MINOLTA

TC-1

INSTRUCTION MANUAL
Thank you for purchasing the Minolta TC-1. The TC-1 is an ultra compact camera capable of producing snapshots or creative photographs with ease. The TC-1's 28mm G Rokkor lens uses sophisticated Minolta optical technology to give you the image quality of a 35mm SLR with a fixed focal length lens in a business card size compact camera. Your TC-1 is also extremely durable, with a titanium casing to protect its dignified appearance for years to come.

This manual was printed in April 1996.
If you have any questions, please contact the nearest Minolta Service Facility.
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FOR PROPER AND SAFE USE

STANDARD SYMBOLS
Various symbols are used throughout this instruction manual, and the product itself, for the proper and safe use of this product and to prevent personal injury, injury to others, and property damage. An explanation of the symbols follows. Read and understand each caution thoroughly before reading the main text of this instruction manual.

EXAMPLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>![Warning Symbol]</th>
<th>The outer triangle is for warning. The symbol inside illustrates what is being warned against. The example at left means beware of electric shock.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>![Prohibition Symbol]</td>
<td>The circle with a diagonal slash is for prohibition (don’t do). The symbol inside illustrates what act is prohibited. The example at left means do not disassemble.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WARNING

Do not touch the flashtube during operation, it may become hot when the flash fires.

Do not look directly at the sun through the viewfinder.

Do not subject the camera to direct sunlight. Fire may occur if the sunlight focuses at one point.

CAUTION

Do not walk while looking through the viewfinder, you may trip and fall causing injury.
Do not fire the flash if your subject is closer than the minimum flash distance stated in the manual.

If the camera is dropped or subjected to an impact in which the interior is exposed, immediately remove the batteries and discontinue use.

Do not disassemble. Take your camera to a Minolta Service Facility when repairs are required. Electric shock may occur if a high voltage circuit inside the camera is touched.

**BATTERY CAUTIONS**

Read and follow all warnings supplied with the battery.

The battery may explode if used improperly.

- Do not install battery with the polarity reversed (+/-reversed).
- Do not use a battery with visible damage.
- Do not subject battery to fire or high temperatures.
- Do not attempt to recharge, short, or disassemble.
Carefully observe the following warnings when using this product near young children or persons who may have difficulty perceiving the potential danger associated with these products.

⚠️ **WARNING**

Use Caution
If caution is not used, the following accidents or others may occur:
- Flash fired near the eye.
- Fingers caught in a running motor.
- Strap wound around the neck.

⚠️ **CAUTION**

YOUNG CHILDREN MAY SWALLOW SMALL OBJECTS.
Keep small accessories, or things that could be swallowed, away from young children. Contact a doctor immediately if an object is swallowed.
OPERATING TEMPERATURE AND CONDITIONS

- This camera is designed for use from -10 to 40 °C (14 to 104 °F).
- Never leave your camera where it may be subjected to extreme temperatures such as the glove compartment of a car.
- At colder temperatures, the data panel response time will be slow; at higher temperatures, the display will temporarily darken, but will restore when the temperature normalizes.
- Never subject the camera to extreme humidity.
- To prevent condensation from forming, place the camera in a sealed plastic bag when bringing it from the cold exterior into a warm building. Allow it to come to room temperature before removing it from the bag.
- When photographing in cold weather, we recommend that you keep the camera and spare batteries inside your coat to keep them warm when you are not shooting. Cold batteries will regain some of their charge when they warm up.
- This camera is not waterproof, dust-proof, or sand proof; take care when using at the beach or near water; costly or irreparable damage to the camera may occur.

CAMERA ERROR

If all the indicators in the data panel blink, or the data panel is blank and the camera will not function with fresh batteries, remove and re-insert the batteries. If normal operation does not resume, or the camera malfunctions repeatedly, contact an authorized Minolta Service Facility.
1. Shutter-release button
2. Function-dial release
3. Function dial
4. AF reset button
5. Viewfinder window*
6. Data panel
7. Flash
8. Red-eye-reduction/Self-timer lamp
9. AF illuminator
10. Lens*
11. Strap eyelet
12. Aperture lever
13. AF window*
14. Selector switch
15. Back-light button
16. Diopter-adjustment dial
17. Viewfinder eyepiece
18. Main switch
19. Spot/Slow-sync button
20. Film window
21. Tripod mount
22. Manual-rewind button
23. Battery-chamber release
24. Battery cover
25. Back-cover release

