

Exploring the Nikon D200

CHAPTER

1

If you've gone through the Quick Tour and gained some basic familiarity with the layout and controls of the Nikon D200, you've probably gone out and taken some initial pictures with your camera. Even a few hours' of work with this advanced tool has probably whetted your appetite to learn more about the D200's features and how to use them.

For many of you, some of the information in this chapter will be a bit of a review. The D200 is a more sophisticated camera than Nikon's entry-level models, like the D70s and D50, so a hefty number of purchasers will be veteran photographers with extensive experience with digital single lens reflexes (dSLRs). It's likely that you've accumulated a year or two working with another Nikon digital SLR, perhaps even one of the pro models. (The D200 makes a great adjunct to the Nikon D2X!)

However, I think you'll still find the roadmap features of this chapter useful for helping you locate the key controls amidst the bewildering array of dials and buttons that cover just about every surface of the D200.

On the other hand, many new D200 owners are *not* old hands when it comes to digital SLR photography. Learning to use a D200 as a first dSLR poses a bit more of a challenge, but you won't have to upgrade in a short time as your needs outgrow the capabilities of your camera. It's likely that the D200 will serve you well for a long, long time.

For D200 owners in this category, I'm providing a bit more detail on controls and features in this chapter and those that follow. It's likely that you'll find the information in this book more accessible and easier to understand than the descriptions in the manual furnished with your camera. However, this book isn't intended to completely replace the manual—you'll still want to use it to look up seldom-used settings and options—but it will help you use your camera effectively more quickly.

In This Chapter

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On the back

Viewfinder display

LCD display

Viewing and playing back images

Activating the onboard flash

Metering modes

Semiautomatic and Manual exposure modes

ISO sensitivity

Setting white balance

Although you may have reviewed your D200's buttons and wheels in the manual, this chapter's illustrations are designed to help you sort through the D200's features and controls quickly, especially when you're out in the field taking photos.

This chapter concentrates on the buttons, dials, and other controls that you can access directly, without visiting menus. Some of the settings discussed in this chapter, such as flash options or white balance, are duplicated in the menus or have additional options available from the menus.

Cross-Reference

This chapter does not cover the D200's menu and setup options. To learn more about the menu and setup options, see Chapter 2.

Up Front

The front panel of the Nikon D200 is shown in figure 1.1. You can't see all the buttons and controls from a straight-on perspective, so I'll show you separate, three-quarters-view looks at each half of the front of the camera, which I've color-coded green (the left side of the camera when looking at it head-on) and red (the right side of the camera as seen from this angle).



1.1 The “business end” of the Nikon D200.

Most of the controls on the D200 are activated with the left hand. However, there are a few controls within the reach of your right hand's digits, as shown in figure 1.2. These controls and features include the following:

- ♦ **Handgrip.** The grip is the housing for the D200's battery, and also serves as a comfortable handhold for your fingers. You can hold the grip for both horizontal and vertical photos, but many D200 owners prefer using the grip on the optional vertical grip/battery pack, the Nikon MB-D200 Multi-Power Battery Pack, which enables you to use two batteries at once.
- ♦ **Depth-of-field preview.** This is the upper button (see figure 1.2) next to the lens mount. Press and hold the depth-of-field preview button. The lens stops down to the taking aperture, the view through the finder might dim a little (or a lot), and you can see just how much of the image is in focus.
- ♦ **Func button.** This is a button that you can define to provide the function of your choice. The available options (described in more detail in Chapter 3) include activating matrix, center-weighted, or spot metering; or turning the flash off. This button is also used with the FV lock to emit a preflash before locking the flash exposure.
- ♦ **Sub-command dial.** This is a secondary control dial used to supplement the main command dial on the back of the D200. It's used when you can apply two different, related settings, as in Manual exposure mode when you set the shutter speed using the main command dial and adjust the aperture using the sub-command dial.



1.2 Nikon D200 left-front side, viewed from the subject's position.

Another example of this use is when you set the white balance (which controls how the D200 reacts to illumination sources of different colors, such as daylight and incandescent light). The main command dial flips among the different light-source types, while the sub-command dial fine-tunes those settings. Although you can swap the command dials (turning the sub-command dial into the command dial, and vice versa) using the D200's menus, it's best to leave them in their default configuration to start out.

♦ **Front lamp.** This front-mounted source of illumination serves three different functions: autofocus assist lamp, self-timer lamp, and red-eye reduction lamp. Under dim lighting conditions that make autofocusing difficult, you can set this light source to cast a little extra light on your subject to assist the autofocus system. If you've set your camera to self-timer mode, so that a picture is taken after a short delay, the lamp blinks in a pattern as a sort of countdown to the eventual exposure. Finally, this lamp also can send out a little blast of light

shortly before a flash exposure, which can serve to close down the pupils of your subjects' eyes, reducing the demon red-eye effect.

- ♦ **On/Off switch/Backlight illuminator.** Rotate this switch one click to turn power on or off. Push the switch to its limit to turn on the status panel LCD backlight illumination lamp, making it easier to view the information on the panel. The lamp remains on while the exposure meter is active, or until you press the shutter release.

Note

Nikon Speedlights, as well as the Nikon SC-29 Speedlight cable, have their own less-obtrusive focus assist lights that can take over for the one built into the camera.

