

# Quick Setup Guide for MEC-5-FSL-D3400-N85 Iris Camera

## Contents of the Camera Carry Case – MEC-5-FSL-D3400-N85



### Contents

1. Camera with macro lens
2. Illuminator
3. Camera Battery Charger
4. Zoom Lens
5. Cord/Accessory Compartment
  - 5a. Camera Batteries
  - 5b. Focus Light Batteries
  - 5c. Battery Pack Screwdriver
  - 5d. USB Card Reader
  - 5e. SDHC memory card (16GB)
  - 5f. Camera USB cord
  - 5g. Lens rear cap/body cap
  - 5h. Extra cords (optional)



## Preparing the Iris Camera for Use – MEC-5-FSL-D3400-N85

---

1. Open Camera Carry Case by pressing the button and lifting up each latch.



2. Remove the camera from the foam padding and set down.



3. Lift Illuminator out of foam-padded case



4. Remove lens cap and turn the camera on. Mode dial is set to A=Aperture priority



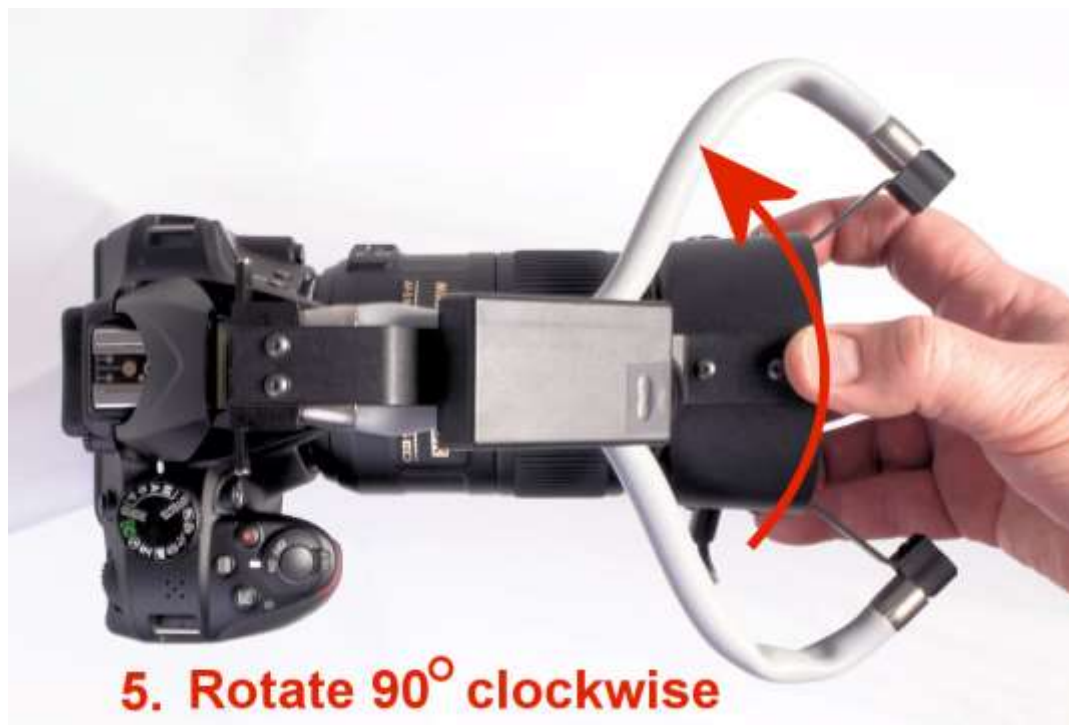
5. Pop up the built-in flash by pressing button on left side



6. Place illuminator onto lens at the 9:00 position (Flash is in the up position, Mode=A):



7. Rotate Illuminator until it snaps into place at 12:00 position:



8. Turn ON the focus light by rotating the brightness knob clockwise:



9. **Your camera is now ready to take iris pictures.** When complete with the photography, reverse these steps to put the camera away.

## Using the Dual-Channel Illuminator Shutter

---

1. The Side-Lighting illuminator has a shutter that controls which side the flash illumination goes to. For photographing the **RIGHT iris**, use the **Left Channel Open** position (push slider to the **LEFT**); for photographing the **LEFT iris**, use the **Right Channel Open** position (push slider to the **RIGHT**):



2. For “flat” or uniform illumination, use the **Both Channels Open** position. This is setting is when the shutter is in the center position:



When storing the illuminator in the carry case, always return the shutter to this center position.

