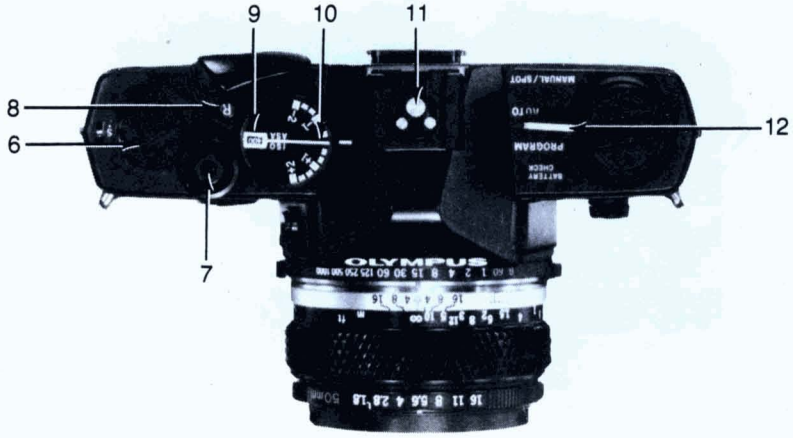
Olympus OM-2S Program

LENS: 50mm f/1.8, f/1.4, or f/1.2 Zuiko in interchangeable bayonet mount, stops to f/16, focus to 18 in.
SHUTTER: Electronically controlled, rubberized cloth focal plane with speeds of 60-1/1000 sec. plus B; mechanical 1/60 sec. flash sync speed.
VIEWING: Non-interchangeable eye-level prism with interchangeable central split-image, microprism collar, matte outer area standard screen.
OTHER FEATURES: Silicon photodiode (SPD) cell aimed at film plane provides off-the-film-plane (OTF) center-weighted averaging measurement in programmed exposure mode and aperture preferred auto exposure mode; TTL spot metering in manual mode for films ISO/ASA 12-3200; multi-mode LCD finder display with 2 min. limiter has built-in illuminator with 10 sec. limiter; battery checker with three-level display LED and sound alarm automatically locks camera when batteries weak; electronic self-timer; removable back with memo holder accepts interchangeable bulk film and data backs.
PRICE: $480 with 50mm f/1.8, $550 with 50mm f/1.4, $715 with 50mm f/1.2; body only, $380.
MANUFACTURER: Olympus Optical Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan.
IMPORTER: Olympus Corp., Consumer Products Group, Woodbury, NY.
PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS: 5-5/16 in. wide, 3¼ in. high, 3-⅛ in. deep (w/f/1.8).
WEIGHT: 1 lb. 8-13/16 oz. with f/1.8.

1. Self-timer/beeper switch and LED. **2.** Finder illumination button. **3.** Finder light-collecting grid. **4.** TTL flash receptacle. **5.** PC contact. **6.** Wind-lever axis. **7.** Shutter release. **8.** Rewind button. **9.** Film speed window. **10.** Exposure compensation scale. **11.** Dedicated hot shoe. **12.** Exposure mode/battery check lever.



What's long been rumored has arrived: an Olympus SLR with a full program exposure system, in which the camera's metering system sets both the shutter speed and aperture. Called the OM-2S Program, it's designed for serious amateurs and pros as well as for tyros.

Although the camera bears a "2" in its name, it's far more a relative of the latest, all black OM-4. The 4 and the 2S share metal body casting, cloth focal-plane shutter, features, and control positions, as well as approximate weight and size.

The mode selector lever features settings for program, auto exposure (aperture preferred) and manual operation. In program mode the shutter speed set is visible in the finder as an LCD (liquid crystal display) similar to that in the OM-4 but arrayed vertically on the left-hand side of the picture area.

An LCD line of dashes, each equal to ⅓ of an f/stop, indicates the shutter speeds from 1 sec. to 1/1000 sec. (although speeds can be set as low as 1 min. or, in our tests, 2 min.) The program auto exposure provides full lens opening to 1/60 sec., above which shutter speed and aperture increase equally. Auto exposure aperture set is not displayed.

The finder also has under- and over-exposure flash warning signals, a green flash confirmation and O.K. signal, a schematic of the lens diaphragm plus arrows and audible warning signal indicating you have not set the lens properly for program mode and should close it down, and auto-exposure compensation markings.

The exposure system uses a secondary mirror behind the main mirror to refer exposure readings to the metering system prior to exposure but makes its actual camera settings (following release) from the first shutter curtain and/or the film itself. It can therefore provide exposure adjustments while the shutter is operating, even taking into account ambient light.

When the camera is switched to aperture-preferred auto exposure, it operates just as other automatic Olympus cameras. However, auto flash exposure is off the film surface using the standard Olympus, OM-4 configured dedicated flash from either the hot shoe or the multi-pin flash terminal on the body.

In manual mode, the metering system operates much like the OM-4's spot metering, while providing about a single 3° center spot reading through the secondary mirror behind the rapid return mirror (off-the-film metering is not in effect). In the finder, the segmented shutter-speed line is seen but with a centering point and arrows showing over-and under-exposure.

We plan to test this fascinating and innovative SLR as soon as we can get our hands on a production model.