

# CAMERA 35

THE MAGAZINE OF MINIATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

## *tests the* **Canon** **WIDEANGLES**

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1968 ISSUE





TESTED

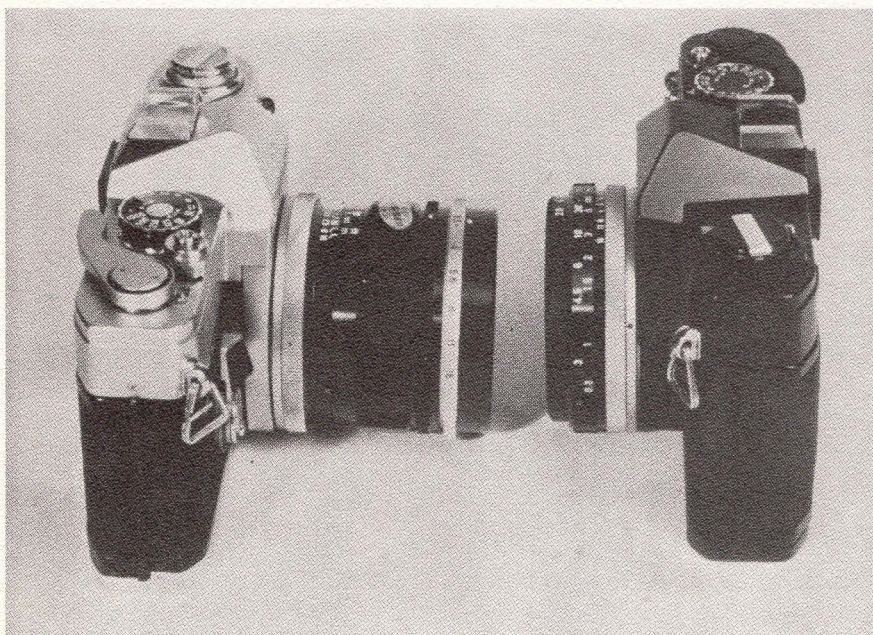
# Canon Wideangles

CANON WIDEANGLE lenses, so the catalogue says, "permit the coverage of expansive scenery, closeups, groups and situations where there is little freedom for camera movement. The shorter focal length permits a greater depth of field resulting in increased picture realism."

I have a big wish I'm going to tell you about right now! I wish I could rewrite the Canon catalogue! In fact, I'd be tempted to do it gratis because this is a sad situation.

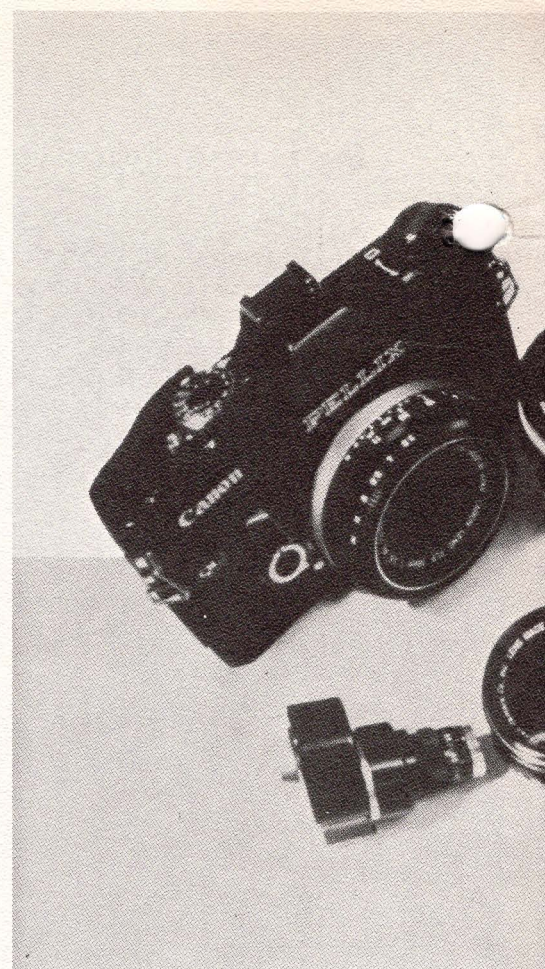
Sad? You may ask why. All right, you forced me to tell you. . . .

