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Nikon N55

Nikon N55 (EN)

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

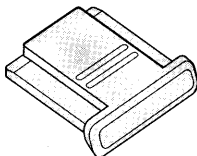
Introduction

- Thank you for purchasing the Nikon N55—a camera that is sure to make photography a bigger part of your life. Get to know your N55 camera, and be sure to read this manual thoroughly before using it. We recommend that you keep this manual handy.

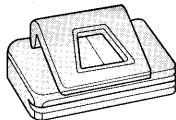
Supplied accessories



Body cap (P. 19)



Accessory shoe cover



Eyepiece cap DK-5 (P. 73)

** Remove this cover
when attaching an
optional Speedlight to
the accessory shoe.*

The N55 QD model is not offered in all markets. Please inquire with the local Nikon distributor about the availability of the QD model in your area.

July 1, 02

■ Take trial shots

Take trial shots before shooting at important occasions like weddings or graduations.

■ Have Nikon spot-check your camera regularly

Nikon recommends that you have your camera serviced by an authorized dealer or service center at least once every two years.

■ Using your camera correctly

The Nikon N55's performance has been optimized for use with Nikon brand accessories. Accessories made by other manufacturers may not meet Nikon's criteria for specifications, and nonconforming accessories could damage the N55's components. Nikon cannot guarantee the N55's performance when it is used with other than Nikon brand accessories.

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Nomenclature

Focus mode selector (PP. 46-47)

Built-in Speedlight (P. 40/76)

Lens release button
(P. 19)

Auto Exposure
Bracketing (P. 66)/
Multiple Exposure
(P. 69)/Film rewind
button (P. 72)

Flash lock-release
(P. 80)/Flash sync mode
button (P. 78)

Camera strap
eyelet

Exposure mode dial
(P. 10)

Accessory shoe (P. 91)

LCD panel (P. 8)

Focus area button (P. 48)

Self-timer (P. 42)/
AF-Assist Illuminator (P. 50)/
Red-Eye Reduction lamp (P. 79)

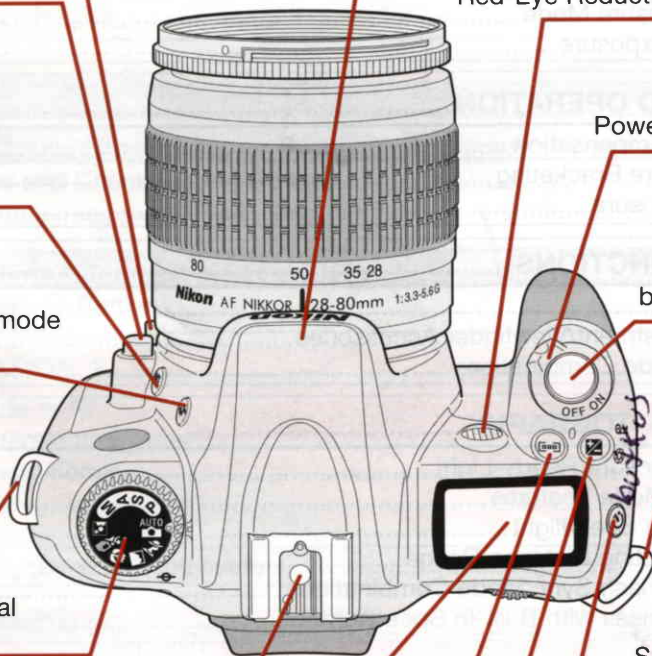
Power switch (P. 16)

Shutter release
button (P. 17/24)

Camera strap
eyelet

Self-timer button
(P. 42)

Aperture (P. 61)/Exposure
Compensation button (P. 64)/
Film rewind button (P. 72)



Viewfinder eyepiece

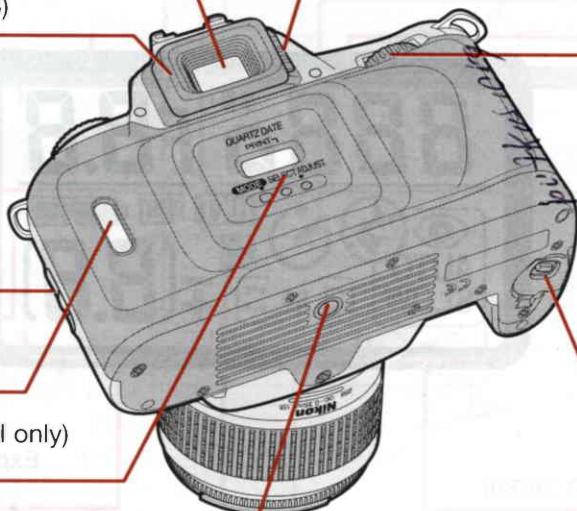
Diopter adjustment lever (P. 73)

Rubber eyecup (P. 73)

