

Nikon

What's New

with the **COOLPIX 950**
Firmware Version 1.2

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About This Guide

This electronic guide details improvements to the COOLPIX 950 with the release of firmware Version 1.2. The information in this guide supplements and corrects the COOLPIX 950 *Reference Manual*, *Pocket Guide*, and *Fast Track Guide*. While you will still need to refer to these manuals for complete instructions on using your camera, be aware that they are written for firmware version 1. If you are using firmware Version 1.2, some of the instructions and illustrations in the documentation provided with your camera will no longer reflect how your camera actually works. Where indicated, the information in this guide replaces relevant sections of the above manuals.

"Firmware"

"Firmware" is a built-in program that determines how your camera will run. For information on firmware updates, contact the Nikon service representative for your area or visit the Nikon website at any of the following URLs:

<http://www.nikonTechUSA.com/>

<http://www.nikon-euro.com/>

<http://www.nikon.co.jp/>



The principle changes in firmware Version 1.2 are as follows:

- When sensitivity is set to **dEF**, the camera will automatically increase sensitivity to a maximum of +2.0 when lighting is poor. At other settings, the current sensitivity adjustment will be shown in the LCD monitor.
- File-numbering (SEQ.XFER) settings now apply in both A-REC and M-REC modes. A SEQ.XFER option has been added to the A-REC menu to allow you to change these settings while the camera is in A-REC mode.
- The brightness of the LCD backlight has been increased. Choosing a setting of “+” in the LCD BRIGHT menu not only increases the brightness of the backlight but also raises the overall brightness of image displayed on the monitor.

Tip

How to tell what firmware version you have

To determine the version of the firmware currently installed in your camera, turn the camera on while holding down the MENU button. The firmware version will be displayed in the LCD monitor. Turn the mode dial to another setting to clear the firmware version from the display.

Sensitivity

In earlier versions of the COOLPIX 950 firmware, the default sensitivity setting (**dEF**) was fixed at a standard value. With Version 1.2, the default value for sensitivity varies with lighting conditions. Under normal lighting conditions, sensitivity remains at the standard value. When lighting is poor, the camera will automatically raise sensitivity to compensate, to a maximum roughly equivalent to a setting of +2.0.

Note that at sensitivities above the standard value, a slight amount of noise may appear in the final photograph. The  icon is displayed in the LCD monitor whenever sensitivity is higher than the standard value. At settings of 100, +1.0, or +2.0, the current sensitivity setting is displayed next to the  icon.

Notes

Sensitivity is automatically set to **dEF** when the camera is in A-REC mode. In M-REC mode, sensitivity can be set by holding the     button down while turning the command dial. The sensitivity setting will be displayed in the control panel while the     button is held down. For more information on available settings, see the “Sensitivity” in the *COOLPIX 950 Reference Manual*.

Sensitivity can not be increased automatically when the exposure mode is set to shutter-priority or aperture-priority auto. In these modes, default sensitivity is fixed at the standard value, regardless of lighting conditions.

In earlier versions of the COOLPIX 950 firmware, sequential file numbering was automatically set to OFF in A-REC mode. In Version 1.2, a new item, SEQ.XFER, has been added to the A-REC setup menu, making it possible to turn sequential file numbering on and off while the camera is in A-REC mode. These settings are the same as those described for M-REC mode in “The Camera Menus: The M-REC Menu” on page 35 of the *COOLPIX 950 Reference Manual*.

The SEQ.XFER setting selected in A-REC mode remains in effect when the mode dial is turned to M-REC; similarly, if the setting is changed when the camera is in M-REC mode, the change remains in effect when the mode dial is turned to A-REC.



The brightness of the LCD monitor is controlled by means of the LCD BRIGHT option in the setup menu for each mode. With firmware Version 1.2, setting LCD BRIGHT to “+” not only increases the brightness of the backlight, but also increases the overall brightness of the monitor. In another change from earlier versions, the brightness of the LCD backlight at a setting of “0” has been increased.



Note that setting LCD BRIGHT to “+” also increases the brightness of images output on a television set when the camera is connected to a television or VCR. Under normal viewing conditions, this may make the image on the television appear slightly “washed out.”

See also

For more information on the options available in the LCD BRIGHT menu, see “The Camera Menus: The A-REC Menu” in the *COOLPIX 950 Reference Manual*. Information on connecting your camera to a television or VCR can be found in the *COOLPIX 950 Reference Manual*, “Connections: Connecting to a Television or VCR”

Shutter Speed Display

At shutter speeds of $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. or slower, noise in the form of colored dots may appear in the final photograph. At speeds of $\frac{1}{4}$ sec., this noise is almost imperceptible, but the amount of noise increases as shutter speed slows. When the shutter speed is set to $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. or slower, shutter speed will be displayed in the LCD monitor in yellow. Noise can be avoided by using the flash or, in M-REC mode, setting the exposure mode to aperture-priority auto and choosing a larger aperture.

System Error

The message displayed when a system error occurs (see the *COOLPIX 950 Reference Manual*, “Troubleshooting: Error Messages”) is now the English “SYSTEM ERROR,” regardless of the language currently chosen in the M-REC or playback setup menus.

CompactFlash Memory Cards

In addition to the memory cards mentioned in the *Reference Manual*, the following CompactFlash memory cards have been tested and approved for use in the COOLPIX 950 digital camera:

- SanDisk SDCFB-4, SDCFB-8, SDCFB-15, SDCFB-30, SDCFB-40, SDCFB-48, SDCFB-64, and SDCFB-96 CompactFlash memory cards

Contact the manufacturer for more information on the above memory cards.