

## Canon Canonet QL17 GIII

# Canon Canonet QL17 GIII Camera Instruction Manual

Model: Canonet QL17 GIII

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Canonet QL17 GIII is a classic 35mm rangefinder camera known for its compact design and high-quality lens. It features a fast 40mm f/1.7 lens composed of six elements in four groups, providing excellent optical performance. The camera incorporates an integrated light meter that supports both shutter priority automatic exposure and full manual control, offering versatility for various shooting conditions. Its unique Quick Load (QL) system simplifies film loading. The light sensor is strategically placed on the front of the lens barrel, allowing for accurate exposure readings even when filters are attached without requiring manual compensation. The Canonet QL17 GIII is compatible with standard flashes and was also designed to work seamlessly with the dedicated Canonlite D flash unit.



Figure 1: Front view of the Canon Canonet QL17 GIII camera, showcasing its lens and rangefinder window.

## 2. SETUP AND INITIAL PREPARATION

### 2.1 Battery Installation

The Canonet QL17 GIII requires a battery to power its integrated light meter.

1. Locate the battery compartment, typically on the bottom of the camera.
2. Unscrew the battery compartment cover using a coin or appropriate tool.
3. Insert the correct battery type (e.g., PX625 mercury battery or a modern alkaline equivalent like a 1.35V zinc-air battery or a 1.5V alkaline battery with voltage adapter if needed), ensuring correct polarity.
4. Replace the battery compartment cover and tighten it securely.



Figure 2: Bottom view of the camera, indicating the location of the battery compartment.

## 2.2 Film Loading (Quick Load System)

The Canonet QL17 GIII features the Quick Load (QL) system for easy film installation.

1. Open the camera back by pulling up the film rewind knob until it clicks open.
2. Place a 35mm film cassette into the film chamber on the left side.
3. Pull the film leader across to the take-up spool on the right. The QL system has a red mark indicating where the film leader should reach.
4. Close the camera back firmly until it latches.
5. Advance the film by pressing the shutter button and winding the film advance lever until the frame counter shows '1'. Watch the rewind knob to ensure it rotates, indicating the film is properly engaged.



Figure 3: Rear view of the camera with the film door open, showing the film chamber and take-up spool for the Quick Load system.

### 3. OPERATING THE CAMERA

#### 3.1 Lens and Aperture Control

The camera is equipped with a 40mm f/1.7 lens. The aperture ring is located on the lens barrel. Rotate this ring to select your desired aperture (f-stop). Smaller f-numbers (e.g., f/1.7) indicate a wider aperture for shallow depth of field and low light, while larger f-numbers (e.g., f/16) indicate a smaller aperture for greater depth of field.



Figure 4: Close-up of the Canonet QL17 GIII lens, showing the aperture and focusing rings.

### 3.2 Focusing

The Canonet QL17 GIII is a rangefinder camera. To focus:

1. Look through the viewfinder. You will see a bright rectangle in the center.
2. Within this rectangle, you will see a double image.
3. Rotate the focusing ring on the lens until the double image merges into a single, clear image. This indicates accurate focus.

### 3.3 Exposure Control (Light Meter)

The integrated light meter offers two primary modes:

- **Shutter Priority Automatic Exposure:** Set your desired shutter speed. The camera's light meter will then automatically select the appropriate aperture for correct exposure.
- **Manual Exposure:** You can manually set both the shutter speed and aperture. The light meter will provide a reading (often a needle in the viewfinder) to guide you towards correct exposure. Adjust settings until the needle indicates proper exposure.

The light sensor is located on the front of the lens, ensuring accurate readings even with filters attached.

### 3.4 Shutter Speed Selection

The shutter speed dial is typically located on the top plate of the camera or integrated with the lens barrel. Rotate this dial to select shutter speeds ranging from 1/500th of a second down to 30 seconds.



Figure 5: Top view of the camera, highlighting the shutter speed dial and film advance lever.

