Nikon F2 Titanium Google translated from :

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1 Introduction.

The F2 was manufactured approximately 44 years ago (as of the time of writing, 2024), and accurate information is scarce. Please understand that the following document may contain errors.



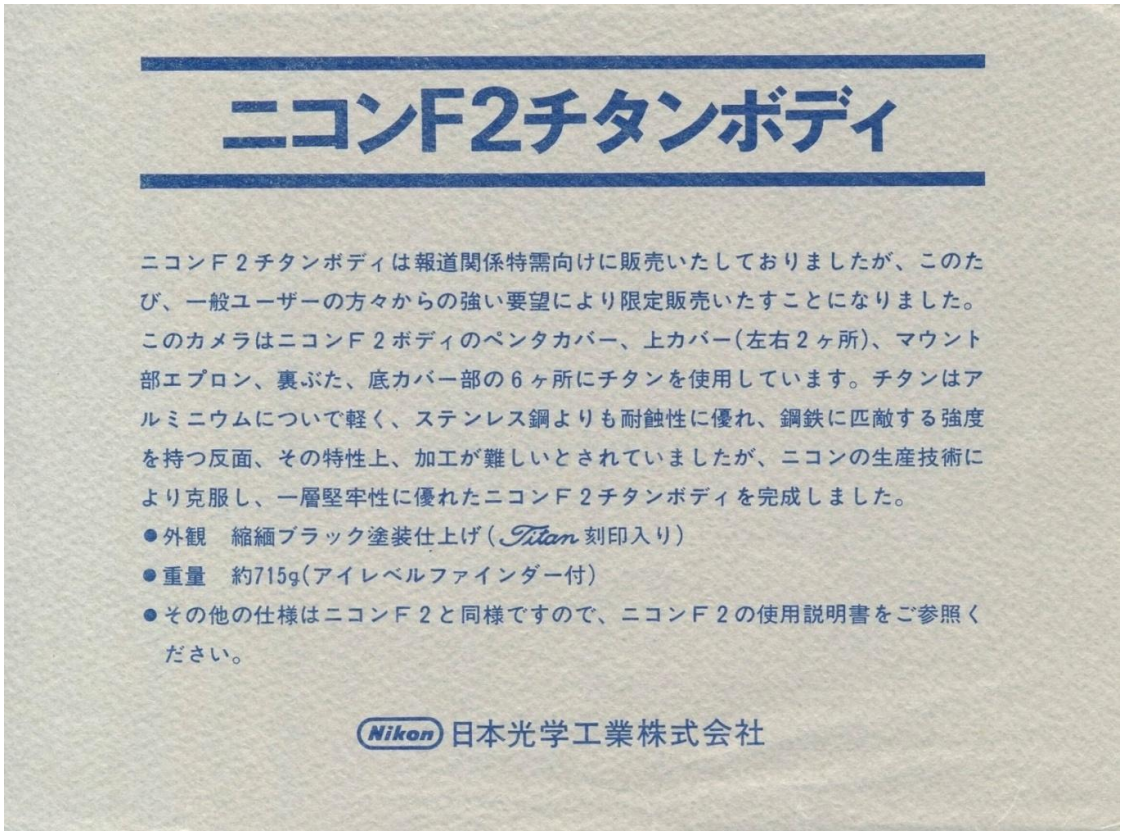
2 Overview of Nikon F2

The Nikon F2 is Nikon's first SLR camera and the successor to the Nikon F, which is registered as an "Important Historical Material of Science and Technology (Future Technology Heritage)."

It was released in September 1971 and production seems to have ended in June 1980. The production number is said to be just under 820,000 units.

3 Overview of Nikon F2 Titanium

The documents included with Nikon F2 titanium were described as follows.



ニコンF2チタンボディ

ニコンＦ２チタンボディは報道関係特需向けに販売いたしておりましたが、このたび、一般ユーザーの方々からの強い要望により限定販売いたすことになりました。このカメラはニコンＦ２ボディのペンタカバー、上カバー(左右２ヶ所)、マウント部エプロン、裏ぶた、底カバー部の６ヶ所にチタンを使用しています。チタンはアルミニウムについで軽く、ステンレス鋼よりも耐蝕性に優れ、鋼鉄に匹敵する強度を持つ反面、その特性上、加工が難しいとされていましたが、ニコンの生産技術により克服し、一層堅牢性に優れたニコンＦ２チタンボディを完成しました。

- 外観　縮緬ブラック塗装仕上げ(Titan 刻印入り)
- 重量　約715g(アイレベルファインダー付)
- その他の仕様はニコンＦ２と同様ですので、ニコンＦ２の使用説明書をご参照ください。

Nikon 日本光学工業株式会社

In addition, the places described above as "Textured Black Painted Finish" are as follows. This finish has been carried over to the current digital SLR.