Command Dial

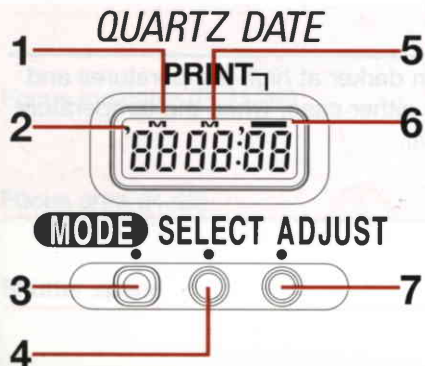
Camera back lock
release lever (P. 20)Film confirmation
window (P. 21)Battery chamber
cover lock
release lever
(P. 16)Data Back (QD model only)
(P. 22/44)

Tripod socket



* Illustration shown is the N55 QD model. The camera back of the N55 non-QD model differs from the QD model.

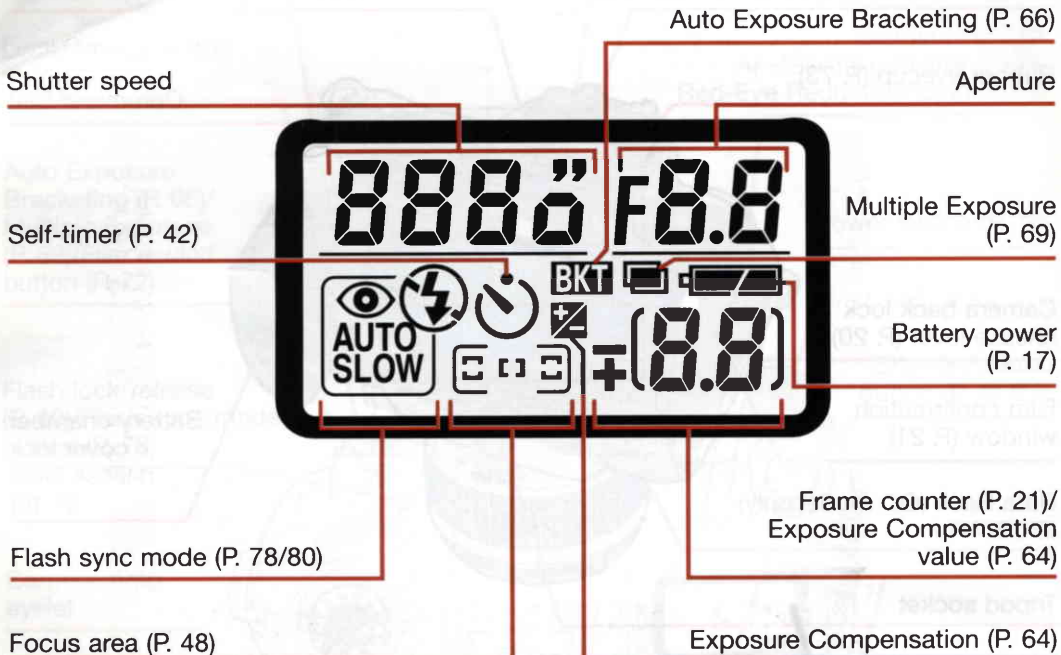
■ QD model only: Data imprint LCD/buttons



1. Date/time LCD
2. 'Y': Year indicator
3. MODE button: Push to select one of five available displays.
4. SELECT button: Push to select date/time to be adjusted.
5. M: Month indicator
6. —: Data imprint indicator: Blinks approx. 2 sec. when data is imprinted.
7. ADJUST button: Push to adjust date/time.

LCD Panel/Viewfinder Display

■ LCD panel



* The illustrations are fully labelled for your reference.

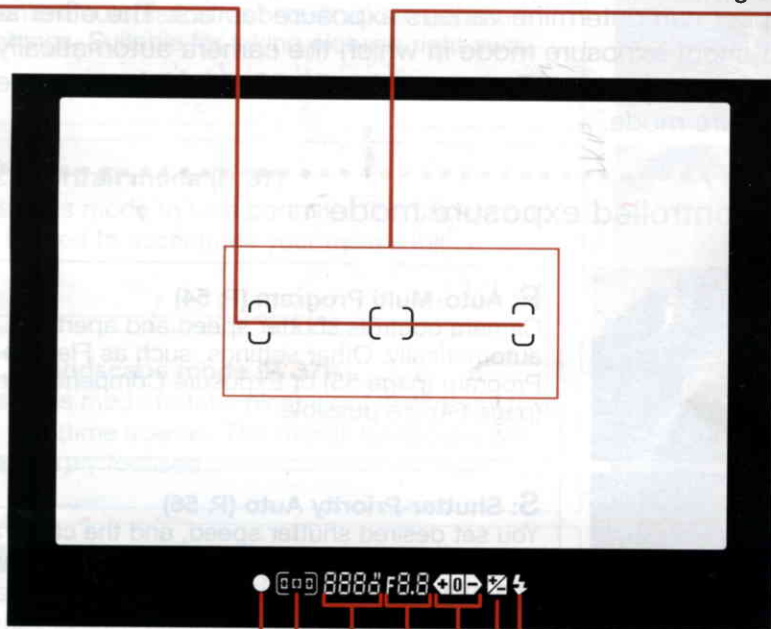
NOTE: About LCD

The LCD panel and viewfinder displays tend to turn darker at high temperatures and have slower response time at low temperatures. In either case, when the temperature returns to normal, the displays also return to normal.

