

MODERN PHOTOGRAPHY

READERS REPORT

on the

Canon

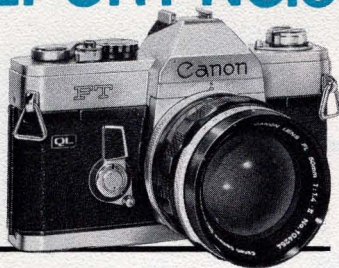
FT

APRIL 1971 ISSUE



READERS' REPORT NO.5

Canon FT



(Based on 32 owners of 34 cameras)

1. HOW DO YOU RATE THE CANON OVERALL?

Excellent (26), Good (6), Fair (0), Poor (0)

2. APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF YEARS OWNED?

1 (2), 1½ (7), 2 (14), 3 (5), 4 (1), 4½ (1), 5 (1), 10 (1)

3. WHICH NORMAL LENS?

Note: Original and FL lenses of the same focal length and aperture are grouped together.

Canon 50mm f/1.8 (14)
Canon 50mm f/1.4 (12)
Canon 58mm f/1.2 (4)
Canon 50mm Unspecified (4)

4. WHAT ARE THE MAIN FEATURES YOU LIKE?

Metering

(13) Spot meter.
(5) Meter booster.
(2) Meter, meter can be locked on, meter-activating switch, meter accurate.

(1) Meter easy to use, manual override.

Loading and film take-up

(14) Quick load feature.
(3) Ease of loading.
(2) Ease of indexing and changing partially used rolls.

Focusing and viewing

(1) Sharp focusing, ease of focusing, fast, microprism focusing screen, depth-of-field preview, bright image.

Optics

(10) Excellent.

Lens mechanics

(10) Breech lock mount.
(3) Lenses changed rapidly, ease of lens mount operation.

(1) Smooth focusing of lenses.

Controls

(2) Comfortable under hands.
(1) Location of aperture control, convenience, smooth.

Construction

(5) Light weight.
(3) Quality construction.
(2) Craftsmanship.
(1) Well-finished, rugged, precision engineered, thin body.

Operation

(6) Fast handling.
(3) Ease.
(2) Versatility.
(1) Excellent balance and feel, travels well.

General quality

(2) Excellent overall.
(1) Many available accessories, lack of frills permits lower price, simplicity, reliability.

Other features

(2) Battery check.
(1) Mirror lock, built-in self-timer.

5. WHAT ARE THE FEATURES YOU DON'T LIKE?

Metering

(5) Necessity of measuring light with lens stopped down.
(2) Meter range limited to small combination of f/stops and speeds.

(1) Booster meter never worked right, cumbersome booster, meter needle difficult to see at small openings due to low light level.

Loading and film take-up

(2) Doubtful about reliability of QL system.

(1) Sprockets slip after 12-14 pictures have been shot, fast flip of winding lever usually causes static and scratches film.

Focusing and viewing

(4) Noninterchangeable viewing screens.
(3) Lack of removable pentaprism.
(2) Darkened microprism viewing screen.

(1) Microprism slightly off when focusing, microprism too small to allow precise focusing in dim light conditions (corrected in later models), unable to use top-viewing focusing—periscope accessory inadequate, focusing, angle finder gives too small an image, slide does not precisely conform to image in finder, ground glass poorly lit when using tele lens.

Optics

(1) F/1.2 lens resolution could be better.

Lens mechanics

(2) Aperture ring should be knurled all around instead of partially.

(1) Half stops on aperture ring not notched as on other cameras; lenses longer than 300mm, really TV lenses, require heavy focusing mount and are prohibitively expensive.

Controls

(1) Meter-lock switch inconvenient, too easy to release meter switch when you want it locked on.

Construction

(2) Heavy
(1) Strap attached to case ripped—should be attached to body with metal ring, not triangle, camera carrying straps on hard case tore, camera case not durable, ASA numbers wear off and are hard to see in the dark.

Operation

No criticism of overall operation of camera.

General quality

(1) Pictures could be sharper.

Other features

(3) Lack of provision for motor drive.
(2) Lack of provision for intentional double exposure.
(1) PC flash connection, PC contact too close to lens mount—cord gets in the way when changing lenses.

6. DID THE CAMERA EVER NEED REPAIR?

No (23) Yes (9)

If so, what went wrong with it?

(3) Mirror stuck.
(1) Shutter, meter, mirror and shutter jammed, auto diaphragm on f/1.4 failed five times, light meter and coupled diaphragm failed to function, f/1.4 diaphragm would not close down, frame counter broke, auto diaphragm on 135mm f/3.5 and f/1.2 lenses stuck, auto lens shut down.

7. IF YOU HAD IT TO DO ALL OVER AGAIN, WOULD YOU BUY A CANON?

Yes (28) No (4)

8. ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS?

