

Leica **M2**

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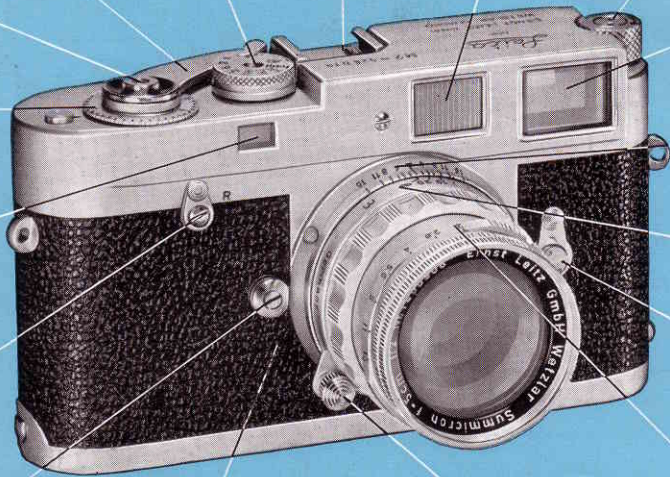
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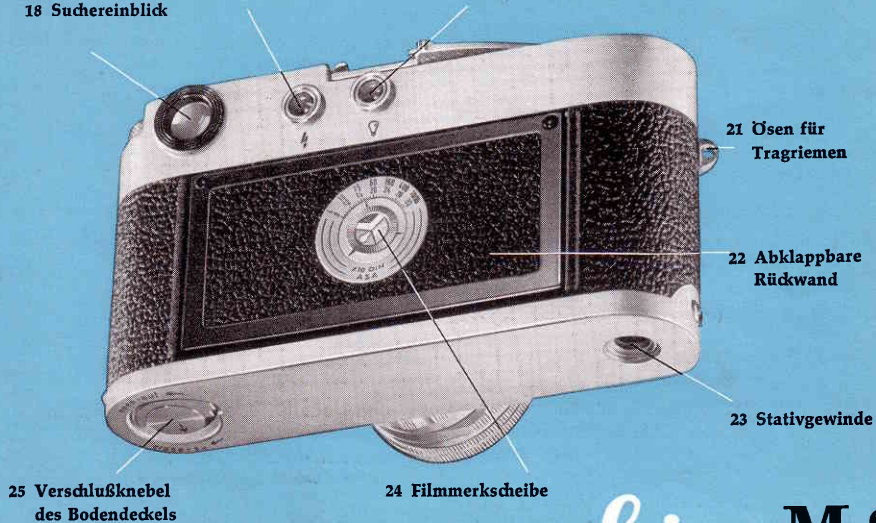
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Leica M 2

FULL INSTRUCTIONS

Leica M2

This Instruction Book

contains everything you should know about the LEICA M 2. At first practice handling the camera without a film. Carry on until you know all the steps by heart without needing to refer to this manual. You will get the hang of it quicker than you thought possible - handling the LEICA is much simpler than reading about it.

ERNST LEITZ GMBH WETZLAR

110-36 c / Engl.



Hold the LEICA Correctly

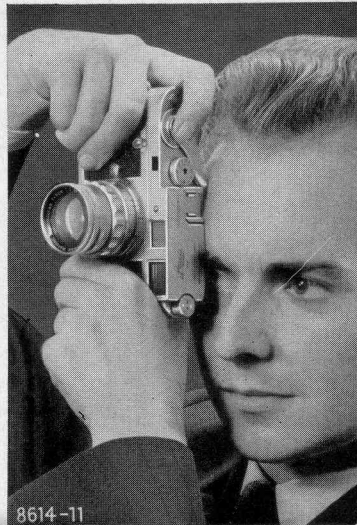
First of all get used to holding the LEICA correctly. This is most important for quick and reliable shooting, and for high quality, pin-sharp pictures.

