



MINOLTA

# TC-1

A camera with impeccable picture quality, superb functionality  
and a styling born of Minolta's miniaturization technology.

The TC-1 challenges you to define a more consummate  
photographic tool.











*From the TC-1's wide angle 28mm lens, this vacant  
seaside restaurant appears to be basking in the softened sunlight of dawn.*





*Here, exposure is harmoniously controlled, allowing light and shadow to play a game of high contrast on this small town church.*









*Early afternoon. Superior resolution and color reproduction perfectly sculpt two listless dogs into the geometric background of this composition.*





*The TC-1's multi-coated lens elements keep this late morning shower of sunlight free of flare as it rains its warmth over a tiny side street.*





*From the flowers on and around this precarious stone stairway, to the shimmering sea below, the TC-1 demonstrates its Pan Focus with a fully focused image.*





*The TC-1's three aspheric lens surfaces allow sharp contrast between deep blue and alabaster tones, while maintaining a certain softness throughout this wistful image.*





*Background defocusing brings out the rich character in this elderly gentleman as he sits astride a horse at the base of a cliff. The TC-1's aspheric lenses make this sharp, keen-edged image possible, even at full open aperture.*







IF YOU'VE BEEN DREAMING ABOUT THE PERFECT  
CAMERA YOUR WHOLE LIFE, THEN IT'S ABOUT  
TIME YOU WOKE UP.



*Every now and then a camera comes along that is so complete, so well thought out, and so technologically advanced it makes everything before it seem redundant and primitive. The TC-1 is such a camera. It distinguishes itself through its optical perfection, functionality, and the miniaturization principles that formed it. As a serious photographer, this is the camera you've been waiting for. This photographic wonder will capture and enrapture your senses. And it is sure to find its way from your pocket to your SLR camera bag and back again many times, before long it will be with you day and night. Never before has photographic excellence come in such a small package. This is the TC-1. And Minolta proudly presents it to the world.*





TC-1



**How We Put 67 Years Of Compact  
And SLR Expertise Into A Camera About The Size  
Of A Business Card.**



*The task was to create the 'ultimate' compact camera;  
an ultra-compact, full function, Auto Focus, Auto Exposure camera  
with SLR picture quality. The TC-1's concept was set into motion knowing  
the logistics of creating it would be extraordinary. And so,  
Minolta's challenge was at hand. However,  
by avoiding the traditional paths of camera design,  
and by seeking an extraordinary solution,  
the TC-1 was brought to fruition.*



### A miniature 'miracle'.

Minolta's technicians created this 'dream camera' by simply 'dreaming up' new ways of seeing camera creation. For instance, the TC-1's battery was placed under the lens, allowing a multi-function, high-power motor and condenser to be manoeuvred into the take up drum. Therefore, the image frame was centered and the sides were limited to the film cartridge and take up spools only. Further, the film cartridge was positioned on the left side with the spool tip facing upward, allowing the bottom to be miniaturised. The high-magnification viewfinder and passive AF unit were also miniaturised and positioned carefully to allow for greater efficiency. Overall, the standards and precision involved in the creation and manufacturing of the TC-1 were so extreme we had to double our own already meticulous levels of error; most particularly on the parts that underwent the most miniaturisation. The endresult--the 'World's Smallest' camera.\*



### What to do when the power needed won't fit in the space provided.

By using a high-power motor developed from SLR technology, we were able to significantly reduce the size of the motor used to drive the TC-1's mechanical functions. The motor in the TC-1 is 70% the size of other cameras with the same power output. And with this greater strength and smaller stature came versatility. The TC-1's motor was successful due to its ability to run multiple functions. These include, activating the mechanisms involved in forwarding the film, rewinding the film, AF lens movement, lens retrieval, as well as the opening and closing of the lens cover.



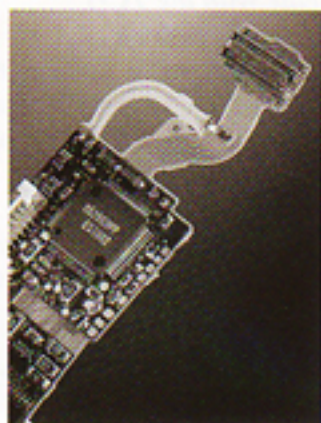
### Minolta technicians have a mind for the minuscule.

