

CANON AE-1

TYPE: 35mm eye-level single-lens reflex.
LENS: 50mm f/1.8 Canon FD in interchangeable Canon breech-lock mount, stops to f/16, focusing to 24 in.
SHUTTER: Electronically controlled cloth focal-plane with speeds from 2 to 1/1000 sec. plus B, X sync, electronic self timer.
VIEWING: Non-interchangeable eye-level prism with split-image rangefinder, micro-prism collar, full focusing screen.
OTHER FEATURES: Single silicon photo cell above eyepiece measures center weighted picture area of focusing screen at full aperture for fully automatic (you set

the shutter speed, the camera sets the aperture) exposure, manual override, auto-exposure compensation, aperture scale, underexposure warning diode, manual diode signal in the viewfinder, hot shoe, depth of field preview lever, battery check, film reminder slot, provision for power winder, camera-setting auto exposure flash unit.
PRICE: \$413 with 50mm f/1.8 lens.
MANUFACTURER: Canon Camera Co., Tokyo, Japan.
IMPORTER: Canon USA, Inc., 10 Nevada Dr., Lake Success, N.Y. 11040.

PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS: 5¼ in. wide, 3¼ in. high, 3½ in. deep. **WEIGHT:** 29 oz.

Usually conservative Canon this year introduced a camera which inevitably will be the forerunner of all their cameras to come—a small fully automatic exposure SLR run by a tiny silicon chip microcomputer in which all the main control and operating functions are handled. As in the Canon EF, the camera employs Canon's concept of what's best in an automatic SLR: shutter-speed-preferred automation.

The camera body itself is radically new and small for Canon although not as miniaturized as an Olympus or Miranda dx-3. However, with its new plastic-barreled f/1.8 lens, the AE-1 weighs but 29 oz., very close to the weight of the Olympus OM-1 or 2.