### 3.5 Using the Self-Timer

To activate the self-timer (10-second delay):

1. Cock the shutter.
2. Move the self-timer lever (usually located on the front of the camera near the lens) to its active position.
3. Press the shutter button. The self-timer mechanism will engage, and the shutter will release after approximately 10 seconds.

### 3.6 Flash Photography

The Canonet QL17 GIII features a hot shoe for attaching standard external flash units. It also supports the dedicated Canonlite D flash. When using a flash, ensure the camera's shutter speed is set to the appropriate flash synchronization speed (often marked with a lightning bolt symbol or a specific speed like 1/30s). Consult your flash unit's manual for specific settings and guide numbers.

## 4. MAINTENANCE AND CARE

### 4.1 Cleaning the Camera

- **Lens:** Use a soft lens brush or a blower to remove dust. For smudges, use a clean microfiber cloth specifically designed for optics and a small amount of lens cleaning solution. Avoid touching the lens surface with your fingers.

- **Viewfinder:** Gently wipe the exterior of the viewfinder with a clean, soft cloth. Do not attempt to clean the internal elements unless you are a qualified technician.
- **Camera Body:** Wipe the camera body with a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth can be used, but ensure no moisture enters the camera's internal components.

## 4.2 Battery Replacement

Replace the battery as described in Section 2.1 when the light meter becomes erratic or stops functioning. Always dispose of old batteries responsibly.

## 4.3 Light Seals

Over time, the foam light seals around the camera back can deteriorate, leading to light leaks on your film. Inspect these seals periodically. If they appear sticky, crumbly, or missing, they may need to be replaced by a qualified camera technician to prevent light leaks.

# 5. TROUBLESHOOTING

| Problem                                      | Possible Cause                                               | Solution                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Light meter not working                      | Dead or incorrectly installed battery.                       | Check battery installation and replace if necessary (refer to Section 2.1).                                                          |
| Shutter not firing                           | Shutter not cocked; camera mechanism jammed.                 | Ensure film advance lever is fully wound. If still unresponsive, seek professional repair.                                           |
| Hazy viewfinder / Difficult to focus         | Dust or haze on viewfinder optics; rangefinder misalignment. | Clean external viewfinder glass (Section 4.1). If internal haze or misalignment, professional service is required.                   |
| Light leaks on film                          | Deteriorated light seals.                                    | Inspect and replace light seals (Section 4.3) or seek professional repair.                                                           |
| Film not advancing / Rewind knob not turning | Film not properly loaded onto take-up spool.                 | Re-open camera back in a dark room or changing bag, re-seat film leader, and ensure it engages with the take-up spool (Section 2.2). |

# 6. SPECIFICATIONS

|                       |                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Model Name            | Canon Canonet G-III QL17            |
| Film Format Type      | 35mm                                |
| Lens                  | 40mm f/1.7 (6 elements in 4 groups) |
| Shutter Type          | Focal Plane Shutter                 |
| Minimum Shutter Speed | 30 Seconds                          |
| Exposure Control      | Manual, Shutter Priority Automatic  |
| Viewfinder            | Optical Rangefinder                 |

|                                 |                                        |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Viewfinder Magnification</b> | 0.5x to 0.7x                           |
| <b>Self Timer</b>               | 10 Seconds                             |
| <b>Included Components</b>      | Battery, Instruction Manual (original) |
| <b>Color</b>                    | Black (body), Silver (lens/top plate)  |
| <b>Manufacturer</b>             | Canon                                  |

## 7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding warranty coverage, please refer to the original warranty documentation provided with your Canonet QL17 GIII camera at the time of purchase. As this is a vintage camera model, warranty terms may vary significantly depending on the seller and purchase date.

For technical support, repairs, or inquiries about replacement parts, it is recommended to contact specialized vintage camera repair services or consult online communities dedicated to classic Canon cameras. Canon's official support for this specific model may be limited due to its age.

You can visit the official Canon website for general information about the brand [Canon Store](#).

### ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

Name

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Email

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After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. [Privacy details](#).

Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question