## Getting Correct Exposure

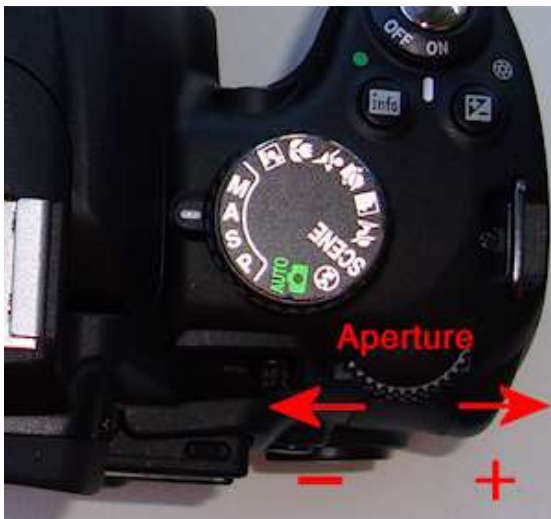
---

### Using Auto-Exposure (Recommended)

1. The camera is shipped with **Auto-Exposure**, via the Control for Built-in Flash set to the TTL (Through-the Lens) setting in the Set-Up Menu. In this auto-exposure mode, the flash will automatically be adjusted for a good exposure. The aperture should be in the range of f/16 to f/22.
2. This camera-lens-illuminator is optimized for autoexposure photography of the iris; it is especially easy to take consistently good iris images when using the Auto-Exposure Flash Mode. In this mode the flash power is adjusted by the camera to give a suitable exposure regardless of the aperture setting.
3. There is a tradeoff between the sharpness of a lower aperture such as 5.6 thru f/20 (sharpness improves with a lower f/number) due to less diffraction blurring when the aperture is at the lower number, and the depth of field, which becomes too small to get the entire iris in focus when the aperture is less than f/16. Consequently the best overall sharpness for iris photography is between f/16 and f/25.
4. With Auto-Exposure you can dial in whatever aperture you want, but best results will be found within this range of f/16 and f/25. Miles Research recommends f/22 for iris photography.
5. For sclera photography, having the larger depth of field is very important in order to get the entire visible surface of the sclera (including the bulbar conjunctival vessels) in focus, so the recommended aperture for scleral photography is the maximum aperture value – normally (with the 85mm lens) at f/45.

### Using Manual Exposure (for the Advanced User)

6. It is also possible to use **Manual Exposure** where the aperture can be adjusted through a range of values and the best exposure later selected from the series of photos. For this manual exposure, set the **Flash Mode** to **Manual (1/2 Power)**. To see how the camera settings can be changed, see Section L, Reference for Nikon D3200 Camera Settings (page 35).
7. Use the main command dial at the upper rear of the camera for **adjusting the aperture**.



*The Main Command Dial is operated with the right thumb and is used to adjust aperture. Normally, the best practice is to take 3 or 4 pictures of each iris, each picture shot with a different consecutive aperture.*

The **aperture dial** (situated where the right thumb would be when holding the camera with the right hand) is changed by the thumb; clicking the wheel **inboard (to left) decreases** aperture number and clicking the wheel **outboard (to the right) increases** it. Larger aperture values mean smaller aperture diameter -- less light will be allowed in. Images with higher f/numbers will be darker than those taken with lower f/numbers

8. **Note:** When using Auto-Exposure (Flash mode on TTL), you can set the aperture to any value without affecting the exposure. However to get sufficient depth of field, set the aperture to f/20 (any value in the range of f/16 thru f/32 will give good results). **For photographing sclera**, always use f/45.

## Getting Correct Focus

---

### Using Fixed Focus (Recommended)

1. For best results, use **Fixed Focus** mode, which is where the lens is set to its minimum (closest) focus, and the whole camera-lens is moved closer or further from the iris until proper focus is viewed in the viewfinder.
2. For using **fixed focus**, the lens is set to the **M** setting and the lens focus is dialed to a **minimum focus** (rotate focus ring all the way to 1:1, the opposite end from the “infinity” symbol), which is about 0.286 meters or 11.25 inches (as measured from the subject to the image sensor plane).
3. Hold the camera up to the client’s eye, and while viewing through the viewfinder, move closer or further from the eye until the image is sharply in focus, then take the picture.
4. It is also possible to use **manual focus**. For using **manual focus**, the **lens switch** is changed from the M/A setting to the **M** setting. The focusing is accomplished by rotating the focus ring of the lens until the iris is in focus as viewed through the viewfinder. The downside to this method is that the images will not all be at the same magnification.

### Using Auto-Focus (for the Advanced User)

5. This camera-lens-illuminator can also be used for autofocus photography of the iris, however the autofocus is not as reliable as your own focusing. Use of Auto-Focus works fairly well with the blue iris but often does not work with the brown iris.
6. Using Auto-Focus effectively requires considerable skill and experience and should be considered only by the more experienced iris photographer.

*For imaging animal iris, it is usually best to use autofocus, and an aperture in the range of f/32 to f/45.*

#### Lens Settings – Nikkor 85mm or 105mm VR Lens

1. For using Manual or Fixed Focus:

**Manual Focus Mode:** Set the lens setting to M (to the right, toward the lens mount). Set the lens to minimum focus and **always** keep it on minimum focus (closest focus is 0.286m, 1:1).

