

MANUAL FOCUS DISTANCE BY THE CLICK CP5700 ALL CLICKS MEASURED AT MOST TELE ZOOM ALLOWED

Click UP	Click Down	Ft.	M	Click Up	Click Down	inches	mm	Click Up	Click Down	inches	mm	Click Up	Click Down	inches	mm	Click Up	Click Down	inches	mm
63	END	∞	Infinity	50	13	58	1475	37	26	21.25	540	24	39	10.25	260	11	52	4.94	125
62	1	58	18	49	14	53	1350	36	27	19.5	495	23	40	9.75	248	10	53	4.62	117
61	2	37	11	48	15	50	1270	35	28	18.25	464	22	41	9.38	238	9	54	4.25	108
60	3	28	8.5	47	16	45	1145	34	29	17.5	445	21	42	9.0	229	8	55	4.13	105
59	4	20	6	46	17	42.0	1070	33	30	16.5	419	20	43	8.63	219	7	56	3.25	83
58	5	15	4.6	45	18	39.0	990	32	31	15.25	387	19	44	8.31	211	6	57	3.06	78
57	6	12	3.7	44	19	36.75	935	31	32	14.5	368	18	45	7.80	198	5	58	2.56	65
56	7	10.2	3.1	43	20	34.5	880	30	33	13.88	353	17	46	7.63	187	4	59	2.13	54.1
55	8	9	2.8	42	21	32.5	825	29	34	13.00	330	16	47	7.19	183	3	60	1.75	44.5
54	9	7.3	2.2	41	22	29.5	750	28	35	12.06	306	15	48	6.31	160	2	61	1.44	36.6
53	10	6.5	2	40	23	27.13	690	27	36	11.81	300	14	49	6.13	156	1	62	1.25	31.8
52	11	5.5	1.7	39	24	24.75	630	26	37	11.25	286	13	50	5.62	143	END	63	1.13	28.6
51	12	5	1.5	38	25	23.0	584	25	39	10.69	272	12	51	5.25	133				

This chart has been revised. If you down-loaded its prior version before February 17, 2003, discard the previous chart and use this one. It is more accurate.

Note: Shaded clicks indicate last click before bar length shrink when counting down, or click that lengthens the bar when counting up. Eg:

44	19
43	20
42	21

INFINITE REGRESSION

When Nikon decided to produce the CP4500 and CP5700, somewhere in the decision process the Manual Focus features of these cameras suffered a setback.

Prior Coolpix cameras that have the Manual Focus option place numbers on their data screens giving the focus distance in either feet or meters—your choice. Auto Focus systems use a large number of small focus points for accuracy, including the longest telephoto settings where focus accuracy is most critical.

Recent cameras have over 7000 micro adjustments to their Auto Focus settings, in which very fine numerical differences can be quantified. Manual focus systems in the CP995 and CP5000 have fifty increments of manual focus from nearest to infinity. No doubt this number was a compromise for cameras that focus very near in their macro setting, yet still need a reliable degree of accuracy at their most telephoto zoom setting. Manual focus is achieved by depressing the focus button while clicking the Command Dial left or right to increment focus far and near.

In these two cameras, the software delivers a numerical measurement to their data displays as part of the click-stopped Manual Focus arrangement. But as of the most recent two models, the 4500 and 5700, this numerical system has been replaced by a generalized focus estimation graphic. It's a bar graph that covers about a third of the monitor width while showing a short white bar for the most close focus and the longest bar for infinity focus.

The problem with it is that there are no numbers to indicate actual focus, and the bar itself is comprised of only five segments from under an inch to Andromeda! The 5700 has 64 clicks covering the whole range and your must click the Command Dial eleven or more times to show a single increment of the supposedly helpful bar chart. Without the chart above, The bar chart is completely useless for presetting the focus distance to any useful focus zone one might imagine.

As one can see from the CP5700's Manual Click Focus Chart above, at ten clicks below infinity, focus is about 6.5 feet (78 inches or 2 meters). You must count the clicks while referring to such a chart if you want to zone focus a convenient distance. "Twelve clicks from the end equals five feet," is rattling around in your head.

Zone focus preset is especially useful when shooting with flash in conditions too dim for Auto Focus: "Hmm. Too dark for a half-press or even a range finder. All I have to do is click all the way to the infinity setting, then simply back off seven more clicks to the ten-foot setting so I can shoot that group of folks over there with my flash."

The problem is with the description couched in terms of "All I have to do..." and "then simply..." because neither of these steps is positive and unambiguous. What if you missed rolling the Command dial to infinity? From around six feet to infinity the bar chart doesn't move.

Compounding the problem, the monitor image isn't fine enough to positively gauge focus visually, even when the monitor or viewfinder can be seen clearly.

I don't know of a single Nikon CP5700 owner who *prefers* this system. Do you?

In a Peter Pan mood, I'm thinking Good Thoughts so that Tinkerbell's magic might persuade Nikon's software engineers to fix this "issue" in future firmware updates. And my chances are...?