In miniaturising every component, our technicians' task was great. But it was nothing compared to the assembly of them. Many parts on the TC-1 are intricate and delicate and therefore require a little more attention to detail than do the parts of an ordinary compact camera. So much so, that some of these parts require a steady hand, over that of automated machinery, come assembly time. Our technicians obliged; hand assembling each and every one. It's a small price to pay when the result is the TC-1.



### Success takes flexibility.

Less space allowed means more technology needed. With this in mind, our technicians developed a revolutionary six-layer flexible circuit board to aid the miniaturisation process. By stitching these layers together one by one and with precise positioning, our technicians met the space limitations and achieved their goal.



### Atomic number 22; atomic weight 47.90.

Titanium. We gave the TC-1 a Titanium body not simply for a strong and stylish appearance, but to finish the creation of a formidable camera. With its Titanium exterior the TC-1 is lighter in weight, durable and anti-corrosive.

\*Apr. 1, 1996--The smallest 35mm camera by volume. Excluding disposable cameras.



# How Something So Small Can Create Images So Grand.



*The optics of the TC-1 are outstanding for its size. In fact, they're outstanding for a camera of any size. This 28mm, all optical glass, f3.5 lens contains 5 elements in 5 groups, including three aspheric lens surfaces, all metal optical mechanics and offers perfect circular aperture.*

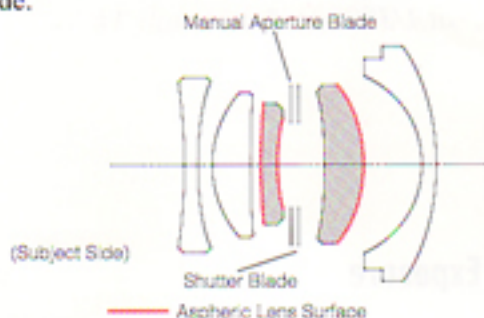
*The photography you create with the TC-1  
will never cease to amaze you.*



# L e n s

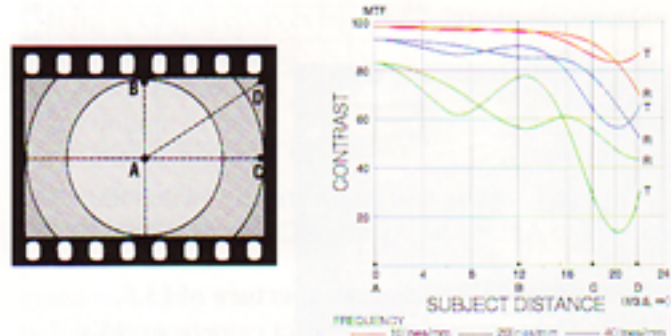
## Before we can assemble the lens, we have to make the optical glass.

To attain the high standards we set for our lenses, we insist on making the optical glass ourselves. We are one of the few companies who do this, but as you will see in the TC-1, it's well worth the venture. The TC-1's lens is configured 5 elements in 5 groups and contains all glass lenses; three multi-coated. The TC-1's lens also consists of two lenses with three aspheric surfaces. These contribute to a clearer image, as the effect of aspherics is to correct aberration, especially in the corners of the image. Aspherics also contribute to the camera's overall compactness which is due to the lessening of lens elements allowed by their use. Simply, a more sophisticated compact camera lens has never been made.



## How sophisticated is it?

As sophisticated as many SLRs. In fact, we proudly count the TC-1's lens as one of the best 28mm lenses we at Minolta have ever produced. As the chart shows, the TC-1's lens proves to have superb picture quality as both high and low frequencies keep high-contrast levels even at the circumference.



## The elements of surprise.

Due to the use of aspherics, the TC-1 contains 5 lens elements; colorless and multi-coated. In fact, six out of 10 surfaces are multi-coated, contributing to a more neutral color balance and the enhanced transmission of light, which directly results in superior color rendition on reversal, as well as, negative film.



## Metal is essential.

The lenses of the TC-1 are safely contained in all-metal lens housings, assuring temperature, optical alignment stability, and overall accuracy of the optics. The lens barrel is machine die cast aluminum as are the film guide rails. The film pressure plate is alumite-coated aluminum. All of these features are identical to those of high-end SLRs.

