

TOPCON SUPER DM

TYPE: 35mm eye-level single-lens reflex.
LENS: Interchangeable 50mm f/1.4 GN Topcor M, with stops to f/16 and focusing to 15 in.

SHUTTER: Focal-plane with speeds from 1 to 1/1000 sec. plus B, FP, X and M sync, self-timer.

VIEWING: Interchangeable eye-level prism with split-image rangefinder, fine-focusing collar plus full-focusing screen, interchangeable viewing screens.

OTHER FEATURES: Mercury battery-powered CdS exposure meter layer on reflex mirror measures entire area at full aperture, quick-return diaphragm, instant-return mirror, depth-of-field preview lever, interchangeable eye-piece correction lenses, battery-operated auto winder, provision for electric motor drive and instant-attaching bulk-film magazine, meter needle and f/stops visible in finder, Topcor lenses available from 20mm to 500mm.

MANUFACTURER: Tokyo Optical Co., Ltd. Tokyo, Japan.

PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS: 6 in. wide, 3 3/4 in. high, 3 15/16 in. deep. **WEIGHT:** 2 lb. 10 1/2 oz.

It's a tribute to the soundness of Topcon's original Super D that its major changes in over a decade have been the addition of a black finish and the Auto Winder, both of which are available on the present Super DM.

Topcon's Auto Winder simply takes the place of the traditional thumb-operated film-advance lever (though the manual lever, located in the usual place, is still available as an auxiliary film advance in case you run out of battery power). As you relax your finger pressure on the shutter button, the film is automatically advanced to the very next frame. It takes about 3/4 sec. per frame and is accompanied by an average decibel whir—that's it. If this one-at-a-time film advance strikes you as anticlimactic (or you think you've got the fastest lever-advance thumb in the West), just try to fire your SLR as rapidly as a DM Topconeer. As his camera rests serenely cradled against his cheek, yours will generally be jouncing around as you wind the film rapidly. In other words, Topcon's little auto-winding motor *does* increase most people's practical photographic firepower more than the bare specifications might indicate. If not quite an electric motor drive, it's generally much faster than a film-advance lever.

The Super D and its predecessors have long been blessed with one of the most convenient systems of prism-and-screen-unit interchangeability around. To remove the prism, you just push down on a little chrome button to the left of the shutter-speed dial and slide the prism back out of its grooved slot. The screen lifts out easily by hooking even a chewed-up fingernail under the large tab at its rear and lifting upwards. The innovation comes in the form of

the overhanging prism front adorned with the Topcon nameplate. Look under it and you'll see a squarish aperture, behind which is a mirror which reflects the large white-on-black apertures off the lens aperture ring into a little box just above the finder area. This system works extremely well. You can see the apertures clearly in virtual darkness as well as in bright sunlight, and you needn't shift your eye very much in order to do so. Our only gripe with Topcon's engineers is that they haven't yet devised a system to allow you to see shutter speeds in or around the finder area.

Optically, the largish 1 3/4-in.-deep, 2 3/8-in.-diameter lens performed very well under a wide variety of lab and field conditions. But ultimately, we've got to get back to handling, for this in our opinion is the DM's reason for being. If a precision full-aperture, match-needle, behind-lens metering SLR—even with an electric film wind—doesn't sound too exciting by today's standards, we can only say that using the Topcon Super DM proved to be infinitely more informative than reading the spec sheet. A motor drive—even a one-at-a-time motor drive—must be experienced.



1. Shutter release. 2. Shutter-release lock. 3. Shoulder-strap lug. 4. Depth-of-field preview lever. 5. Lens-lock lever. 6. Mirror-lockup lever. 7. Auto winder. 8. Padded side strap. 9. Self-timer. 10. Rapid-wind lever. 11. Shutter-speed

dial. 12. Viewfinder eyepiece. 13. Meter window. 14. Rewind lever. 15. Aperture-control ring. 16. Guide-number indicator. 17. Focusing ring. 18. Prism release lock. 19. ASA film-speed scale. 20. Frame counter.

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