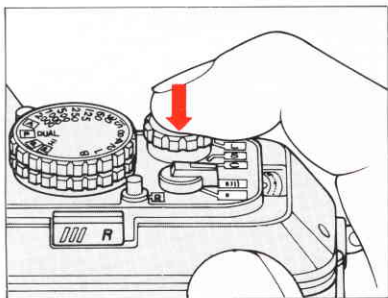
(3) Bottom LED triangle blinks—Underexposure warning

Use electronic flash.

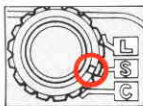
Both top and bottom LED triangles blink—wrong aperture-set warning



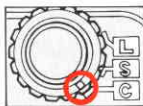
Set lens to minimum aperture. There is no audible warning.



21. Fully depress shutter release button to take picture.



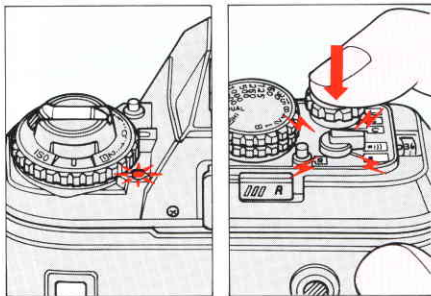
With film advance mode selector on S (single-frame shooting), fully depressing and releasing the shutter release button *auto-*matically advances film by one frame.



With film advance mode selector on C (continuous shooting), shots are continuously taken as long as shutter release is depressed.

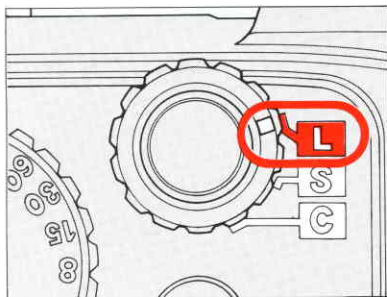
In Single Servo Autofocus mode, when you remove your finger from the button after releasing the shutter, the focus-indicator LED immediately disappears. The exposure meter and shutter speed LEDs stay on for 1 sec., however, then automatically turn off. To reactivate autofocus function and exposure meter, press shutter release button to fingerguard position again.

REWINDING FILM

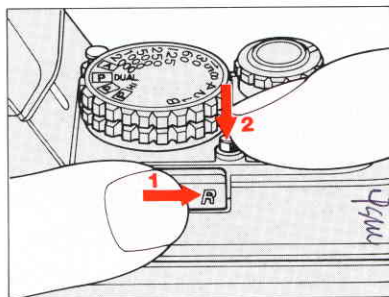


22. Film winding stops automatically at end of film.

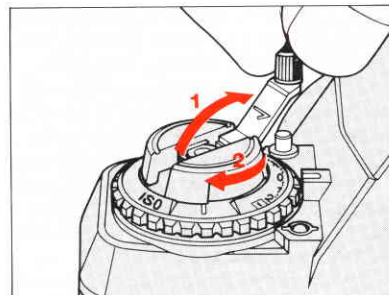
When shutter release button is depressed, there is a bleep and red indicator lamp blinks to tell you to rewind film.



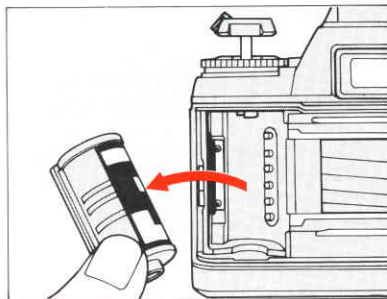
23. Set film advance mode selector to L.



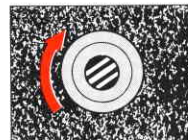
24. While sliding film rewind lever, push film rewind button.



25. Rewind film.
Fold out film rewind crank and rotate until film advance indicator stops moving.



26. Remove film cartridge.



FOCUS

AUTOFOCUS

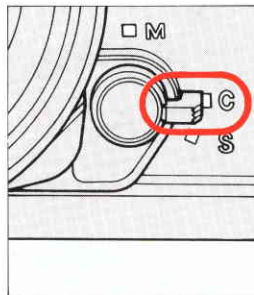
The Nikon F-501 has dual autofocus modes. Single Servo Autofocus and Continuous Servo Autofocus. (See page 47 to verify lens' autofocus compatibility.)

In Single Servo Autofocus mode, the shutter cannot be released until the subject is correctly focused, and once it is in focus, the focus is locked as long as the shutter release button remains lightly pressed.

In Continuous Servo Autofocus mode, focus detection continues as long as the shutter release button remains lightly pressed. The shutter release button can be fully depressed any time.

Single Servo Autofocus is explained under Basic Operation (p.15 to 18); the following instructions are for Continuous Servo Autofocus operation:

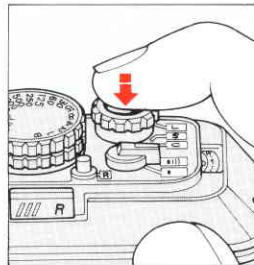
Continuous Servo Autofocus Mode



1. Set the focus mode selector to C for Continuous Servo Autofocus.

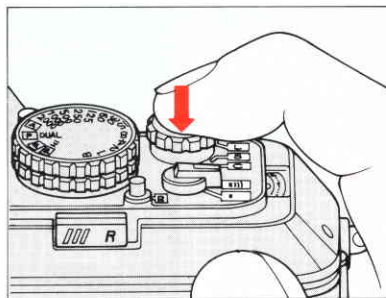


2. Centre the viewfinder focus brackets on the main subject.



3. Lightly press the shutter release button to start the Continuous Servo Autofocus function.

The autofocus function continues as long as the shutter release button remains lightly pressed. The autofocus function stops and the lens focusing ring position is fixed as soon as you remove your finger from the button. (The focus indicator LED will however, remain on for 8 sec.)



