

Nikkor AF 50mm f/1.4 D - Review / Lab Test Report

Lens Reviews - Nikon / Nikkor (APS-C)

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Special thanks to Holger Winkelmann for providing this lens!

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Introduction

The Nikkor AF 50mm f/1.4 D is the fastest AF standard lens in the current Nikon lens lineup. You have to pay almost a threefold premium over the AF 50mm f/1.8 D for the extra gain in speed but then there's no real substitution for speed but more speed. On an APS-C DSLR such as the Nikon D200 the field-of-view is equivalent to 75mm so it behaves like a moderate tele lens within this scope.



The build quality of the lens is very fine but only marginally better compared to its cheaper cousin. The outer barrel is made of good quality polycarbonate with a sleek finish. The bayonet ring is made of metal. The small rubberized focus ring operates very smooth. As you can see above the lens extends a little bit towards closer focus distances. The front element does not rotate so using a polarizer is no problem. The lens has no internal AF motor and relies on a slotted drive screw operated by the camera. As a result AF operation will generate a moderate degree of noise. The AF speed is very decent on the D200.

Specifications

Optical construction	7 elements in 6 groups
Number of aperture blades	7
min. focus distance	0.45m (max. magnification ratio 1:6.8)
Dimensions	65x43mm
Weight	230g
Filter size	52mm (non-rotating)
Hood	Nikon HR-2 (optional)
Other features	Lens provides distance (D) information.

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