You are the owner of a LEICA®

We hope that you will obtain as much enjoyment from it as all the many LEICA fans in every country of the globe.

As a LEICA owner you have the benefit of a universal photographic system, which also covers the technical and scientific field. In its widest sense, it includes the well-known LEITZ enlargers and LEITZ miniature projectors. The projected image, huge, luminous, and realistic, reveals the full beauty of your colour photographs, and never fails to fascinate you and your friends. May your LEICA be a constant source of pleasure to you.

Yours sincerely
ERNST LEITZ WETZLAR GMBH

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23 Tripod thread A 1/4 (1/4")

Fitting the carrying sfrap

The eyelets (17) are provided for fitting the carrying strap. Release the double d-back length of leather from the round part of the shackle, push off both metal parts and hook them in the eyelets of the camera in opposite directions.

Thread the leather holders through the slots in the metal parts and secure them with the round part of the shackle.

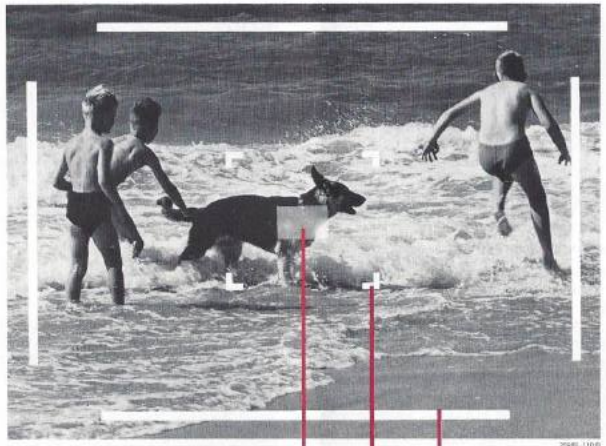
How to hold the LEICA

For steady three-point support hold your camera with your right hand, your index finger resting on the release button, your thumb on the rapid-transport lever. The left hand either supports the lens from below, ready for quick refocusing, or it grasps the camera. In addition press the camera against your forehead.

For upright views all you have to do is to rotate the camera through 90°. The position of your hands is the same as for horizontal views.
You can also rotate the camera in the opposite direction, then you must use your thumb to release the shutter.

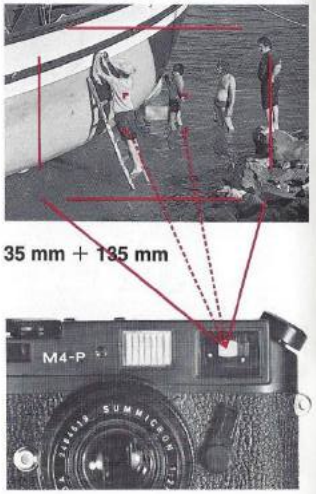
The bright-line measuring viewfinder

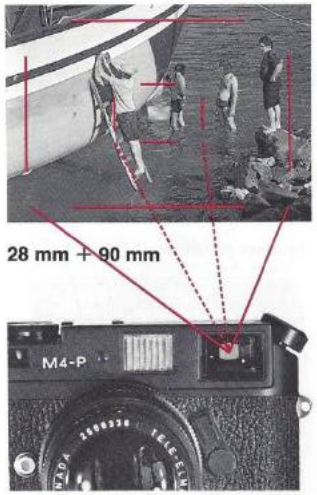
The bright-line measuring viewfinder of the LEICA M 4-P has been designed to combine the functions of a coupled rangefinder and of a viewfinder of outstanding quality. Whatever you see within the bright frame will appear on your exposed film. The bright-line frame is coupled with the rangefinder so that the parallax – the difference between the lens axis and the viewfinder axis – is automatically compensated.
The measuring field, brighter than the surrounding field, is located in the centre of the viewfinder field. All the lenses of 21–135mm focal length are coupled with the rangefinder on insertion in the LEICA. When lenses of 28 (from serial No. 2 314 921), 35, 50, 75, 90, and 135 mm focal length are inserted, the appropriate bright-line frames will automatically appear in the viewfinder image in the combinations 28 + 90mm, 35 + 135mm, and 50 + 75mm.

