LEARNING MADE EASY

Nikon® Z fc

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Take charge of your Nikon® Z fc camera

Capture landscapes, portraits, and action shots

Control exposure, focus, and color like a pro

Julie Adair King
Nikon expert and author of
Digital Photography For Dummies

Nikon® Z fc

Julie Adair King

for dummies®
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Nikon® Z fc For Dummies®

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Introduction

N*ikon*. The name has been associated with top-flight photography equipment for generations, and the Z fc only enriches that reputation, combining cool retro styling with technology that delivers stunning photo and video quality. The Z fc also provides a long list of after-the-shoot features, including tools that enable you to retouch photos right in the camera and upload photos wirelessly to a smart device so that you can instantly share them online. You can even use your smart device as a wireless remote control.

In fact, the Z fc offers so many features that sorting them all out can be more than a little confusing. And therein lies the point of *Nikon Z fc For Dummies:* With the help of this book, you can take full advantage of everything the camera has to offer, even if you're brand new to photography.

About This Book

Unlike many photography books, this one doesn't require any previous knowledge of photography or digital imaging to make sense of things. In classic *For Dummies* style, everything is explained in easy-to-understand language, with lots of illustrations to help clear up any confusion.

However, even if you have some photography experience — or quite a bit of experience, for that matter — this book has plenty to offer. I provide detailed information about all the camera's exposure, focus, and color controls, explaining not just what each feature does but why and how to put it to best use.

In short, what you have in your hands is the paperback (or ebook) version of an in-depth photography workshop tailored specifically to your Nikon Z fc.

How This Book Is Organized

This book is organized into several parts, each devoted to a different aspect of using your camera. Although chapters flow in a sequence that's designed to take you from absolute beginner to experienced user, I've also made each chapter as self-standing as possible so that you can explore the topics that interest you in any order you please. Here's a brief preview of what you can find in each part of the book:

- **Part 1: Fast Track to Super Snaps:** Part 1 contains two chapters to help you get up and running. Chapter 1 guides you through initial camera setup, shows you how to view and adjust camera settings, and walks you through the steps of taking your first pictures using the Auto and Self-Portrait Shooting modes. Chapter 2 introduces you to other Shooting modes and also explains such critical picture options as Release mode, Image Size (resolution), Image Quality (JPEG or Raw), and Image Area.
- **Part 2: Beyond the Basics:** Chapters in this part help you unleash the full power of your camera. Chapter 3 provides information that you need to control exposure; Chapter 4 explains how to manipulate focus; and Chapter 5 sorts out color settings. Chapter 6 summarizes techniques explained in earlier chapters, providing a quick-reference guide to the camera settings and shooting strategies that produce the best results for portraits, action shots, landscapes, and close-ups. Chapter 7 shifts gears, moving from still photography to video recording.

- **Part 3: After the Shot:** Chapter 8 explains picture playback features, showing you how to adjust the type of data that appears with a picture, how to magnify an image to get a closer look, and how to quickly find and view photos taken on a particular day. Chapter 9 topics include rating, protecting, and deleting photos, downloading files to your computer, processing Raw files, and resizing pictures for online sharing.
- **Part 4: The Part of Tens:** In famous *For Dummies* tradition, the book concludes with three top-ten lists containing additional bits of information and advice. Chapter 10 details options for customizing your camera, and Chapter 11 covers the tools found on the camera's Retouch menu. Chapter 12 introduces you to ten other features that may come in handy on occasion, such as creating a slide show and adding copyright information to your files.
- **Appendix: Intro to Nikon SnapBridge:** Nikon SnapBridge is an app that you can install on certain Android and Apple iOS smartphones and tablets. It's this app that enables you to use the camera's wireless functions to connect your Z fc to your smart device. After making the connection, you can transfer photos to the device for viewing or easy uploading to social media sites or online photo-storage sites. You also can use the smart device as a wireless remote control. Check out the appendix for an overview of these features.
- **Glossary:** If you're new to digital photography or to Nikon, the glossary is a handy reference guide to look up terms you might not be familiar with.
- **Cheat sheet:** When you have a minute or two, visit www.dummies.com and enter the name of this book in the search box. You'll find a link to a cheat sheet, which

provides a handy reference to your camera's buttons, controls, and Shooting modes.

Icons and Other Stuff to Note

If this isn't your first *For Dummies* book, you may be familiar with the large, round icons that decorate its margins. If not, here's your very own icon-decoder ring:

TIP The Tip icon flags information that will save you time, effort, money, or some other valuable resource, including your sanity. Tips also point out techniques that help you get the best results from specific camera features.

WARNING When you see this icon, look alive. It indicates a potential danger zone that can result in much wailing and teeth-gnashing if ignored. In other words, this is stuff that you really don't want to learn the hard way.

TECHNICAL STUFF Lots of information in this book is of a technical nature — digital photography is a technical animal, after all. But when I present a detail that is useful mainly for impressing your tech-savvy friends, I mark it with this icon.

REMEMBER I apply this icon either to introduce information that is especially worth storing in your brain's long-term memory or to remind you of a fact that may have been displaced from that memory by another pressing fact.

Additionally, replicas of some of your camera's buttons and onscreen graphics appear in the margins and in some tables. I include these images to provide quick reminders of the appearance of the button or option being discussed.

Where to Go from Here

To wrap up this preamble, I want to stress that if you initially think that digital photography is too confusing or too technical for you, you're in very good company. *Everyone* finds this stuff mind-boggling at first. So take it slowly, experimenting with just one or two new camera settings or techniques at first. Then, every time you go on a photo outing, make it a point to add one or two more shooting skills to your repertoire.

I know that it's hard to believe when you're just starting out, but it really won't be long before everything starts to come together. With some time, patience, and practice, you'll soon wield your camera like a pro, dialing in the necessary settings to capture your creative vision almost instinctively.

So without further ado, I invite you to grab your camera, a cup of whatever it is you prefer to sip while you read, and start exploring the rest of this book. Your Z fc is the perfect partner for your photographic journey, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to act as your tour guide.