- ♦ **Shutter Release button.** Canted atop the handgrip are the Shutter Release button and power switch.

The other side of the D200 has a few more controls, as shown in figure 1.3. These include the following:

- ♦ **Flash lock release.** Press this button to pop up the built-in flash and begin charging it.
- ♦ **Flash accessory shoe.** You can slide an external flash unit, a flash connecting cable, or another accessory here. Infrared and radio-control units and other add-ons often use this shoe as a convenient mounting point on the D200.

- ♦ **Flash sync mode/Flash exposure compensation.** Nikon has kept the D200's design clean by assigning multiple functions to many buttons, and this flash control (shown in figure 1.4) is one of them. It serves two different purposes. Holding this button while spinning the command dial on the back of the camera changes flash sync modes, such as red-eye reduction, or slow sync (which combines flash and a regular exposure to lighten backgrounds). Holding this button while spinning the sub-command dial adds or subtracts from the flash exposure, making your flash picture a little lighter or darker, as you prefer.

- ♦ **Lens release.** Press and hold this button to unlock the lens so you can rotate the lens to remove it from the camera.

- ♦ **Camera body focus mode selector.** You can flip the autofocus mode lever on the camera body to set the focus mode to Continuous Autofocus (C), Single Autofocus (S), or Manual focus (M). Some lenses, as you can see in figure 1.3, also have switches that allow alternating between automatic focus/manual over-ride (M/A) and manual focus (M.)

Cross-Reference

You can find more information on choosing focus modes in Chapter 2.



1.3 Nikon D200 right-front side, viewed from the subject's position.



1.4 Pressing the flash multi-function button (flash exposure compensation button) pops up the built-in electronic flash, ready for use.

- ♦ **PC/X flash connector.** Remove the cover to access a PC/X-sync electronic flash connector for use with non-dedicated flash units, such as studio flash.
- ♦ **10-pin remote connector.** Remove the protective cover to use the terminal with accessories like the Nikon MC-22, MC-30, or MC-36 remote cords (which function like the cable releases used with non-electronic film cameras), as well as other accessories, including infrared remotes, time-lapse photography devices, Global Positioning System accessories (to record latitude, longitude, and time with each still image), and cables that connect two cameras for simultaneous operation.
- ♦ **AC power/AV connector/USB port connector covers.** On the side of the camera, you'll see two rubber covers that protect the D200's other external connectors.

These include the AC power connector, which can operate the camera without batteries (for, say, studio work or time-lapse photography). (The D200 uses the same EH-6 AC adapter as the D2X and D2Hs.) Just above the AC power connector is an AV plug that you can use to link the D200 to an external monitor for viewing pictures or menus. The bottom-most connector accepts the USB cable, which enables you to transfer pictures directly from the camera to your computer, and also lets you control the camera's functions using the Nikon Capture software.

On Top

The top surface of the D200 has its own set of controls, shown in figure 1.5. In addition, a bird's-eye view provides the best perspective of some of the controls on the lens. I've divided these controls into a pair of bite-sized color-coded pieces, too, with the red box assigned to the lens controls, and green box to the camera-body controls.



1.5 The top view of the D200 and the 18mm–70mm kit lens.

You can see the basic controls found on many zoom lenses in figure 1.6. Not all these controls are found on all lenses, however, and some of them might be in different positions on different lenses (particularly those not produced by Nikon). The key components are

- ♦ **Focus ring.** This is the ring you turn when you manually focus the lens. If the autofocus/manual switch (AF/M) on the lens is set to Autofocus, or the switch on the camera body is set to S or C, this ring has no effect. Some lenses, such as the kit lens, enable you to manually override the camera's autofocus setting; these ones are marked with an M/A-M switch instead. When the lens is set to M/A (and the camera body switch is set to S or C), you can use the focus ring to adjust the focus point set automatically. By convention, turning the ring toward the right (when looking down on the lens from above) increases the focused distance.
- ♦ **Distance scale.** This is a scale that moves in unison with the lens's focus mechanism (whether you activate it by manually focusing or the autofocus system activates it) to show approximately the distance at which the lens has been focused. It's a useful indicator for double-checking autofocus, and for roughly setting manual focus.
- ♦ **Zoom ring.** This is the ring you turn to change the zoom setting. With many lenses, turning this ring to the right increases the focal length, but you might find that the opposite is true with some lenses (which can be very frustrating!).

- ♦ **Zoom scale.** These markings on the lens show the current focal length selected.
- ♦ **Lens hood bayonet/alignment guide.** This is used to mount the lens hood for lenses that don't use screw-mount hoods.