Favorable

Fine camera, easy to use and dependable; simple operation—like being able to overrule its exposure judgments if necessary; traveled a great deal with Canon—19mm and 85mm lenses outstanding; for the average person, if the meter and shutter are properly operated, a full roll of pictures is almost a certainty; Canon is the only company that makes a zoom lens in the 55-135mm range which can be hand held and delivers a reasonably sharp image—a good buy point; a fine camera; after my fifth lens failure, a new lens of better design was introduced and my old lens was immediately replaced at no cost even though my warranty had run out; camera taken on extensive tours of duty, tossed around aircraft, etc., with no ill effects; sold camera and bought Nikon because I needed motor drive for sports and interchangeable viewing screens for long lenses, but it is best camera in price range; best camera in price range; very well pleased and would not consider another make; f/1.2 normal is below standard for camera, but f/1.8 normal and 100mm are excellent; camera works like a jewel and still as reliable as day purchased—glad Canon redesigned f/1.4 lens; overall a fine camera.

Unfavorable

Case should be improved; as contrasted with the Nikon, the Canon cannot be adjusted to suit the needs and comfort of the individual owner; overall a fine camera with beautiful quick load system, but Canon blew it by slowing us up with a stop-down meter.

Suggestions

Wish Canon would make another camera body to accept the FL lenses that doesn't have a meter; motor drive would be useful; would like to see Canon come up with some camera bodies with more complex features that could be used with the excellent FL series of lenses—FT is a very excellent camera and if it were matched with some more versatile bodies, with motorized drive and interchangeable focus-

ing screens, Canon would have a very complete pro system; wish eyepiece was surrounded by rubber for eyeglass wearers; would like to see Canon either develop and market or market if developed a 500mm and a 1000mm mirror reflex lens, also a model capable of being adapted to a motor drive system—would like to see Canons in the hands of more professionals, also, a Canon manual produced and released by Canon and similar to the Nikon book.

9. OTHER LENSES OWNED?

Canon 19mm f/3.5 (2)
Canon 28mm f/3.5 (1)
Canon 35mm f/2.5 (3)
Canon 50mm f/3.5 macro (2)
Canon 85mm f/1.8 (1)
Canon 100mm f/3.5 (3)
Canon 135mm f/2.5 (5)
Canon 135mm f/3.5 (1)
Canon 200mm (1)
Canon 200mm f/3.5 (1)
Canon 200mm f/4.5 (1)
Canon 55-135mm f/3.5 zoom (1)
Accura 85mm f/1.9 (1)
Lentar 35mm (1)
Lentar 135mm (1)
Lentar 180mm f/3.5 (1)
Lentar 90-230mm f/4.5 zoom (1)
Prinz 28mm (1)
Soligor 28mm f/2.8 auto (1)
Soligor 200mm f/3.5 (1)
Tamron 135mm f/2.8 (1)
Vivitar 28mm f/2.8 auto (2)
Vivitar 135mm f/2.8 (3)
Zoomar 50-125mm macro (1)

Disfavored

19mm (1)
28mm (1)
35mm (2)
35mm f/2.5 (3)
35mm f/2.8 (1)
50mm f/1.8 macro (1)
85mm (1)
85mm f/1.8 (1)
100mm f/3.5 (2)
135mm (3)
135mm f/2.5 (2)
135mm f/2.8 (1)
135mm f/3.5 (1)
200mm (1)
200mm f/4 (1)
200mm f/4.5 (2)
100mm-200mm zoom (1)

Our Analysis

Canon's emphasis on a central spot meter certainly paid off in owner enthusiasm. The quick-loading feature was equally applauded. The breech-lock lens mount, fast handling, and optics were appreciated as well by Canon owners. Those surveyed again and again stressed appreciation of quality of manufacture and finish. On the minus side was the inconvenience of Canon's stop-down metering system, noninterchangeable viewing screens and fixed pentaprism, lack of a motor drive provision. However, based on the features that the camera has, users were very satisfied and an overwhelming percentage would be quite ready to do it all over again.

See your franchised Bell & Howell/Canon dealer for complete information, or write to the Bell & Howell Customer Relations Department at the address below.

Canon cameras, made in Tokyo, Japan, by Canon Inc., are exclusively sold and serviced in the United States and Canada by Bell & Howell.

CONSUMER PRODUCTS GROUP

7235 N. Linder Avenue Skokie, Illinois 60076



BELL & HOWELL

The article "READERS' REPORT NO. 5, CANON FT" is reprinted through the courtesy of MODERN PHOTOGRAPHY MAGAZINE, published by Billboard Publishing Co., 165 W. 46th St., New York, N. Y. 10036.