4. Confirm that the green in-focus indicator LED lights up, then fully depress the shutter release button to get a correctly focused image. Fully depressing the shutter release button with the green in-focus LED off may result in an out-of-focus image.

In Continuous Servo Autofocus mode, when you remove your finger from the shutter release button after depressing it, the autofocus function stops, but the exposure meter and LEDs inside the viewfinder stay on for 1 sec.—then automatically turn off. To activate autofocus function and the exposure meter for the next shot, lightly press the shutter release button again to fingerguard position.

If in-focus indicator LED does not appear, see below.

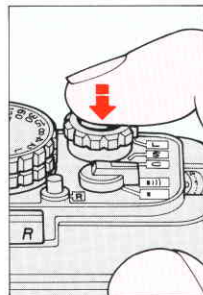


A lit **×** means autofocus is impossible with the subject. You should then set the focus mode selector to M and focus manually on the clear matte field. (See p.26 to 27 for subjects which cannot be used with autofocus.)



A lit **◀** means the subject is closer than the closest focusing distance of the lens. Move back from the subject.

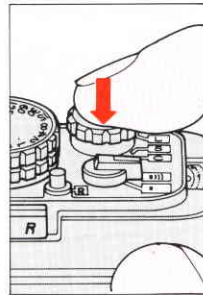
Taking Pictures with an Off-Centre Main Subject Single Servo Autofocus mode



1. Centre the focus brackets on the subject and lightly press the shutter release button.



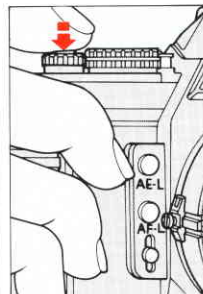
2. Confirm that the in-focus indicator LED lights up.



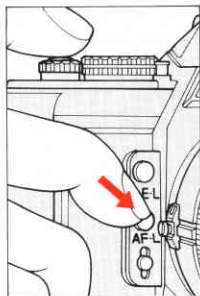
3. Keeping the shutter release button lightly pressed, recompose, then fully depress the shutter release button.

Continuous Servo Autofocus mode

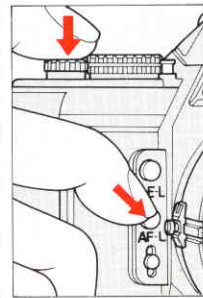
Use the AFL (autofocus lock) button to lock focus on the desired subject.



1. Centre the focus brackets on the subject and lightly press the shutter release button.



2. Keeping the shutter release button lightly pressed, confirm that the in-focus indicator LED lights up, then depress the AFL button and hold it in.



3. With the AFL button depressed, recompose as desired and fully depress the shutter release button.

FOCUS-ASSIST OPERATION

Focus-assist operation is possible with Nikkor and Series E lenses with a maximum aperture of $f/4.5$ or faster, including all AF Nikkor lenses.*

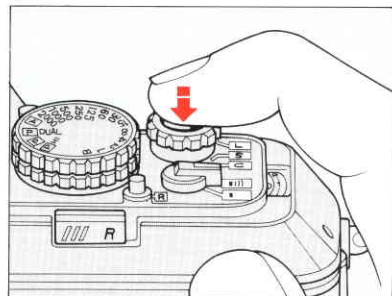
In focus assist-operation, manually rotate the lens focusing ring while referring to the focus indicator LEDs in the viewfinder as a guide.

With lenses having maximum aperture slower than $f/4.5$, although the focus indicator LEDs appear, **they are not reliable**. Focus on clear matte field.

*With some lenses, depending on focus distance, focus-assist operation cannot be used. For details, see page 47.

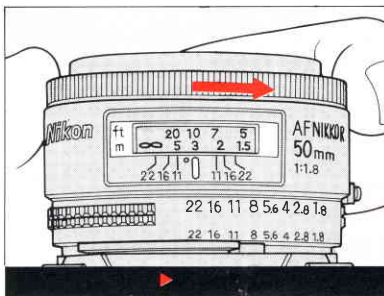
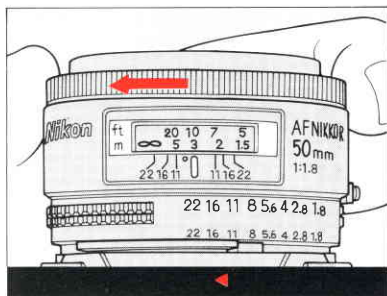


1. Look inside the viewfinder and centre the focus brackets on the main subject.



2. Lightly press the shutter release button.

With Nikkor and Series E lenses, the camera's focus mode selector can be set to any position. With AF Nikkor lenses, however, set the focus mode selector to **M**.



3. Keeping the shutter release button lightly pressed, watch the focus indicator LED inside the viewfinder.

If the focus-to-left arrow ◀ or focus-to-right arrow ▶ appears, manually rotate the lens focusing ring in the direction indicated until the green in-focus LED appears.

If the focus-to-left arrow appears but the lens focusing ring can no longer move to the left, move back from the subject.

If the focus-not-possible indicator ✕ appears, turn the focusing ring in either direction until it disappears; if it does not disappear, you cannot use the focus-assist feature. Use the clear matte field to focus the subject.



If ✕ does not disappear:

The focus-assist feature cannot be used with the subject. Use the clear matte field for focusing. (See p.26 to 27 for subjects which cannot be used with focus-assist operation.)



If ◀ does not disappear when you turn the focus ring counterclockwise to the limit:

The subject is closer than the closest focusing distance of the lens. Move back from the subject.

4. Confirm that the in-focus indicator LED is visible, then fully depress the shutter release button.