1.6 Key components of a typical zoom lens.

Figure 1.7 shows a single focal length, or *prime* lens—the 105mm Nikkor macro lens used for close-up photography. (This example happens to be the older, non-vibration reduction version.) This particular lens has some features that aren't available on the kit lens, but that are found on some other zoom and non-zoom lenses. Of course, because it doesn't zoom, this lens lacks the zoom ring and zoom scale. Other components include the following:

- ♦ **Lens thread.** Most lenses have a thread on the front for attaching filters and other add-ons. Some also use this thread for attaching a lens hood (you screw on the filter first, and then attach the hood to the screw thread on the front of the filter).
- ♦ **Limit switch.** Lenses with an extensive focus range (such as this macro lens) often have a switch that you can use to limit the range used by the autofocus system. For example, if you're not shooting close-up pictures, you can set the lens to seek focus only at more distant settings, which can save a bit of time.
- ♦ **Aperture ring.** The kit lens, as well as many other newer lenses, uses the camera's electronics exclusively to set the shooting aperture. These lenses, which include a *G* suffix in their name, have no aperture ring at all, and are compatible only with cameras that can set the f-stop through a control on the camera. Other lenses maintain compatibility with earlier cameras by including an aperture ring and a pair of aperture readouts (the numbers from f/32 down to f/2.8 in figure 1.7). The second, outermost readout is required by some cameras. These lenses include a *D* suffix in their name. Both *G*- and *D*-type lenses work fine with the Nikon D200 digital camera.
- ♦ **Aperture lock.** When using a *D*-type lens on the D200, you'll need to set the aperture ring to the smallest f-stop, and then lock it in that position using the aperture

lock. Set it once and then forget about it, unless you need to mount the lens on an older camera or you've mounted the lens on an accessory such as a bellows or extension ring.



1.7 Key components of a typical *D*-type lens.

The top panel controls include:

- ♦ **Mode dial.** You turn this knurled wheel to change from single-shot, continuous shooting, self-timer, and mirror pre-release modes.

Cross-Reference

You can find more information about these modes in Chapter 2.

- ♦ **Mode dial lock.** Press this button to rotate the mode dial, which is ordinarily locked to prevent accidental changes.
- ♦ **White balance.** Hold down this button and rotate the main command dial to cycle among the preset white balance settings (which will be displayed on the LCD status panel). Press the button and rotate the sub-command dial to fine-tune white balance. Turn to the right to make the image more bluish (compensating for a yellow or red bias in the image) or to the left to add yellow/red (compensating for excessive blue color casts). You'll find more about setting white balance in Chapter 2.
- ♦ **Image Quality/Reset #2.** Hold down this button while rotating the main command dial to cycle among image quality settings (including RAW, JPEG, and the various RAW+JPEG options). Press the button and rotate the sub-command dial to change the resolution among Large (3872 × 2592 pixels), Medium (2896 × 1944 pixels), or Small (1936 × 1296 pixels) sizes. (These correspond to 10.2, 5.6, and 2.5 megapixels.) Hold this button while simultaneously depressing the Exposure compensation/Reset #1 button for a few seconds to reset the camera to its default values.
- ♦ **ISO.** Hold down this button while rotating the main command dial to change the ISO in the range ISO 100 to ISO 1600, plus three boost settings (H0.3, H0.7, and H1.0), which take you up to the equivalent of ISO 3200.
- ♦ **Flash accessory shoe.** Mount an external electronic flash unit (Nikon calls them Speedlights), such as the Nikon SB-600 or SB-800, on this slide-in shoe. The multiple electrical contacts shown in the photo are used to trigger the flash and to allow the camera and flash to communicate exposure, distance, zoom setting, and other information. You can also attach other flash units made by Nikon and other vendors, but not all functions may operate.
- ♦ **Monochrome LCD status panel.** This LCD readout provides information about the status of your camera and its settings, including exposure mode, number of pictures remaining, battery status, and many other settings.
- ♦ **Sensor focal plane.** Some specialized kinds of close-up photography require knowing exactly where the plane of the camera sensor is located. This marker shows that point, although it represents the *plane*, not the actual location of the sensor itself, which is placed aft of the lens.
- ♦ **Metering Mode/Format #1.** Press this button while spinning the command dial on the back of the camera to change among Program, Aperture Priority, Shutter Priority, and Manual exposure. You can also use this button to format the memory card if you hold it down simultaneously with the

Format #2 button (described later in this chapter).

- ♦ **Exposure compensation/Reset #1.** Hold down this button while spinning the command dial to add or subtract exposure from the basic setting calculated by the D200's auto-exposure system. Hold down simultaneously with the Image Quality/Reset #2 button to reset the D200 to its factory settings.
- ♦ **Shutter Release button.** Partially depress this button to lock in exposure and focus; press it all the way to take the picture. Tapping the shutter release when the

camera has turned off the autoexposure and autofocus mechanisms reactivates both. When a review image is displayed on the back-panel color LCD, tapping this button removes the image from the display and reactivates the autoexposure and autofocus mechanisms.

- ♦ **On/Off switch/LCD illuminator.** Flip this switch to turn the D200 on or off. Move the switch all the way to the right to illuminate the LCD panel lamp, which remains active while the metering system is operating, or until you press the shutter release down all the way.



1.8. Key components on the top panel of the D200.

On the Back

The back panel of the Nikon D200 is studied with more than fifteen controls, many of which serve more than one function. Where other cameras can force you to access a menu to make many basic settings, with the D200, just press the appropriate button, turn the command dial or use the multi-selector, and make the adjustment you want. I've divided this crowded back panel into four color-coded sections.



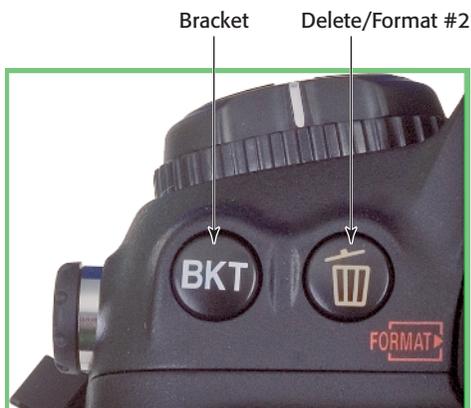
1.9 Key components on the back panel of the D200.

