

Nikon 45 mm f/2.8P

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A flat, snazzy lens for the Nikon FM3A that meters on all AF Nikons.

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Hands on: Beautifully finished in satin chrome, this compact normal lens extends only 11/16-inch from the camera body at infinity (½ -inch more with lens shade) and balances very well on all Nikon SLRs. Attractive ribbed pattern on focusing and aperture rings is easy to grasp and all controls turn with silky precision. Full-stop aperture detents are just right—neither too light nor too pronounced. Black and color-coded aperture and distance scales are legible, except for yellow footage numerals, which are hard to see in dim light. Color-coded depth-of-field scale only covers f/8, f/16, and f/22 apertures.



In the lab: SQF readings were excellent overall, among the best we've recorded for a lens of this type. There was slight pincushion distortion, measured at 0.55 percent. At the closest focusing distance of 17 ¼ inches (1:7.4 magnification) center sharpness was excellent at all apertures. Corner sharpness was very good at f/2.8, excellent from f/4 to f/16, and good at f/22. Optimum performance was at f/11.

<p>SPECIFICATIONS: 45mm (45.70mm tested), f/2.8 (f/2.85 tested), 4 elements in 3 groups. Focusing turns 90 degrees clockwise.</p>	<p>Diagonal View Angle: 50 degrees. Weight: 4 3/16 oz. Filter size: 52mm. Mount: Nikon F. Lenshood: Included. List price: \$450. Street price: Approx. \$350.</p>
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In the field: Test slides were very sharp and contrasty from center to corners at all apertures (light falloff was gone at f/4). Flare was very well-controlled without any ghosting noticeable in pictures taken in high flare situations—an excellent result. Underexposure by ½-stop was observed in slides shot at minimum aperture.

Conclusion: An outstanding compact, manual-focus lens in the normal focal-length range that will meter on all Nikon SLRs, including the N80 and N65. It is beautifully made, and performs as handsomely as it looks.