AF-Nikkor 28-105 mm f/3.5-4.5 IF	4 (D1)	Many people have asked me to review this lens, so I finally yielded to popular demand. This quite lightweight Nikkor has the current nondescript plastic finish of which I'm no big fan, but is less wobbly than many of its consumer AF relatives. Thanks to an IF design, the lens is kept quite short and its focusing throw is quite short ensuring fast focusing on an AF-enabled camera. Optically speaking, this lens has a number of surprises up its sleeve (or helicoid?). Firstly, the inevitable geometric distortion, often quite nasty on consumer lenses, is kept under impressively strict control as zoom lenses go. There is just a trace of barrel distortion at the wide end and slightly bigger amounts of pincushion distortion at the long setting, but neither is of any practical value except for the really nit-pickers amongst us, and such people wouldn't touch a zoom lens by a ten-feet pole anyway. Secondly, the curvature of field is insignificant thus allowing the lens to capture buildings and other flat subjects in sharp focus across the entire frame even at wide aperture settings. However, the levels of flare and ghosting are slighly more "normal" for a zoom lens, thus care should be taken when shooting into the sun. At the 105 mm setting, lens flare prevails, unless the sun is at a grazing angle to give a nasty big ghosting spot. The 28-105 delivers very sharp images with just a trace of softening by internal flare set wide-open, and this is cured by slightly stopping the lens down. Image contrast and sharpness are excellent by f/8 and hold up well to f/16, from which point onwards diffraction will gracefully degrade image quality. I could not detect any significant light fall-off towards the corners when the lens was deployed on a D1, and the fall-off seems to be well controlled on the F5 too. Colour fringing was virtually undetectable despite the fact that this lens lacks ED glass. The so-called "macro" feature of most zooms typically is worse than useless, not so on the 28-105. You can get into "macro" mode within the 50-105 mm focal range, and the lens will focus to around 1:2 (half life-size), which is quite impressive. Even more impressive is the excellent optical rendtion of the close-ups, still with colour fringing kept well under control. This lens is not a true "macro" flat-field design, but even so field curvature is quite low for the close-up setting. My impression was that the best quality of close-ups were obtained at the 50 mm setting, but if you are after maximum subject magnification, the 105 mm setting should be used. The 28-105 justify its popularity by delivering quality results in a small, handy package. It would constitute a perfect travel lens if you can live with the angle of view of a 28 mm (a separate wider lens can always be added to your setup).