■ Viewfinder display

Focus area (focus brackets) (P. 30/48)

Center Partial Metering area (p. 60)



Flash ready-light (P. 41/77)/
Flash recommended
indication (P. 80)

Exposure Compensation
(P. 64)

Electronic analog exposure (P. 61)/
Exposure Compensation value
display (P. 64)

Aperture

Focus indicator (P. 31/46)

Focus area (P. 48)

Shutter speed

Available Exposure Modes

The exposure mode dial of the Nikon N55 can be divided into two sections. One is the user-controlled exposure mode with Auto-Multi Program, Shutter-Priority Auto, Aperture-Priority Auto or Manual exposure modes, where the photographer can determine various exposure factors. The other section is point-and-shoot exposure mode in which the camera automatically controls various exposure settings. See pages 28, 37-39, 54-62 for more details on each exposure mode.

■ User-controlled exposure mode



P: Auto-Multi Program (P. 54)

Camera controls shutter speed and aperture automatically. Other settings, such as Flexible Program (page 55) or Exposure Compensation (page 64) are possible.



S: Shutter-Priority Auto (P. 56)

You set desired shutter speed, and the camera selects the correct aperture. Freeze the motion of a moving subject or blur the subject.



A: Aperture-Priority Auto (P. 58)

You set the desired aperture, and the camera selects the correct shutter speed. Lets you determine depth of the in-focus area.



M: Manual (P. 60)

Shutter speed and aperture are set manually. Suitable for taking photographs with unique effects.



■ Point-and-shoot exposure mode



AUTO mode (P. 28)

Camera automatically controls all the exposure settings. Suitable for taking pictures right away.



Portrait mode (P. 37)

Use this mode to take portraits. The background is blurred to accentuate your main subject.



Landscape mode (P. 37)

Use this mode to take pictures of distant daytime or nighttime scenes. The overall landscape will be sharply focused.



Close-Up mode (P. 38)

Use this mode to take up-close pictures of subjects such as flowers or insects.



Sports Continuous mode (P. 38)

Use this mode to freeze the motion of fast-moving subjects. Continuous shooting is also possible with this mode.



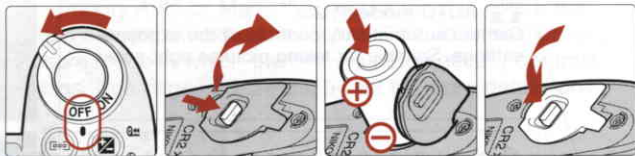
Night Portrait mode (P. 39)

Use this mode for subjects with an evening or night background.

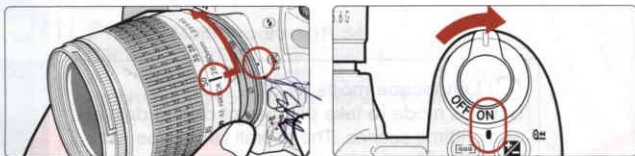


Start Shooting Immediately

- 1** Open the battery chamber and install batteries while the camera's power is off (page 16).

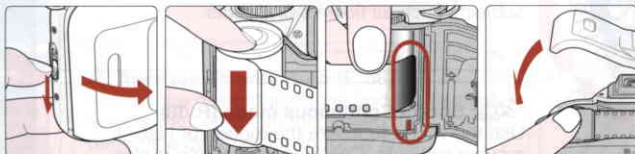



- 2** Attach the lens and turn the power switch on (page 18).



- 3** Open the camera back and install the film (page 20).

- When the camera back is closed, the film is automatically advanced and the number of available exposures is displayed in the LCD panel.



- 4** Set the focus mode selector to AF (autofocus) (page 26) and the exposure mode dial to  (AUTO mode) (page 28).



5 Hold the camera properly, compose frame and focus by lightly pressing the shutter release button (page 30).

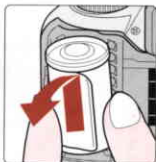
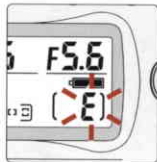
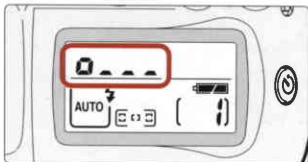


6 Confirm focus indicator ● appears without blinking and slowly depress the shutter release button (page 32).



7 Film starts to rewind automatically when it reaches the end of the roll (page 33).

- Make sure **E** is blinking in the LCD panel when removing the film cartridge.