# A p e r t u r e

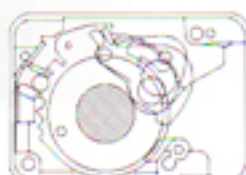


## Manual aperture.

The TC-1 allows an aperture priority mode to make your photography more personal. Just choose your aperture and the camera will choose the correct shutter speed. This feature makes available the use of a separate aperture mechanism with perfectly circular aperture, for even more freedom of expression.

## Unique real circular aperture.

In front of the TC-1's shutter lie aperture panels with perfectly circular apertures of 3.5, 5.6, 8, and 16. Choose the one that best suits your needs, for artistic background defocusing and beautiful circular highlights only attained with this type of aperture system.



f/3.5



f/5.6



f/8



f/16



# M e t e r i n g / E x p o s u r e

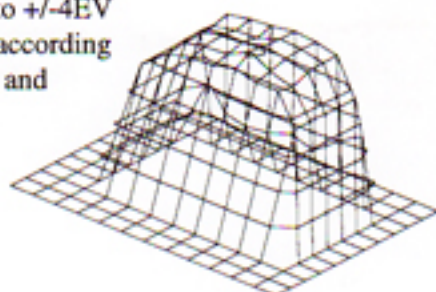


*The metering and exposure of the TC-1 are as simple or sophisticated as you need them to be. There are two metering methods, an aperture priority AE and exposure compensation, all for full creative freedom. The TC-1 also boasts one of the world's fastest compact camera shutter speeds at full open aperture--f3.5 at 1/350 sec..\**

## Metering

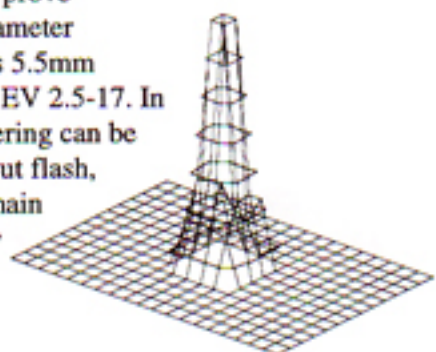
### Center Weighted Metering.

The TC-1 employs a traditional center weighted metering system. If exposure compensation is required, you can adjust up to  $\pm 4$ EV depending on and according to your experience and taste.



### Spot Metering.

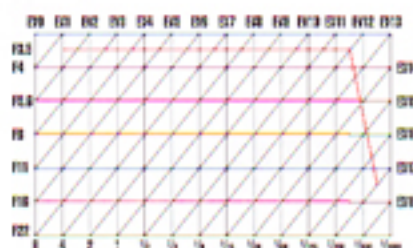
As an option, the TC-1 allows you to use spot metering. In backlit, spotlight and other difficult lighting situations this will prove invaluable. The diameter of the spot circle is 5.5mm and has a range of EV 2.5-17. In addition, spot metering can be used with or without flash, ensuring that the main subject is correctly exposed.



## Exposure

### Aperture Priority AE.

For convenience and added creativity the TC-1 offers an Aperture Priority AE mode. Just choose your aperture (from f3.5 to f16) and let the camera do the rest. Perfect circular aperture can be used to enhance creativity. (See Aperture Section) Given strong lighting conditions, an f3.5 or f5.6 setting will automatically switch the camera to Automatic Aperture Compensation.



### 1/350 sec. at full maximum aperture of f3.5.

The TC-1 has one of the compact camera world's fastest maximum-aperture lens-shutter speeds.\* This will give you greater freedom of choice regarding aperture settings, therefore allowing you to utilize the camera's aperture effects to their fullest. The faster shutter speed range also increases the effectiveness of daytime fill flash.

### Exposure compensation.

Exposure compensation is as easy as turning a dial and sliding a selector switch. The TC-1 allows adjustments for each shot within a range of  $\pm 4$ EV in 0.5 EV increments. The setting can be held for subsequent shots or reset to the original setting.

\*Apr. 1, 1996---Applies to electronic controlled 35mm lens-shutter camera.





