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Nikon D40X

in-depth
review



4. Body & Design



Viewfinder



For a compact Penta-mirror design the D40X's viewfinder is surprisingly bright and large. Magnification is up to 0.8x compared to the D50's 0.75x (not a big difference) and frame coverage is the same 95%. The rubber eyepiece isn't as large as that found on the D50 or D80 although seems to work well enough.

Viewfinder view

The image below represents an example viewfinder view (apart from the status bar which has all information displayed for descriptive purposes). In the center of the frame are of course the three AF areas.



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 Focus indicator | 9 Exposure compensation indicator |
| 2 Focus area display | 10 Frames remaining / buffer space / EV value |
| 3 Auto exposure (AE) lock | 11 Flash ready indicator |
| 4 Flexible program indicator | 12 Warning indicator (help) |
| 5 Shutter speed | 13 Battery indicator |
| 6 Aperture | 14 ISO Auto indicator |
| 7 Electronic meter / compensation | 15 Over 1000 frames remaining |
| 8 Flash compensation indicator | |

Diagram reproduced with permission from the Nikon D40X user manual.

Battery Compartment

The battery compartment is mounted front to back in the base of the hand grip, flip the small catch to the right and the door drops open. A notch has been left in the door for the optional dummy battery AC adapter.



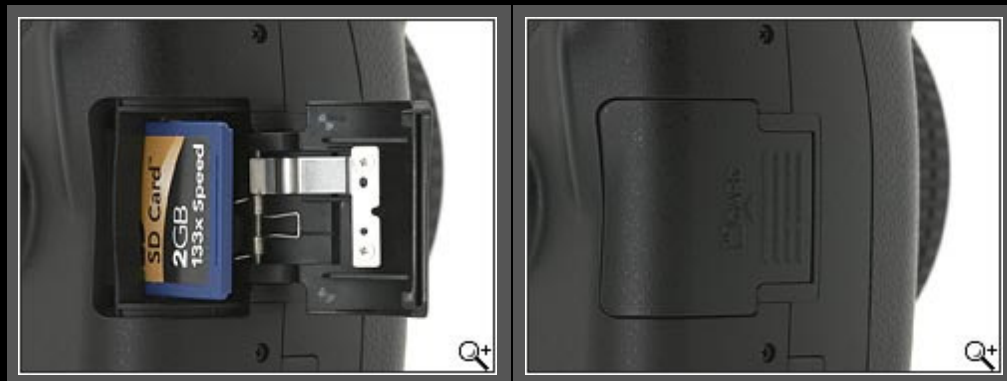
Battery and Charger

The D40X features a new light compact battery, the EN-EL9 is a Lithium-Ion with a capacity of 1000 mAh at 7.4 V (7.4 Wh). The battery charges in the new MH-23 charger which takes around 90 minutes to charge from completely flat.



Secure Digital Compartment

The SD card compartment door is located on the rear right edge of the hand grip and opens cleanly revealing a standard SD slot (push to insert, push to remove). The camera does not power down if you open the SD compartment. As well as standard SD (up to 2 GB), the D40X also supports the new SD-HC standard which provides for capacities of 4 GB and greater.



Connections

All of the connectors are located on the left side of the body (from the rear) protected by a rubber cover. From top to bottom we have the AV out terminal and USB 2.0 port. Note that the D40X doesn't have a dedicated AC adapter connector, instead you need to buy the EP-5 AC adapter connector which is a dummy battery which fits into the battery compartment, this can then be connected to the EH-5 AC adapter.



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