

Canon EOS 750/850

FOCUSING: AF or manual. Focus-priority (single shot) AF using Canon BASIS (Base Stored Image Sensor) TTL phase-detection system. AF range EV 1-18.

LENSES: Interchangeable Canon EF (electronic-focusing) lenses with integral AF motors, in Canon EF bayonet mount.

SHUTTER: Electronically controlled vertical-travel focal plane with speeds from 2-1/2000 second. X sync at 1/60-1/125 second.

FILM ADVANCE: Motor-driven, with single-frame (in depth AE only) and continuous modes. Auto-loading and rewind to end of roll.

EXPOSURE SYSTEM: Program AE, depth-priority AE. Program adjusts to lens focal length. SPD above eyepiece makes six-segment overall readings. EV 0-20 (at ISO 100, with f/1.4 lens). ISO 25-3200 for DX-coded film, non-coded set to ISO 25.

VIEWFINDER: Fixed eye-level prism with non-interchangeable focusing screens. Screen has center AF brackets, full manual-focus area. LEDs below image area show exposure OK,

low-light warning, flash data.

FLASH: SPD cell in mirror box for centerweighted off-the-film-reading flash AE. 750: Built-in flash with focus-assist beam pops up and fires automatically in low-light or back-light conditions. Flash-off switch. Guide number 39 (at ISO 100, in feet); recycling time two seconds. Dedicated hot shoe. 850: Dedicated hot shoe for Canon E-160E flash, with focus-assist beam and auto-on feature. Also accepts EZ-series units.

OTHER FEATURES: Self-timer, beeper for focus-confirmation and battery check.

BATTERY: One 6-volt lithium cell. **PRICE:** 750: Body only, \$470; with 50mm f/1.8 lens (as shown), \$609. 850: Body only, \$410; with 50mm f/1.8 lens, \$549. Speedlite 160E, \$110.

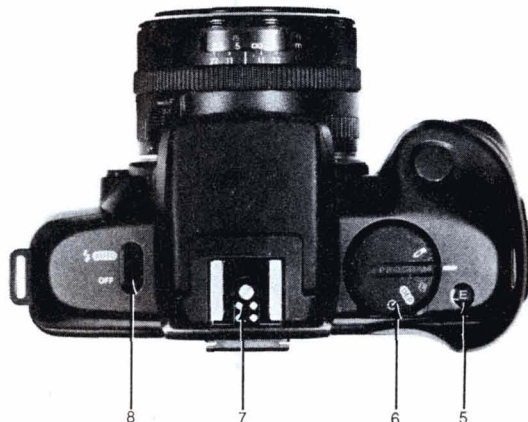
EOS cameras tend to come in twos, so we weren't surprised to discover a pair of additions to this capable AF family. The new EOS 750 and 850 are slightly more compact than their senior siblings, with the same soap-bar-left-in-the-shower shape. Fortunately, Canon's BASIS AF system and EF lenses have been carried over as well, making autofocus quick, quiet and accurate under a wide range of lighting conditions. Many other aspects of the 750 and 850 have been simplified, however, to attract users of point-and-shoot cameras.

Before explaining how these cameras work, let's look at the differences between them. Simply stated, the 750 has a built-in flash with AF-assist beam and the 850 doesn't. In low-light or high-contrast conditions, the 750 flash automatically pops up and starts cycling as soon as you touch the shutter button. Power is supplied by the camera's 6-volt lithium battery. Once the flash is ready (about two seconds), you press the button all the way in to take the picture. After exposure the flash automatically retracts. A hot shoe on the prism flash housing also lets you attach more powerful dedicated flash units.

The 850 lacks the built-in flash, but has the same dedicated hot shoe. By attaching the Speedlite 160E, you can duplicate the focus-assist and auto-on features of the 750 flash. The separate flash unit may not be as convenient, but it does offer three significant advantages: higher light output (guide number 52 versus 39 for the 750



1. Lens release button. 2. Shutter release. 3. Grip/battery cover. 4. Flash head. 5. Frame counter. 6. Selector dial. 7. Hot shoe. 8. Flash switch.



flash); greater distance from flash tube to lens, which should lessen red-eye effect; and a separate 6-volt lithium battery, so the camera battery will last longer. EZ-series flash units also work on the 850.

In every other way, the 750 and 850 are identical. Simply turn a large knurled wheel on the top deck to select either of the two AE modes, lock the shutter, check the battery or set the self-timer. There are no other controls, except a slider switch on the 750 to turn off the built-in flash. There are no manual exposure or film-speed settings.

In the program AE mode, the shutter speed is automatically kept high enough for hand-held shooting with the lens focal length or zoom setting in use. An LED in the finder blinks to warn of possible camera shake in low-light conditions. This LED also blinks when the exposure is out of range, and glows when exposure is okay. Another LED blinks or glows to indicate whether or not proper focus has been achieved. More advanced photographers will like the depth-priority AE mode, similar to that of the EOS 650. This unusual mode lets you ensure that two selected subjects at a distance from each other will both be rendered sharply.

The EOS 750 and 850 are the first SLRs to use a film-rewind system. After you auto-load the cam-

era, the entire roll of film is advanced automatically to the take-up spool. Then, as you take each picture, the exposed frame is wound back into the cassette. The advantage of this system (introduced in

Fuji point-and-shoots) is that accidental opening of the camera back will fog blank, rather than exposed, film. It's another way of making low-tech photographers comfortable with high-performance SLRs.