The following images show the titanium version in the top row and the standard version in the bottom row.

First, the pentaprism cover.



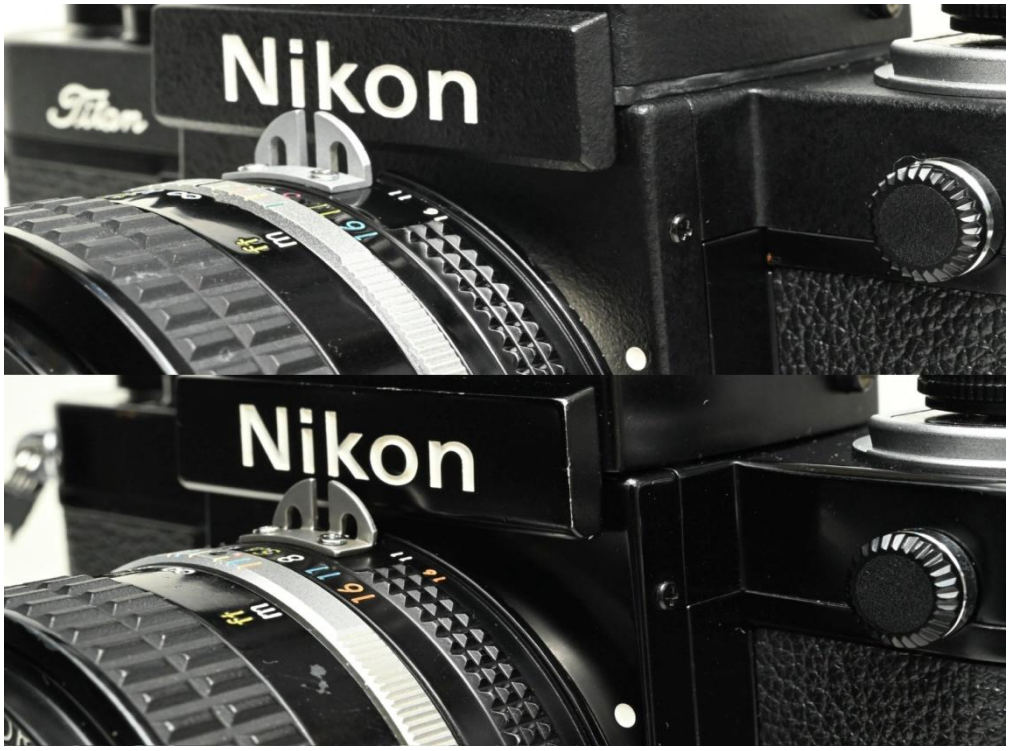
Next is the upper cover (winding lever side).



Next is the top cover (rewind knob side).



Next is the lens mount apron.



Finally, the bottom cover.



Incidentally, while the back cover uses titanium, it does not have the textured black paint finish. Therefore, it is difficult to distinguish it from the standard version based on its appearance alone.

4 Nikon F2 titanium changes (other than 3 above)

Besides the changes in section 3 above, the following difference from the regular F2 is the addition of three screws around the OC key on the bottom plate.



5 History of Nikon F2 Titanium

The underlying cause seems to be the need to prevent screws from loosening and malfunctioning due to harsh vibrations in battlefields, etc., which had been researched for some time.

The direct origin appears to be the so-called "Uemura Special," commissioned by adventurer Naomi Uemura in 1977 for his North Pole record.

6 Price

Both with and without a name engraving were 98,000 yen. It seems there were no discounts; it was sold at the list price.

The regular F2 Black with eye-level finder was 81,500 yen, so the price difference was 16,500 yen.

For reference, in the case of the successor model, the F3, the high-eyepoint body was priced at 149,000 yen at the time of release, while the titanium black version was 199,000 yen, a price difference of 50,000 yen.

7 Forms of sale

(1) For press demand (no name)

It seems that Nikon's Press Equipment Pro Service department conducted business negotiations when visiting media organizations and other organizations as part of their mobile service.

It appears that in addition to documents prepared by the buyer, documents prepared by others had to be submitted.

(2) For general sale (with name)

Orders were taken for a limited run of 2000 units around early summer of 1979.

Each retailer apparently received only a few units.

8 Manufacture

(1) History

Initially, there were concerns that the hardness of titanium would damage the press molds. Therefore, production was delayed until the end of the F2 era, with the understanding that some units might break. However, the press molds proved durable, and ultimately, increased production and even the production of personalized units were carried out.

The cursive Titan logo engraved on the upper left of the front of the general sale (personalized) units is apparently a design by Mr. Omatsuri.



(2) Manufacturing Numbers and Production Quantity

(A) For press demand (no name)

Initially, there were plans for a limited production of 1,000 units, with each lot consisting of 500 units.