*Do not touch
Data Panel

1. Low-battery indicator
2. Night Portrait mark
3. Exposure-compensation mark
4. Time-value indicator
5. Cartridge mark
6. Manual-focus indicator
7. Flash indicator
8. Self-timer indicator
9. Red-eye-reduction indicator
10. ISO indicator
11. Focus-distance/Frame-counter/ Film-speed/
    Exposure-compensation/
    Shutter-speed display
12. Film mark
3. Shutter speeds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATOR</th>
<th>SHUTTER SPEED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500 blinking(slow)</td>
<td>1/750 down to 1/135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Automatic Aperture Priority Compensation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 and 125 illuminated</td>
<td>1/350 down to 1/180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125 illuminated</td>
<td>1/180 down to 1/90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125 and 30 illuminated</td>
<td>1/90 down to 1/45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 illuminated</td>
<td>1/45 down to 1/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 and 8 illuminated</td>
<td>1/20 down to 1/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 illuminated</td>
<td>1/10 down to 1/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 blinking(slow)</td>
<td>1/6 down to 8 seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- If the selected shutter speed is blinking fast, exposure is outside of the measuring limits or control limit.

4. Parallax mark
5. Spot circle
6. Focus frame
7. Focus indicator
1. HOLD
HOLD locks the preferences set in positions 2-7. Pictures can be taken in any of the function dial positions. In the HOLD position, dial rotation is locked and the settings cannot be accidentally changed. We recommend using the camera with the function dial in the HOLD position.

2. ⚡ Flash Mode
Flash cancel, manual fill, or night portrait modes can be selected.
This camera does not have auto switchover flash. Flash modes stay on after the shutter is released.

3. ☀ Red-eye Reduction
You can select red-eye reduction on or off.
When red-eye reduction is selected, the red-eye-reduction lamp will blink several times before the picture is taken. Red-eye reduction stays on after the shutter is released.
4. Self-Timer
10 second, 2 second or off can be selected.
The self-timer stays on after the shutter is released.

5. ISO ISO Setting
You can manually override the film speed for exposure compensation, emulsion matching, etc..
Manual ISO settings remain after the shutter is released.

6. AF/M Focus Mode
Auto or manual focus can be selected.
Manual focus distance settings remain after the shutter is released. The AF reset button functions when the function dial is in any position.

7. +/- Exposure Compensation
Ambient light exposure can be compensated in 1/2 EV increments. Exposure compensation settings remain after the shutter is released.

8. Function-Dial Release
Press the function-dial release when rotating the dial from hold to the other positions.
BACK-LIGHT BUTTON

At night or in low-light situations, press the back-light button to illuminate the data panel. The data panel will remain illuminated for approximately 5 seconds. The time will be extended as other camera functions are operated.

ATTACHING THE STRAP

Slide the small strap loop through the strap eyelet. Thread the large strap loop through the small strap loop, and pull it tight.
BEFORE USING THIS CAMERA
INSTALLING THE BATTERY

Your camera uses one 3-volt CR123A (or DL123A) lithium cell.

Installing the Battery

1. Slide the battery-cover release toward the serial number, and open the battery cover.

2. Insert the battery -side first, then push the battery down.

3. Close the battery cover, then slide the battery-cover release toward the tripod mount to lock.

Do not close the battery cover if the battery-cover release is toward the tripod mount. Closing the cover this way may bend or break the battery-cover release.
1. Slide the battery-cover release toward the serial number side, and open the battery cover.

2. Pull the battery up by the + side.
3. Close the battery cover, then slide the battery-cover release toward the tripod mount to lock.

If  appears in the data panel along with the other indicators, you can still use the camera, but the batteries will need to be replaced soon. If  appears alone, you cannot use the camera until you have replaced the batteries.
LOADING FILM

This camera uses 35mm roll film.
- Do not use Polaroid instant film or infrared film in this camera.

1. Slide the back-cover release in the direction indicated and open the back cover.

2. Place the film cartridge into the film chamber bottom side first, then push in the upper end. The film cartridge will click into place.