After having tested and been quite, quite impressed with the five Canon RF normal lenses (f/0.95-f/2.8) and four Canon SLR normals (including an auto-macro), I went on to test the nine (yes NINE) wide-angle lenses. Offering everything you could want in focal length, speed and specialization, including a uniquely compact 38mm f/2.8 for the Pellix, I pinned a question mark smack on



SIDE by side comparison of Canon FT-QL with FL 35mm f/2.5 lens (left) and Pellix with special FLP 38mm f/2.8 lens (right) shows how truly compact a wideangle lens can be.

*Enter the fantastic world of Canon wideangle lenses for RF and SLR cameras, and you may never want to leave. By the way, have you seen Mike Edelson lately?*



## CANON 28mm f/2.8

Lens # 17349

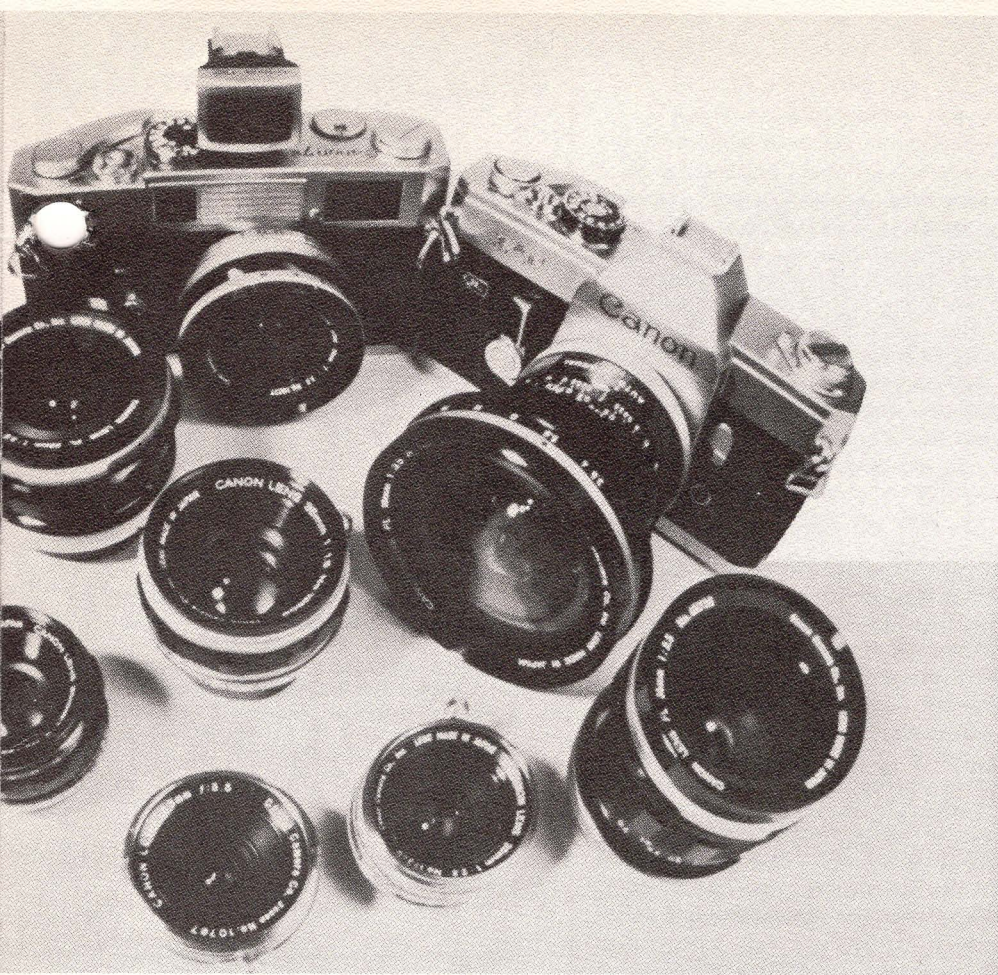
DIAPHRAGM .....Click stops  
DIAPHRAGM RANGE .....f/2.8 — f/22  
FOCUSING RANGE .....3 ft. 6 in — inf.  
WEIGHT .....5.6 oz.  
LENGTH .....¾ in.  
MAXIMUM DIAMETER .....42mm  
FILTER SIZE .....40mm  
FINISH .....Chrome  
PRICE .....\$161