Blank

PREPARATION

This section introduces the various operations necessary before you start shooting.

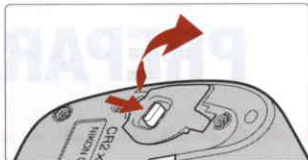
- Install batteries and check battery power
- Mount lens
- Load film
- Set date and time (QD model only)
- About shutter release button

1

Install Batteries and Check Battery Power

Use two CR2-type 3V lithium batteries.

- 1 Turn the power switch off and open the battery chamber cover by sliding the battery chamber cover lock release lever toward indicated direction.

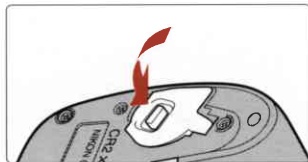
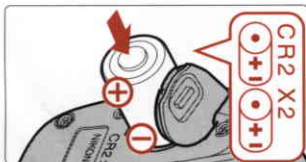


- When replacing batteries, be sure to turn the power switch off and replace both batteries at the same time. Always use fresh batteries of the same brand.

NOTE: Storing batteries

Keep the batteries out of children's reach. If swallowed, contact a doctor immediately. (For "Notes on Batteries", see page 102.)

- 2 Insert batteries with the \oplus and \ominus ends positioned as marked inside the battery chamber, then firmly close the battery chamber cover.

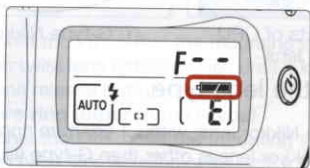
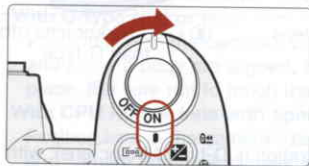


- Make sure to firmly close the battery chamber cover until it locks into place.
- Incorrect positioning of \oplus and \ominus poles may damage the camera.


Check points


- We recommend that you take spare batteries with you, especially when travelling.
- For the number of film rolls that can be shot with fresh batteries, see page 114.

3 Turn the power switch on and confirm battery power with the indication.



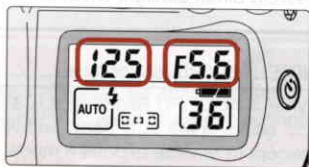
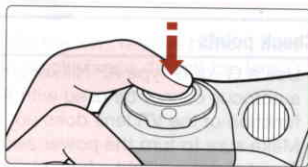
 appears: Sufficient battery power.

 appears: Batteries are nearing exhaustion. Have a fresh set ready. (Viewfinder indications turn off when you release your finger from the shutter release button after taking the picture.)

 blinks: Batteries are exhausted. Replace batteries. (Shutter locks.)

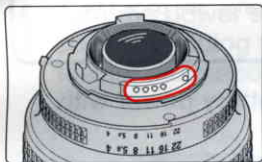
Lightly press the shutter release button to activate the exposure meter.

Lightly pressing the shutter release button reactivates the exposure meter and indications in the LCD panel and viewfinder. Shutter speed and aperture (F - - when lens is not attached) indications in the LCD panel automatically turn off 5 sec. after releasing your finger from the shutter release button. (All indications in the viewfinder turn off.) See page 24 for information on the shutter release button.

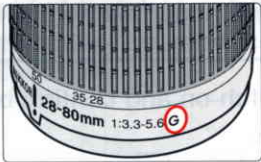


2 Mount Lens

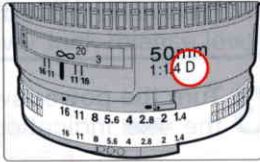
Turn the power switch off and mount the lens to the camera body.



CPU contacts of CPU
Nikkor lens



① G-type Nikkor lens



② CPU Nikkor lens other
than G-type

1 Check the lens type.

- ① G-type Nikkor lens, without aperture ring
- ② CPU Nikkor lenses other than G-type (Illustration is D-type Nikkor lens), with aperture ring

G-type Nikkor lens

The G-type Nikkor lens has no aperture ring; aperture should be selected from camera body. Unlike other CPU Nikkor lenses, aperture does not need to be set to minimum.

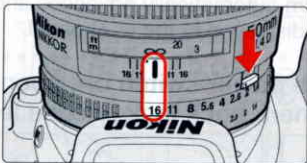
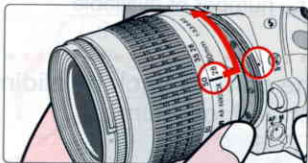
Check points

- Use a G- or D-type AF Nikkor lens to utilize all of this camera's functions. However, autofocus cannot be used with AF-S and AF-I lenses, and the Vibration Reduction function of the VR lens does not function (p. 88).
- Make sure to turn the power switch off when attaching/detaching the lens.
- Avoid direct sunlight when attaching/detaching the lens.

