

Canon AE-1 Program

TYPE: 35mm eye-level single lens reflex camera.

LENS: 50mm f/1.4 or f/1.8 Canon FD in interchangeable Canon breech-bayonet mount, stops to f/22, focusing to 24 in.

SHUTTER: Electronically-controlled cloth focal-plane with speeds of 2 to 1/1000 sec. plus B, X-sync, electronic self-timer.

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

OTHER FEATURES: Six-volt alkaline lithium or silver battery powers silicon photo-diode metering circuit with single cell

above eyepiece providing center-weighted readings at full aperture, shutter-preferred or program auto exposure, manual override, exposure memory hold button, shutter lock, battery check with audible signal, film box reminder slot, removable hand grip, depth-of-field preview switch, dedicated hot shoe, provision for winder or motor drive, apertures, program and manual signals, flash symbol LEDs, over- and underexposure signals visible in the finder.

PRICE: \$481 with f/1.8; \$550 with f/1.4. Black body \$33 extra.

MANUFACTURER: Canon Camera Co.,

Tokyo, Japan.

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

PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS: 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ in. wide, 3 $\frac{1}{16}$ in. high, 3 $\frac{3}{16}$ in. deep.

WEIGHT: 1 lb. 10 $\frac{5}{8}$ oz.

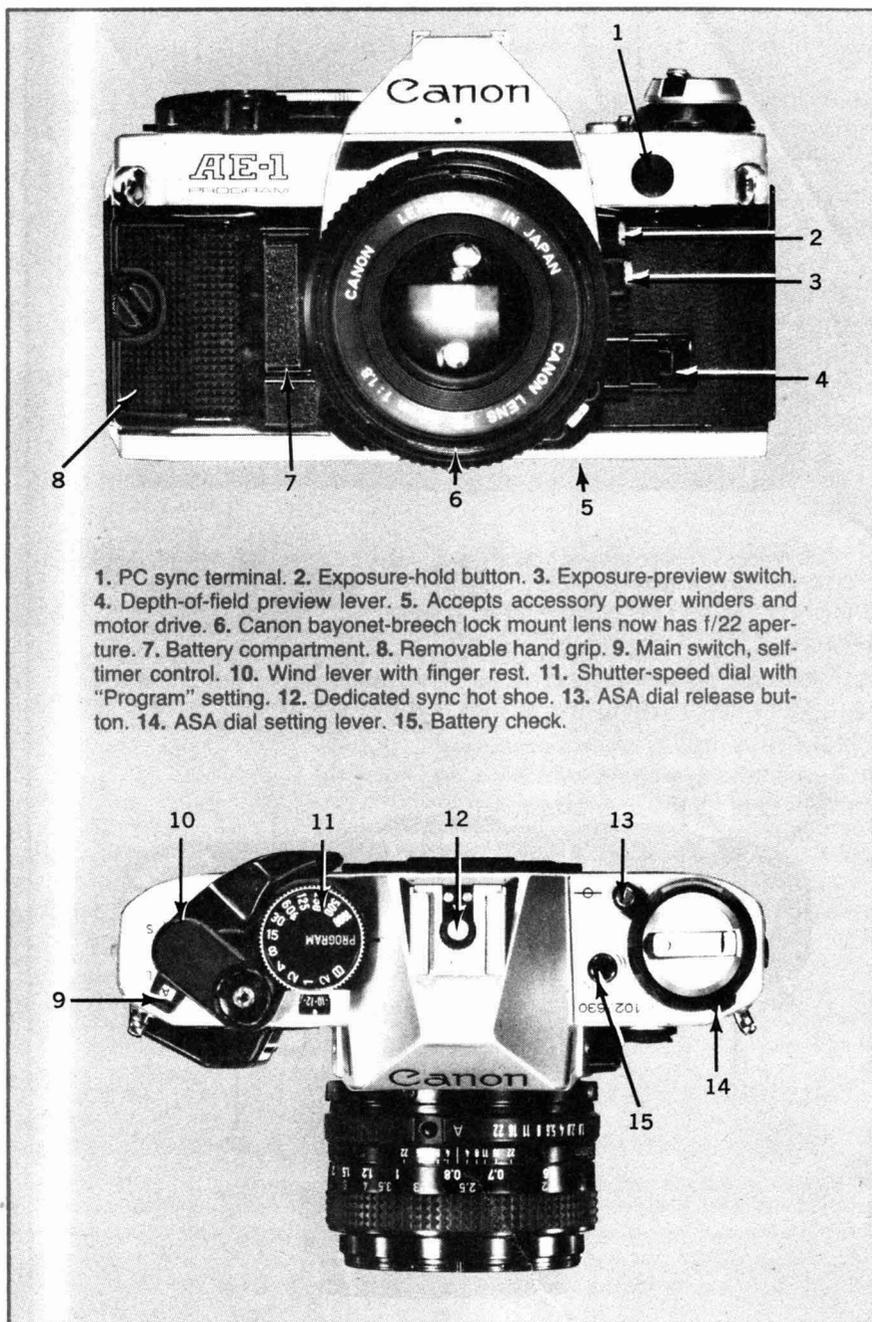
After approximately a year on the market, the AE-1 Program has proved itself a worthy stablemate to the AE-1 (still the top-selling SLR of its type). The programmed auto-exposure system's convenience and speed have proven a boon to many.