### RESOLUTION TESTS

APERTURE	CENTER	EDGES
f/2.8	34	28
f/4	40	28
f/5.6	48	34
f/8	56	40
f/11	56	48
f/16	40	34
f/22	34	28

Satiated to the gills while still hungering for image-impact, the venerable 35mm wideangle lens has lost its claim to fame. So common, in fact, the 35 is almost "normal"; we turn to the 28mm lens because it can give us what we want . . . that good ol' wideangle impact at a moderate speed. OK? Among 28's, this is a great choice because it is a good optical performer, moderately priced and endearingly small. Once you get to know it, it is hard to live without. From f/5.6 it loses all flare and most vignetting. At f/8, it's at its best. And for \$161, it's hard to beat.





## CANON FLP 38mm f/2.8

Lens # 12492

DIAPHRAGM ..... Automatic  
 DIAPHRAGM RANGE ..... f/2.8 — f/16  
 FOCUSING RANGE ..... 2.7 ft. — inf.  
 WEIGHT ..... 7.4 oz.  
 LENGTH ..... 7/8 in.  
 MAXIMUM DIAMETER ..... 50mm  
 FILTER SIZE ..... 48mm  
 FINISH ..... Black & chrome  
 PRICE ..... \$94.95

### RESOLUTION TESTS

APERTURE	CENTER	EDGES
f/2.8	48	34
f/4	56	40
f/5.6	68	48
f/8	68	56
f/11	56	48
f/16	48	40

Taking advantage of the unique Pellix design characteristics, Canon engineers created this ultra-compact 38mm wide-angle lens. Compact because the bulk of the glass sits in the Pellix, since mirror-clearance logistics simply do not exist. The focal length and modest aperture take some getting used to . . . f/2.8 on the Pellix is really a third of a stop less than marked. Of course, the Pellix's meter takes this into account. It is interesting to note how you start to see images in wideangle terms. As with most wideangles, there is some vignetting wide open; it disappears at f/4.5 and f/8 is the top f/stop. Contrast picks up earlier, at about f/4.5.

## CANON 25mm f/3.5

Lens # 10767

DIAPHRAGM ..... Click stops  
 DIAPHRAGM RANGE ..... f/3.5 — f/22  
 FOCUSING RANGE ..... 3 ft. 6 in. — inf.  
 WEIGHT ..... .5 oz.  
 LENGTH ..... 3/4 in.  
 MAXIMUM DIAMETER ..... 42mm  
 FILTER SIZE ..... 40mm  
 FINISH ..... Chrome  
 PRICE ..... \$176

### RESOLUTION TESTS

APERTURE	CENTER	EDGES
f/3.5	48	34
f/4	56	40
f/5.6	68	40
f/8	80	56
f/11	56	40
f/16	48	34
f/22	34	28

As with the 28mm f/2.8 lens, this 25mm optic offers much. Besides optical performance (look at f/8!) and moderate price, it opens up a new world of shooting because it's almost nothing to carry . . . 5 oz.! Mounted on a RF Canon body or even pre-war Leica, younger photo buffs might think you're toting a half-framer. Any flare and slight vignetting noticed at f/3.5 and f/4 is gone at f/5.6. Top f/stop is easily f/8, but the others are not that far behind. If you want to get in the habit of camera carrying again, leave your SLR and try this neat 25mm.

