Nikkor AF 105mm f/2 D DC - Review / Test Report

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Lens kindly provided for testing purposes by Julio M. Alperi Gonzalez!

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Introduction

The Nikkor AF 105mm f/2D DC is one of two *Defocus Control* lenses in the Nikon lens line-up. DC lenses allow you to control the degree of spherical aberrations or in simple words: you can emphasize the degree of foreground or background blur (bokeh) beyond the sheer potential of a large aperture lens. Typical applications which could benefit from a controlled bokeh are still-life and portrait photography. The lens was released back in 1993 so it is one of the oldest Nikkors still in production and as such a full format lens. On APS-C DSLR such as the D200 its field of view is equivalent to 158mm on the classic full format.

The build quality of the lens is excellent thanks to combination of metal and plastic parts with a Nikon "pro style" crinkle finish. The length of the lens remains constant regardless of the focus setting and the front element does not rotate due to an RF (Rear Focusing) design. A nice and almost forgotten approach is the build-in lens hood (telescope style). I would really wish that this old "fashion" will see a revival again.

The Nikkor features an independent ring (rather stiff) for switching between AF and manual focusing - a dated and cumbersome approach compared modern AF-S lenses. The lens has no internal AF motor and relies on a slotted drive screw operated by the camera. As a result the AF generates a moderate degree of noise but the AF speed is comparatively high. A rather annoying aspect is the rather long min. focus distance of 0.9m.

Specifications

Optical construction	6 elements in 6 groups
Number of aperture blades	9 (rounded)
min. focus distance	0.9m (max. magnification ratio 1:7.7)
Dimensions	111x79mm
Weight	640g
Filter size	72mm (non-rotating)
Hood	barrel shaped, build-in
Other features	Lens provides distance (D) information to the camera. Defocus Control.

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