

Canon A-1

LENS: 50mm f/1.8 Canon FD in interchangeable Canon bayonet mount, stops to f/16, focus to 24 in.

SHUTTER: Electronically-controlled cloth focal-plane with speeds from 30 to 1/1000 sec. plus B, X, FP, M sync, electronic self-timer with 2 and 10 sec. delay.

VIEWING: Fixed eye-level prism with service station-interchangeable split-image rangefinder, microprism collar, full-focusing screen.

OTHER FEATURES: 6-volt silver-oxide-battery powered silicon diode cell above eyepiece measures slightly below center-weighted area of focusing screen at full aperture at ASA 6 to 12,800, choice of aperture priority, shutter-speed priority, full program or stop-down-aperture automatic exposure, auto-exposure-compensation scale, memory hold button, double exposure, motor winder and motor drive provision, locking electromagnetic release, battery-check button and diode, built-in viewfinder blind, film-box-end reminder holder, removable back, hot shoe for auto-coupling flash, depth-of-field preview, LED digital viewfinder readout of shutter speeds, apertures, under-, over-exposure; manual control, flash warning signals, accessory hand-grip and spare battery container furnished.

PRICE: \$557 with 50mm f/1.8, \$625 with 50mm f/1.4 FD.

MANUFACTURER: Canon Camera K.K., Tokyo, Japan.

IMPORTER: Canon USA Inc., Lake Success, NY 11040.

PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS: 5½ in. wide, 3½ in. high, 3¼ in. deep.

WEIGHT: 1 lb. 14 oz.

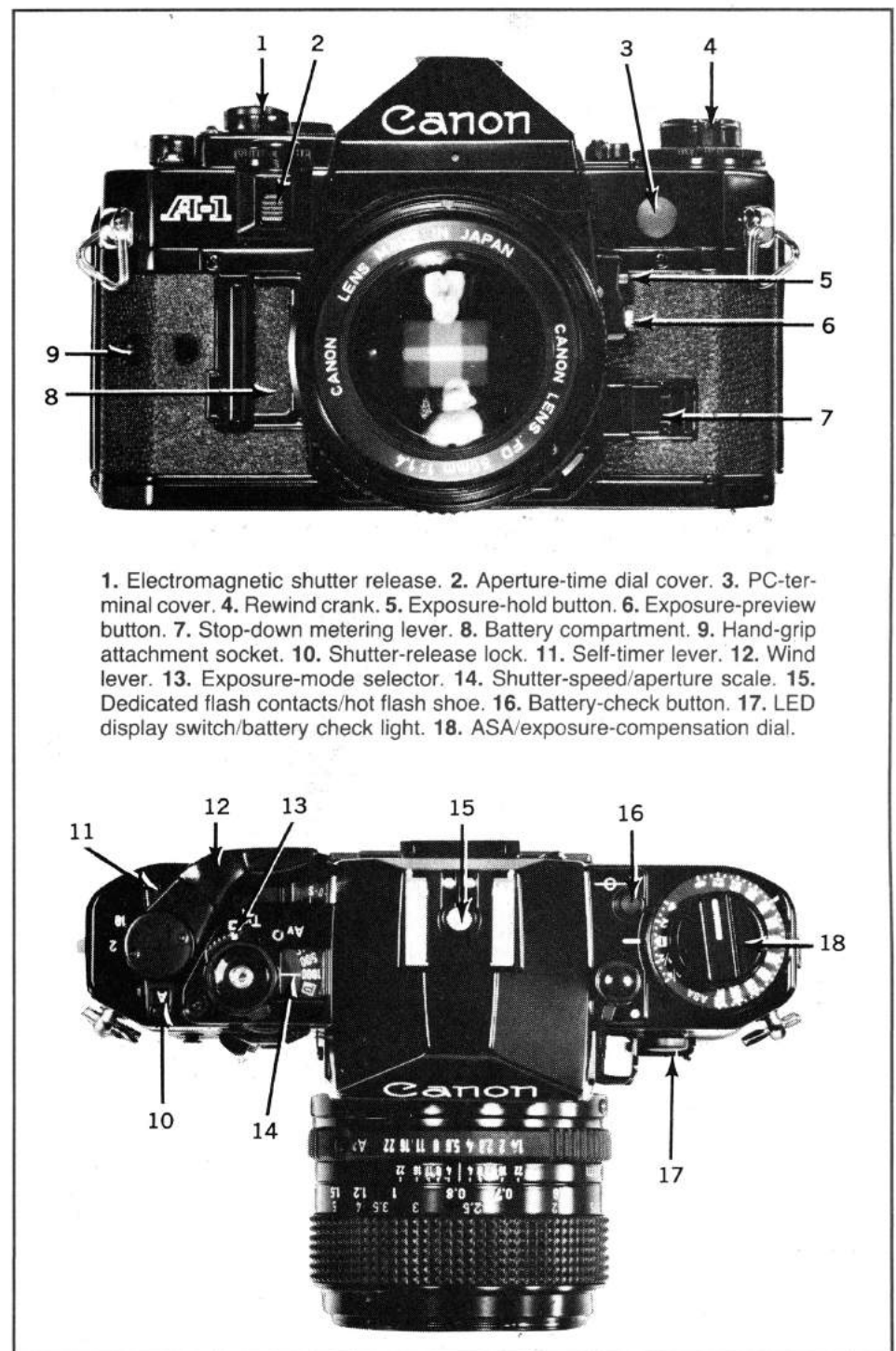
tings and a bright string of EEEEEEs appears. In bright light, the numerals are at their most brilliant, but they dim in four stages as the light on the subject diminishes, for most comfortable viewing.