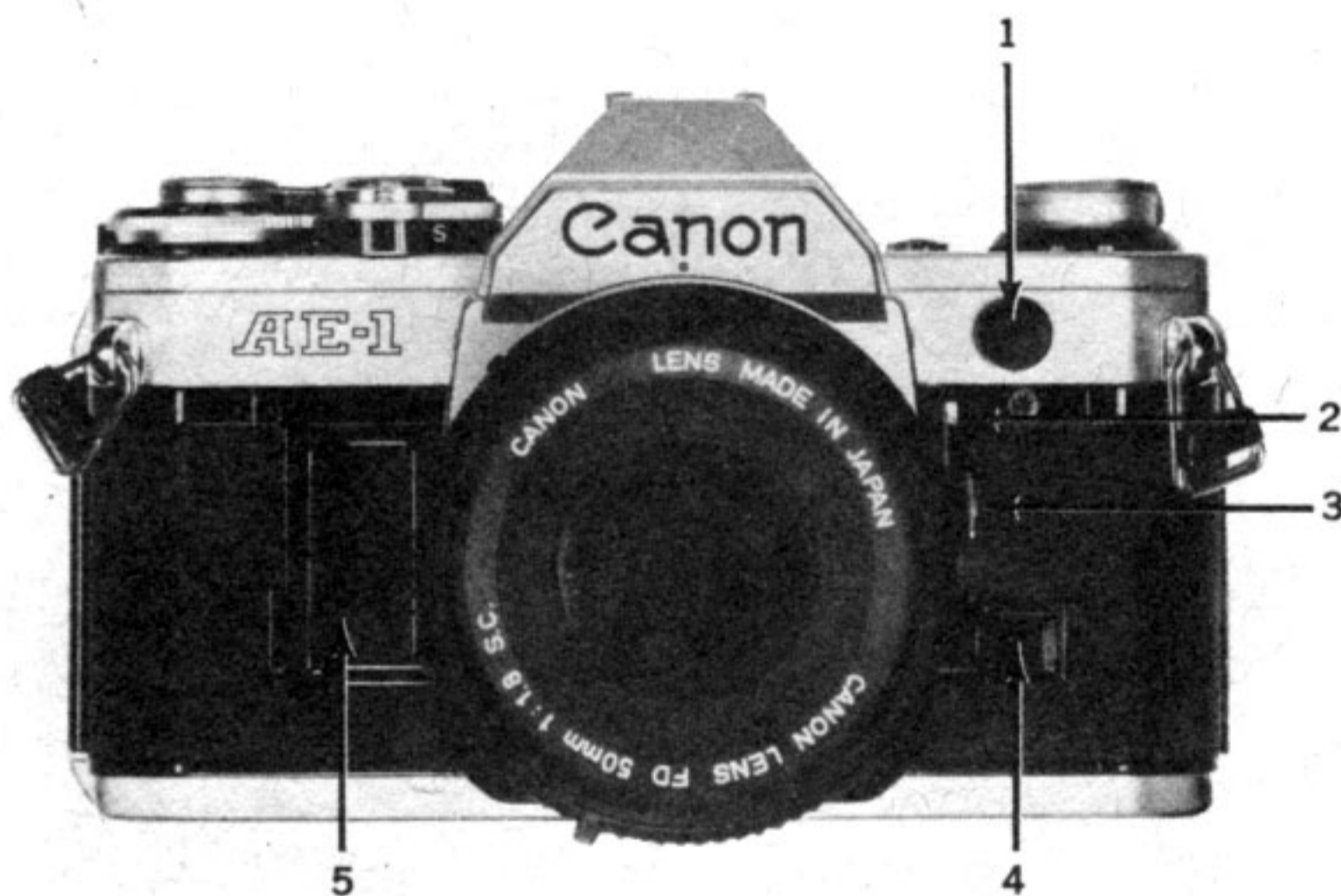
The camera holds and operates most conveniently. By exerting slight pressure on the shutter release, you turn on the metering circuit. The aperture pointer immediately swings to the to-be-set lens opening (alas there is no shutter speed scale in the finder). If the shutter speed is insufficient for proper exposure even at full aperture a red warning diode blinks in the finder. If you turn your lens off the automatic exposure setting, a big red M starts pulsating in the finder to warn you that you are in the manual exposure mode. However, it is somewhat inconvenient to attempt setting shutter speeds while keeping the exposure circuit on in this manner. Therefore, Canon has built in an exposure preview button near the lens mount which activates the meter the same way as the shutter release. Another button provides 1½ f/stops additional exposure for backlit and similar situations. There is a third button which, when pressed, acts as a battery check. There is further, a depth of field control and release button, nice to have but less convenient to use than those on other cameras.

The finder view is adequately bright, the contrast good, the microprism collar reliable with lenses of f/4 or larger, the split-image rangefinder can be used for all lenses down to f/8. At smaller apertures, the field focusing screen must be used.

While we found setting shutter speeds not too easy, this was a minor drawback compared to the many other Canon assets such as the electronic self-timer which winks at the subject during operation to warn that it's working, the easily attached Power Winder and the provision for automatic flash which actually sets the camera's shutter to the proper speed and the lens to the correct aperture.