Upper left

The upper-left corner of the back panel includes just two buttons:

- ♦ **Bracketing (BKT) button.** Hold the bracketing button while spinning the main command dial (to select the bracketing function) and the sub-command dial (to choose the type of bracketing to be applied).
- ♦ **Delete/Format #2.** To erase the image shown on the LCD, press this button, and press a second time to respond to the “Delete. Yes?” prompt. This button also

serves as the Format #2 button to reformat a memory card when you hold it down for a few seconds simultaneously with the Mode/Format #1 button.



1.10 Key components on the upper-left corner of the back panel of the D200.

Upper right

A few important controls are located on the upper-right corner of the D200. They include:

- ♦ **Viewfinder eyepiece.** The rubber eyecup shields the viewfinder from extraneous light, much like a lens hood – a necessary component because light entering the viewfinder can affect the exposure meter. The eyecup is removable and can be replaced by a cap to block that extra light when you use the camera on a tripod.
- ♦ **Diopter adjustment control.** Rotate this knob to adjust the diopter correction for your eyesight.
- ♦ **Metering mode dial.** Rotate this dial to select among center-weighted, matrix, and spot metering options.

- ♦ **AE/AF (autoexposure/autofocus) lock.** Depending on settings you make in the Setup menu, pressing this button will lock exposure, focus setting, or both, either until you release the button or press it a second time.

Cross-Reference

For more on using the Setup menu, see Chapter 3.

- ♦ **Activate Autofocus.** Press this button to turn the autofocus system on. It serves the same function as partially depressing the shutter release, and you can use it to lock focus.
- ♦ **Main command dial.** This dial is spun to change settings such as shutter speed, bracketing, or shooting mode, depending on what function button you press at the same time.

Lower left

This is the D200's hot corner, because it has a collection of some of the function buttons you'll use frequently. They can each have multiple functions, so you need to keep your camera's current mode (playback/shooting, and so on) in mind when you attempt to access a specific feature. A more complete description of each button's functions appears later in this chapter. The buttons include:

- ♦ **Playback.** Use this button to enter the picture review (playback) mode.
- ♦ **Menu.** Use this button to access the D200's multilevel menu system.



1.11 Key components on the upper-right corner of the back panel of the D200.

- ♦ **Thumbnails.** In playback mode, use this to change the number of thumbnails displayed on the LCD, cycling among four, nine, or one full-frame image. When you press the Playback Zoom button, hold it down and rotate the main command dial to zoom in and out within an image.
- ♦ **Help/Protect.** When viewing the menus, press this button to view a help screen. In playback mode, press it to lock the current image from accidental erasure.
- ♦ **Playback zoom/Enter.** In playback mode, press this button once, and then hold down the thumbnail button while spinning the main command dial to zoom in and out of an image. When viewing menus, this button serves as an OK key.

Lower right

You'll find a second cluster of controls and components in the lower-right corner of the back panel:

- ♦ **LCD.** The color LCD displays your images for review and provides access to the menu system.
- ♦ **Multi selector.** You use this to navigate menus as well as scroll through photos you're reviewing (by pressing the left/right keys), and to change the type of image information displayed (by pressing the up/down keys), unless you've swapped these functions in the setup menus.
- ♦ **Focus selector lock.** This enables/disables manual focus area selection.



1.12 Key components on the lower-left corner of the back panel of the D200.

- ♦ **Autofocus area selector.** Four positions enable you to change from single area autofocus, dynamic area autofocus, group dynamic autofocus, and dynamic area/closest subject autofocus.



Chapter 2 contains extensive coverage of choosing focus area modes.