The A-1's incredible finder readout system is exceeded only by its variety of auto-exposure possibilities. Instead of a conventional shutter-speed dial there's an over-hanging "aperture/time" dial on the front which lets you set apertures or shutter speeds which are read out in a window on top, and a mode selector switch is settable for aperture- or shutter-preferred auto exposure, for completely programmed automation, or conven-

tional manual settings. (For a complete technical and field evaluation see "Modern Tests," July 1978, page 122.)

In terms of handling, we found the well-finished, all-black camera with its highly durable, almost scratch-proof plastic top and bottom plates fit well into most hands. As we predicted, the A-1's programmed automation or "P" mode has proven to be very popular with amateurs and pros alike—so popular in fact that it has formed the basis for the Canon AE-1 Program and Canon T50.

Although the A-1 remains a technical milestone, it is also an eminently practical, easy-to-use camera that continues to appeal.



1. Electromagnetic shutter release. 2. Aperture-time dial cover. 3. PC-terminal cover. 4. Rewind crank. 5. Exposure-hold button. 6. Exposure-preview button. 7. Stop-down metering lever. 8. Battery compartment. 9. Hand-grip attachment socket. 10. Shutter-release lock. 11. Self-timer lever. 12. Wind lever. 13. Exposure-mode selector. 14. Shutter-speed/aperture scale. 15. Dedicated flash contacts/hot flash shoe. 16. Battery-check button. 17. LED display switch/battery check light. 18. ASA/exposure-compensation dial.

It seems incredible that this, the first of the modern, multi-mode, electronically controlled SLRs, was first introduced back in 1978. But even more remarkable is the way in which its once-radical design concept has stood the test of time.

Pick up this light, well balanced camera, look through the viewfinder while pressing slightly on the ultra-smooth magnetic shutter release and you will see an information display so comprehensive and clear, it's still considered one of the best and most user-friendly yet devised.

Below the focusing screen, in bright red calculator-type numerals, are displayed the shutter speed set and the aperture set. Swing the camera from a light to a dark area, and the numbers magically change. Although the exposure is continuously variable in aperture and stepless in actual shutter speeds, the digital readout provides half f/stops and mid-shutter speeds all the way from f/1.4 to f/32 and from 30 sec. to 1/1000 sec. Switch to manual operation and an M appears; use a fully-coupled flash unit and an F appears when the unit is fully recycled; shift to a bulb exposure and the word "bulb" appears; into over- or underexposure and the appropriate aperture or shutter-speed numeral flashes in warning; foul up your set-