*The TC-1 offers focusing your eyes and your mind's eye can rely on every time. Borrowing from the phase detection AF technology of Minolta's SLRs, the TC-1 utilizes a remarkably similar External Passive AF System. It also uses an amazingly efficient manual focus setting with 22 preset focusing steps. Combine these with a highly reliable analog focus indicator and a built-in AF illuminator, and you have a truly exceptional focusing system.*

## Auto Focus

### External Passive AF.

The superiority of this passive AF system has been proven; providing extremely high accuracy, and the ability to focus on subjects at long distances. An incredible 455 focusing steps are the key to its success. Although, seemingly not necessary when dealing with such a wide depth of field, the TC-1's passive AF system is employed to extract the full potential from this remarkable lens. The Focus Indicator at the bottom of the viewfinder allows you to check the focused distance of your subject and contains a lamp that will light up when your subject is in focus.



### AF Illuminator.

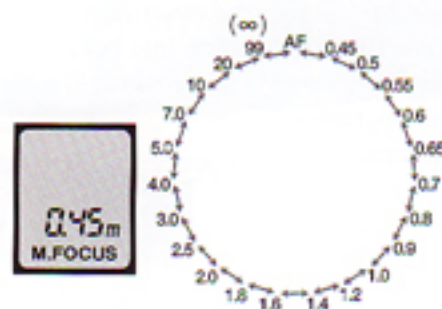
When shooting in low-light or low-contrast conditions, the built-in AF Illuminator will automatically project a light to assist the AF system in focusing.



## Manual Focus

### Manual Focus.

When attempting to capture moving subjects, AF is sometimes unable to accurately follow the movement. In this case, or in the case when greater flexibility is desired, manual focus is available. The TC-1's data panel displays the selected preset focusing from the 22 available.



### Pan Focus.

When maximum depth of field is desired, manually set the focus to 3 meters and the manual aperture to f16. This 'pan focus' effect will grant you the largest depth of field within the focus range of the TC-1.





# V i e w f i n d e r

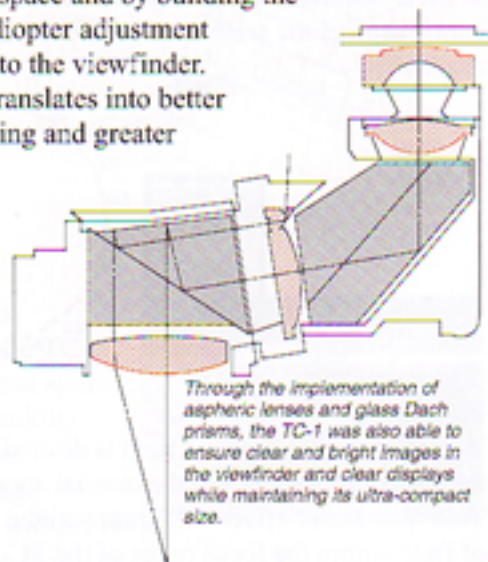


*With the TC-1, seeing is believing. Especially when you see it through a viewfinder with one of the compact camera market's widest fields of view. Designed to accommodate miniaturisation, this extremely wide angle of view, real-image viewfinder allows you to view and frame as you never have before with a camera of this type.*

## Viewfinder

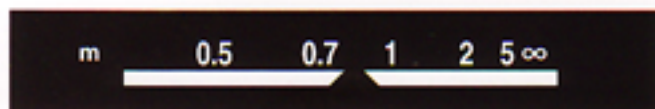
### Unprecedented field of view.

The TC-1's real-image viewfinder offers one of the world's widest fields of view. This was accomplished with two new prism finder optics inserted separately into a narrow space and by building the miniaturised diopter adjustment mechanism into the viewfinder. Overall, this translates into better framing, viewing and greater photographic accuracy.

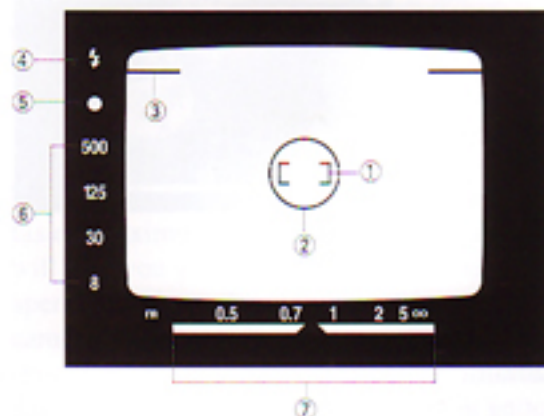


### Diopter adjustment.

The TC-1's built-in diopter adjustment dial, located next to the large viewfinder eyepiece, allows for delicate adjustment of the eyepiece from -2.5 to +1 diopters.