NOTE: Non-CPU Nikkor lens

When a non-CPU Nikkor lens is attached and the power switch is turned on, F- - blinks in the LCD panel and viewfinder, and the shutter cannot be released (except in Manual exposure mode). See page 90 for a non-CPU lens.

2 Turn the power switch off and mount the lens to the camera body.



With G-type Nikkor lens

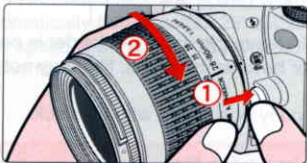
Position lens in the camera's bayonet mount so that the mounting indexes on lens and camera body are aligned, then twist lens anticlockwise until it locks into place. (Be sure not to touch the lens release button.)

With CPU Nikkor lens with aperture ring (other than G-type)

Position lens in the camera's bayonet mount so that the mounting indexes on lens and camera body are aligned, then twist lens anticlockwise until it locks into place. (Be sure not to touch the lens release button.) And then, **set the lens aperture to its minimum and lock.**

- When the lens is not set to its minimum aperture setting and the power switch is turned on, **FE** blinks in the LCD panel and viewfinder and the shutter cannot be released.

3 Detach the lens.



- Push and hold the lens release button, then turn the lens clockwise to detach the lens.

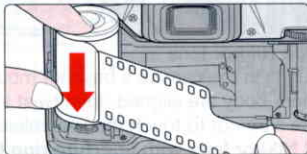
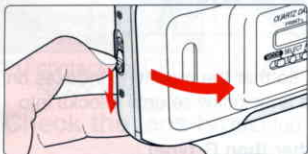
When camera is left unattended without lens

When you leave the camera unattended without a lens attached, be sure to attach the supplied body cap (page 2), or optional body cap BF-1A. (BF-1 body cap cannot be used.)

3 Load Film

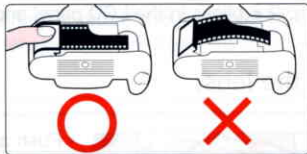
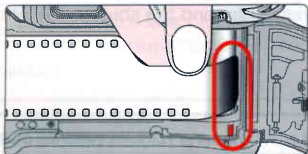
Turn the power switch on and load DX-coded film. With DX-coded film, film speed will be set automatically (ISO 25-5000). When the camera back is closed, the film automatically advances and the number of available exposures is displayed in the LCD panel.

1 Turn the power switch on, open the camera back by sliding the camera back lock release lever and load film.

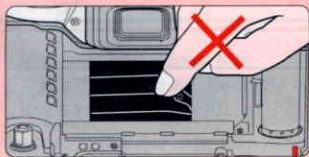


- Film cartridge can be loaded smoothly if inserted from the bottom.
- Make sure to insert the film cartridge all the way in.

2 Pull film leader across to red index mark.



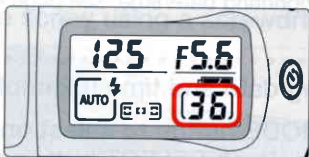
- Make sure to align the film leader to the red index mark; if the film leader is not properly aligned to the index mark (short of or beyond the mark), film may not be loaded properly.
- Hold the film cartridge and ensure film is properly positioned with no slack.



NOTE: Loading/removing film

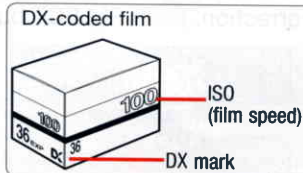
Shutter curtains are very thin. Do not touch the shutter curtains with your finger or the film leader.

PREPARATION



- The film automatically advances to final frame with blinking **0**, **0-**, **0--**, **0---** as indicated in LCD panel.
- When the film has completed set up, a shutter sound is let out but no picture has been taken.
- LCD Panel indicates number of exposures left on film.
- Film rewinds one frame at a time as photos are taken.
- When **E** appears in the LCD panel, film is not properly installed. Open the camera back again and reload film by aligning the film leader to the red index mark.
- When **E r r** and **E** in the LCD panel and **E r r** in viewfinder blink, film is not correctly advanced. Open the camera back again and reload film.
- Pictures taken on frames beyond the indicated number of the exposures for the film roll may be discarded in the process of developing.

With DX-coded film, film speed will be set automatically between ISO 25 to ISO 5000. Film speed is set to ISO 100 with non-DX-coded film.



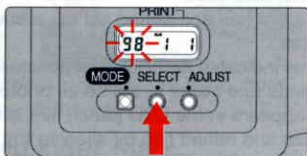
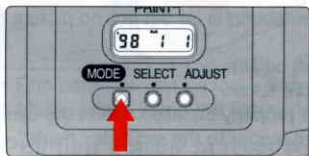
- Avoid direct sunlight when changing film outdoors.
- You can check the number of available exposures on the film roll and film speed through the film confirmation window.
- Infrared films cannot be used with this camera since an infrared sensor is used for the detection of the film frame position.

