

CANON

TEST DRIVE

EOS 630

by Jack and Sue Drafaahl

In the beginning, there were manual cameras, which reluctantly gave way to the era of auto cameras. At first these auto cameras simply meant autoexposure. Then came autofocus cameras, auto advance and auto rewind, and finally cameras featuring all of the various auto functions. Now Canon's EOS 630 takes the meaning of automatic cameras to a new level with seven automatic programs! The Canon 630 EOS lets the photographer decide what kind of photo situation exists, select the matching program number, and take pictures with confidence. As if that weren't enough improvement, the EOS 630's automatic focusing is about twice as fast as the earlier EOS models! The result is a camera that puts automation to practical use.

AUTOFOCUS SYSTEM

The Canon EOS 630 offers two AF modes: one-shot, and AI servo or continuous. If the subject is constantly moving, as in a sporting activity, you would use AI servo mode. As the subject moves towards you, the camera anticipates each movement of the subject and focuses the lens right up until the instant of exposure, to ensure accurate focus. We found that this continuous-focus function worked very efficiently with a variety of water sports where the subjects were constantly in motion and moving both towards and away from us.

We found the one-shot setting ideal for composition when the subject was off center. We simply focused the small bracket in the center on the subject, pressing the shutter button halfway, panning to the correct framing, then releasing the shutter. In either mode we found the autofocus system to be extremely fast and effi-

cient, even in very low light.

AUTOEXPOSURE MODES

The autoexposure system uses the same three basic types of autoexposure found on most cameras today—aperture-priority, shutter-priority, and program mode. Each of these three exposure modes then has access to two types of light metering—a six-zone evaluative metering system, and a 6.5% spot meter. Canon's six-zone

button and placed it on a light object in the scene. There was a 1½-stop difference, which told us that our slide film's 1.5-stop latitude just might not be able to capture the whole scene.

DEPTH-OF-FIELD AUTOEXPOSURE MODE

When everything between two points in a scene has to be in focus, this control is superb. Start by placing the near focus point in the camera's focus



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evaluative metering system has the ability to evaluate difficult lighting situations such as high-key, low-key, and mixed lighting. We found this meter to be very accurate when the sun was in the picture.

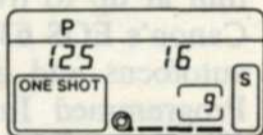
There are also times when a 6.5% spot meter might give a better evaluation of the situation, especially when pinpointing a critical exposure in the highlights or shadows. For example, we took a standard meter reading of a carnival scene, and mentally noted the exposure. Next we pressed the spot

square. Depress the shutter button halfway, and "dep 1" appears in the viewfinder. Next, place the focus square on the far point, depress the shutter button halfway, and you'll get a "dep 2." Reframe your scene and press the shutter button all the way. Just before the shutter opens, the autofocus system will refocus the lens, and set an aperture that allows for sharp focus from near point to far.

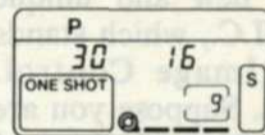
We found that this system works very well when shooting nature photos where depth of field is so critical.



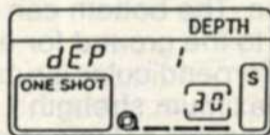
Standard position



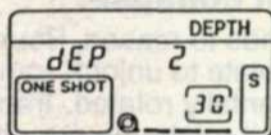
Standard position



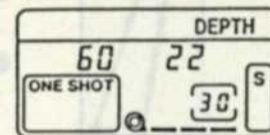
Depth mode, first point



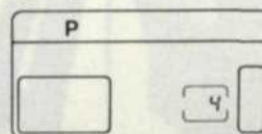
Depth mode, second point



Depth mode, final image



P4 action position



CANON EOS 630

Flowers, for instance, are usually found at various levels when shooting down on them. To get them all in focus, simply focus on the top flower, then focus on the bottom flower, and shoot. The only danger lies in selecting focus points so far apart that the resulting shutter speed would be too long to be handheld.

AUTOEXPOSURE BRACKETING

Exposure bracketing on most of the newer cameras is only possible with multifunction backs, or with special function cards. The 630 EOS offers this helpful feature "automatically." When using the AEB function, you can set up to ± 5 stops of bracketing. This function is set and canceled manually, so the photographer can bracket repeatedly without resetting the function as with the EOS 620.

AUTO SITUATION DIAL (P.I.C.)

We saved Canon EOS 630's best feature for last. This new and unique function is called P.I.C., which stands for Programmed Image Control. Here's how it works. Suppose you are shooting a sporting event. Instead of deciding which auto controls you want

to use, set P4 (for sports), and the Canon 630 EOS sets all the necessary automatic controls to produce top-notch action photography. Continuous autofocus, continuous motor drive, and an autoexposure program biased towards high shutter speeds allow you to concentrate on just the action.

If you wanted to photograph the winner, you would turn the P.I.C. control to P5 (for portraits). The camera would again set all the automatic controls for portraits, such as one-shot autofocus, continuous motor drive, and autoexposure biased for wide apertures to keep the background out of focus. We found the standard P1 control handy when we didn't know just what we were going to photograph next. This set up the camera for normal situations with one-shot AF, single-frame advance, and the six-pattern metering.

We used the P2 position (quickshot) for shooting somewhat stationary objects that had quick movements, such as kids and pets. When we were not as concerned with action as we were with depth of field, we used the P3 (landscape) position. In the landscape mode, the camera selects smaller apertures and slower shutter speeds.

The P6 (close-up) position let us to take nature photos that required great depth of field. At this setting, the ex-

posure program favors smaller apertures and compensates for shallow depth of field. When indoors or in low-light situations where camera shake may be a problem, the P7 position, labeled "indoor," helps keep the pictures sharp, yet maximizes depth of field.

HAVE IT YOUR WAY

If you don't like how the camera is programmed, simply modify various functions to suit your needs. You can cancel and reprogram alternatives for the seven basic camera operations. Cancel the film rewind when shooting in quiet areas such as press conferences. Or, leave the film leader out if you want to reload a partially exposed roll of film. Turn the DX function off if you plan to push your film; or select manual, fine-focusing when using your autofocus lenses. The Custom Function Control lets you program the camera to operate the way you want it to. You can choose from a full line of interchangeable EF lenses, flashes, and other Canon accessories. The built-in motor drive lets you rip through the film at up to five frames per second. Canon's EOS 630 takes a step beyond autofocus and autoexposure with its Programmed Image Control system. The Canon EOS 630 makes taking pictures as easy as 1, 2, 3...4, 5, 6, 7. ■



Model 2503



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