1.13 Key components on the lower-right corner of the back panel of the D200.

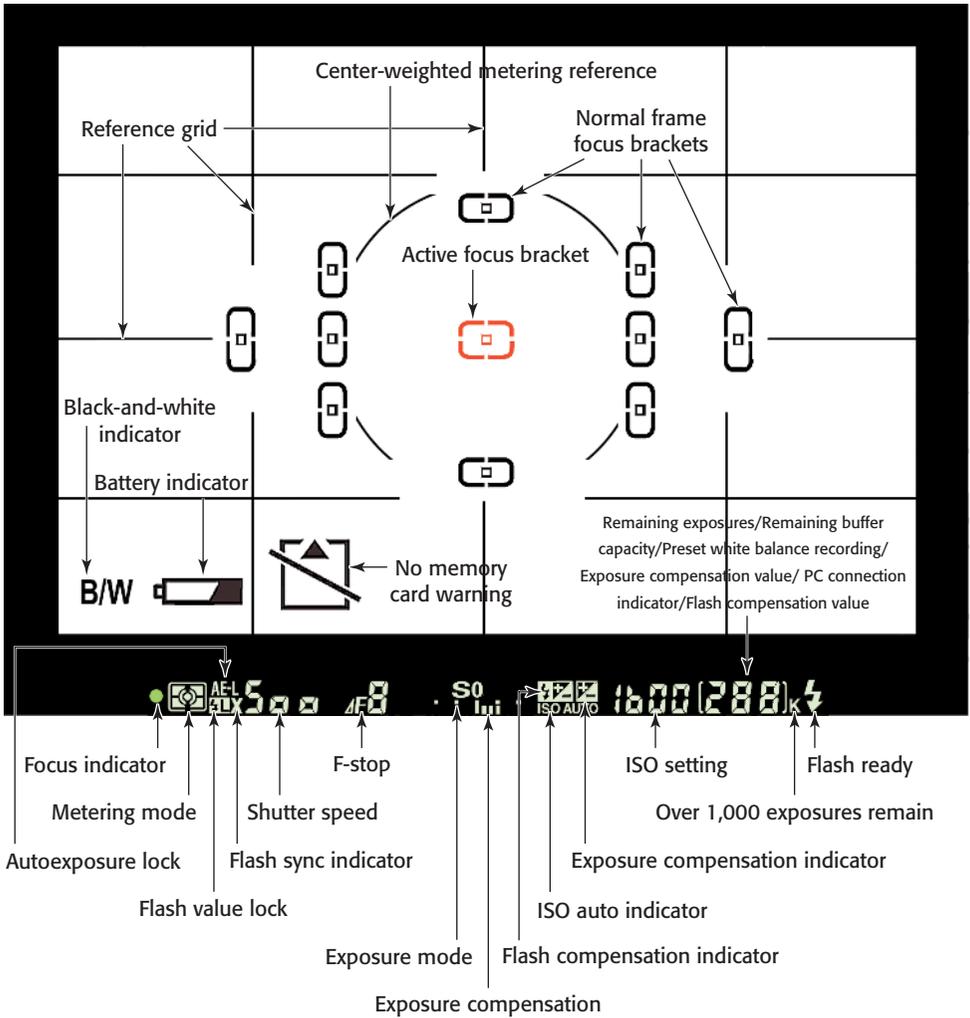
- ♦ **CompactFlash access lamp.** This lamp blinks when an image is being written to the CompactFlash card.
- ♦ **CompactFlash door release.** Rotate this to open the CompactFlash door.

Viewfinder Display

The D200 provides a lot of status information in the viewfinder, although not all of it is visible at one time.

- ♦ **Reference grid.** An optional set of reference lines you can use to align images.

- ♦ **Center-weighted metering reference.** Shows the 8mm circle that's the default area for center-weighted meter readings. You can change the size of the circle you use in the menu system.
- ♦ **Autofocus zones.** Shows the areas used by the D200 to focus. Figure 1.14 shows the 11 normal-frame focus brackets that approximate the actual focus zones; you can set the display to show only the brackets that represent the 7 wide-area focus zones instead. The current active focus zone is displayed with red brackets.
- ♦ **Black-and-white indicator.** Appears when the D200 has been set to shoot in black-and-white mode.
- ♦ **Battery indicator.** Appears when battery power is low.
- ♦ **No memory card warning.** Alerts you that no Compact Flash card is loaded.
- ♦ **Focus indicator.** Illuminates when an image is focused correctly.
- ♦ **Metering mode.** Shows the current metering mode (center-weighted, matrix, or spot).
- ♦ **Flash sync indicator.** Shows the type of flash synchronization in use.
- ♦ **Autoexposure lock.** Shows that exposure and/or focus have been locked.
- ♦ **Flash value lock.** Shows when flash output has been locked at a preset level.
- ♦ **Shutter speed.** Selected shutter speed.
- ♦ **F-stop.** Selected lens opening.
- ♦ **Exposure mode.** Shows current exposure mode, from Program, Aperture Priority, Shutter Priority, or Manual.
- ♦ **Exposure compensation.** Shows the amount of over- or underexposure.
- ♦ **Flash compensation indicator.** Shows added or subtracted flash exposure has been applied.
- ♦ **Exposure compensation indicator.** Shows that exposure compensation has been applied.
- ♦ **ISO auto indicator.** Shows that ISO is being set automatically.
- ♦ **ISO setting.** Displays current ISO sensitivity.
- ♦ **Remaining exposures/other functions.** Multifunction display that shows the remaining exposures available, the number of shots remaining in the buffer, white balance preset status, exposure/flash compensation values, and PC/USB connection status.
- ♦ **Flash ready.** Lights when the Speedlight is charged for an exposure.
- ♦ **Over 1,000 exposures remain.** Shows that the number of remaining exposures indicated exceeds 1,000.



1.14 Viewfinder readouts and indicators.

LCD Display

The top-panel monochrome LCD display shows a broad range of current status information. This display is a bit much to bite off in one chunk, as you can see by the full display in figure 1.15. In practice, only a fraction of this information will be displayed at any one time, and some of the readouts (such as the GPS connection status indicator) are so specialized you might never see them at all under normal circumstances.

In figure 1.16, I've color-coded the various displays to keep them from all running together visually. They're not colored in real life, of course, but I think the coding makes them easier to keep separate here. Here's a list of what's what.