3. Lay the film flat between the guide rails and extend the tip over the take up drum to the film tip position mark, then lay the film tip on the take-up drum.

- Push the film cartridge down to make the film lay flat.
Successful Film Load

If `...` appears in the data panel, the film was loaded properly.

Loading Error

If `0` blinks in the data panel, the film was not loaded correctly. Open the back cover and repeat steps 3 and 4.

4. Close the back cover.
   - The film will automatically advance to the first frame.

If the camera is loaded with the power off and a misload occurs, the lens cover will open and close when the back cover is opened.
   - This is not a camera malfunction.
   - Do not touch the lens cover.
**REWINDING THE FILM**

**Automatic Rewind**
Your camera automatically rewinds the film after the last exposure.
- 0 will appear in the frame counter and 0 will blink when the film is rewound. Open the back cover and remove the film.

**Manual Rewind**
Gently press the rewind button on the bottom of the camera using a pen or similar object.
- 0 will appear in the frame counter and 0 will blink when the film is rewound. Open the back cover and remove the film.
DIOPTER ADJUSTMENT

Use the diopter adjustment to customize the viewfinder for your eyesight. The diopter adjustment range is from -2.5 to +1 diopters.

1. Point the camera at a brightly lit subject.

2. While looking through the viewfinder, turn the diopter-adjustment dial until the focus frame appears sharp.
HOLDING THE CAMERA

Your camera has a 28mm wide angle lens and an ultra compact body. Hold the camera carefully to keep your fingers out of your image and avoid covering the flash. When holding the camera, conform your fingers to the body of the camera, keeping your finger tips at least one cm away from the lens barrel.
Pressing the shutter-release button is a two step operation. Press the shutter-release button partway down to move the lens barrel forward, activate and lock the autofocus and autoexposure systems will activate, and display shutter speed, focus distance, and focus condition in the viewfinder. Press the shutter-release button all-the-way down to take the picture.
TAKING PICTURES
1. Press the main switch.
   - The lens cover will open and the lens barrel will come forward.

2. Set the aperture.
   - If the aperture is not set to a full stop position, F--- will appear in the data panel when the shutter-release button is pressed partway down. The shutter will not release when this occurs.

3. Place the focus frame on your subject.

**Auto Power Off**
If the camera is not used for three minutes, the camera will shut down to save battery power.
4. Gently press the shutter-release button all-the-way down to take the picture.
- When the shutter-release button is pressed partway down, shutter speed, focus distance and focus condition are displayed in the viewfinder.
- If your subject is too close, the focus-condition indicator will blink and the shutter will not release.

- If the focus-condition indicator blinks, the camera can not focus on the subject and the focus is set to 10m.
- This camera does not have an auto switchover flash. If you need flash, see page 27.
- If the subject is too bright, over exposure may result, set a new aperture. If the aperture is not changed, Automatic Aperture Priority Compensation will reduce the size of the shutter aperture to provide correct exposure, see page 44.
- If your subject is closer than 1.3m, frame the subject using the Parallax mark.
FOCUS LOCK

If you want to take a picture with your main subject outside the focus frame, use focus lock to ensure accurate focusing.

1. Center your subject in the focus frame.

2. Press and hold the shutter-release button partway down.
   - Focus and exposure are locked.

3. Without lifting your finger, recompose your picture, and press the shutter release button all the way down.
   - Remove your finger from the shutter release button to cancel focus hold.
SETTING THE FLASH MODE

The built-in flash has a guide number of 7 at ISO 100 and is controlled automatically by the camera's flash metering system. The flash has three modes: ON (§), Fill-in/Night Portrait (◆), and OFF.

§ ON: Flash will fire every time the shutter is released.
◆ Night Portrait: Slow sync mode to balance ambient light and flash exposure.

OFF: The flash will not fire.

When the flash is on, set the aperture to f/3.5. If a smaller aperture is set, underexposure may occur.

1. Press the function-dial release and turn the function dial to §.
2. Slide the selector lever until the desired flash mode is displayed in the data panel.