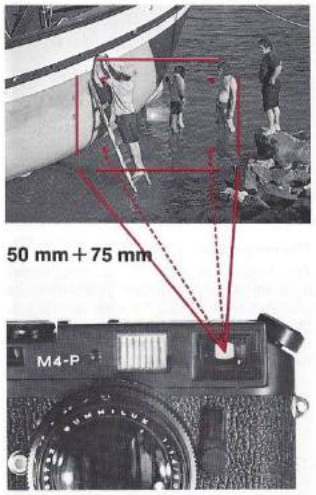


The field-of-view selector

The field-of-view selector (14) functions as a universal viewfinder; it enables the LEICA owner at any time to reflect into the viewfinder field the frames outlining the fields-of-view other than that of the lens that happens to be in the camera. Lever outward: field-of-view frames for 35 and 135mm focal lengths. Lever inward: field-of-view frame for the 28 and 90 mm focal lengths. Lever in the middle position: field-of-view frame for the 50 and 75 mm focal lengths.







The rangefinder

The measuring field of the rangefinder appears in the centre of the viewfinder as a bright, sharply outlined oblong. If you block the large field window (15) of the viewfinder, only the reflected bright-line frame and the measuring field remain visible. Focusing can be carried out according to the coincidence or to the split-image method.

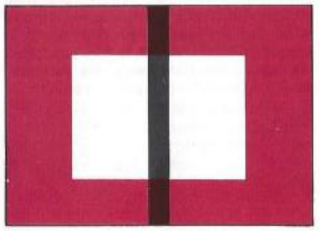
Coincidence (double image) focusing: in portraiture, for instance, focus on the highlight in the sitter's eye. Observe the subject through the viewfinder and rotate the lens until the double contours in the measuring field coincide.

Split-image focusing: Sight an edge or any other clearcut line; if you find that this line is offset sideways as it enters the measuring field, rotate the lens until the line becomes continuous as it passes from the viewfinder- into the measuring field and out again. This method is to be preferred because of its superior accuracy.

Double image = unsharp

Offset line = unsharp

Coincident image = sharp



Continuous line = sharp

The rapid winding lever (3) at each full lever movement transports the film through one frame, winds the shutter and advances the frame counter to the next number. The film can also be transported by several short strokes of the transport lever. (⊖ = film plane indication).

The release button (2) has a thread for a cable release (Code No. 14067). It should be pressed smoothly, without a jerk, until its soft click indicates that the shutter is released.

The shutter speed dial (5) controls the shutter speed and can be set either before or after the shutter is wound. It clicks home at every engraved speed value and except for the range between 8 and 15 any intermediate speeds can be set and are fully effective. At the "B" setting the shutter remains open as long as the release button is pressed. The dial must be set at the symbol ϟ = 1/50 sec. when electronic flash is used.

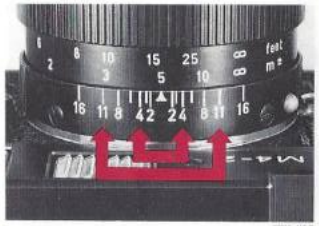
The LEICA lenses have a fixed ring with depth-of-field scale (10), a rotatable ring for setting the focusing distance (11) and an iris diaphragm ring (12).

The distance scale

The distance scale (11) indicates the distance on which the lens is set, and, in connection with the depth-of-field scale (10), the extent of the depth of field. The distance is also important to the calculation of the guide number during the use of flash equipment.

The aperture scale

The aperture scale is internationally laid down; the values have been chosen so that the quantity of light reaching the film is halved every time the lens is stopped down one step. One aperture step is equivalent to one step on the shutter speed dial (5) regarding the adjustment of the light quantity to which the film is exposed. Like the shutter speed dial, the lens diaphragm ring clicks into position opposite each number (some diaphragm rings also at half values). This will enable you, after some practice, to identify the setting of the diaphragm even in the dark.



The depth-of-field scale

The lens reproduces at maximum sharpness the plane, parallel to the film, on which it is focused. This maximum sharpness falls off gradually towards the front and rear; within a certain depth, then, the subject will appear sharp. This depth of field depends on the camera distance, the focal length of the lens, and the lens stop set. Stopping down the lens increases, opening it up decreases the depth of field.

The depth-of-field scale indicates the depth-of-field zone for the object distance on which the lens is focused.
With the 50mm SUMMICRON® f/2 focused on 5m (16ft, 8in), sharpness at f/4 extends from 4m to about 8m (13ft. 4in to about 26ft. 8in). However, if you stop down to f/11 at the same focusing distance, sharpness will extend from 3m to about 20m (10ft. to about 67ft.).

Inserting the lens

The red knob on the lens mount (8) must face the red dot on the camera body. After a short turn to the right the lens will engage in the bayonet mount with a click. Change lenses in the shade (e.g. of your own body).
Remove the lens cap before you take pictures.

Taking out the lens

Grip the rear, fixed ring (10) of the lens. Depress arresting button (7), rotate the lens to the left and take it out.