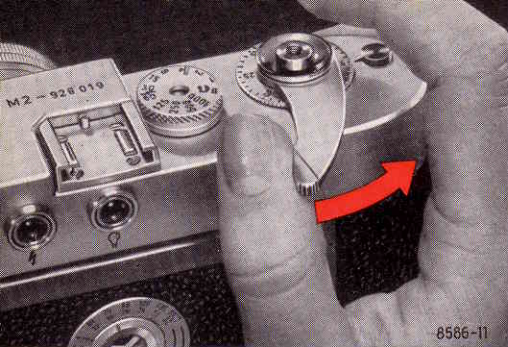
Grip the LEICA so that it rests in the palms of both hands. The right thumb rests lightly against the transport lever (2), while the right index finger just touches the release button (1). Use the left hand to focus the lens (9). Keep your eye as close as possible to the finder eyepiece (18). Support the camera firmly against the forehead: the camera, your head, and your hands should form a rigid unit. The purpose of all this is to give the LEICA a solid support during exposure. This will avoid camera shake and yield negatives with that ultra-sharp definition characteristic of LEICA pictures.

Try exposing at first with a shutter speed of $1/60$ second or faster. After some practice you'll find yourself able to use slower speeds without shaking the camera during exposure. If you find it more convenient you can, of course, equally well use your left eye for viewing and focusing.

To switch from horizontal to vertical pictures, turn the LEICA upright. The grip of the hands does not change appreciably: hold the camera in much the same way as for horizontal shots. Alternatively, you can bring the right hand down for vertical shots, and release the shutter with the thumb. In this case hold the LEICA so that the tip of the thumb lies against the release button, and the fingers press against the camera from the bottom. Use the left hand to focus the lens. Rest the upper part of the camera against your forehead. With this hold you can release really smoothly.

Whether taking vertical or horizontal shots, you do not have to take the eye from the finder - a useful point with picture sequences, for the LEICA controls are all ideally located for ease of operation.

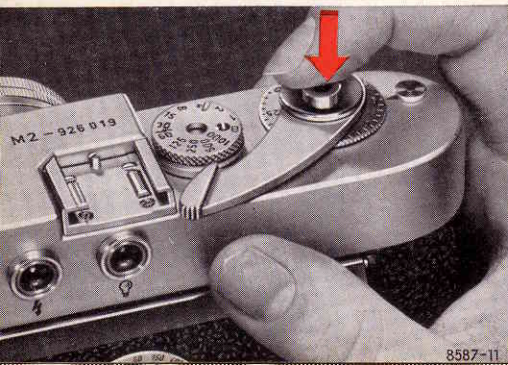




The Film Transport Lever (2)

Push the transport lever fully to the right with your right thumb. Alternatively, work it with a number of short strokes until it locks. Either way, this movement tensions the focal plane shutter of the LEICA and advances the film by one frame.

You cannot accidentally advance more than one frame at a time or make an exposure before the film has been properly advanced. Accidental double-exposures are impossible.



The Release Button (1)

Press the release button gently with the right index finger. Never jab it! You will hear the click as the shutter runs down. This exposes the film in the camera.

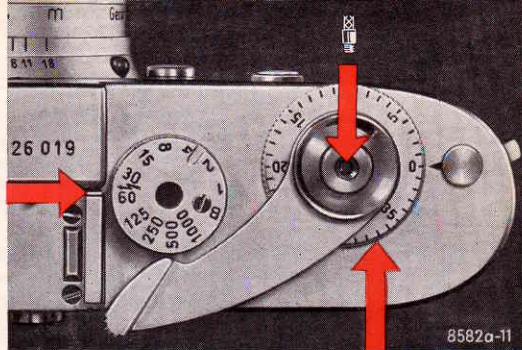
After each exposure lift your finger off the release button. This frees the mechanism so that you can operate the transport lever.

