Canon T80

LENS: 50mm f/1.8 AC Canon (autofocus) in interchangeable Canon breech-bayonet mount, apertures to f/22, focus to 19 in.
SHUTTER: Electronically-controlled Canon EMAS-II metal-blade focal-plane with speeds from 2 to 1/1000 sec. plus B, 1/90 sec. X sync, electronic self-timer with beeper.
VIEWING: Non-interchangeable eye-level prism, double split-image rangefinder, microprism collar, full-area focusing screen.
OTHER FEATURES: Four AAA cells power auto focus, wind, rewind, shutter mechanism and silicon photo cell metering circuit with cell above eyepiece; cell measures center-weighted area for normal, deep focus, shallow focus, stop action and "flowing" program auto-exposure or stop-down metered exposure control; LCD panel atop camera indicates exposure mode, shutter speed (flowing, manual, bulb modes only), film speed index, frame counter, bulb and self-timer second counter, beeper indicator, flash ready, stop-down indicator, film load, wind and rewind, battery check, end of film signal; LEDs in finder indicate exposure mode, camera shake over/underexposure warning, mode warning, flash ready; shutter lock; dedicated hot shoe; accepts remote control, accessory data back with delayed interval release capabilities.
PRICE: $520, with 50mm f/1.8 AC.
MANUFACTURER: Canon Camera Co., Tokyo, Japan.
IMPORTER: Canon USA Inc., Lake Success, NY 11040.
PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS: 5½-in. wide. 4-in. high, 3⅞-in. deep.
WEIGHT: 1 lb. 12 oz.

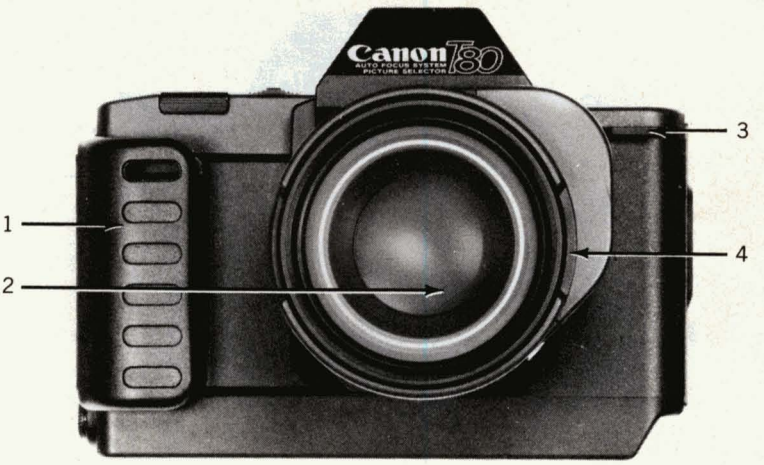
The higher number given to this newest member of Canon's T family of electronic SLRs indicates that it is the latest of the series, not necessarily the most sophisticated. While maintaining the general physical appearance—a polycarbonate exterior covering an inner metal shell—of previous Ts, Canon kept the auto features and shed just about all of the manual functions of the earlier T50 and T70 and made the 80 an auto-program-exposure-only machine, with one very important and sophisticated addition. With a choice of four, yes four, programs, the T80 is a versatile SLR, rising above the point-and-shoot level, but its most noteworthy feature is automatic focusing.

To carry out this desirable feature, Canon has designed a new group of lenses, designated AC, equipped with the necessary half-dozen gold contacts needed for operation with the camera's focus and exposure control circuitry. In addition to the normal 50mm f/1.8 AC, there's a 35-70mm f/3.5-4.5 zoom and a soon-to-be-available 75-200mm f/4.5, both with macro.

Focusing is accomplished with slight (it may take a short while to develop the right, light touch) pressure on the shutter release (7), after which a triple CCD sensor located at the bottom of the mirror chamber determine's your subject's highest point of contrast and signals the lens (2) by way of the electrical contacts in the lens mount. A micromotor (4) bulging out from the left side of the lens then drives the lens to the closest focus point.

All three AC lenses can be focused manually as can just about all current, conventional Canon FD lenses. When focusing the former in this manner, the user is aided by the T80's unique double (horizontal and vertical) split-image rangefinder, while such action with the FD optics is further helped by an audible beep autofocus signal.

By sliding a switch (14) on the AC lens, you can select either manual or one of two autofocusing methods. In the "one-shot" mode, the micromotor drives the lens to proper focus, at which time it locks and a double beep is sounded. If you want the lens to focus continuously, as on a moving subject, switch to "servo" and you'll keep getting that double beep each time the lens locks in on that elusive subject. You can turn off the beep, if you like, but you won't get a visible AF confirmation.



1. Front handgrip. **2.** 50mm f/1.8 AC Canon autofocusing lens. **3.** Neck strap lug. **4.** Lens micromotor housing. **5.** Distance scale. **6.** Mode selector slide switch. **7.** Electromagnetic shutter release. **8.** LCD control panel. **9.** Rear finger grip. **10.** Dedicated hot shoe. **11.** Battery check button. **12.** ISO/ASA film speed setting button. **13.** Exposure mode selector button. **14.** Autofocus mode selector switch. **15.** Autofocus mode index.