

# Nikon 135mm f2 DC

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This *Nikon 135mm f2 DC* lens another species that belongs to the great Nikon DC lens' lineup. You can get this lens from [Amazon \(Best Price + FREE Shipping\)](#), [B&H Photo](#), [Adorama](#).

It shares very similar characteristics with its Nikon 105mm DC brother both in terms of optical performance and build quality.

If you are new and don't know what a DC lens is, it is pretty much a lens that will allow you to control the out of focus blur (bokeh).

Who'd wants to use this lens?

Professional portrait and still life photographers.

This lens is a heaven for both of them.

In terms of optical performance, it is tack sharp, just like the 105mm DC. Build quality is also very similar.

Those two, combined with the ability to control bokeh will make this a dream lens for any portrait or still life photographers.

If you want to get this lens, you will need to make a decision: which focal length that you need?

I am personally fine with the 105mm. However, there might be other photographers who wants to do a bit of sports photography and that's where the extra 30mm focal length can come in handy.

Read my [Nikon 135mm f2 DC](#) lens review below to dig in deeper.

For my in-depth review, see the following sections. Click on the link below to go directly to any section.

[Specs](#) • [Performance](#) • [Sample Image](#) • [Conclusion](#) • [Where to Buy](#)

## Nikon 135mm f 2 DC Specs

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### Official Name:

Nikon AF DC-NIKKOR 135mm f/2D

### Focal Length Markings:

135mm

### Features:

AF – Autofocus only compatible with non-entry level Nikon DSLR camera. It is not compatible with Nikon D40, D40x, D60, D5000, D5100, D3000 and D3100.

DC – Defocus Control – Special lens that allows you to control the amount of background blur (also known as bokeh) on the lens.

D – Distance information will be transferred to the camera body for metering purpose.

FX – Compatible with both Nikon cropped sensor, film and full frame DSLR camera.

### Full Technical Specs (from Nikon's website):

Technical Specifications	
Groups / Elements	6 / 7
Angle of View	12 (DX) – 18 (FX)
Number of Blade Diaphragm	9
Minimum Aperture	f/16
Minimum Focusing Distance	4ft. (1.1m)
Filter Thread	72mm
Weight	28.7oz. (815g)
Dimension (Diameter x Length)	3.1 x 4.7in. (79 x 120mm)
Macro Magnification Ratio	0.48X
Available at	<a href="#">Amazon</a> , <a href="#">B&amp;H Photo</a> , <a href="#">Adorama</a>

## Optical Performance

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## Nikon 135mm f2 DC Sharpness

Sharpness is excellent both on the center and on the borders. This is true even at the maximum aperture.

The point of maximum sharpness on this lens is at f/4.

See my sharpness test result below.

Sharpness Scale (from Best to Worst):

- (5) Excellent
- (4) Great
- (3) Good
- (2) Fair
- (1) Poor

Nikon AF DC NI R 135mm f/2D Center Sharpness

Focal Length / Aperture	f/2	f/2.	f/	f/5.	f/
135mm	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

Nikon AF DC NI R 135mm f/2D Border Sharpness

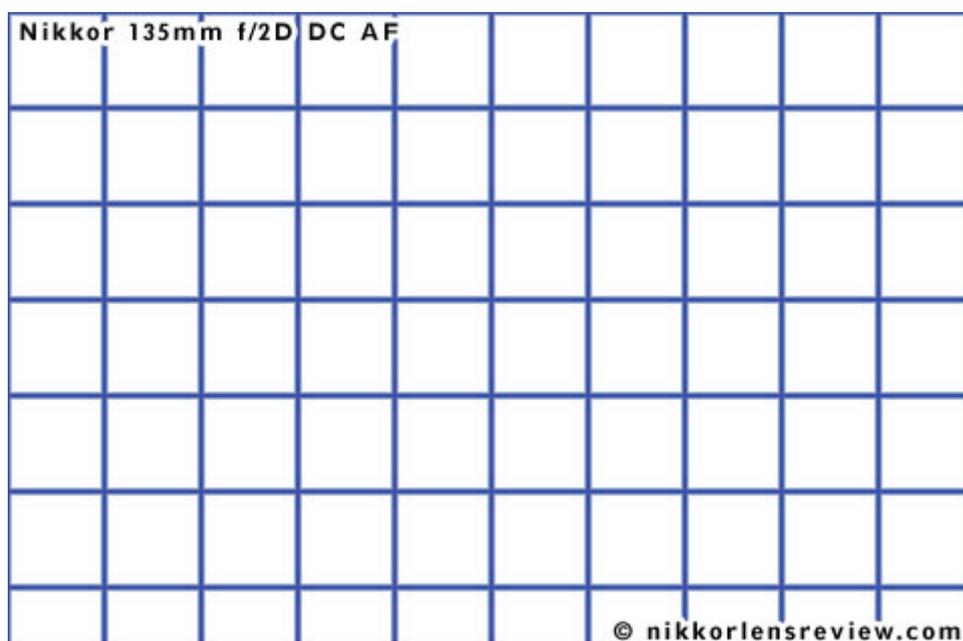
Focal Length / Aperture	f/2	f/2.	f/	f/5.	f/
135mm	Great	Great	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

## Distortion

Typical for a telephoto lens on this range, distortion is extremely well controlled on this lens.

You can safely ignore the distortion.

See the distortion test result below.

