

# Minolta SR-T201

**TYPE:** 35mm eye-level SLR.

**LENS:** 50mm f/1.4 Rokkor-X in interchangeable bayonet mount, stops to f/16, focusing to 1.75 ft.

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

**VIEWING:** Fixed eye-level prism and microprism spot, groundglass collar, full-focusing screen.

**OTHER FEATURES:** One mercury battery powers circuit using two CdS cells in series to produce Contrast Light Compensating measurement of entire screen at full aperture, shutter speeds and match-needle indicators visible in finder, depth-of-field preview, self-timer, built-in hot shoe and X-sync terminal, film-type reminder slot for film-box end.

**PRICE:** \$472 with 50mm f/1.4 Rokkor-X lens; \$566 with 50mm f/1.2 Rokkor lens.

**MANUFACTURER:** Minolta Camera Co., Ltd., Osaka, Japan.

**IMPORTER:** Minolta Corp., 101 Williams Drive, Ramsey, NJ 07446.

**PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS:** 5 5/8 in. wide, 3 1/2 in. high, 3 1/2 in. deep.

**WEIGHT:** 2 lb. 4 1/2 oz.

Out of the entire SR-T lineage, the 201 remains as sole survivor and a camera that has proven itself reliable over many years. Basically unchanged, the present 201 reverts back to split-image focusing within a microprism collar.

Over the years, all the various SR-Ts have accumulated a few refinements here and there but, stack up the present 201 against an older model, and you look long and hard before discerning a real difference. Since the SR-Ts have proven themselves among the best match-needle metering SLRs over the years, the overriding philosophy may be: Why spoil a good thing at this point?

Recent changes—inherited from the 202—include a convenient film-box-end flap holder to remind you of the film within; a welcome coin-slotted battery compartment cover and a shutter-cocking mechanism that prevents advancing the wind lever while your finger is still on the shutter release button. There is also one flash sync terminal for X-sync only, in addition to the hot shoe on top, and a depth-of-field preview button that must be held in place to stop down the lens. Minolta has also eliminated the mirror lockup, but this does not seem to adversely affect telephoto shots.

Looking closer, we find the multiple focusing option of a clear-cut microprism circle within a ground-glass collar, plus a Fresnel matte screen. Shutter-speed settings are clearly displayed within a band at the viewfinder's bottom. And there is the familiar matched needle arrangement at the right of the finder. Change either the f/stop or shutter speed and needles overlap.

To load, pull up the film-rewind knob in the conventional way, pull the film leader across and slip it into a large, convenient

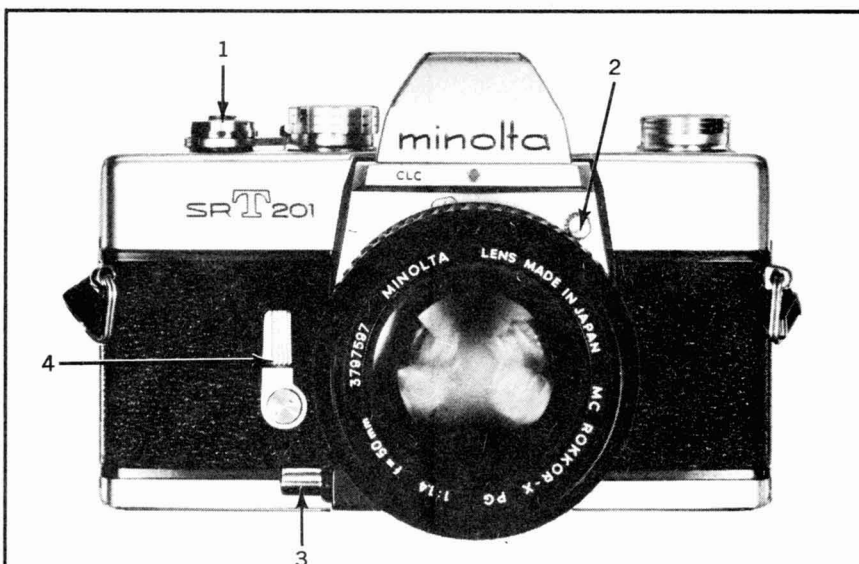
take-up spool slot. The shutter cocks with an easy "half-throw" of the winder lever. The shutter button itself has a smooth, comfortable release.

To change film speed, simply lift up on the knurled dial next to the wind lever and turn. Shutter speeds, on the same dial, click positively into place. The self-timer, as tested, provides a full 10-sec. interval before releasing the shutter. One recent change for the body lens coupling: It's now a hard plastic.

Minolta provides three normal lenses for the 201 (and other Minoltas): a six-element

50mm f/1.7, a seven-element 500mm f/1.4 and a seven-element 50mm f/1.2. Exterior embellishments include easy-to-grip diamond-studded rubberized focusing rings, a large knurled shutter-speed dial, f/stops in white for better visibility, and lens caps with tab grips that hold securely.

The matched-needle metering system (with Rokkor and Rokkor-X lenses), using Minolta's famous Contrast Light Compensator approach, remains the same; that is, it balances out most unusually contrasty scenes without having to open up or close down, as with averaging-type systems.



1. Shutter-release button. 2. Lens-release button. 3. Depth-of-field preview button, usable for making stop-down auto exposures. 4. Self-timing lever for delayed shutter release. 5. Film

advance wind lever. 6. Manual shutter speed dial with speeds from 1 to 1/1000 sec., plus B. 7. X-sync PC flash terminal. 8. ASA film-index scale with indices from 60 to 6400.

