

The Yongnuo 40mm f/2.8: The Pancake Lens for Nikon F&DX

Review by Dr. Jörg Vetter



Tech Specifications

- **Focal length:** 40mm
- **Mount:** Nikon F
- **Max/Min aperture:** f/2.8 – f/22
- **Minimum focus distance** – 0.3m
- **Maximum magnification:** 0,18x
- **AF:** DC motor
- **Aperture blades:** 6, stops down to make effect of 12 stars.
- **Two focus modes:** AF + Manual
- **Glass:** 6 Elements in 4 Groups
- **Filter thread:** 58mm
- **Dimensions :** 74mm x 45mm
- **Weight:**130g
- **Aspheric l** for compensation of aberrations. ATTENTION: onion bokeh effects see example
- **Multilayer coating**
- **Mount:** chrome plated metal mount
- **Contacts:** gold-plated metal contacts

The Good

- Smaller than any other AF lens Nikon is offering.
- AF speed and accuracy is pretty good when using the software update: V1.02
<http://www.hkyongnuo.com/e-detail.php?ID=402>
- Image quality at 2.8 (wide open) is decent, if you are not a pixel-peeper.
- “Macro”: the minimum focusing distance ca. 0.3 m gives a kind of macro feeling, see examples.
- The colour impression of the shots is good.

The Bad

- The lens seems to be not waterproof.
- The MF ring gives a “plastic” feeling, but it works well.
- Add your own experience ...

Enjoy the shots

Shake Your Booty



D750, ISO 200, A = 2.8, 1/60, Focus distance 0,32 m, built in flash on
European Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)



D750, ISO 200, A = 2.8, 1/80

Hypholoma lateritium, sometimes called brick cap



D750, ISO 200, A = 2.8, 1/100

Just A Stone



D750, ISO 200, A = 2.8, 1/25

Coming in



D750, ISO 640, A = 6.3, 1/320

Parking

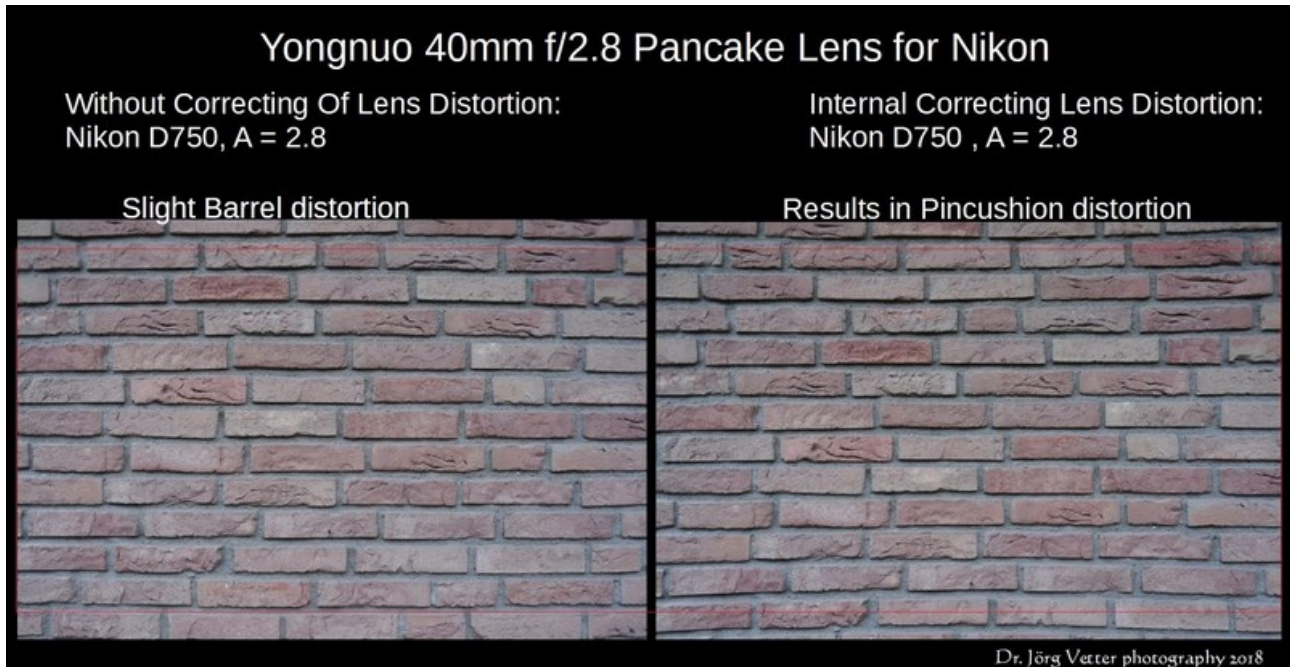


D750, ISO 640, A = 6.3, 1/80

Some Additional Tests

- Distortion

The lens itself has slight barrel distortion. Do not use the internal correction of distortion. In case of the Nikon D750 you will generate a pincushion distortion. Switch it off!



D750, ISO 200, A = 2.8, 1/125

- Onion-Ring Bokeh

Onion Ring Bokeh effects are caused by the use of aspheric elements in the lens, and the way they are manufactured. A lot of lenses show that effect, e.g. Sigma 24-70, 2.8 DG / Canon 16-35, 2.8 / Canon 24-70, 2.8 but also CV NOKTON 50, 1.5/NOCTILUX, 1.2 and 0,95 and many more.

I stressed the test by flash operation.

The Yungnuo 40 shows strong onion-ring effects, only if I use the built in flash particular in areas of extreme reflections.

Normally you will not see that, like in the normal “macro” shots shown in this review.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aspheric_lens

<https://www.imaging-resource.com/news/2014/05/02/the-end-of-onion-ring-bokeh-panasonic-beats-the-curse-of-aspheric-lenses>

https://www.lenstip.com/507.7-Lens_review-Sigma_A_24-70_mm_f_2.8_DG_OS_HSM_Coma_astigmatism_and_bokeh.html

<https://learn.zoner.com/test-4-lenses-35mm-f2-8/>

<http://www.reddotforum.com/content/2014/10/bokeh-kings/>



D750, ISO 800, A = 2.8, 1/60, built in flash on

The Final Word

- Yes it is an useable autofocus-capable pancake lens for Nikon. For less than 100 E, this lens is a value.
- Optically it is a lens for snap shots, but not for sports photography or birds! The AF needs some time.
- The build quality is acceptable, better than many of kit lenses which have only a plastic mount.
- I will have it with me, if a go with my large zoom lenses.
- Hint: yes the Nikon 50 1.8 D is a smaller lens, but the AF works only for F not for DX!

Links

<https://www.fredmiranda.com/forum/topic/1502537/>

<https://www.personal-view.com/talks/discussion/17440/40mm-f2.8-yongnuo-lens/p1>

<https://petapixel.com/2017/10/18/review-yongnuo-40mm-f2-8-pancake-lens-nikon-bad/>