

Nikkor AF-S 50mm f/1.4 G (FX) - Review / Test Report

Lens Reviews - Nikon / Nikkor (full format)

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Sample Shots

The following sample shots were taken with a D3x and RAW-converted via CaptureOne 4.8.

Click on a thumbnail to view the original file (opens in a separate window).

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Make NIKON CORPORATION Model NIKON D3X ISO Speed 200 Focal Length 50.0mm Aperture: f/4.0 Exposure 1/250s		Make NIKON CORPORATION Model NIKON D3X ISO Speed 100 Focal Length 50.0mm Aperture: f/8.0 Exposure 1/200s	
Make NIKON CORPORATION Model NIKON D3X ISO Speed 200 Focal Length 50.0mm Aperture: f/8.0 Exposure 1/80s		Make NIKON CORPORATION Model NIKON D3X ISO Speed 200 Focal Length 50.0mm Aperture: f/8.0 Exposure 1/400s	
Make NIKON CORPORATION Model NIKON D3X ISO Speed 100 Focal Length 50.0mm Aperture: f/4.5 Exposure 1/400s		Make NIKON CORPORATION Model NIKON D3X ISO Speed 100 Focal Length 50.0mm Aperture: f/4.0 Exposure 1/1250s	
Make NIKON CORPORATION Model NIKON D3X ISO Speed 100 Focal Length 50.0mm Aperture: f/1.4 Exposure 1/8000s		Make NIKON CORPORATION Model NIKON D3X ISO Speed 100 Focal Length 50.0mm Aperture: f/2.5 Exposure 1/2500s	
Make NIKON CORPORATION Model NIKON D3X ISO Speed 100 Focal Length 50.0mm Aperture: f/2.5 Exposure 1/4000s		Make NIKON CORPORATION Model NIKON D3X ISO Speed 100 Focal Length 50.0mm Aperture: f/5.6 Exposure 1/500s	
Make NIKON CORPORATION Model NIKON D3X ISO Speed 100 Focal Length 50.0mm Aperture: f/8.0 Exposure 1/60s		Make NIKON CORPORATION Model NIKON D3X ISO Speed 200 Focal Length 50.0mm Aperture: f/8.0 Exposure 1/160s	
Make NIKON CORPORATION Model NIKON D3X ISO Speed 200 Focal Length 50.0mm Aperture: f/1.4 Exposure 1/8000s			

Verdict

Normal primes have a long standing reputation of high quality for an affordable price and the Nikkor AF-S 50 50 makes no exception in this regard. The lens is able to deliver ver sharp images, at least slightly stopped down.

However it's not without flaws. Wide open, it lacks a bit sharpness and most of all contrast, vignetting is very high wide open, but that is to be expected on a full frame camera with a moderately priced fast prime. The bokeh is smooth from f/2 to f/2.8 onwards, but a bit nervous wide open, where the lens also shows considerable amount of LoCAs

However, on a full frame camera depth of field with this lens wide open is so thin that it's hard to find a suitable subject to shoot at its fastest setting. So, usually you'll likely use the lens slightly stopped down anyway, where it performs excellently.

For most applications the silent wave AF drive is fast enough. Combined with the high build quality this results in an attractive package that might not necessarily tempt those who already own an older Nikkor 50 mm AF lens, but probably all others looking for a fast standard prime.

Optical Quality: ★★☆☆

Mechanical Quality: ★★☆☆

Price/Performance: ★★☆☆