

Minolta X-700

TYPE: 35mm eye-level single-lens reflex camera.

LENS: 50mm f/1.4 or f/1.7 Minolta MD in interchangeable Minolta bayonet mount, stops to f/22, focusing to 18 in. (0.45m).

SHUTTER: Electronically-timed, horizontal-travel cloth focal-plane with speeds from 1-1/1000 sec. plus B, X sync at 1/60 sec., electronic self-timer.

VIEWING: Non-interchangeable eye-level prism with dealer-interchangeable screens; standard screen has central split-image rangefinder, microprism collar, full area fine-focusing.

OTHER FEATURES: Two 1.5-volt silver-

oxide or alkaline batteries power silicon photo-cell atop the pentaprism eyepiece, reading center-weighted area of focusing screen at full aperture for programmed or aperture-preferred (you set the aperture, camera selects shutter speed) automatic exposure, or metered manual exposure; LED display in finder indicates camera-selected shutter speeds in auto-exposure modes, recommended shutter speeds in manual mode, plus over-, underexposure warnings, mode in use, flash ready and flash distance check; exposure-compensation dial with viewfinder warning, off-the-film autoflash via second silicon cell

in side of mirror box; built-in exposure hold; film-advance verification signal; audible slow shutter speed and LED self-timer warning, provision for wire or electric releases and IR remote; depth-of-field preview button; body accepts winder or Motor Drive, Multi-Function back, IR remote control.

PRICE: \$568 with 50mm f/1.4 Minolta MD lens, \$505 with 50mm f/1.7 Minolta MD lens.

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

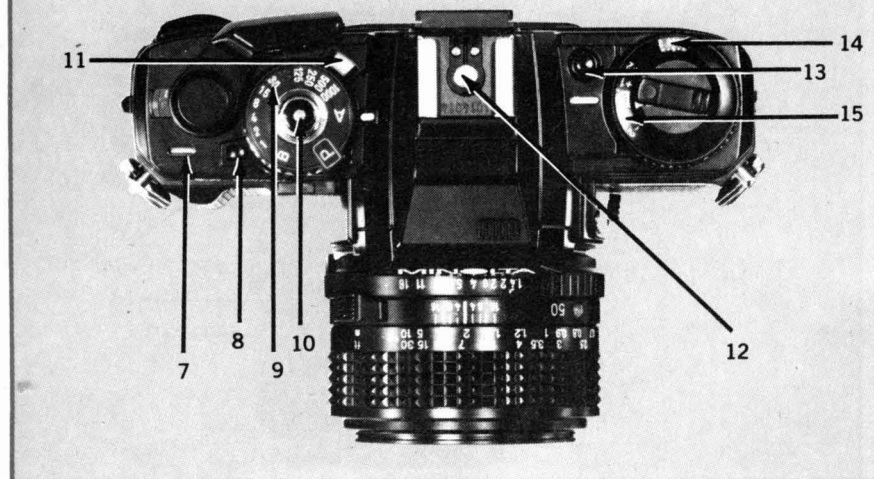
IMPORTER: Minolta Corp. Ramsey, N.J. 07446.

PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS: 5³/₁₆ in. wide, 3³/₁₆ in. high, 3⁷/₁₆ in. deep.

WEIGHT: 1 lbs, 7¹¹/₁₆ oz.



1. Integral grip. 2. Self-timer/AE lock. 3. Piezo-electric beeper. 4. Folded rewind crank. 5. Lens-release button. 6. Depth-of-field preview. 7. Film-advance confirmation window. 8. AE mode release button. 9. Shutter-speed/AE-mode dial. 10. Shutter-release/exposure system turn-on button. 11. Main power switch mode window. 12. Dedicated hot shoe. 13. Exposure-compensation release button. 14. ASA scale. 15. Exposure-compensation scale.



Minolta's new flagship X-700 provides the options of programmed auto exposure and metered manual exposure à la the XG-M. Just as importantly, the X-700 is the first Minolta SLR to have off-the-film (OTF) flash-exposure metering, offering the luxury of "any-aperture" autoflash in the "A" (aperture-preferred) mode and extended-range autoflash in the "P" (programmed auto-exposure) mode. If this isn't enough to whet your appetite, the X-700 has one of the most comprehensive LED finder readout systems to be found on any SLR and, as Minolta justly claims, the new camera is "at the center of the Minolta Program System." This comprehensive array of accessories includes a most amazing data back that not only imprints sequentially but controls the camera's functions, a three-channel infrared remote, a dedicated, hot-shoe-mounted flash which converts to a tiltable, rotating mini-potato-masher, and the usual motors and winders. Clearly, Minolta's intention was to produce an SLR with broad-spectrum appeal, a camera usable by beginners and nonexperts, but having enough sophistication to satisfy the most advanced of amateurs and even a few pros.

The satin-black-finished X-700 body is based on the XG-M. It's about average in size and weight among contemporary SLRs, and its controls are conveniently and conventionally located. As soon as you pick the camera up you become aware of one of its most agreeable features, its built-in "anatomical grip." It's complemented by an angled, contoured thumb rest on the hinged back, which has an adjacent textured surface similar to that on the front grip. Grab the camera with your right hand and arch your index finger over the shutter release and it feels comfortable and secure. Most of the major controls are conveniently arrayed on top and are easy to manipulate with the camera at eye level.

As you can see, the X-700 qualifies as a photographic system as well as a very well thought out camera. For all its individual niceties and sophistication, it has few, if any, "window dressing" features. It's all very straightforward, easy to understand and use, and so cleverly automated that it will appeal to non-technical amateurs as well as advanced photographers.