## CANON FL 35mm f/2.5

Lens # 45738

DIAPHRAGM ..... Automatic  
 DIAPHRAGM RANGE ..... f/2.5 — f/16  
 FOCUSING RANGE ..... 18 in. — inf.  
 WEIGHT ..... 12.5 oz.  
 LENGTH ..... 2 1/4 in.  
 MAXIMUM DIAMETER ..... 60mm  
 FILTER SIZE ..... 58mm  
 FINISH ..... Black & chrome  
 PRICE ..... \$124.95

### RESOLUTION TESTS

APERTURE	CENTER	EDGES
f/2.5	40	28
f/2.8	56	34
f/4	68	40
f/5.6	68	48
f/8	68	48
f/11	68	56
f/16	48	40

Canon's ability to produce both excellent and virtually excellent optics at remarkably modest prices has always impressed me. Few others (maybe one or two) can do the same. Here is a good example. While this lens may not match quality with the very best of the league, look at the price tag . . . \$125! For \$50-\$100 more, you can keep a 80 lines/mm reading; I'll suffer with a modest (hah!) 68 lines. What's more, the contrast snap shows up at f/5.6-f/8 and makes the resolution appear that much better. In other words, here you get lots more than you pay for.

## CANON 35mm f/1.5

Lens # 13600

DIAPHRAGM ..... Click stops  
 DIAPHRAGM RANGE ..... f/1.5 — f/22  
 FOCUSING RANGE ..... 3 ft. 6 in. — inf.  
 WEIGHT ..... 6.5 oz.  
 LENGTH ..... 1 1/8 in.  
 MAXIMUM DIAMETER ..... 50mm  
 FILTER SIZE ..... 48mm  
 FINISH ..... Black & chrome  
 PRICE ..... \$181

### RESOLUTION TESTS

APERTURE	CENTER	EDGES
f/1.5	34	24
f/2	40	28
f/2.8	40	28
f/4	48	28
f/5.6	56	40
f/8	68	48
f/11	56	48
f/16	48	40
f/22	40	34

Besides testing this lens, I've used it for some months and I've no complaints. In fact, because it's a bit faster, that small extra sometimes makes the difference . . . but (and that could be in caps) stick to the f/2 if you can live without a f/1.5. The f/2 is cheaper, and slightly better. Only slightly . . . but there is almost \$40 difference in price. There's a bit of vignetting at f/1.5-f/2.8. After that it's gone. Contrast also picks up at f/4. Conclusions . . . good performer considering speed, good low price and good high quality.



## CANON 35mm f/2

Lens # 12309

DIAPHRAGM .....Click stops  
 DIAPHRAGM RANGE .....f/2—f/22  
 FOCUSING RANGE .....3 ft. 6 in.—inf.  
 WEIGHT .....4.4 oz.  
 LENGTH .....1 in.  
 MAXIMUM DIAMETER .....42mm  
 FILTER SIZE .....40mm  
 FINISH .....Black & chrome  
 PRICE .....\$144

### RESOLUTION TESTS

APERTURE	CENTER	EDGES
f/2	56	34
f/2.8	68	34
f/4	68	40
f/5.6	68	40
f/8	68	48
f/11	48	40
f/16	48	40
f/22	48	28

In place of speed, with this 35mm f/2 compared to the f/1.5, you get slightly better overall performance and pay less for it, to boot. However, before this lens hits its stride at f/4, there is some slight vignetting and even a bit of astigmatism. This completely disappears at f/4 . . . even contrast is better from this f/stop onward. Best performance is f/5.6-f/8. This lens is probably one of the handsomest of all those tested . . . especially when you use it on a black Canon body. It's small, smooth and a great asset.

## CANON FL 28mm f/3.5

Lens # 16057

DIAPHRAGM .....Automatic  
 DIAPHRAGM RANGE .....f/3.5—f/16  
 FOCUSING RANGE .....18 in.—inf.  
 WEIGHT .....8.5 oz.  
 LENGTH .....1¼ in.  
 MAXIMUM DIAMETER .....60mm  
 FILTER SIZE .....58mm  
 FINISH .....Black & chrome  
 PRICE .....\$174.40

### RESOLUTION TESTS

APERTURE	CENTER	EDGES
f/3.5	56	28
f/4	56	34
f/5.6	80	40
f/8	80	40
f/11	68	40
f/16	56	40

While slightly slower than its RF cousin, this 28mm has absolutely nothing to be ashamed about. Even the modest edge performance up to f/4 is insignificant compared to what happens starting with f/5.6 on up to f/11. Another plus is its ability to focus down to 18 in. With a 28mm lens, that gives you a big impact image to experiment with. In fact, for some, this 28mm might be a better wideangle choice than the 35mm f/2.5; only slightly slower, it is optically more impressive. And if you want a wideangle, why not live dangerously and see what a 28mm can do to liven up your slide shows a bit.

the gift horse's noggin.

