

Canon FT QL

TYPE: 35mm eye-level single-lens reflex.
LENS: 50mm f/1.8, 50mm f/1.4 or 58mm f/1.2 Canon FL with interchangeable breech lock bayonet mount, stops to f/16, focusing to 2 ft.

SHUTTER: Cloth focal-plane with speeds from 1 to 1/1000 sec. plus B, FP and X sync, self timer.

VIEWING: Non-interchangeable eye-level prism with full focusing screen plus central grid, fine focusing rectangle.

OTHER FEATURES: Mercury battery-powered CdS exposure meter, behind-lens, coupled to shutter speed and lens aperture controls, instant-return mirror, quick-return diaphragm, depth of field preview ring, meter pointer visible in finder, quick-loading film mechanism.
PRICE: with 50mm f/1.8 Canon FL, \$239.95; with 50mm f/1.4 Canon FL, \$289.95; with 58mm f/1.2 Canon FL, \$324.95.

MANUFACTURER: Canon Camera Co., Japan. **IMPORTER:** Bell & Howell Co., Chicago, Ill. 60645.

PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS: 5 $\frac{5}{8}$ in. long, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep. **WEIGHT:** 2 lb. 4 oz.

The announcement of the Canon FT was even more significant than that of the Pellix, of which it is almost the spitting image—but \$60 less expensive and with an instant-return mirror instead of a fixed pellicle. It also has a semi-spot meter reading system that measures $\frac{1}{3}$ the picture area but uses a different metering device. Then there is the superbly finished, rather compact SLR body originally introduced in the Canon FX (still in the line, by the way); the traditional Canon large diameter (1 $\frac{7}{8}$ in.) breech-lock lens mount (you connect lens and body, then twist an outer knurled ring about 45° to lock them together. In MODERN's opinion, the breech lock is a superior lens mounting mechanism. It can never come loose. If and when there is some slight wear or loosening of the mount lip, the turning outer ring takes up the slack and keeps it as tight as ever. It's a design somewhat similar to that used on the breeches of giant cannons—for the same reason); and the QL film loading system.

The FT allows virtually no extraneous light from the finder to affect the meter, according to our tests, and with the instant-return mirror as protection, no light can possibly strike the film from the eyepiece during exposure. Therefore, the FT needs no eyepiece light shield.

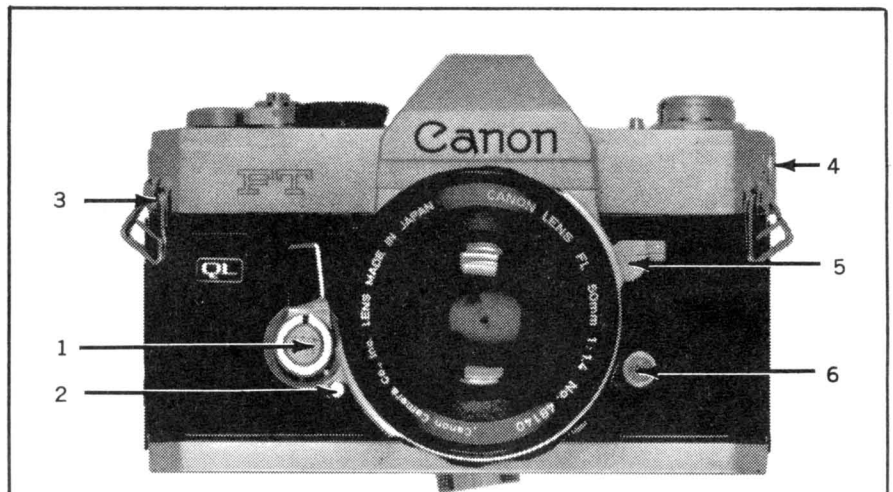
The FT does not measure the light at the film plane. Instead, the condenser above the focusing screen and below the prism which usually aids overall picture brightness has been diagonally split. The center of the split, at which a partially silvered mirror has been placed, allows 60 percent of the viewing light to continue through the

prism to the eyepiece. The other 40 percent is reflected backward to a CdS cell at the rear of the condenser. The fine focusing rectangle in the FT, therefore, is actually the partially silvered mirror letting in 60 percent of the light. Because of the 40 percent loss to the CdS cell, the rectangle is darker than the surrounding area, which gets 100 percent of the light. With an ASA 400 film the FT meter system can read $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. at f/1.4.

The central grid is extremely fine and worked well with lenses up to 300mm f/5.6, and can be used as a standard focusing area beyond this

point. Naturally the grid does fracture out of focus images more acutely in the mid-range of normal focal lengths from 35mm to 135mm. The fine focusing rectangle must be rated excellent for accurate focusing and the outer concentric Fresnel rings are so fine that this area is almost as good for focusing as the rectangle. Few SLR's can be focused with equal precision.

In practical field tests the FT behaved very nicely. It became a real favorite around the MODERN office because of its construction, ease of handling and semi-spot meter.



1. Self timer/meter circuit switch. 2. Meter circuit switch lock. 3. Carrying strap lug. 4. Meter battery compartment. 5. Mirror lock-up lever. 6. Flash sync terminal. 7. Shutter speed dial. 8. ASA film speed scale. 9. Shutter release button. 10. Shutter release lock. 11. Auto resetting frame counter. 12. Film advance le-

ver. 13. Film plane indicator. 14. Accessory shoe. 15. Viewfinder eyepiece. 16. Battery check lever. 17. Rewind crank. 18. Lens lock control ring. 19. Depth of field scale. 20. Footage scale/focusing ring. 21. Depth of field preview ring. 22. Aperture scale. 23. Aperture index.