3. Set the function dial to HOLD if you want to keep this setting.
   • If the flash is to be used only once, take the picture then return the camera back to its original setting.
   • $\frac{1}{8}$ will blink in the viewfinder while the flash is charging
   • The shutter will lock while the flash is recharging.
   • In night portrait mode, the shutter speed may be slow (maximum 2 sec.). Use of a tripod is recommended.
   • If the focus-condition indicator blinks when the flash is on, the focus will be set to 1.8m.
In night portrait mode, the camera will balance flash and existing light exposure. When the flash mode is on, press the spot button and the shutter-release button at the same time.

- The range of the flash is 2.8m. Make sure your subject is within the flash range.
- The shutter speed may be slow (maximum 2 sec.), use of a tripod is recommended.
RED-EYE REDUCTION MODE

When photographing people and animals at night, or in low light situations, the red-eye effect may occur. To reduce this effect, use the red-eye-reduction mode with the built-in flash.

1. With the flash mode on, turn the function dial to the 🕶️.

2. Slide the selector lever until 🕶️ is seen in the data panel.

3. Set the function dial to HOLD if you want to keep this setting.
   - If the red-eye function is to be used only once, take the picture, then return the camera back to its original setting.

When using this function, a time lag will occur to allow the red-eye-reduction lamp to illuminate.
EXPOSURE COMPENSATION

This feature allows you to manually adjust the camera’s exposure ±4 stops, in half stop increments.

1. While pressing the function-dial release, turn the function dial to +/-.

2. Using the selector lever, select the desired compensation value. The amount of compensation is displayed in the data panel, along with a + or − indicator.
   • Once selected, the data panel will only display the + or - indicator.

4. Set the function dial to HOLD if you want to keep this setting.
   • If the exposure compensation is to be used only once, take the picture then return the camera back to its original setting.
EXPOSURE COMPENSATION WITH FLASH

Ambient light exposure will be compensated not the flash exposure. If you want to compensate both, use the ISO setting.

- Ambient light is the existing illumination without flash.
SPOT METERING

Using spot metering, you can bias the exposure for a particular part of the scene.

1. Frame the area you want to meter in the spot circle.
2. Press and hold the spot button.
3. Frame the subject as desired.
4. Press the shutter-release button all-the-way down.

The spot meter can be used with the exposure compensation function to correctly expose high and low key situations.
CHANGING THE SPOT METERING MODE

These two modes of the spot meter button allow either continuous or temporary activation of the spotmeter. In SP1, the spotmeter will be activated only while the spotmeter button is pressed. In SP2, the spotmeter will be active until the spotmeter button is pressed a second time.

To choose SP1 or SP2
Simultaneously press and hold the SPOT button and the main switch. While these buttons are depressed, the selector lever will switch between SP1 and SP2. • The camera will remain in SP1 or SP2 until it is reset.
SELF-TIMER

The self-timer delays the shutter release for 2, or 10, seconds after you press the shutter-release button, to replace a remote release or to let you to get into the picture.

1. Press the function-dial release and turn the function dial to 📸 .

2. Using the selector lever select the self-timer with the amount of delay required, 2 or 10 seconds.

3. Set the function dial to HOLD if you want to keep this setting.
4. Press the shutter-release button.

- The self-timer/red-eye-reduction lamp will blink, then stay on for the last second before the picture is taken.
- If the self-timer is to be used only once, take the picture then return the camera to its original setting.
- To cancel the self-timer after pressing the shutter-release button, press the main switch to turn the camera off.
MANUAL FOCUS

This camera provides the option of manual focus, with 22 preset focus distances accessed through the data panel. Focus changes are not seen in the viewfinder.

1. Press the function-dial release and turn the function dial to AF/M.
2. Using the selector lever, set the desired focus distance.
3. Set the function dial to HOLD if you want to keep this setting.
• Press the AF button to return to the autofocus mode.
• If manual focus is to be used for one picture only, take the picture then return the camera back to its original setting.
• Manual focus distances are displayed in meters. The sequence is shown below.

```
0.45 ↔ 0.5 ↔ 0.55 ↔ 0.6 ↔ 0.65 ↔ 0.7 ↔ 0.8 ↔ 0.9 ↔ 1.0 ↔ 1.2 ↔ 1.4
```

```
AF
```

```
99 ↔ 20 ↔ 10 ↔ 7.0 ↔ 5.0 ↔ 4.0 ↔ 3.0 ↔ 2.5 ↔ 2.0 ↔ 1.8
```

• 99m is considered to be infinity.
• If the desired distance is not available, select the closest shorter distance. The selected depth-of-field should cover the desired focus distance.
• Measure the focus distance from the back of the camera.
MANUAL ISO SETTING

If you want to override the camera’s automatic setting, you must manually set the film speed. Using the manual ISO feature, film speeds can be entered in increments of one third of a stop.

