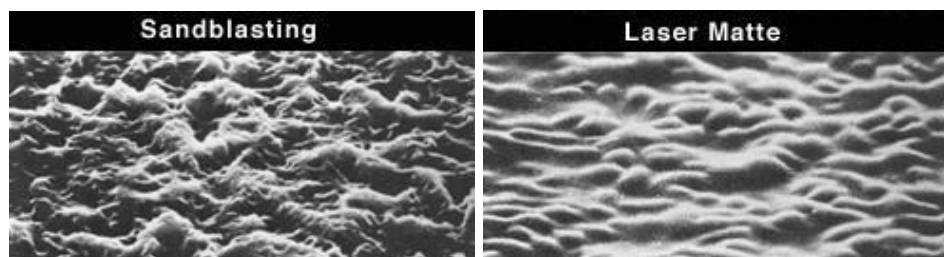


Modern Classic SLRs Series
Nikon FE/FM/FA Series Model(s) - Shared Accessories
- Changing Focusing Screens -

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When you are reading up to this page, either you have been tempted to buy one or you have already have one in your camera bag. Before we continue, a word of caution: Focusing screens are made of plastic, it is not optical glass. Scratchable and their surfaces are ground and/or etched and so they are very easy to accumulate dirt. Avoid at all times to allow any alien particles to fall on to the surface and never use your finger to touch them - especially the split image rangefinder. When you buy a new screen, other than the standard K screen supplied to you when you bought your camera new, the screen will come with a holder. IF you are not very seasoned at changing screen using your fingers, **please use the tweeter/holder to perform this task.**



Evenly shaped surface can distribute better light, thus, the principle behind the K2/B2/E2 brighter screen transmission. (Note: These two illustrations are from the [Canon's New F-1](#) site in MIR. Although these are not the original magnification of the Nikon screens, the Principle applies here).

Remove and changing a Focusing Screen

After removing the lens from the camera body, look into the mirror box. At the top front of the mirror box casting, there is a latch (1) for snapping open the focusing screen frame holder. Then slip the small tip of the special tweezers (3), which are supplied with the accessory focusing screen, under the latch and pull outward to spring open the holder. Take the screen out of the holder by grasping the small tab with the tweezers. To avoid getting smudges or fingerprints on the screen's optical surfaces, do not remove the screen with your fingers. To mount another screen, carefully place it into position with the flat side facing downward and the tab out (2) (closer to the right side, facing the camera), then push the front edge of the holder upward until it clicks into position.



Whatever, after a few rounds, I know you won't listen what I have said. Should you use your finger nails and fingers to change screen, just be careful. Although dirt marks on the screen will not affect actual image capture on films, but it can be very irritating when you view through the viewfinder. Note: Sometimes when you have noticed some dirt in the viewfinder, it could be in your eyepiece. Further, when you have acquired a used camera, make sure the foam/sponge just above the reflex mirror (Use to absorb/reduce impact of the mirror when flip up during an exposure/tripping an empty shot) are not melt (If the camera was kept un-attended under high humidity condition for few years, this may occur). These are the most difficult lots to clean when fall onto the screen. NEVER attempt using a lens cleaning tissue or cloth to wipe them, use a blower first or can air instead, as they are melt plastic materials and may take extra attention to clean them.

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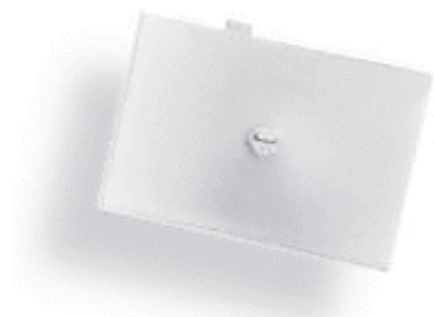
Credit: [Chuck](#) Hester for some of his untiring effort in the development of these sites; [Ted](#) Wengelaar®, Holland for his continuous flow of input; [Lars](#) Holst Hansen, Danish 'Hawkeye' who shares the same passion; Ms Miss [Rissa](#) (Sales Manager) & members of the Technical Service dept. of Shiro Malaysia, local distributor of Nikon cameras in Malaysia & Singapore, in providing so many useful input to make this site possible. Special thanks to Mr [MC Lau](#), who has helped with his images of the MF-12 databack. Michael Tan, Pertama Photo (603-2926505) for lending his original Titanium Shutter Display Unit. [Hiura](#) Shinsaku, Nikomat ML, Japan for his contribution on all the various images; A contributing site to a [long lost friend](#) on the Net. Note: Certain content and images appeared in this site were either scanned from official marketing leaflets, brochures published by Nikon and/or contribution from surfers who claimed originality of their own work to publish in this site based on educational merits. The creator of this site will not be responsible for any discrepancies that may arise from such possible dispute except rectifying them after verification. "Nikon", "Nikkormat", "Nippon Kokagu KK" & "Nikkor" are registered trademark of Nikon Corporation Inc., Japan. Made with a [PowerMac](#).