Set Date and Time (QD model only)

This camera allows you to imprint Year/Month/Day, Day/Hour/Minute (24-hour clock), Month/Day/Year or Day/Month/Year on your picture in any exposure mode. (For imprinting date/time, see page 44.)

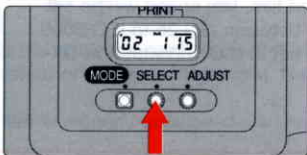
■ Adjusting date and time (Example: year 2002, January 15)

- 1 Push MODE button to select one of the date or time displays. Push SELECT button so section to be corrected starts blinking.



- Date cannot be set in Day/Hour/Minute display. To set date, select Year/Month/Day, Month/Day/Year or Day/Month/Year.
- Set the time in Day/Hour/Minute display.

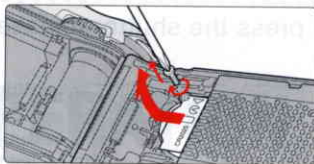
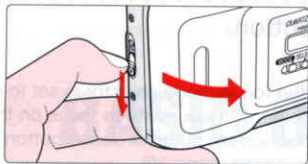
- 2 Push ADJUST button to change the blinking numbers and after correction, push SELECT button until the numbers stop blinking.



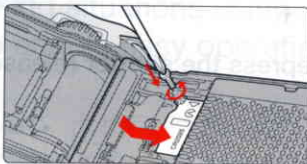
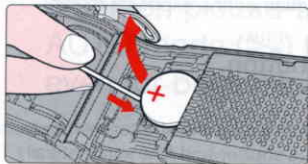
- Each time you push the ADJUST button, year section moves up from 98 to 49 (back to 98 after 49).
- To change the numerical indication rapidly, hold the ADJUST button down for more than 1 sec.
- Push SELECT button until the date/time display stops blinking. When the imprint indicator — appears in the data imprint LCD panel, the setting is complete.

■ Changing battery for imprinting

- 1 Open camera back, remove the battery chamber cover for imprinting by removing the screw using a screwdriver.



- 2 Remove the used battery and insert a new CR2025 3V lithium battery with \oplus side facing up. Attach the battery chamber cover by reinserting the screw.



- Use a pointed object to remove the battery.

NOTE: Battery requirements for imprinting

Imprinting of date/time requires one CR2025 3V lithium battery separate from the batteries required for the camera body. Battery life is approx. 3 years. When the imprinting on the photo appears faded and/or the display of the data imprint on the LCD becomes faint or disappears, this indicates low battery power. Replace the battery (making sure to set correct date/time after changing battery).

NOTE: Storing batteries

Keep the batteries out of children's reach. If swallowed, contact a doctor immediately. (For "Notes on Batteries", see page 102.)

About Shutter Release Button

Lightly pressing the shutter release button and holding it halfway down activates the camera's exposure meter and pressing it all the way down releases the shutter.

1 Lightly press the shutter release button.



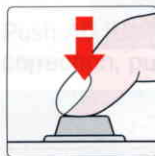
Before pressing



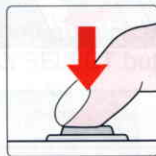
Lightly pressing

- When the focus mode selector is set to AF (autofocus), camera starts to focus on the subject when the shutter release button is lightly pressed (page 30).
- Lightly pressing the shutter release button activates the indications in the LCD panel and viewfinder (for approx. 5 sec. from removal of finger). (See page 17 for information on the exposure meter.)

2 Fully depress the shutter release button.



Lightly pressing



Fully
depressing

- Fully depressing the shutter release button releases shutter and film automatically advances to the next frame.

NOTE: Camera shake

Pressing the shutter release button abruptly can result in picture blur. Make sure to press the shutter release button slowly.

BASIC OPERATION 1

This section features the settings for most common picture-taking situations using AUTO mode (AUTO) to enable easy operation even for beginners.

Shooting modes/functions explained in this section are as follows:

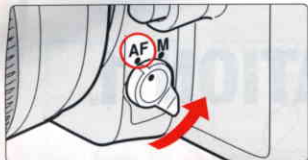
Lens attached	G-type AF Nikkor (P. 18)
Focus mode	AF (autofocus) (P. 26)
Focus area	Dynamic AF Mode with Closest-Subject Priority* (P. 26)
Exposure metering system	Five-segment 3D Matrix Metering* (P. 28)
Exposure mode	AUTO mode (AUTO) (P. 28)
Flash sync mode	Front-Curtain Sync (1/2)* (P. 78)

* Automatically set when AUTO mode is selected.

1 Set Focus Mode to AF

Set focus mode to AF (autofocus). (See page 46 for details.)

