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- New standard of RF magnification - .72
- Early M2 may have a button-push rewind
- Early M2 may have no Self-Timer
- Brightline Framelines for 35, 50, and 90mm
- 35mm no longer requires "RF" lenses as M3
- Made in Silver Chrome, and rarely in Black or Olive. Some rare examples made in Canada. Also rarely Motorized and/or as "M2-R" (w rapid load system)
- External frame counter; needs manual reset
- Removable film take-up spool (upgradable)

- First M camera with exposure meter
- Larger body size and different shape
- Early models have two strap lugs on right side, later have additional lug
- Silver Chrome & Black Chrome

- M4-2 and M4-P are virtually identical*
- Brightline Framelines for 28, 35, 50, 75, 90 and 135mm. (28/90, 35/135, 50/75 now the new standard)
 - Mainly in Black Chrome. Made in Canada; few in Germany.
 - No Self-Timer

- Larger shutter speed dial, turns opposite, with "OFF" position
- Offered in .58, .72 and .85 magnification
- "Through The Lens" flash-metering capability

- Single-Stroke or Double Stroke
- Largest RF magnification of any M camera - .93
- Early DS may have no Preview Lever
- Early DS may have no Self-Timer
- 35mm lenses require "RF" attachments on lenses
- Brightline Framelines for 50, 90 and 135mm
- Internal frame counter; no need for manual reset
- Removable film take-up spool (can be upgraded)
- Made in Silver Chrome, and rarely in Black or Olive

- .72 magnification now the new standard
- Brightline Framelines for 35, 50, 90 and 135mm
- Made in Chrome; few in Black Chrome or Black Paint. Some rare examples made in Canada. Also rarely Motorized and/or as "M4-M" and "M4-Mot"
- Internal frame counter is now new standard
- Rapid loading system now the new standard
- All cameras made with Self-Timer
- Articulated film advance lever and canted rewind
- crank both now the new standard

- First Leica M Camera with an LED meter built-in
- Same features as M4-P
- Variety of engravings. Early cameras made in Wetzlar, then Solms, of Zinc not Brass
- Many special editions
- Later camera offered in .58, .72 and .85 magnification