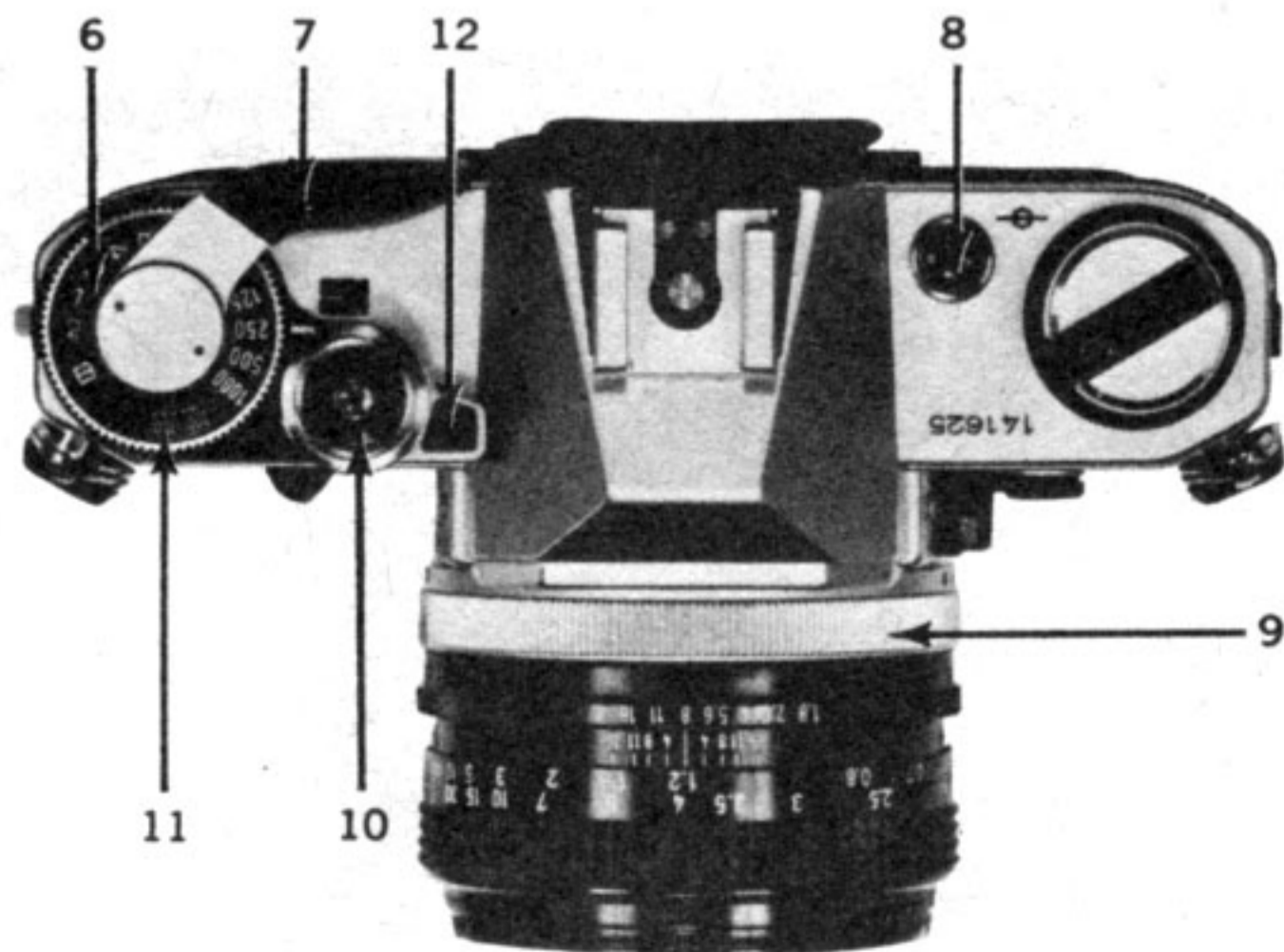
The camera's center weighted metering system can set proper exposure down to ¼ sec. at full aperture with an ASA 400 film.

Just as the Olympus OM-1, when introduced in 1972, pointed the way to the future in the miniaturization of the SLR's overall size, so the Canon AE-1 provides the key to the electronic design of SLR's to come. We look forward to other Canon SLR's in this family.



1. Sync terminal. 2. Exposure-compensation button. 3. Aperture preview button. 4. Depth-of-field preview lever. 5. Battery-compartment cover. 6. Shutter-

speed dial. 7. Wind lever. 8. Battery-check button. 9. Breech-lock ring. 10. Magnetic shutter release. 11. ASA index scale. 12. Self-timer/shutter lock.



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