

# Nikon 35mm f/1.8G

## *Cent Ans de Cartier-Bresson*

(100 years of Cartier-Bresson Commemorative)

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**Nikon 35mm f/1.8G AF-S DX.** [enlarge](#). I ordered mine from [Adorama](#). It helps me keep adding to this site when you use that or any of these links to [Adorama](#), [Amazon](#), [B&H](#), [Calumet](#), [Ritz](#), [J&R](#) and [eBay](#) to get your goodies. Thanks! Ken.

February 2009   [More Nikon Reviews](#)

**Great for:** A fast, light normal lens for Nikon's smallest [DX cameras](#), especially for use in low-light without flash.

**Not for:** Film or [FX cameras](#). For larger DX cameras with built-in motors like the [D50](#), [D80](#), [D90](#) and [D300](#), getting a [35mm f/2 AF-D](#) instead will also work on FX cameras should you upgrade later.

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The Nikon 35mm f/1.8 DX is Nikon's latest inexpensive normal lens for [DX cameras](#). It doesn't work well or at all on film or [FX cameras](#).

This is a normal to slightly longer than normal lens on DX, seeing about the same [angle of view](#) as a 53mm lens sees on FX or 35mm film. (see [crop factor](#).)

The 35/1.8 DX is especially great for use on Nikon's lightest DSLRs because of its small size, low weight and AF-S auto focusing which works on even Nikon's cheapest [D40](#), [D40X](#) and [D60](#) cameras. You can get manual focusing at any time simply by grabbing the focus ring: no switches are required.

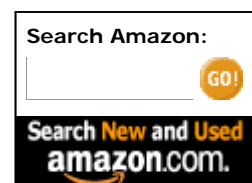
If you plan to move to FX or film any time in the next several years, consider a lens which will also cover FX, like the [35mm f/2 AF-D](#) (\$360), [28mm f/1.4D](#) (\$4,000) or [50mm f/1.8D](#) (\$130), which won't autofocus on the [D40](#), [D40X](#) or [D60](#), but will work perfectly on better DX cameras today as well as FX and film cameras.

The advantage of this new 35mm f/1.8 is that it autofocuses on the [D40](#), [D40X](#) and [D60](#), and that it allows instant manual-focus override simply by grabbing the focus ring. It also should have incredibly good technical performance.

It focuses by moving only the rear elements, so the filter mount and front elements don't move at all.

The disadvantage is that it won't work properly on film or FX if you upgrade, so you'll wind up having to buy another lens anyway. Nikon says it won't work well on APS cameras, but I bet it just might work swell on my [Pronea-S](#).

For \$200 you can't go wrong, especially since Nikon tells us that it has a metal mount and an ass-gasket to keep out dust. (Whoopee-do, the [50mm f/1.8D](#) sells for half as much and has a metal mount, too.)



I personally buy from [Adorama](#), [Amazon](#), [Ritz](#), [B&H](#), [Calumet](#) and [J&R](#). I can't vouch for [ads](#) below.

I've already ordered one for my D40. It's a no-brainer for low-light.

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## Name

Nikon calls this the AF-S DX NIKKOR 35mm f/1.8G

**AF-S** and **SWM**: Silent Wave (focus) Motor.

**DX**: Won't work well on film or **FX** cameras.

**G**: Gilded for cost-reduction and removing compatibility with older cameras.

## Focal Length

35mm, which on a DX camera will see an angle-of view similar to what a 53mm lens would see on film or on an FX camera.

## Optics

8 elements in 6 groups, focusing

One element is [hybrid aspherical](#), which means a spherical glass element to which an aspherical plastic corrector film has been glued.

It's multicoated, which Nikon calls Nikon Super-Integrated Coating (SIC).

All of this means that this ought to be one heck of a fantastic lens technically.

## Diaphragm

7 rounded blades.

Stops down to f/22.

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## Aperture Ring

**No.**

## Close Focus

1 foot (0.3m).

## Maximum Reproduction Ratio

1:6.25.

## Hard Infinity Focus Stop?

**Not likely.**

## Focus Distance Scale

**No.**

## Depth-of-Field Scale

**No.**

## Infra-Red Focus Index

**No.**

## Filter Thread

52mm, plastic.

Does not rotate.

## Lens Mount

Metal, yay!

### **Ass Gasket** (rear dust seal)

Yes.

### **Size**

Nikon specifies 2.1" (52.5mm) extension from flange by 2.8" (70mm) diameter.

### **Weight**

Nikon specifies 7.2 oz. (205g).

This is the same weight as the current [35mm f/2 AF-D](#) (205g).

This is heavier than the [50mm f/1.8 D](#) (155g), [50mm f/1.8 E](#) (145g), and not much lighter than the [50mm f/1.4 AF-D](#) (230g), reference [50mm f/1.4 AI-s](#) (250g) and newest [50mm f/1.4 AF-S](#) (280g).

### **Hood**

HB-46 bayonet plastic hood, included.



**Nikon HB-46 Plastic Hood.** [enlarge.](#)

## Case

CL-0913 pouch, included.



Nikon CL-0913 Pouch. [enlarge.](#)

## Announced

09 February 2009.

## Available

March 2009, promised.

## Price

\$199.99 USA, February 2009.

## Nikon Product Number

2183.

# Recommendations [top](#)

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It sounds great for \$200. I already [ordered mine](#) for my D40.

This lens is Nikon's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of [Henri Cartier-Bresson's](#) birth. If Henri Cartier-Bresson were starting today, he'd have a [D40](#), one of these lenses, and that's it.

Ignore some of the press information which claimed it's the fastest DX lens; its not (any [FX f/1.4](#) or [f/1.2 lens](#) is faster and also covers DX), nor is it the first single-focal-length DX lens: that's the [10.5mm DX fisheye](#) which came out in 2003.

## Deployment

I'd leave either a [52mm Nikon Clear](#) (NC - UV) filter, or a [52mm Hoya Super HMC UV](#) on the lens at all times. I would leave the hood at home.

If I was working in nasty, dirty areas, I'd forget the cap, and use an uncoated [52mm Tiffen UV filter](#) instead. Uncoated filters are much easier to clean, but more prone to ghosting, and the laminated Tiffens stay together in one piece even after they've been shattered.

## More Information

[Nikon's product data with MTF charts](#)

[Nikon's PR fluff](#)