

# CANON FTb

**TYPE:** 35mm eye-level single-lens reflex.  
**LENS:** 50mm f/1.8 Canon FD with interchangeable breech lock 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:** Noninterchangeable eye-level prism with central grid, fine focusing rectangle, full focusing screen.  
**OTHER FEATURES:** Mercury battery-powered CdS meter, behind lens, measures central picture area at full or working aperture, instant-return mirror, quick-return di-

aphragm, depth-of-field preview, mirror lock, quick loading.  
**PRICE:** \$302.50.  
**MANUFACTURER:** Canon Camera Co., Tokyo, Japan.  
**IMPORTER:** Bell & Howell Co., 7100 McCormick Rd., Chicago, Ill. 60645.  
**PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS:** 5 5/8 in. long, 3 3/4 in. high, 3 1/2 in. deep. **WEIGHT:** 2 lb. 4 oz.

Since its introduction last year, the FTb has been fulfilling its promise as a worthy successor to the older FT and a budget-priced version of the F-1. It combines the

basic construction, control positioning, shutter and QL quick-load system enjoyed on the FT with the new full-aperture metering system incorporated in the F-1, but is almost \$250 lower in price.

Unlike the earlier FT, it is unnecessary to take finder-dimming readings at shooting aperture. This information is transferred directly to the meter, so the finder remains bright.

Let's start with the Canon FTb finder. It shows 94 percent of the actual picture area (thus allowing some margin for the edges of transparencies being covered by cardboard mounts). The image is slightly less than life-size (.85X with a 50mm lens). The very excellent central microprism is the same size as that in the Canon FT but appears to be slightly finer. It shatters out-of-focus images very well and snaps into sharpness at precise focus. The longish central rectangular gray area surrounding the microprism area is the actual diagonal semisilvered split prism which channels light from the lens back to the CdS cell behind the focusing screen. It also serves as the finder indicator area for the meter measuring spot. In the FT, it was a fairly darkish gray, since some 40 percent of the total illumination was needed for the meter. However, in the FTb (like the F-1) the use of a more efficient meter cell has reduced the amount of light needed to about 22 percent. Hence the darkish gray of the FT has become considerably brighter in the FTb.

To use stop-down aperture either with the FD lenses or the older Canon FL lenses, you push the big preview lever (2) toward the lens. The large ring inside the finder drops out of sight and you align the meter needle in the finder with a stubby index point at shooting aperture. If you want, you can lock the preview lever in place (1) or just remove pressure and the diaphragm will reopen immediately. The lowest shutter speed which will give you proper meter reading is 1/15 sec. using an ASA 400 film, irrespective of the lens aperture. In our tests, the metering system was extremely accurate, with no deviation at all from a known light source all the way up and down its range except in three places, where deviation was held to no more than 1/3 f-stop in two settings and 1/2 f-stop in a third. The shutter-speed accuracy was nearly the same.

Happily, all present and past FL and earlier Canon SLR lenses can fit the FTb. All FL lenses can be used on the F-1 or FTb with metering at stop-down aperture. The automatic diaphragm mechanisms are compatible too. And if you use a new FD lens on an FT camera, you can operate it just as you would the regular FL lenses. So there is no loss of any lens service by using the FL lenses on the F-1 or FTb cameras, or using the FD lenses on the FT.

We were impressed with the ease of handling and convenient operation of the FTb. It was a consistently high performer both in our lab and on practical tests in the field.

