



CANON FD
85-300MM

Zoom Lens

TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

CANON

FD 85MM-300MM

The Canon 85-300mm FD lens is a versatile vintage full-frame zoom lens that bridges the gap between standard and telephoto focal lengths. Introduced in the mid-1970s, this lens was part of Canon's professional FD lineup and was celebrated for its optical performance and robust construction. Offering a 3.5x zoom range, it combines flexibility and quality, making it a valuable addition to any collection of vintage glass.

Like its FD counterparts, the 85-300mm excels in image quality across its range, even when used wide open. The lens delivers sharp central rendering and a pleasingly textured bokeh that remains smooth and cinematic. Its aesthetic flares add an artistic dimension to images, while the lens's Extra-low Dispersion (ED) glass minimizes chromatic aberrations and enhances clarity, especially at longer focal lengths. These features have ensured the 85-300mm's lasting appeal among filmmakers and photographers alike.

Technically, the lens is designed to meet the demands of cinema production. Its parfocal construction ensures focus remains consistent throughout the zoom range, and the absence of light falloff or ramping during zooming maintains consistent exposure—critical for dynamic filmmaking. Modern rehousing updates have improved its close-focusing capabilities and added a generous focus rotation, enabling precise adjustments even at longer focal lengths.

The lens has also been enhanced with a new 15-blade circular iris, replacing the original design that could produce angular bokeh when stopped down. This update ensures beautifully rounded out-of-focus highlights, elevating the aesthetic quality of the lens. Additionally, it features a PL mount conversion and industry-standard 0.8 module gears, making it fully compatible with modern follow-focus systems. The lens supports a standard 136mm front diameter, works seamlessly with 4x5.65 matte boxes, and includes a 3/8" lens support for added stability during operation.

By combining the vintage optical character of its era with contemporary mechanical enhancements, the Canon 85-300mm FD lens has been transformed into a powerful tool for modern filmmaking. Its historical significance, paired with updated functionality, makes it an exceptional choice for creatives seeking a classic yet capable zoom lens.



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SINGLE LENS SPECIFICATIONS

| Lens | Focal Length | Enhanced CF | Focus Rotation | Weight (KG) | Front Diameter | Length (mm) | Image Circle | Iris Blade Count | T _{stop} |
|----------|--------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|
| CANON FD | 50-300 | 6'6 | 330° | 5.5 | 136 | - | 36x24 | 15 | T4.9 |


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