The TC-1 also has an analog focus indicator which confirms the focused distance in the viewfinder. When in Manual Focus the TC-1's indicator confirms the manually set distance.



- ① Focus Frame
- ② Spot Metering Circle
- ③ Close-Framing Guide
- ④ Flash Lamp
- ⑤ Focus Lamp
- ⑥ Shutter Speed Indicator
- ⑦ Focus Indicator



# Operation



*Maintaining ultra-compact size while being as technologically advanced and full featured as the TC-1 requires superior design. To meet this demand, Minolta designers and engineers miraculously condensed most operations into one function dial and one selector lever, leaving more room on the body and providing true ease of operation.*

## Operation

### Multi-function function dial and selector.

The TC-1's function dial and selector switch are the basis for its simplicity of use. It eliminates the need for many small and cumbersome controls by incorporating many features into these two controls. Simply select the function you wish to operate with the dial and set it with the selector switch. The TC-1's metal body and controls offer sure, distinctive clicks signaling each position stop.



### Hold.

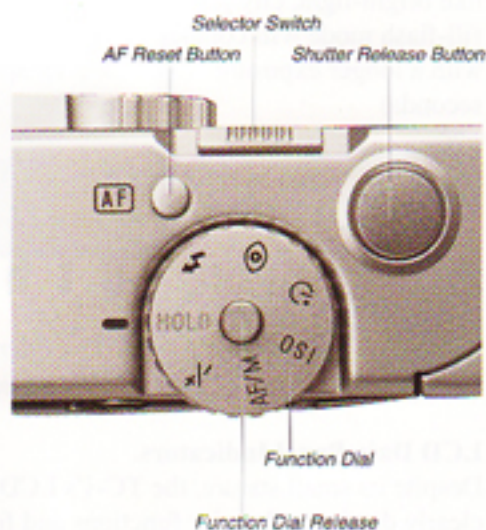
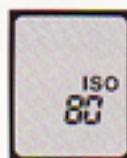
The Hold setting is essentially a dial and selector switch lock; holding the function dial, and all its settings in place until you choose to release the Hold and change a particular function.

### AF Reset Button.

By pressing the AF Reset button the TC-1 immediately returns the camera from Manual Focus Mode back to Auto Focus Mode.

### ISO Manual Setting.

For added creativity and versatility, the TC-1 allows you to set ISO sensitivity manually as well as automatically.



### HOLD

Locks all functions.

### +/-

Adjusts exposure compensation. (+/-4EV per 0.5EV)

### AF/M

Switches from auto focus to manual focus.

### ISO

Sets film speed manually. (ISO 6-6400)



Activates Self-Timer function. (10 sec. / 2 sec. / OFF)



Red-eye reduction control. (ON/OFF)



Changes flash modes.



# Flash

*The TC-1's built-in flash takes virtually all picture possibilities into account and allows you to use your own photographic judgment regarding the flash mode.*

*It provides 28mm lens coverage with Flash On/Flash Off and Fill Flash/Night Portrait settings. It also offers red-eye reduction.*

## Flash On/Flash Off.

The decision of whether or not to use flash is one that should be made, with precision, by the photographer. For this reason, the TC-1 does not contain an automatic flash. Simply switch the flash on when you feel it is needed and it will light up and remain on until you switch it off again. Once switched off, the light will disappear and no flash will fire until it is switched back to the on position.



## Red-Eye Reduction.

The TC-1 is equipped with a red-eye reduction lamp. Simply select red-eye reduction on the function dial and it will be activated.

