

# Automatic Indexing Conversions for Nikon Lenses



If you have a newer Nikon body and older Nikon lenses (or vice versa), you may have encountered an incompatibility in the meter coupling system. The information in this flyer will provide you with some background on Automatic Indexing (AI) and acquaint you with my services.

Although Nikon has been the only the SLR manufacturer to keep its lens mounting system the same over the years, they have updated their meter coupling mechanisms to keep up with technology and their competition. As a result, there are now four distinct types of bodies and four distinct types of lenses. I have used the terms "Old," "Transitional," "New" and "Electronic Only" to describe them. The summary on the other side of this sheet will give you some history on the Nikon system. Basic guidance on compatibility is in the table below. For details applicable to your situation, see the instruction book for your body. For photos and other information, please visit my web site at [www.aiconversions.com](http://www.aiconversions.com).

Bodies	Lenses	Electronic Only (no aperture ring): G	New (no yoke): AF, Series E	Transitional (holes in yoke): AI-s, AI	Old (meter yoke is solid)
Electronic Only (no meter tab) e.g., N80, N65, N60		OK	No meter with non-AF lenses	OK but no meter	Conversion B needed!
New (fixed tab) e.g., F5, D1, F100, N90s, FM2n		Shoot wide open on non-AF bodies	OK	OK	Conversion A needed!
Transitional (tab flips up) e.g., F4, F3, F2A, FM, FE		Shoot wide open on non-AF bodies	OK	OK	Conversion A suggested
Old (pin and yoke) e.g., F, early F2, Nikkormat FTn		Shoot wide open	Conversion C suggested	OK	OK

## Prices and Turnaround Time:

- Type A conversion: \$25 per lens (so that old lenses can be used on most newer bodies). See the photo at right.
- Type B conversion: \$35 per lens (same as a Type A conversion but with additional work so that the lenses can also be mounted on the "Electronic Only" bodies)
- For my former customers, the upgrade from A to B is \$10 per lens
- Type C conversion: \$25 per lens (installation of the traditional meter coupling yoke on AF or E styles so that these newer lenses can be used on old bodies with full aperture metering)
- Return shipping by UPS: \$5 for Ground, \$10 for 3 Day Select, \$15 for 2 Day Air. Note that these prices are on a per *order* (not per *lens*) basis
- UPS Next Day Air and other parcel services are also possible but please contact me in advance
- Turnaround time is typically two or three business days
- Overnight returns and "rush" work are possible but please contact me in advance



## Shipping Information:

- Wrap each lens separately. Bubble wrap is best. Newspaper is OK
- Place them in a sturdy box of corrugated cardboard
- Surround them with at least two inches of Styrofoam "peanuts"
- Enclose payment and a short note (or order form from my website). Personal checks are fine
- Send by UPS, if possible. If you use the U.S. Postal Service, ask for Priority Mail
- Please note: shipments that require my signature may take an extra day or two

Ship the lenses to: **John White, 1350 Folkstone Court, Ann Arbor MI 48105**

You may call me at (734) 662-1734 to leave a message. The best time to reach me in person is in the early evening during the week or during the day on weekends. My email address is [jwhite@aiconversions.com](mailto:jwhite@aiconversions.com). You may also contact me through my website: [www.aiconversions.com](http://www.aiconversions.com)

# A Brief History of Meter Couplings for Nikon SLR Bodies and Lenses

## ----- Bodies -----

**1959:** The Nikon F was introduced. Meter coupling was accomplished by a "pin and yoke" system that lasted almost through the era of the Nikkormat (see photo) and the F2. I have termed these bodies "Old" for purposes of the table on the other side of this sheet.



**1977:** The FM and FE series began the era of Automatic indexing (AI). The Nikon F2 finder was upgraded to the F2A and the Nikkormat line was upgraded to the EL2 and FT3. The meter coupling tab on these bodies could be flipped out of the way to allow older lenses to be mounted and used with stop-down metering. These bodies are called "Transitional" on my table.



**1979:** The EM body was offered as the least expensive way to get into the Nikon system. With this model, the meter coupling tab was fixed and old lenses could not be mounted without risk of damage. The FG, FA, FM2 and FE2 followed, all with the fixed tab while the flip-up version continued to be installed on the top-of-the-line F3 and F4 bodies. Bodies with the fixed tab are referred to as "New."



**1985:** Nikon's autofocus era began with the N2020. This body included electronic coupling contacts as well as the fixed meter coupling tab. Recent examples of this type are the F5, D1, F100 and N90s. These bodies are also termed "New."

**1987:** The N4004 was introduced as the least expensive entry to the Nikon autofocus system. There was no meter coupling tab and the body relied on the microprocessor in the autofocus (AF) lenses for metering. Current models of this type are the N65 and N80. Bodies of this type are shown as "Electronic Only."

**Today:** Nikon's lens mount has remained the same for more than forty years. With my conversions and only a few cases of inconvenience, virtually any body from any era can be used with any lens. Please refer to your body's instruction book or contact me with any specific questions.

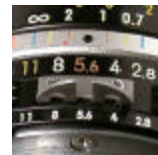
AI Conversions by John White  
www.aiconversions.com  
Printed: 10/26/2001

## ----- Lenses -----

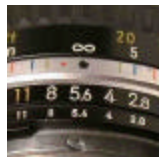
**1959:** The aperture rings on the SLR lenses were equipped with a yoke that engaged a pin on a prism-mounted meter to create coupling with the shutter speed settings. These lenses are shown as "Old" in the table on the other side of this sheet.



**1977:** Lenses that were introduced to accompany the new AI bodies continued to be equipped with the traditional coupling yoke although the yokes now had holes to let light through for the new Aperture Data Readout function. These models are shown as "Transitional" on the table. From 1977 to 1991, Nikon would convert the Old lenses to AI configuration by installing a new aperture ring. Since then, conversion by modification of the existing ring is your only option (unless you can find some of Nikon's old kits).



**1979:** The Series E lenses that appeared with the EM did not have the meter yoke but were the first to have AI-s features which allowed Programmed Automation using mechanical means. These models are shown as "New" on the table.



**1981:** AI-s lenses replaced AI models. They continued to be equipped with the yoke and are still in the line today. These models are shown as "Transitional" on the table.

**1985:** Autofocus lenses were introduced. They have electronic couplings as well as the AI-s features but do not include the yoke. Like the Series E models, these lenses are shown as "New" on the table.

**2000:** The Series G line of less expensive lenses began. These lenses do not have an aperture ring. Meter coupling is solely electronic so they are meant only for AF bodies. Nevertheless, these lenses can be mounted and used on all non-AF Nikon SLRs if you don't mind metering and shooting wide open. On the table, these lenses are shown as "Electronic Only."

**Today:** Nikon SLR lenses are classics. With my conversions and only a few cases of inconvenience, virtually any lens from any era can be used on any body. Please refer to your body's instruction book or contact me to ask any specific questions.