There appears to have been a gap of more than six months between the first lot (serial numbers ending in 500) and the second lot (serial numbers starting from 501).

The serial number is 920XXXX, which is different from the standard F2.

There are also units with the serial number 773XXXX, which is the same serial number range as the standard F2, and which appear to have been manufactured before the aforementioned lot. The serial numbers of the so-called "Uemura Special" mentioned in item 5 above are 7733398 and 7733380. The serial numbers of the 773XXXX units I have seen are all higher than the serial numbers of the so-called "Uemura Special."

This is the 126th unit of the first lot. The back cover is an iron plate (see below 9 (2)).



This is the 184th unit of the first lot. The back cover is also iron plate (see below 9 (2)).



And this is the first unit of the second lot. The back cover of this individual is titanium (see below 9 (2)).



(B) For general sale (with name)

Initially, it was limited to two thousand units.

The serial number is T79XXXX. The serial number T785XXXX is for the F2H.



(C) Summary

Both the models for press demand (no name) and general sale (with name) were later increased in production, and it is said that 5,000 units of each were manufactured, for a total of 10,000 units. This can be inferred from the serial numbers. The largest serial numbers I have seen are 9204XXX for the press demand (no name) and T79XXX for the general sale (with name), so this doesn't seem entirely untrue.

9 Individual differences

(1) Overview

For general sale models (with names), perhaps because they were manufactured after production had stabilized, there are no reports of individual differences.

For models intended for press demand (no names), it seems that improvements were gradually made during the initial manufacturing phase, and some units appear to lack titanium in areas where it should have been used (as described in section 3 above). However, even in areas without titanium, the same distinctive paint as the titanium models was apparently applied. Nevertheless, individual differences do not seem to be observed from the third lot (last four digits of the serial number 1001) onwards.

(2) Back door

The most well-known example of individual differences is probably the back door. Generally, it is said that the first 400 or so units had iron back doors instead of titanium ones. According to online information, the breakdown of the 400 units is 100 units of the 773XXXX model and 300 units of the 9200XXX model. However, it seems the manufacturer later replaced the steel case backs with titanium ones, although it's unclear whether this was a paid or free service. Therefore, it's unknown how many steel case backs still exist. In my own collection, I've confirmed steel case backs up to the late 100s in the last three digits of the serial number.

The material of the back door cannot be determined by appearance alone. If there are areas where the paint has peeled off, the underlying color will reveal the material. A standard case back will have a reddish color similar to a 10-yen coin, while titanium will have a whitish color.

The image shows a titanium back door in the top row and steel back door in the bottom row.



The steel back door is similar in color to the standard back door, but with a more rusty appearance.

The most reliable way to distinguish them is by weight. When I weighed the individual I have on hand, the results were:

Aluminium	57g
Titanium	78g
Steel	108g

The steel back door feels noticeably heavier just by opening and closing it, so you can somewhat tell the difference.

Also, a magnet will stick to the steel case back.



(3) Indentation on the right side of the viewfinder

The right side of the viewfinder is slightly indented. This is unique to the F2 Titanium and is not seen in the regular F2. However, most F2 Titaniums have this indentation, as shown in the image on the right.

It's unclear when the specification changed to include this indentation. Even if we try to verify this, the viewfinder can be easily replaced by the user, and titanium viewfinders were also sold separately. Furthermore, since 45 years have passed since manufacture, it's possible that parts have been replaced during repairs, making it impossible to determine if the viewfinder currently attached to the body is original.

In addition, some units have been observed with slight dents, as shown in the lower left of the image. Therefore, it's possible that the dents didn't appear all at once, but rather gradually developed during the manufacturing process for some reason. Moreover, units with different dent locations, as shown in the upper right and lower right of the image, have also been identified. While the history and circumstances surrounding these changes are very interesting, the truth remains unknown.

In summary, the above can be divided into the following four types:

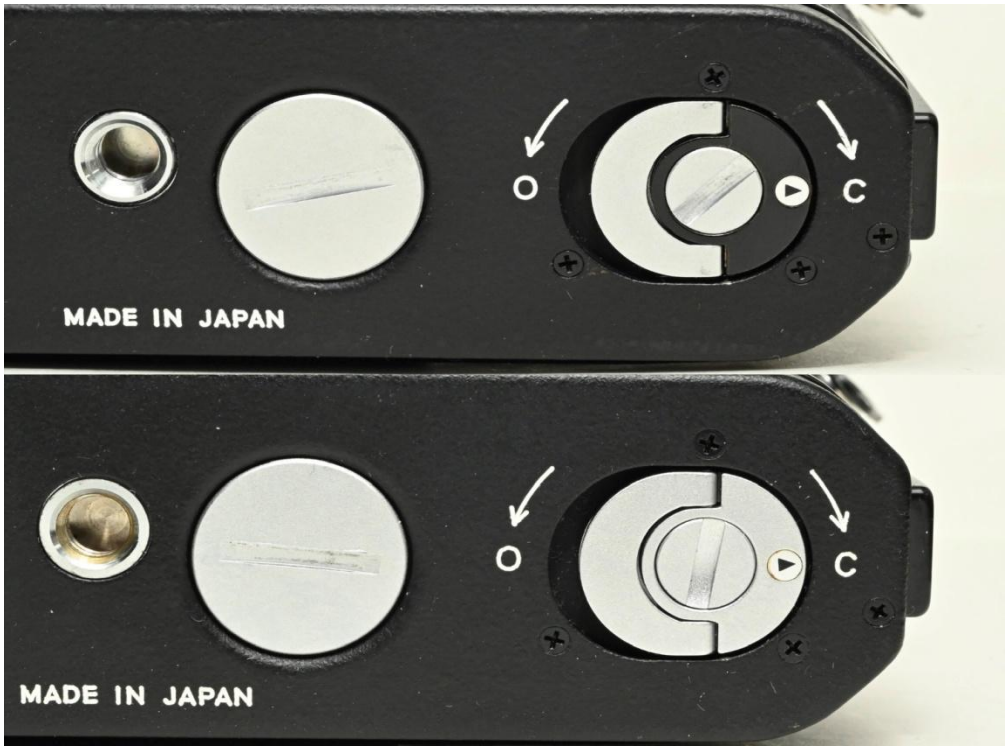
1 No dents (top right image)
2 Transitional period (bottom right of image)
3 There is a dent (back side) (image upper left)
4 There is a dent (center) (bottom left of the image)

However, based on the individual units I have and information from acquaintances, the vast majority seem to be units with dents, either ③ or ④. Furthermore, it appears that the no-name models up until the early stages (beginning of the second batch) were of the no-dent type (①), while the later models and the early models with names seem to be of the transitional period type (②).



(4) Back door opening and closing lever

This appears to be an improvement to the entire F2 series, not an individual variation specific to the F2 Titanium. In the case of the F2, the silver body had a single silver part. On the other hand, the black body initially had a two-tone black and silver part, but around serial number 78XXXXX (around 1977), it was replaced with the same single-tone silver part as the silver body.



In the F2 Titanium, the switch from the two-tone black and silver part to the single-tone silver part occurred at a very early stage (probably midway through the first production run) for the press-demand (no-name) version.

(5) Film Guide Notch

This appears to be an improvement to the entire F2 series, not an individual variation specific to the F2 Titanium.

Looking at my F2s, it's absent up to 768XXXX (manufactured in 1976), but present in 794XXXX (manufactured in 1979). The F2 Titanium was manufactured in 1978, so it falls right around this transition period, but it's unclear whether this change originated with the F2 Titanium.

Looking at my F2 Titaniums, I have two with steel case backs (both with serial numbers in the 100s), and neither had the notch. I have four with titanium case backs (three unnamed ones in the 500s-4500s and one with a name), and all of them had the notch. I don't know if this is true for all units.



10 Documents

(1) Nikon Newspaper, May 1979 Issue

This is a clipping from the May 1979 issue of the Nikon Newspaper, published at the time of the start of general sales (with name).

Nikon新聞 vol.171

"ニコンF2チタンボディを特別限定販売"

ニコンＦ２チタンボディは、現在、報道関係特需向けに限定販売しており、真のヘビーデューティカメラとしてたいへんご好評をいただいており、一般のユーザーからも購入に関し強いご要望が寄せられております。

弊社では、ニコンＳＰのシャッター幕に採用以来、チタンについて永年研究しており、チタンの難加工性という問題点もニコンの生産技術により克服し、ニコンＦ２チタンボディを完成いたしました。

つきましては、このたび一般向けにニコンＦ２チタンボディを特別限定販売いたしますので、特約店を通じましてご用命願えれば幸いに存じます。なお数量に限りがございますので、売切れの節はご容赦ください。

〔チタンの特性〕

チタンはアルミについで軽く、ステンレス鋼よりも耐蝕性があり、鋼鉄に匹敵する強さを持ち、さらに耐熱性も 500℃まであります が、反面その特性から加工がしにくいという点もあります。



〔チタン仕様〕

- ペンタカバー
- 上カバー（Titan文字の彫刻入り）
- 底カバー
- エプロン部
- 裏ぶた
- 他の仕様は現行のニコンＦ２（アイレベル）と同一です。
- 発売予定期日 昭和54年６月１日
- 標準小売価格 98,000円

A side note:

In some circles, there are people who replace the film winding lever, shutter speed dial, and self-timer shaft with silver parts to create what's known as the "New F" specification.







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