## Night Portrait Mode.

For backlit situations, or when you are looking for more artistic expression, switch to Night Portrait Mode. This mode can be used for low-key situations like bright-light, city photography at night. This slow fill-flash mode will compensate in these situations with a longer exposure. (Max. shutter speed is 2 seconds)

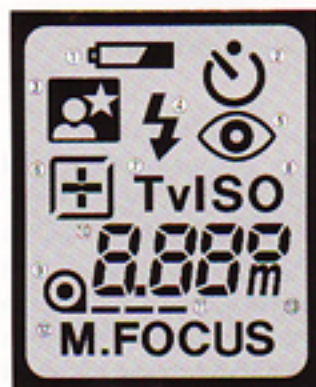


# Other Features

*The TC-1 offers great conveniences and features you might not expect from such an ultra-compact camera.*

## LCD Data Panel Indicators.

Despite its small stature, the TC-1's LCD Data Panel clearly displays all major functions and features. Which means the status of all operations is just one quick glance away.



- ① Battery Indicator
- ② Self-Timer Indicator
- ③ Night Portrait Status
- ④ Flash Indicator
- ⑤ Red-Eye Reduction Indicator
- ⑥ Exposure Compensation Reminder
- ⑦ Shutter Speed Indicator
- ⑧ ISO Indicator
- ⑨ Cartridge Indicator
- ⑩ Numerical Data
- ⑪ Film Transport Signal
- ⑫ Manual Focus Indicator
- ⑬ Focus Distance Indicator

## LCD Back Light.

When operations need to be checked at night or in other dark situations, simply press the LCD Back Light Button located on the back of the camera for LCD Data Panel illumination.



## Lens Cover.

When switched off, the lens retracts behind this sleek Titanium cover maintaining a smooth, flat profile. This makes sure the lens is always protected, and offers the utmost portability.



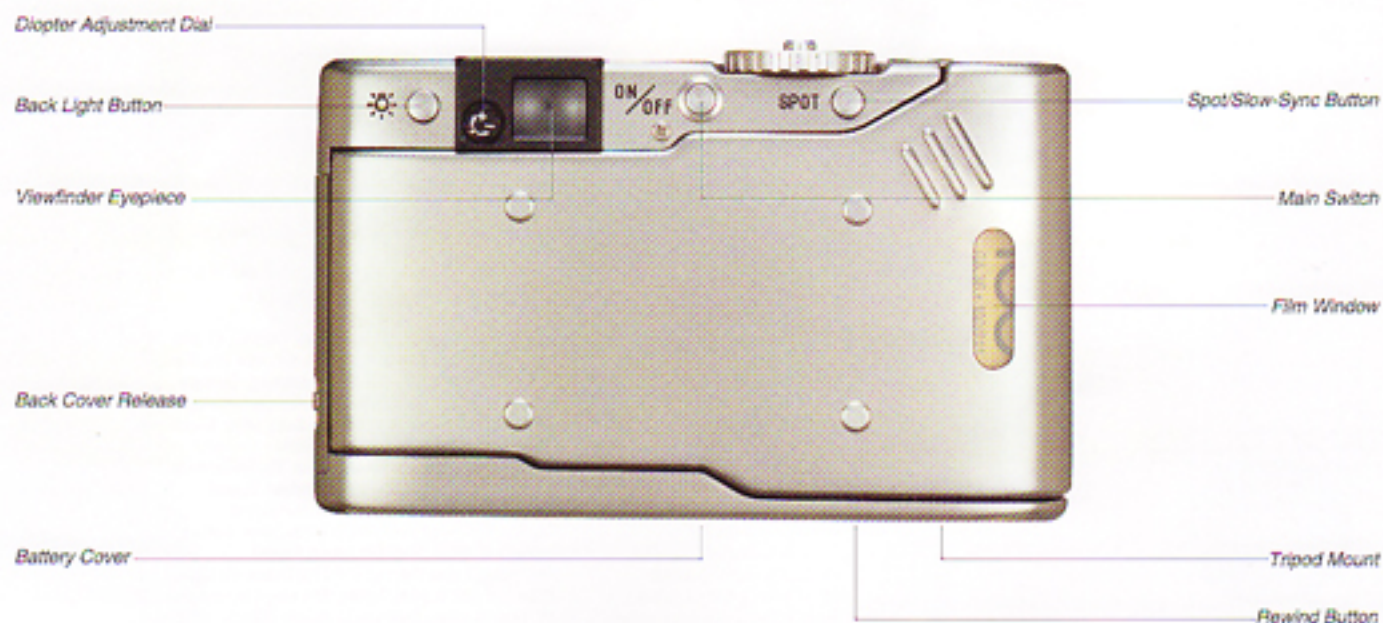
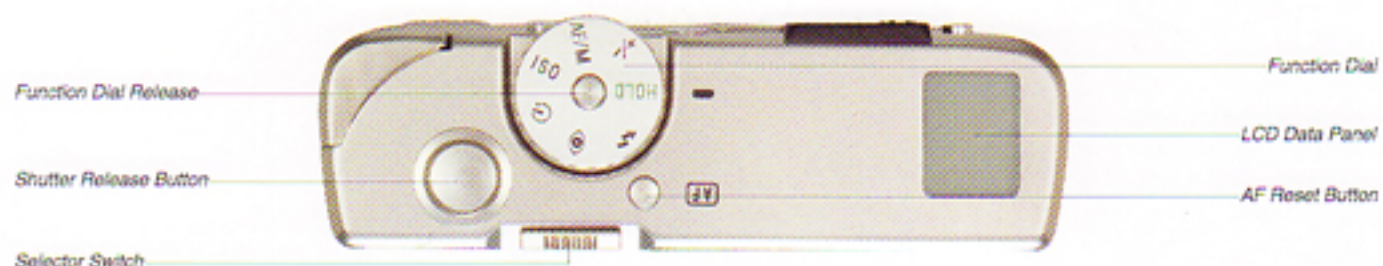
## Film Window.