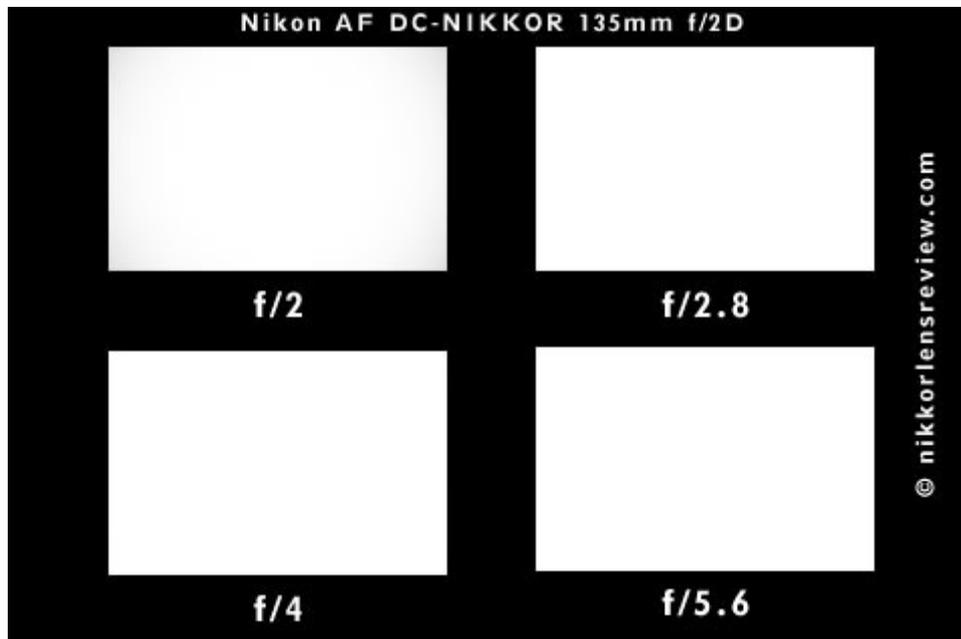


Nikon 135mm f2 DC Distortion

## Vignetting

The vignetting on this lens is very minimum and can be neglected at any aperture. Even at f/2 you can barely notice it.

You can see the test result below.



Nikon 135mm f2 DC Vignetting

## Chromatic Aberration

Chromatic aberration is superbly controlled on this lens. It is negligible at any aperture even at f/2.

You can see the chromatic aberration test result below.

### Chromatic Aberration Scale (from Best to Worst):

- (5) Negligible
- (4) Very Low
- (3) Low
- (2) High
- (1) Very High

### Nikon AF DC-NIKKOR 135mm f/2D Chromatic Aberration

Focal Length / Aperture	f/2	f/2.8	f/4	f/5.6	f/8
135mm	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

## Build Quality

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## Materials

Build quality is excellent on this lens excellent. It is made of metal with the Nikon's classic crinkle finish.

The metal lens hood is built in on this lens.

## Focusing

The autofocus is pretty fast and accurate on this lens. The length does not change during focusing and the front filter does not rotate thanks to the RF (Rear Focusing) design.

You switch from autofocus to manual by utilizing the independent ring on the lens. I'd personally prefer the newer switch on AF-S lens.

This is a non-AF-S lens meaning that it has no internal motor and so will rely on the camera's drive mechanism. This will make the autofocus a bit noisy.

Also, this lens will only autofocus with non-entry level Nikon DSLR camera. Nikon D40, D40x, D60, D5000, D5100, D3000 and D3100 will not autofocus with this lens.

Another thing to note is that the minimum focusing distance is 1.1m which is slightly longer than the 105mm cousin.

## Image Stabilization

There is no VR or Vibration Reduction on this lens.

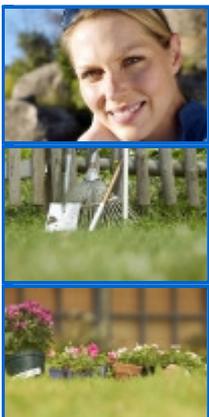
## Compatibility

Being an FX lens, it is compatible with both Nikon cropped sensor DSLR and full frame DSLR camera. Also compatible with Nikon film camera.

## Sample Image

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Below are some sample images that I taken with this Nikon 135mm f2 DC lens. Click on any thumbnail to enlarge the images.





Get the best price online from these sites: [Amazon](#), [B&H Photo](#), [Adorama](#).

## Conclusion

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Below is my conclusion for this unique and exotic [Nikon 135mm f2 DC](#) lens.

This lens is a cousin to the well regarded Nikon 105mm DC lens. It shares very similar optical and build characteristics with each others.

For me, the only difference seems to be on the focal length. In terms of optical performance and build quality, the two lenses are quite similar.

This lens is sharp as tack both on the center and on the borders, have excellent distortion, vignetting and chromatic aberration control.

Build quality is also very high. Autofocus speed is also fast considering this is an old lens.

Bottom line is, if you are into serious portrait or still life photography, you will want this lens.

The only decision you'll need to make is to decide on the focal length that you want to go after.

Personally, I'd go with the 105mm focal length. However, if you also plan to shoot sport, the extra 30mm focal length might be a good addition as well.

## Drawbacks

- Moderate degree of autofocus noise
- Expensive

## Positives

- Tack sharp on the center and borders at any apertures
- Distortion is non-existent
- Superb chromatic aberration control
- Fast autofocus performance
- Solid build quality
- Beautiful bokeh (out of focus blur)

## Good For

- Serious portrait photography
- Serious still life photography
- Moderate sports photography

## **Not So Good For**

- Beginner's photography lens. This lens is made for specific photographers in mind.