Well, the tests are over and the results are in, and I am sad because I am sure few amateur and pro photographers realize what Canon promises in way of sheer variety, flexibility, numbers, etc. . . and, more important, what Canon delivers in the way of performance for a good price. Evaluating the test results and my comments, you know what the nine lenses can *almost* do, because there are other factors to consider.

On the preceding page you will find three cameras, nine lenses and other items. In a clock-wise progression, the camera on the right is the Pellix with its special 38mm f/2.8 lens, next there is the Canon 7s rangefinder camera with the 19mm f/3.5 lens and viewfinder and last is the Canon FT-QL with the SLR version of the 19mm lens.

Besides a built-in CdS meter, the viewfinder of the 7s provides frames for lenses ranging from 35mm up to 135mm, so you need auxiliary viewfinders for the 28mm, 25mm and 19mm lenses only. The 19mm lens on the SLR Canons needs no viewfinder since you focus through the lens.

I can make my point with a question—Did you know that Canon offered so many unusual wideangle lenses? Well, I'm happy to say, you do now. Also realize that there is more than quantity here. These lenses are good . . . some are excellent. Also they are well-built to take use, and thoughtfully designed. I once wrote that the FL 19mm f/3.5 lens was a good reason for building a Canon system; well, I think that these three pages are many, many more reasons.

Even RF fans have more than they can handle. —Michael Edelson



**ZOOMFINDER S** is an optical viewfinder used with RF cameras and lenses from 21mm to 50mm. Note rear diopter control.

## CANON 19mm f/3.5

Lens # 10237

DIAPHRAGM .....Click stops  
 DIAPHRAGM RANGE .....f/3.5—f/16  
 FOCUSING RANGE .....2 ft.—inf.  
 WEIGHT .....7½ oz.  
 LENGTH .....1¼ in.  
 MAXIMUM DIAMETER .....2¼ in.  
 FILTER SIZE .....55mm  
 FINISH .....Black & chrome  
 PRICE .....\$253.95

### RESOLUTION TESTS

APERTURE	CENTER	EDGES
f/3.5	48	34
f/4	56	40
f/5.6	56	40
f/8	56	48
f/11	48	40
f/16	40	40

This lens is both sharp and compact. As I once pointed out, this is a natural choice for the serious 35mm rangefinder camera photographer who wants a bit more coverage than that offered by other ultra-wideangles. Considering the unique focal length and impressive speed, this is a lens the Canon folk can claim for their own with pride. When you compare it to the SLR 19mm lens, you immediately appreciate what compact really is. If you hate heavy gadget bags and bulky cameras, take a close look at the RF Canon in the center of the preceding page with the SLR version on its right.

## CANON FL 19mm f/3.5

Lens # 12093

DIAPHRAGM .....Automatic  
 DIAPHRAGM RANGE .....f/3.5—f/16  
 FOCUSING RANGE .....1.75 ft.—inf.  
 WEIGHT .....7½ oz.  
 LENGTH .....2¾ in.  
 MAXIMUM DIAMETER .....3½ in.  
 FILTER SIZE .....Series 9  
 FINISH .....Black & chrome  
 PRICE .....\$279.95

### RESOLUTION TESTS

APERTURE	CENTER	EDGES
f/3.5	68	56
f/4	80	56
f/5.6	80	56
f/8	80	68
f/11	68	68
f/16	56	56

I've tested this lens before and I must admit I like it better now than before . . . and that's a lot of liking. I pointed out that this lens would go a long way toward deciding me on the Canon as a good choice for a planned SLR system. "Not only is this lens extraordinarily sharp, but you can focus with it . . . a tremendous advantage . . . over lenses that require locking up the mirror and using an optical viewfinder," I pointed out. And again, just look at those resolution figures . . . there is little more to be added. Except, of course, that it's beautifully made and a dream to use.

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