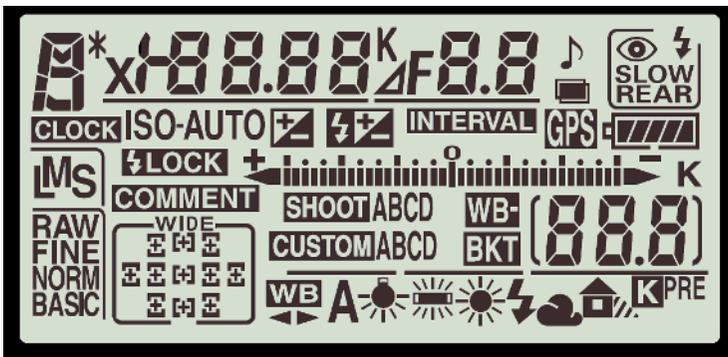
In dark blue (upper left):

- ♦ **Exposure mode.** Indicates whether Program, Aperture Priority, Shutter Priority, or Manual exposure mode is in use.

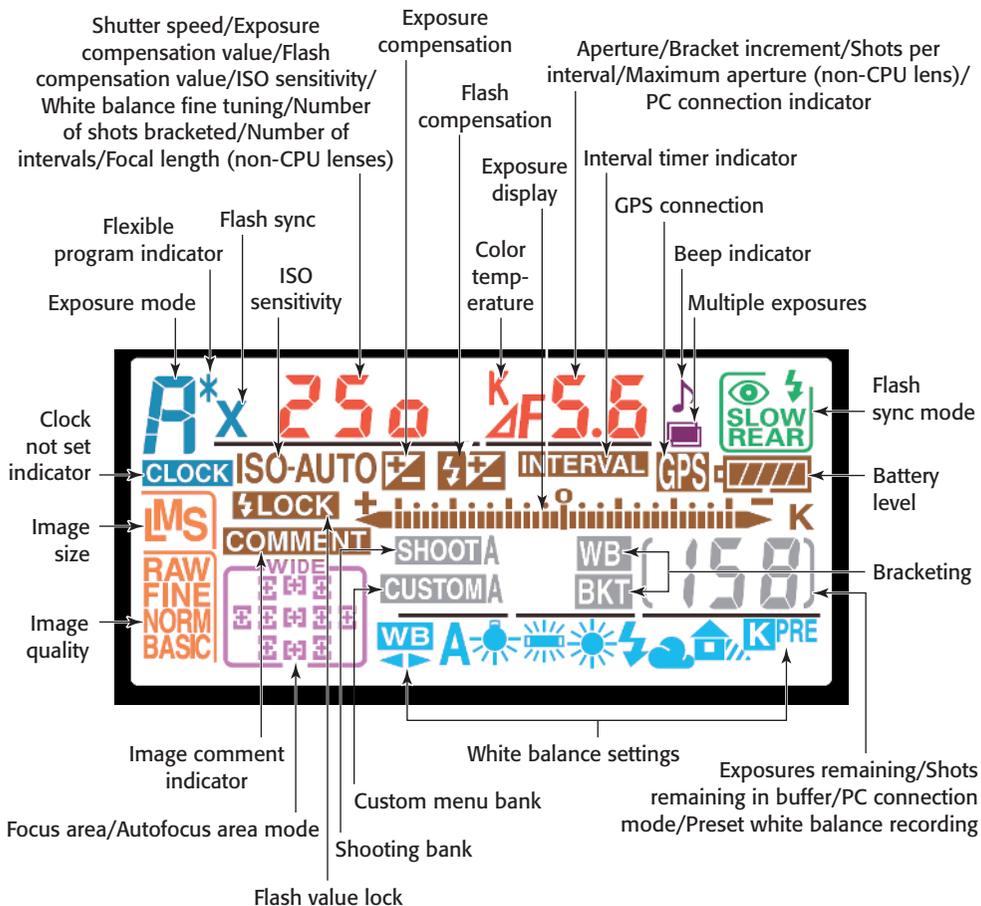
- ♦ **Flexible program indicator.** Shows that Program mode is in use and that you can change shutter speed/f-stop combinations to other equivalent exposures by rotating the main command dial.
- ♦ **Flash sync.** Shows whether X or FP flash sync is in use (see Chapter 3 for more information on using flash sync).
- ♦ **Clock not set indicator.** Shows that the date/time should be set, or that the permanent built-in clock battery must be replaced by an authorized technician.

In orange (lower left):

- ♦ **Image size.** Indicates the current resolution being used.
- ♦ **Image quality.** Shows whether image files are being saved in RAW format, Fine (JPEG), Normal (JPEG), Basic (JPEG), or RAW+Fine/Norm/Basic.



1.15 Top-panel LCD display readouts and indicators.



1.16. Monochrome LCD readouts.

In magenta (bottom left):

- ♦ **Focus area/Autofocus area mode.** Shows the currently selected focus area and type of autofocus operation in use. It also indicates whether Wide Frame or Normal Frame focus zones are used.

In light blue (bottom):

- ♦ **White balance settings.** Shows whether white balance is being set automatically, to one of the built-in settings, or to a manually preset value.

In gray (lower center):

- ♦ **Shooting bank.** Shows whether shooting bank A, B, C, or D is being used.
- ♦ **Custom menu bank.** Shows whether custom menu bank A, B, C, or D is being used.
- ♦ **Bracketing:** Shown when bracketing is active.
- ♦ **Exposures remaining/other functions.** Shows the number of exposures remaining (a K appears above the display if more than

1,000 exposures are possible); the number of shots available in the buffer; the PC connection mode; and the preset white balance recording. (There's more information on these options in Chapter 2.)