1. Press the function-dial release and turn the function dial to ISO.
   • Set the ISO after loading the film.

2. Change the ISO displayed in the data pane with the selector lever.

3. Set the function dial to HOLD if you want to keep this setting.
   • The ISO will not be displayed after the function dial is set to HOLD.
   • Inserting a DX coded roll will automatically change the ISO setting.
APPENDIX
PAN FOCUS

Autofocus may have difficulty locking onto a moving subject. Presetting the focus manually, and waiting for your subject to enter that range will help you successfully photograph your subject.

1. Set manual focus to a distance of three meters.

2. Set the aperture to f/16. Do not use flash with pan focus.

Under exposure may occur if the flash is used when the aperture set to other than f/3.5.
This camera has an AF illuminator that automatically fires a short burst of light to provide camera with the light necessary to focus, even in complete darkness.

- The range of the AF Illuminator is approximately (2.8m).
SPECIAL FOCUSING SITUATIONS

In the situations described below, it may be difficult, or impossible, for the camera to autofocus properly. When the focus-condition indicator blinks, use manual focus (page 37) or focus lock (page 26).

If a subject composed of alternating light and dark lines completely fills the focus frame.

If two subjects, at different distances, overlap within the focus frame.

On very bright or low contrast subjects.
AUTOMATIC APERTURE PRIORITY COMPENSATION

When the exposure value (EV) is over 11.5, your camera automatically sets a smaller shutter aperture. The reduction in the shutter aperture is called Automatic Aperture Priority Compensation (A.A.P.C). The program line illustrates the decrease in the effective aperture, due to the decrease in the diameter of the shutter aperture, when using shutter speeds higher than 1/350.

- When Automatic Aperture Priority Compensation is activated, 500 will blink slowly in the viewfinder.
- The shutter aperture is not circular. When Automatic Aperture Priority Compensation is activated, the benefits of the circular aperture will not be realized at f/3.5 or f/5.6.
## SPECIFICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Camera Type</strong></td>
<td>35mm compact auto/manual focus, aperture priority, built in flash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lens</strong></td>
<td>Minolta G Rokkor 28mm f/3.5 lens; 5 all-glass elements in 5 groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Viewfinder</strong></td>
<td>Type: Real image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Magnification: 0.4x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Field of view: 85% at 3m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dioptr: -2.5 - +1 dpt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus</strong></td>
<td>Type: External passive with focus lock, 22 manual zone focus settings, built-in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AF illuminator</strong></td>
<td>Range: 0.45m - infinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Max. Magnification: 1/13.5X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Steps: approx. 455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exposure</strong></td>
<td>Control: Aperture priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manual aperture setting(f/3.5, 5.6, 8, and 16). At EV 11.5-12.5, the shutter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>aperture will be smaller than f/5.6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Metering: 2 segment center weighted/spot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Center Weighted: EV 1.5 - 17 (f/3.5, 4 sec - f/13.5, 1/750 sec)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spot: EV 2.5 - 17 (f/3.5 2sec. to f/13.5 1/750 sec.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Compensation: 74 EV in 1/2 EV increments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Flash
Type: Built-in, fixed flash
Modes: Auto, Cancel, Night(fill-in)
Range: 0.45m - 2.0m (ISO 100)
Recycling time: 5 sec.
Red-eye reduction: Cancelable, lamp type
Guide number: 7

Film transport
Automatic motorized film transport, first frame setting, film advance
and film rewind; manual film rewind and film rewind stop also possible.

Self-timer
10 or 2 second delay, lamp type, cancelable

Power
One 3-volt CR123A/DL123A lithium cell

Battery performance
Approximately 13 rolls (24 exposure film with flash on 50%)

Dimensions (WxHxD)
99.0 x 59.0 x 29.5mm

Weight (w/o battery)
185g

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