Modern Classic SLRs Series Nikon FE/FM/FA Series Model(s) - Shared Accessories - Focusing Screens -

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Interchangeable Focusing Screens

During the early days, the Nikon FE is an automatic camera with a full match needle manual exposure control system, another selling point was its interchangeable focusing screen capability. This feature was missed out in the mechanical [Nikkormat FT](#) and [electronic EL series](#) models.



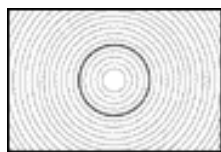
Until the FM2 of 1982, Nikon FE remained first model other than the Nikon professional F series to have this unique and useful feature. The original FM wasn't equipped with this either.

It was only made available in the [original Nikon FM2](#) in 1982 and during the initial stage, the FM2 shares the same screens designed for the FE which is slightly dimmer. This interchangeable screen feature was made standard later in all the mid-compact manual focus Nikon bodies - FM2, FE2, FM2n, FA. Sorry, neither the current Nikon FM10 and FE10 has this useful feature incorporated, both of these bodies have only a fixed, non-interchangeable standard K screen as standard. With the introduction of the [Nikon FM3a in 2002](#), the Company also debuted a [3 new series of screens](#) (K3-type Spliprism-image Rangefinder Microprism, Clear Matte Screen IIa and Etched system with horizontal and vertical lines) specifically for the camera.

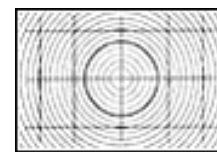
Generally, regardless of old or new, there are a total of three different types of focusing screens available. You can categorized them in two different groups: The early days of K/B/E (for the FE, FM, and FM2) and the later K2/B2/E2 for the FA, FE2, FM2n/FM2T and K3, E3 and B3 for the Nikon FM3a. What was the difference ? The screens in the second and third series are brighter than earlier ones for easier view and focusing, that is all. The new K3/B3/E3 has a smaller diameter of the split-image rangefinder than earlier versions..



Type K



Type B



Type E

Out line their general applications:

TYPE K (K2): Matte/Fresnel with horizontal rangefinder and microprism. Matte/Fresnel field with central 3mm-diameter split-image rangefinder (horizontally aligned) surrounded by 1 mm-wide microprism collar. This screen combines the split-image and the microprism for quick and accurate focusing, particularly with lenses of brighter maximum aperture. Screen also provided with centrally positioned, 12mm-diameter etched reference circle denoting area of center-weighting TTL exposure measurement. Excellent for general photography, the Type K screen is standard equipment on the Nikon FM/FE/FM2. While K2 screen is the standard screen for FE2, FM2n, FM2T, FA, FM10 and FE10.

TYPE B (B2): Matte/Fresnel with focusing spot. Matte/Fresnel field with central 3mm-diameter fine-ground matte focusing spot. The 12mm-diameter reference circle corresponds to the area of center-weighted TTL exposure measurement. Rated excellent with all lenses, this screen proves especially good with lenses having small maximum apertures, such as Reflex-Nikkors, as well as for close-up photography applications. Since most of you experienced one way or another with darkening of the spit image with those small aperture lenses, especially with zoom lenses.

TYPE E (E2): Matte/Fresnel with focusing spot and grid. Matte/Fresnel field with central 3mm-diameter fine-ground matte focusing spot and etched grid. The 12mm-diameter reference circle corresponds to the area of center-weighted TTL exposure measurement. Rated excellent with all lenses, this screen proves especially good for exacting reproduction work, such as copying, as well as for architectural photography with PC-Nikkor lenses. The grids, are useful for **perfect registration in multiple exposures** or use it for reference guide in composition etc.

The two groups of screens are compatible with any of the above cameras. **Note:** Some exposure compensation is needed when certain screens are installed in certain cameras. For instance, when you intend to use an FE, FM, or FM2 with the newer group of screens, an exposure compensation (Either through the exposure compensation dial or adjust the ASA) of **+ 1/3 to +1/2** stop exposure compensation is required. On the other hand, if an FE2, FA, or FM2n is used with a screen from the earlier series, a compensation value of **- 1/3 to - 1/2** stop exposure compensation is necessary.