In brown (upper center):

- ♦ **ISO sensitivity.** Indicates that ISO sensitivity is being set automatically by the camera.
- ♦ **Flash value lock.** Shows that flash output has been locked at a setting.
- ♦ **Image comment indicator.** Shows that a comment is being applied to the images.
- ♦ **Exposure display.** Displays current exposure relative to exposure determined by metering system.
- ♦ **Exposure compensation.** Indicates that exposure compensation is being used. The amount of compensation (for example +0.7) is shown in the shutter speed readout area immediately above the indicator.
- ♦ **Flash compensation.** Indicates that flash compensation is being used. The amount of compensation is shown in the shutter speed readout area immediately above the indicator.
- ♦ **Interval timer indicator.** Shows that interval timer is being used.
- ♦ **GPS connection.** Appears when a GPS device is connected to the D200.

- ♦ **Battery level.** Shows the amount of charge left in the battery.

In green (upper right):

- ♦ **Flash sync mode.** Shows the current flash synchronization mode: front-sync, rear-sync, slow-sync, and red-eye correction.

In purple (upper right):

- ♦ **Beep indicator.** Shows that the camera beep sound is activated.
- ♦ **Multiple exposures.** Displayed when D200 is in multiple exposure mode.

In red (top center):

- ♦ **Shutter speed/other functions.** Shows shutter speed; amount of EV and flash EV adjustment/ISO sensitivity/white balance fine-tuning/number of bracketed shots; number of intervals; and focal length of a non-CPU lens mounted on the camera. You'll find more information about these options in Chapter 2.
- ♦ **Color temperature.** Displayed when the color temperature is shown.
- ♦ **Aperture/other functions.** Shows f-stop, bracket increment; shots per interval; maximum aperture for non-CPU lenses mounted on the camera; and PC connection indicator.

Viewing and Playing Back Images

The D200's playback mode lets you review your images, delete the bad ones, and decide on exposure or compositional tweaks to improve your next shots.

Follow these steps to review your images:

1. **Press the playback button to display the most recently taken photo on the back panel LCD.**
2. **Press the thumbnail button and spin the main command dial to cycle among single-picture display, or tiled views that show four or nine reduced-size thumbnails at one time.**

- Press the center of the multi selector button to toggle between full-frame and thumbnail display.
- In a single-picture display, the left and right keys on the multi selector move to the next or previous image. (You can change this behavior to the up/down keys in the menus if you prefer.)
- When viewing four or nine thumbnails, the multi selector keys navigate among the available images. Press the center of the multi selector button to view a selected image on the LCD in full size.

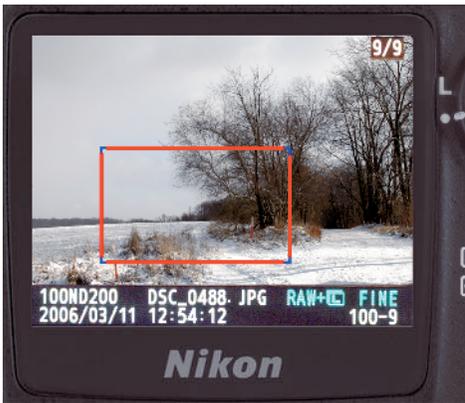


Thumbnail size/zoom in

1.17 Review your photos using the color LCD.

3. Press the Enter button to activate the zoom feature.

- Hold down the thumbnail button and use the main command dial to change the size of the zoomed area.
- Use the multi selector's cursor keys to move the zoomed area around within the enlarged view.



1.18 Moving the zoomed area.

4. Press the up and down keys on the multi selector while viewing an image to change the type of information shown with your preview. You can change the types of information available in the menu system, if you like. Your options include:

- **File Information.** Shows the image and its filename, frame number, size, quality, folder name, and so on.
- **Shooting Data 1.** Gives you a screen with more information, including the info in the basic File Information page, plus the

camera name, date, time, metering and exposure methods, shutter speed, aperture, lens focal length, flash information, and any EV adjustment you've made.

- **Shooting Data 2.** Includes the File Information basics, plus the ISO setting, white balance, sharpening, color mode, hue, saturation, and some other data.
 - **GPS Data.** Available if you've recorded Global Positioning System information with your D200 using a third-party GPS accessory.
 - **RGB Histogram.** Adds a histogram graph to the basics that displays the relationship between the dark and light tones in the image, with separate histograms for red, green, blue, and grayscale (combined) data.
 - **Highlights.** The brightest areas of an image are represented with a flashing border so you can easily see any portions that might lack detail because of overexposure.
 - **Histogram.** This display is a larger, grayscale-only histogram superimposed on the image.
5. **Press the protect button to keep the selected image from being accidentally erased.** You can still remove the photo if you reformat the card, however.
 6. **Press the delete button to erase the selected image.** You must press a second time to confirm.

Activating the Onboard Flash

Unlike some of Nikon's other dSLR models that have the capability of activating the electronic flash (and popping it up from its retracted position automatically) when the camera detects low light levels suitable for flash photography, you must always activate the D200's flash unit manually. Pop up the flash by pressing the flash button on the left side of the camera.

Cross-Reference

Chapter 4 contains more information using flash.