Incredibly, in a camera 1 oz. lighter than the AE-1, Canon has managed to add a full program auto-exposure mode (the silicon photo-diode metering circuit selects both shutter speed and aperture), interchangeable focusing screens with a brighter, vastly improved split-image rangefinder which doesn't black out one half or the other at apertures of f/5.6 or so, a highly visible, rugged LED viewfinder readout in place of the AE-1's needle indicator and many, many more improvements. These include provision to accept a 4-frame-per-second motor drive, a beeping battery checker, an exposure hold button (in place of the AE-1's 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -stop backlight exposure compensation button), a removable, furnished hand grip, a padded finger rest, an easier to operate stop down and preview lever, easier to set ASA dial and a repositioned shutter-speed dial far less likely to be turned inadvertently. Other small improvements, such as the higher, more accessible rewind lever, reveal themselves in use.

For most owners, the two major changes are the addition of the program shutter auto exposure and the LED viewfinder indicators. With the shutter-speed dial set to "program" and slight pressure applied to the shutter release a bright P in a green LED rectangle appears atop the aperture scale to the right of the picture area within the finder. The metering system, as light changes, will select the apertures and shutter speeds from f/1.4 at 1/8 sec. to 1/1000 sec. at f/16. The aperture set appears as a black numeral against a bright red LED on a vertical scale to the right in the finder. Below 1/30 sec. (lowest safe hand-holding speed) the P will blink in warning. (No, the shutter speed set does not appear in the finder.) Above f/16 or below the minimum aperture, the numerals blink to warn of under- or overexposure.

Turn the shutter-speed dial to any speed and the camera will automatically set the correct aperture (as on the AE-1) and show you the aperture set as a highly visible glowing LED backlit red numeral. Switch the lens aperture to manual openings, a red-backed M LED lights in the finder to warn you. The aperture scale continues to show you the proper aperture to set. A lightning LED indicator in the finder flashes when the flash unit is recycled and blinks after exposure if there is sufficient light.

It's gratifying to see a good camera made even greater, while bulk and price are both held in check.



1. PC sync terminal. 2. Exposure-hold button. 3. Exposure-preview switch. 4. Depth-of-field preview lever. 5. Accepts accessory power winders and motor drive. 6. Canon bayonet-breech lock mount lens now has f/22 aperture. 7. Battery compartment. 8. Removable hand grip. 9. Main switch, self-timer control. 10. Wind lever with finger rest. 11. Shutter-speed dial with "Program" setting. 12. Dedicated sync hot shoe. 13. ASA dial release button. 14. ASA dial setting lever. 15. Battery check.