Flash synchronization

The LEICA M 4-P accepts all flash units on the market with standard flash plugs (coaxial plug) or with accessory-shoe contact.
The bushes for the cable connection of flash units are arranged on the back of the camera. Flashbulbs are connected to the left-hand bush (20) marked "**M**", and electronic flash units on the right-hand bush marked "**X**" (21).

Flash units and adapters without cable connection can be connected through the "**X**" flash contact in the accessory shoe (9).
Flash cubes and certain types of flashbulb are fired through the X contact bush. The table on the right offers information about the various possibilities. Three flash units may be used simultaneously through the 3 flash connections.

Flash table

Electronic flash		X	B → ⚡ (= 1/50)
Flashbulbs	AG 1 Flash Cubes AG 3 M 2	X	B → 1/30
	XM 1 PF 1 XM 5 PF 5	M	B → 1/60
	M 3	M	B → 1/125
	GE 5 25	M	B → 1/500

X = Contact or accessory shoe electronic flash
M = Contact for flashbulbs

Inserting the film

First make sure, by turning the rewind crank (16) in the direction of the arrow, that the camera is empty. If you feel any resistance, proceed as described on the following page.

Take the camera in your left hand, baseplate facing you. Pull out the toggle in the baseplate (19), turn it to the left, and remove the baseplate. The film lead must be trimmed like that of all films sold in cartridges. Take the cartridge or cassette in your right hand and insert it about halfway into the space provided for it in the camera, grip the film lead, and pull it into the take-up spool*. Push film cartridge and lead into the camera with the palm of your hand. Hinge the baseplate on to the lug at the side of the camera, close it, and lock it by means of the toggle (19). The baseplate is designed so that after it is fixed on the camera it adjusts the film in its correct position. Transport the film through two frames and release the shutter. Tension the film after the second shutter-wind by rotating the rewind crank (16). The film is transported correctly if the rewind crank (16) turns against the direction of the arrow during film transport. After the third shutter-wind the automatic frame counter (1) points at 1 and the camera is ready for action.

* Only at temperatures below freezing must the film be inserted in the LEICA according to the diagrammatic representation, i.e. the film lead must be caught by only one slot of the take-up spool; any portion protruding through the second slot beyond the take-up spool is liable to break off at low temperatures. In normal conditions the film lead can be threaded through the take-up spool until it touches the wall of the housing.

Removing the film

After the exposure of the last frame the rapid transport lever (3) can no longer be moved. The film must now be rewound. Move the lever (4) to "R". Unfold the rewind crank (16) and rotate it in the direction of the arrow until the film is wound back into the cassette. Open baseplate and remove the film cassette.

If the film is not securely attached to the cartridge spool, e.g. when bulk film is used, the film is liable to tear off, when it will have to be removed from the take-up spool.
Remove the baseplate of the camera in a **completely dark room.** Hold the camera with the open bottom facing downwards. Actuate the rapid transport lever slowly several times until the film protrudes from the camera far enough to be gripped by hand and taken out. If necessary, tap the camera against your hand slightly to assist this movement.

Looking after your LEICA and its lenses

LEICA lenses act like burning glasses if the LEICA lies with the lens face upwards in full sunlight. You must therefore protect the housing and the shutter by putting on the lens cap or keeping the camera in a case, or in the shade.

Each lens has, in addition to its type, its "personal" serial number engraved on it. You should make a note of this number as well as of the serial number of the camera engraved on the top of the LEICA. This can be very helpful indeed in case of loss or theft.

The coating of LEICA lenses, together with the use of special UV-absorbing cement, achieves effective exclusion of ultraviolet light. This ensures consequently that all lenses possess the same colour-transmitting properties, inespective of focal length. The external anti-reflection coatings are wiperesistant.

Dust should be removed with a soft sable brush, a piece of cotton cloth (e.g. a handkerchief) washed several times, or lens tissue. Special cleaning cloths, such as are used for the cleaning of spectacles, are not recommended, as they are chemically impregnated and might attack the lens surface (glass used for spectacles has a composition different from that of optical glass for high-quality lenses).

A colourless UVa filter can be left permanently on the lens, where it will protect the front element from external influences, e.g. of sand or sea water spray on the beach.

The lens hood, too, protects the lens from accidental finger marks and raindrops. Protect your precious lenses with the appropriate lens caps.

The LEICA system

Exposure meter

The LEICAMETER® exposure meter can be coupled with the LEICA M 4-P for aimed exposure measurement. The clearly outlined measuring field of the LEICAMETER corresponds to the picture area of the 90mm LEICA lenses. Independently of the lens in the camera it can be reflected into the field of view with the field-of-view selector (14) at any time.