If you're using Program, Shutter Priority, Aperture Priority, or Manual modes, hold down the flash button and spin the main command dial to switch among:

- ♦ **Front-curtain sync.** The flash fires as soon as the shutter opens. Set the shutter speed of your choice (generally up to 1/250 second) when using Manual or Shutter Priority modes. In Program and Aperture Priority modes, the D200 sets the shutter speed between 1/60 and 1/250 second.
- ♦ **Red-eye reduction.** Triggers the front-panel lamp (also used for focus assist) 1 second prior to exposure to reduce the red-eye effect.
- ♦ **Slow sync.** Uses slow shutter speeds (as long as 30 seconds) to add background illumination to the flash exposure. It is not available with Shutter Priority or Manual modes.

- ♦ **Slow sync with red-eye.** Adds red-eye reduction to slow sync mode.

- ♦ **Rear-curtain sync.** The flash is delayed until just before the shutter closes. This records the flash image after any "ghost" images from the ambient light caused by moving objects so the ghost images seem to "trail" the flash image.



1.19 Flash options.



Tip

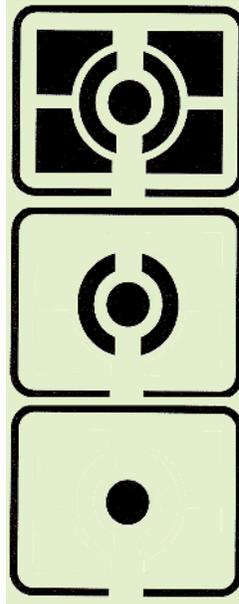
In certain modes, such as Program mode, the camera's viewfinder will signal the user with an icon when flash is suggested so that the user can press the flash button to raise the flash head.

Metering Modes

The D200 can use any of three different exposure metering methods when it's set to any of the semi-automatic or Manual exposure modes (which I discuss later in the chapter). Select the metering mode by turning the metering selector dial to the right of the viewfinder eyepiece:

- ♦ **Matrix.** The camera examines 1,005 pixels in the frame and chooses the exposure based on that information (plus, with Type G and D lenses, distance range data).

- ♦ **Center-weighted.** The camera collects exposure information over the entire frame, but when making its calculations emphasizes the 8mm center circle (or other size chosen by you, which include 6mm, 10mm, 13mm, and an averaging option)



1.20 Metering modes.

- ♦ **Spot.** Exposure is calculated entirely from a 3mm circular spot approximating the currently selected focus area.

Semiautomatic and Manual Exposure Modes

The Nikon D200 has three semiautomatic exposure modes that enable you to specify shutter speed, aperture, or combinations of the two; and a Manual exposure mode that gives you the complete freedom to set the shutter speed and aperture. You also set these four exposure modes using the mode dial. Your choices include:

- ♦ **Program.** In this mode, the D200 automatically chooses an appropriate shutter speed and f-stop to provide the correct exposure. However, you can override these settings in several ways. In all cases, if your attempted adjustments result in an exposure beyond the range of the system (that is, you're asking for a shutter speed or f-stop that's not available), either HI or LO appears in the viewfinder.
 - Rotate the main command dial to the left to change to a slower shutter speed and smaller f-stop combination that provides the same overall exposure.
 - Rotate the main command dial to the right to change to a higher shutter speed and larger f-stop combination that provides the same overall exposure.
 - Hold down the EV button and rotate the main command dial to the left or right to add or subtract exposure from the metered exposure reading.
- ♦ **Shutter Priority.** In this exposure mode, you specify the shutter speed with the main command dial, and the D200 selects an appropriate f-stop. The HI and LO warnings appear if you exceed the range of available settings.
- ♦ **Aperture Priority.** In this exposure mode, you specify the f-stop to be used with the sub-command dial, and the D200 selects the shutter speed for you, or displays the HI and LO indicators if this isn't possible.

- ♦ **Manual.** You can select both the shutter speed and f-stop using the main and sub-command dials. The D200 still lets you know when proper exposure is achieved using the exposure readout in the viewfinder.

ISO Sensitivity

The D200 can choose the sensitivity setting (ISO) for you automatically, or you can manually choose a setting. Just follow these steps:

- 1. If the LCD monitor is on, tap the shutter-release button to cancel the display.**
- 2. Hold down the ISO button on the mode dial on top of the camera.**
- 3. Rotate the main command dial to choose an ISO setting.** Choose from ISO 100 to ISO 1600, or one of the boosted settings, H0.3, H0.7, and H1.0, which provide the equivalent of approximately ISO 2080, ISO 2720, and ISO 3200.

Cross-Reference

You can alternatively set ISO and white balance using the menu system, which is discussed in Chapters 2 and 3.

Setting White Balance

To more closely match the D200's color rendition to the color of the illumination used to expose an image, you can set the white balance. To use a preset value, follow these steps:

- 1. If the LCD monitor is on, tap the shutter-release button to cancel the display.**
- 2. Hold down the white balance button on the mode dial on top of the camera.**
- 3. Rotate the main command dial to choose a white balance.** Choose from among auto, incandescent, fluorescent, direct sunlight, flash, cloudy, shade, and preset. The sub-command dial can be used to fine-tune white balance settings or choose exact color temperatures.

You can also set white balance using the menu system, where you have additional options for fine-tuning or defining a preset value, which is explained in Chapter 2.



1.21 White balance options.

Cross-Reference

There is more information on ISO and white balance in Chapter 3.