The TC-1 is equipped with a handy film window for easy visual confirmation of whether or not the camera is loaded, and what kind of film it is loaded with.



# Name Of Parts

(Actual Size)





## Specifications

**Type:** 35mm lens shutter camera with auto/manual focus, aperture priority and built-in flash

**Lens:** G-Rokkor 28mm f/3.5 lens; 5 all-optical glass elements in 5 groups (3 aspheric surfaces)

**Focusing Type:** External passive autofocus with focus lock; 22 manual zone focus settings; built-in AF illuminator

**Range:** 0.45m (1.48 ft.) to infinity

**Steps:** 455

**Max. Magnification:** 1/13.5X

### Exposure System

**Control:** Aperture-priority; manual aperture setting (f/3.5, 5.6, 8, and 16) Automatic Aperture Compensation at f 3.5, f 5.6

**Metering System:** 2 segment centre weighted/ Spot

**Metering Modes:** Centre weighted: EV 1.5-17 (f/3.5, 4 sec.-f/13.5, 1/750 sec. at ISO 100) Spot: EV 2.5-17 (f/3.5 2 sec. to f/13.5 1/750 sec. at ISO 100)

**Exposure Compensation:** +/- 4EV in 1/2 increments

### Built-in Flash

**Type:** Built-in, fixed flash

**Modes:** Flash on, flash cancel, night portrait (Slow Sync)

**Range:** 0.45m (1.48ft.) to 2.0m (6.6ft.) (ISO 100)

**Recycling Time:** 5 sec.

**Red-Eye Reduction:** Cancelable, lamp type

**Guide Number:** 7 in meters at ISO 100 (23ft. at ISO 100)

### Viewfinder

**Type:** Real-image

**Magnification:** 0.4X

**Field Of View:** 85% at 3m (9.8ft.)

**Diopter:** -2.5 ~ +1dpt.

### Film-Speed

**Setting:** Auto DX-code setting; manual setting Non-DX-coded film set to 100

**Range:** Auto: ISO 25-3200 in 1/3 EV increments Manual: ISO 6-6400 in 1/3 EV increments

**Film Transport:** Automatic motorized film transport, first frame setting, film advance and film rewind; manual film rewind also possible

**Self-Timer:** 10-second or 2-second delay, lamp type, cancelable

**Power :** 3-volt lithium cell (CR123A/DL123A)

**Battery Performance:** Approximately 13 rolls (based on Minolta's standard test method using 24-exposure film with flash on 50% of exposure)

**Dimensions:** 99x59x29.5mm (3-7/8x2-5/16x1-3/16in.)

**Weight:** 185g (6-1/2 oz.) (without battery)

Specifications and accessories are based on the latest information available at time of printing and are subject to change without notice.

### Carrying Case.

Made from only the finest lambskin and branded with a Titanium nameplate, this high quality case is the perfect complement to a camera such as the TC-1. Like the TC-1, it is both attractive and functional, with belt loops on the back and secure magnetic closures on the top flaps.



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