Setting the Shutter Speed (3)

The numbers on the shutter speed dial indicate fractions of a second. For example, 1000 is $\frac{1}{1000}$ second, 125 is $\frac{1}{125}$ second, 4 is $\frac{1}{4}$ second, and 1 is $\frac{1}{1}$, or one full second. The dial engages at each speed; you read the setting next to the small index line on the accessory shoe. When set to B, the shutter remains open as long as the release button is depressed. The red symbol of a lightning flash indicates a shutter speed of $\frac{1}{50}$ second for synchronizing electronic flash. Intermediate shutter speeds can also be set within the range of 1 to $\frac{1}{8}$ second, between $\frac{1}{15}$ and $\frac{1}{30}$ second, and between $\frac{1}{60}$ and $\frac{1}{1000}$ sec.

The shutter release button will take a standard locking cable-release (LEITZ order No. 14 067) for time exposures. Use a tripod for these.

The shutter speed dial can be coupled with the LEICAMETER exposure meters. (See separate meter instructions.)



The Film Counter (17)

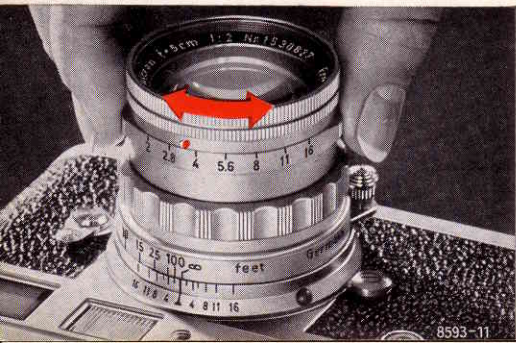
automatically indicates the number of frames exposed. When loading a new film set the counter disc to No. 0 (see also page 23).

The Lens Aperture (11)

Turning the lens aperture ring opens or closes the iris diaphragm. This may easily be observed by looking into the front of the lens. Like the pupil of your eye which opens or closes to adapt itself to weaker or stronger light, the lens diaphragm is used to regulate the amount of light reaching the film. To cut down very bright light we "stop down" to a small lens aperture. In very dim light, on the other hand, we "open up" to a larger lens aperture which transmits more light to the film.

The aperture f/numbers (**stops 1.4 – 2 – 2.8 – 4 – 5.6 – 8 – 11 – 16 – 22 – 32***) follow an internationally recognized scale. This scale has been designed in such a way that closing down the aperture one stop cuts the light passing through the lens to one half. Conversely, opening up one stop doubles the amount of light that will reach the film. One aperture interval on the lens corresponds to one shutter speed interval on the shutter speed selector dial.

Remember: The larger the f/number, the smaller the aperture.

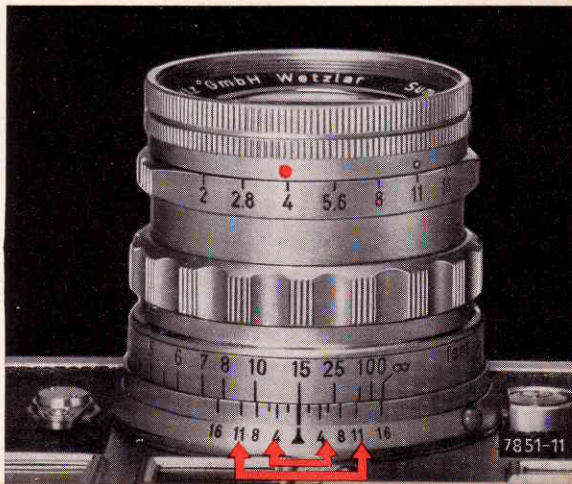


* The length of this scale depends on the lens type.

The Depth of Field Scale (8)

The sharpest parts of the image correspond to objects at the exact distance (in a plane parallel to the film) at which the lens is focused. This maximum sharpness gradually falls off in front of, and behind, the focused distance. There is, however, a certain zone of acceptable sharpness, known as the "depth of field". Its extent depends on the subject distance, the focal length of the lens, and the lens aperture used. Stopping down increases the zone of sharpness, while the full aperture of high-speed lenses yields only limited depth of field.