2. For using Autofocus:

**Auto-Focus Mode:** Set the lens setting to M/A (to the left, toward the lens front). Set the lens to minimum focus to start.

3. Put the lens in **Non-VR mode**: the bottom switch for VR should be set off (to the right, toward the lens mount). This setting is not critical, but VR (Vibration Reduction) is not useful for flash photography so it may as well be disabled (the camera battery will last longer this way).



## Setting the Viewfinder Focus (very important for all users)

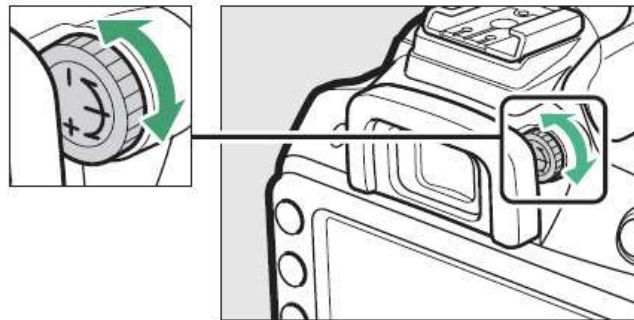
9. **IMPORTANT: Adjust the Eyepiece Dioptic setting. (Initial Setup Only)** This is a small rotary switch to the right of the viewfinder that can go up or down through several positions, and is designed to match the viewfinder optics to your vision. When this is set: if you see the subject in focus, the camera sees it in focus. If you normally wear corrective lenses, always wear them when taking a picture. To make this adjustment for your eye:



### How to Set Eyepiece Focus

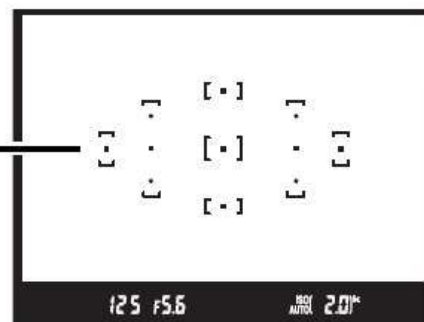
1. Move the rotary switch to one end of the range (all the way up or down).
2. Look through the viewfinder at a bright surface (such as a white wall) that is in the distance (this white surface should appear blurry).
3. While viewing through the viewfinder, move the switch up and down through the range of positions until you can **see the black brackets ( [ ] ) in the viewfinder with maximum clarity and focus.**
4. Note the optimal position of this switch for your vision, and **always use this setting.** Once you set it for your eye's vision, you do not need to change it. If someone else uses the camera, they need to find the correct setting for their vision (and when you resume using the camera, you need to return this switch to the setting you found for your vision).

**Focus the viewfinder.**  
After removing the lens cap, rotate the diopter adjustment control until the focus points are in sharp focus.



*Viewfinder not in focus*

*Focus points*



*Viewfinder in focus*



## Exposure Guide – Aperture Settings for Auto Exposure Mode

---

Camera: D3400  
Lens: Nikon 85mm  
Illuminator: HCB/SCL/FSL/ASL/FLO  
Flash: TTL  
ISO: 200  
EV Step: 1/3

Brown: 16  
Mixed: 18  
Blue: 20  
Sclera: 45

Do not use: 4.8, 5, 5.6, 6.3, 7.1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14  
When flash is set to TTL (Through-the-Lens metering):  
Use for all iris colors: 16 thru 25 (for max sharpness)  
Use for sclera: 45 (for max depth of field)

## Exposure Guide – Aperture Settings for Manual Exposure Mode

---

Camera: D3400  
Lens: Nikon 85mm  
Illuminator: HCB/SCL/FSL/ASL/FLO  
Flash: Manual 1/2-Power  
ISO: 200  
EV Step: 1/3

Brown: 16---18---20---22---25  
Mixed: 18---20---22---25---29  
Blue: 20---22---25---29---32---36  
Sclera: ---45

Do not use: 4.8, 5, 5.6, 6.3, 7.1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14  
Use for brown: 16 thru 25  
Use for blue or mixed: 18 thru 36  
Use for sclera: 45

### Contact Miles Research for additional information or technical support

Jon Miles  
Miles Research  
141 E 13th Ave  
Escondido, CA 92025  
760-746-7415  
[jon@milesresearch.com](mailto:jon@milesresearch.com)  
[www.milesresearch.com](http://www.milesresearch.com)

<b>Your Registration Information:</b>	
Owner:	_____
Camera System Serial Number:	_____
Camera Body Serial Number:	_____
Lens Serial Number (85mm):	_____
Lens Serial Number (18-55mm):	_____
Date Shipped:	_____