Still confused ? Here is a compatibility chart with the recommended exposure compensation values: (**NOTE:** Nikon claims FM3a can used K2/B2/K2 **without the need to compensate exposure** but they didn't indicate whether how much adjustment needs to be done on the other way round i.e. using the new screen(s) on older bodies)

| | K, B, E | K2, B2, E2 | K3, B3, E3 |
|----------------------|----------|------------|------------|
| FE | - | + 1/2 EV | |
| FM2 | - | + 1/3 EV | |
| FE2, FA, FM2n, FM2/T | - 1/3 EV | - | |
| Nikon FM3a | | | - |

Updated by **Lars Holst Hansen** <LHHansen@zi.ku.dk> Creator of the [Nikon Repair](#) Mailing List

Note: These are suggested compensation values published by Nikon on the little leaflet that came with the optional screen, please use it only as a reference. For more precise results, try to perform a test on your own to find the best combination.

Next issue is - how to differentiate between these two groups of screens ?

I suggest you'd better try to absorb this info, as not many shop assistants out there are knowledgeable enough to help you, as these are minor accessories to them. It could be quite troublesome for you to keep two type of these screens in your camera bag if situations demand you to keep changing screens for various assignments.



Type K/B/E screens have a straight tab.



Type K2/B2/E2 screens have a notched tab.

Caution: If you use the Type K/B/E screen, you must make exposure compensation by setting the exposure compensation dial to -1/3. However, no exposure compensation is necessary when performing TTL auto flash photography with a Type K/B/E screen installed in the FE2 or FA.



Type K3/B3/E3 screens for Nikon FM3a.

Generally, it is easy-to-change focusing screens with the Nikon cameras mentioned earlier. For most situations, the standard K/K2 screen works fine. The other two options are quite specific. Like for close-ups or long telephoto shots, B/B2 offers an unobstructed view in the center. E/E2, with etched horizontal and vertical lines, is ideal for copying, duplicating, architectural work (with PC-Nikkor lenses) or as a general aid in composition. But for all round applications, based on individual preference, I would still suggest the B2. In fact, the H2 in Nikon F3 are quite similar in nature with the type B in the FE series. This, of course is just a personal preference. The split image in the earlier FE's K screen tends to darken when used with many lenses, I have used to the plain image screen due to that reason.

Update: The FE10 and FM10 does not have a interchangeable screen function. A fixed, standard type K screen is used for both bodies.

Guide on maintenance of screens: These are factory guide for the FE published in 1978 maintenance guideline and should be used as a reference **if** you want to do it yourself:

How to clean Focusing Screens of Nikon FE

This note is applicable only to the focusing screens for Nikon FE, which are made of acrilan. On changing focusing screens, they should be removed / mounted with tweezers, to avoid getting smudges or fingerprints on their optical surfaces; As a general cleaning, simply use a brush or blower brush to remove external dust. However, when the screens are smudged or printed by mistake, clean them carefully with a cleaning

tissue soaked with the adequate liquid listed below. In this case, do not rub focusing screens strongly, because they are prone to be easily damaged.

How to change the screen ? Forgot to link this earlier, errr..

| Liquid/Agent | Remarks |
|--|--------------|
| Freon (CCl ₂ F ₂) | Excellent |
| Lens cleaner (on the market) | Excellent |
| Ethyl Alcohol (C ₂ H ₅ OH) | Acceptable |
| Methyl Alcohol (CH ₃ OH) | Unacceptable |
| Ethyl Ether ((C ₂ H ₅) ₂ O) | Unacceptable |
| Thinner (on the market) | Unacceptable |

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Danish 'Hawkeye' who shares the same passion; Ms Miss [Rissa](#) (Sales Manager) & members of the Technical Service dept. of Shriro Malaysia, local distributor of Nikon cameras in Malaysia & Singapore, in providing so many useful input to make this site possible. Special thanks to Mr [MC Lau](#), who has helped with his images of the MF-12 databack. Michael Tan, Pertama Photo (603-2926505) for lending his original Titanium Shutter Display Unit. [Hiura](#) Shinsaku, Nikomat ML, Japan for his contribution on all the various images; A contributing site to a [long lost friend](#) on the Net. Note: Certain content and images appeared in this site were either scanned from official marketing leaflets, brochures published by Nikon and/or contribution from surfers who claimed originality of their own work to publish in this site based on educational merits. The creator of this site will not be responsible for any discrepancies that may arise from such possible dispute except rectifying them after verification. "Nikon", "Nikkormat", "Nippon Kokagu KK" & "Nikkor" are registered tradename of Nikon Corporation Inc., Japan. Made with a [PowerMac](#).