Turn the power switch on and set the focus mode selector to AF (autofocus).





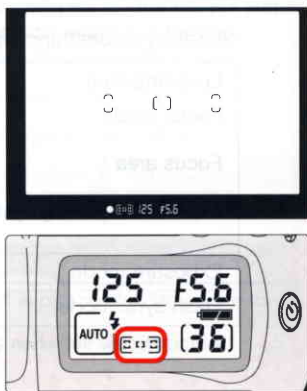
- Make sure to turn the focus mode selector until it clicks into position.
- To focus, lightly press the shutter release button (page 24).

NOTE: AF focus mode

Do not rotate the lens focusing ring manually when the focus mode selector is set to AF.

Dynamic AF Mode with Closest-Subject Priority

Dynamic AF Mode with Closest-Subject Priority automatically focuses on the subject located closest to any of three focus areas (page 48). If the subject moves from the selected focus area, the camera automatically focuses on the subject determining the data from the other focus areas. When the exposure mode is set to  (AUTO mode, page 28) or to any Vari-Program (page 36) (except  Close-Up mode), the N55 automatically selects Dynamic AF Mode with Closest-Subject Priority for easy operation, making it unnecessary to switch the focus area.



■ Situations where autofocus may not work as expected

Autofocus may not work as expected in the following situations. In such situations, focus manually using the clear matte field (page 47) or focus on a different subject located at the same distance, use focus lock (page 52) then recompose.



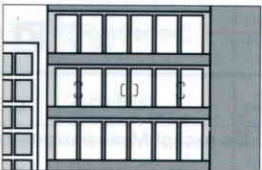
Low-contrast scenes

For example, where the subject is wearing clothing the same color as a wall or other background.



Scenes with subjects within the focus brackets located at different distances from the camera

For example, when photographing an animal in a cage or a person in a forest.



Patterned subject or scene

For example, building windows.



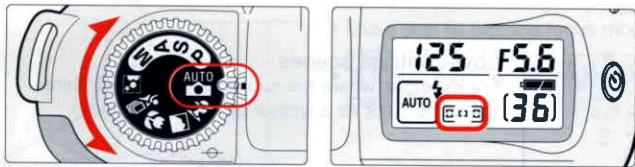
Scenes with pronounced differences in brightness within the focus brackets


For example, when the sun is in the background and the main subject is in shadow.

Set Exposure Mode to

When the exposure mode is set to , the camera automatically controls all the exposure settings.

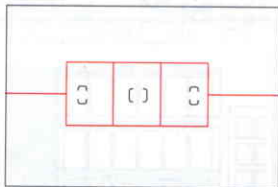
Set exposure mode to .




- When the shutter release button is lightly pressed, shutter speed and aperture are indicated in the LCD panel and viewfinder.
- When the exposure mode is set to , **Matrix Metering** is automatically selected.
- Check if the AF Area mode is set to **Dynamic AF Mode with Closest-Subject Priority**. See page 48 for details.

Matrix Metering (page 34)


The Matrix Meter employed in the N55 uses a five-segment sensor to achieve superior metering results even in extremely complex lighting conditions. The microcomputer analyzes data including scene brightness and contrast—and subject distance when you use a G- or D-type Nikkor lens (**3D Matrix Metering** is performed)—and makes the calculations necessary to assure correct exposure. This camera automatically selects Matrix Metering in all exposure modes except Manual exposure mode (page 60).









Check point

In  mode, Flexible Program (p. 55), Exposure Compensation (p. 64), Auto Exposure Bracketing (p. 66), Multiple Exposure (p. 69), Slow Sync (p. 78) and Red-Eye Reduction with Slow Sync (p. 79) cannot be set.

■ About exposure mode

Four exposure modes besides  and five Vari-Program modes are available with this camera. Utilizing the characteristics of each exposure mode, effective results can be achieved with various types of subjects or shooting situations. And the five Vari-Program modes enable you to easily choose proper exposure controls by simply selecting the desired mode for various shooting situations.

See each reference page for operating instructions and details.