The depth-of-field scale of every LEICA lens shows what depth you have available. At any aperture two index lines of the same aperture number indicate the limits of the sharp zone. If for instance (see illustration) you have set the 50mm SUMMICRON f/2 lens to 15 feet, the available depth of field with an aperture of f/4 extends from about 12¹/₂ to 20 feet. If, however, you stop down to f/11, the depth ranges from about 9 to 40 feet. The depth of field can also be estimated with the rangefinder (see page 13).

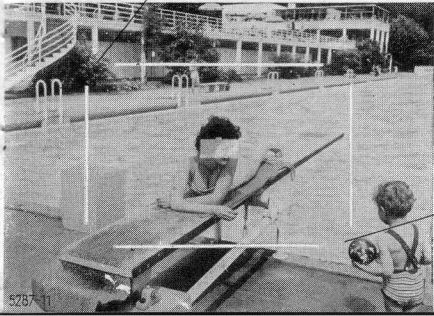


The brilliant viewfinder field frames

of the LEICA M 2 automatically frame the subjects covered by the lens in use. The frames correspond to focal lengths of 35mm, 50mm, and 90mm. As the LEICA has an optical direct-vision finder, you see the subject all the time – even at the instant of exposure. The film records everything within the bright-line-frame.

The brilliant frame is coupled to the focusing movement, and automatically shifts to compensate for parallax errors over the entire focusing range. Shots with “cut-off” heads or feet are therefore a thing of the past!

This is what you see through the LEICA M 2's combined range-viewfinder when a 50mm lens is used. 



The Automatic Finder Adjustment for 35-, 50-, and 90mm lenses.

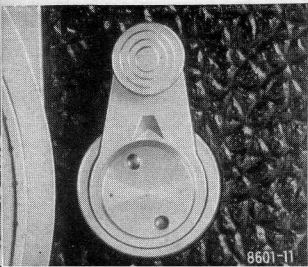
Whenever any 35-, 50- or 90mm LEICA lens is inserted into the M2 camera's bayonet mount the correct focal frame automatically appears in the viewfinder. The area outlined by these frame-lines shows exactly what will be on the negative, and the surrounding image field serves to keep the photographer aware of what's going on so that he is prepared for instant action with fast-moving subjects. As you focus note that the highly illuminated field-frames shift to afford continuously automatic parallax compensation at all focusing distances.

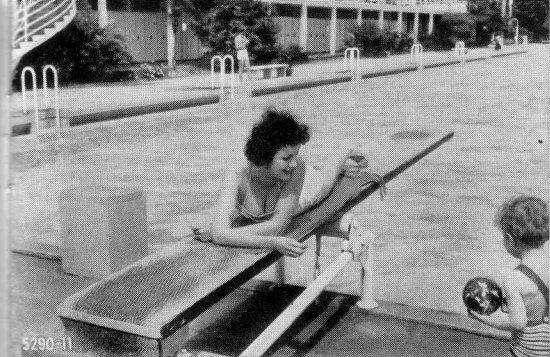
The integral finder magnifier of the 135mm ELMARIT f/2.8 permits this lens to be used directly with the LEICA M 2 range-viewfinder, giving a life-sized viewfinder image.

Vertical lever position:
Field of view for 50mm
lenses.

The Finder Frame Selector (10)

With this small lever you can at any time switch from the finder frame of the lens in the camera to either of the other two frames. You can therefore judge in advance which lens will produce the best result, without having to change the lens itself. Then, when you have made up your mind, it takes only a few seconds to fit the required lens.





Lever pointing outwards:
Field of view for 35mm lenses.

Lever pointing inwards:
Field of view for 90mm lenses.