Symbol		Exposure mode	Characteristics/Shooting situations
		AUTO P. 28	The easiest exposure mode for general shooting. Camera controls shutter speed and aperture automatically depending on the subject's brightness—allowing you to freely take pictures, concentrating only on the shutter release opportunity.
Vari-Program		Portrait P. 37	Use this mode to take portraits. The background is blurred to accentuate your main subject.
		Landscape P. 37	Use this mode to take pictures of distant scenes. The overall landscape will be sharply focused. This mode is also suitable for capturing nighttime or twilight scenes.
		Close-Up P. 38	Use this mode to take up-close pictures of subjects such as flowers or insects. Your close-ups will be taken with an artistically blurred background.
		Sports Continuous P. 38	Use this mode to take sports pictures. Using a fast shutter speed, it freezes the motion of fast-moving subjects to create exciting action photos. Continuous shooting is possible with this mode.
		Night Portrait P. 39	Use this mode for subjects with an evening or night background. This mode captures all lighting in the scene, including the foreground subject which is illuminated by the flash, and the background.
P		Auto-Multi Program P. 54	Camera controls shutter speed and aperture automatically, while allowing you to make other settings, such as Flexible Program (page 55) or Exposure Compensation (page 64).
S		Shutter-Priority Auto P. 56	You set desired shutter speed, and the camera selects the correct aperture. Freeze the motion of a moving subject using a fast shutter speed or blur the subject using a slower speed.
A		Aperture-Priority Auto P. 58	You set the desired aperture, and the camera selects the correct shutter speed. Lets you determine depth of the in-focus area, so you can choose whether near or far subjects are in sharp focus, or whether foreground or background is to be blurred.
M		Manual P. 60	Shutter speed and aperture are set manually. Suitable for situations where it is difficult to attain the desired effect using other exposure modes. Long Time exposure is possible with this exposure mode.

Hold Camera and Focus

Lightly pressing the shutter release button automatically focuses the camera on the subject and when the subject is in focus, causes ● to appear in the viewfinder.

1 Hold the camera properly.

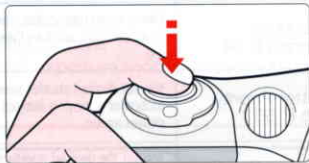


- Keep your elbow propped against your body for support.
- Stand with one foot forward a half step and keep your upper body still.
- Grasp the camera handgrip with your right hand and use your left hand to cradle the camera (or lens).



NOTE: Camera shake

Camera shake is likely to occur when the camera is not held steady or with slow shutter speed. The built-in Speedlight automatically fires in dark conditions (where slow shutter speed is required) in or Vari-Program (except for and) with this camera but always remember to hold the camera correctly.

2 Compose frame, center focus brackets on your subject, and focus by lightly pressing the shutter release button.






- Compose frame so that the subject to be focused is located closest at any of three focus areas and lightly press the shutter release button. When the Dynamic AF Mode with Closest-Subject Priority (pages 26, 48) is set, camera automatically maintains focus on the subject located closest to any of three focus areas.

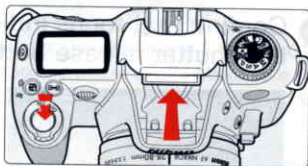
- When shutter release button is lightly pressed, the camera focuses automatically and focus indicator appears or blinks as follows:
 - appears: Subject is in focus.
 - blinks: Unable to focus using autofocus.
- With dark subjects, the camera's AF-Assist Illuminator (page 50) is automatically activated to guide autofocus (except in  or .

Check points

- Diopter adjustment (page 73) enables you to see more clearly through the viewfinder.
- To take a picture of a subject outside the focus area, shift the focus area (page 48) or use focus lock (page 52).
- In situations where autofocus may not work as expected, see page 27.

Built-in Speedlight

When the subject is dark or backlit and the shutter release button is lightly pressed, the built-in Speedlight automatically pops up in  or Vari-Program (except in  or ). See page 40 for details.



NOTE: Composing frame

This camera's viewfinder frame shows approximately 89% of the image actually exposed on the film frame. Therefore, the actual exposed frame is somewhat larger than the image you see through the viewfinder. Note that the edges of a negative film are partially cropped by most labs.

4 Release Shutter

Confirm that ● (in-focus indicator) appears in the viewfinder, then slowly, fully depress the shutter release button. With a moving subject, Continuous Servo AF (page 46) activates and camera continuously focuses on the subject.

1 Confirm indications in the viewfinder while lightly pressing the shutter release button.



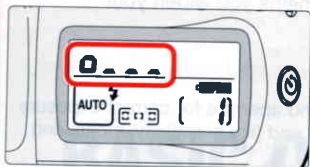
- When the subject is dark or backlit and shutter release button is lightly pressed, the built-in Speedlight automatically pops up and starts charging (pages 40, 76).

2 Confirm that focus indicator ● appears and slowly depress the shutter release button.



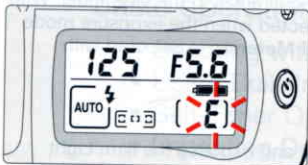
- After the shutter is released, the film automatically advances to the next frame and the next shot can be taken.

3 Film starts to rewind automatically when the last shot is taken.



- 0 . . . is displayed during film rewind.

4 Confirm that film is completely rewound, then remove film cartridge.



- Film is completely rewound when the frame counter shows blinking E in the LCD panel. (E appears without blinking when the exposure meter is off.) Make sure the film is completely rewound (E is blinking in the LCD panel), open the camera back away from sunlight and remove the film cartridge.

Check points

- If any other warning indications appear, see page 103.
- For mid-roll rewind, see page 72.