



# Leica M

The freedom to capture the decisive moment.



# LEICA M-SYSTEM

M as in “Messsucher”.



What you see through the viewfinder of an M camera: The inner bright-line frame shows the image boundaries for a 90-mm lens, while the outer frame shows the boundaries for a 28-mm lens. The grey rectangle in the center is the rangefinder focusing area.

Leica M cameras are a living legend. The M stands for “Messsucher”, the German term for a combined rangefinder and viewfinder, and for a unique, individualistic kind of photography. This system, generally described as an interchangeable-lens rangefinder system, has particular merits that enable photographers to transform their very own, personal, subjective visual concepts into photographic realities seamlessly. At the same time, the Leica M has intuitive controls and is simple to use – even for photographers who have previously used only SLR cameras. With a Leica M there are no superfluous functions and no overcomplicated menus. Photographers are given the opportunity to concentrate on the essential: creating memorable pictures.

The rangefinder system, above all others, enables photographers to capture authentic, natural images, taken from real life. In a way, Leica M photographers become part of the action in framing whatever they wish to capture in the viewfinder – a scene, a mood, a special moment. Simultaneously, the photographer still perceives what is going on outside the viewfinder frame. The decisive moment thus becomes more predictable, and it can be captured at precisely the right instant. The clear view of the subject remains visible even during the exposure and even under the most adverse lighting conditions. The bright, high-contrast viewfinder combines with the world-renowned M-System rangefinder, assuring extremely fast and precise focusing. The minimal delay between releasing the shutter and capturing the shot makes Leica M cameras the fastest, most responsive cameras in the world.

Along with the legendary MP and M7 35-mm cameras, the M8 and the M8.2 – the first digital Leica M models – advanced the noble heritage of Leica M cameras. But now, the M9 has established yet another new and exciting benchmark: As the world’s smallest system camera to enable digital image capture with a full-frame, 24 × 36 format sensor, it is truly a professional tool for authentic M photography!



## THE RANGEFINDER/ VIEWFINDER SYSTEM

An optical masterpiece created for the highest levels of photography. Compared to SLR photography, where focusing takes place through the lens, and lens focal length and aperture set limits on focusing accuracy, the rangefinder base of the Leica M remains precisely the same regardless of the lens being used and therefore provides extraordinarily precise focusing with all lenses. This is the fundamental reason why the focusing precision of the M-System is far superior to that of SLR cameras, particularly with short focal length lenses. The high-contrast rangefinder rectangle in the center of the viewfinder guarantees fast, precise, and pin-sharp focusing, even under the mostly adverse lighting conditions. And irrespective of whatever lens happens to be mounted on the camera, the frame selector lever allows photographers to preview the effect of using different lenses by displaying any of the bright-line frames in the viewfinder – an invaluable aid for assessing in advance which lens is the most appropriate for the shot. Since the position of the six different bright-line frames is automatically corrected for parallax at all focusing distances, they always show the precise image boundaries for the selected focal length. The bright-line viewfinder shows all information relevant to the capture of a perfect image including the peripheral area around the main subject, thus providing significant advantages for creating spontaneous photographs. Unobtrusively and with absolute discretion.

# LEICA M-SYSTEM

M as in moments of everyday life.

## COMPACT

No other professional camera is as compact as a Leica M. Because the camera doesn't require a bulky mirror box, this allows the construction of a body with a depth of, for example, less than 37 mm in the case of the Leica M9. The M lenses also benefit from an extremely short back focus, the distance between the lens mount and the image plane, which permits the construction of lenses with extremely small dimensions and low weights. The extraordinary compactness of M cameras and M lenses also makes them the ideal camera system for travel and reportage photography. Mirror-bounce and related shake effects in captured images are a problem never encountered by M photographers.



## DISCREET

Unobtrusiveness, clarity of design, and a barely audible shutter also play a significant role in creating the unique charisma of Leica M images. Time and again, photographers working with M cameras in areas of social and political tension around the world report that they are not perceived as journalists, and can capture images that remain unattainable for users of other camera systems. Portraits appear more relaxed because the camera does not hide the photographer's face, and eye contact with the subject is maintained. The ability to shoot discreetly also allows the photographer to concentrate on the essential details, facilitating the creation of memorable images. This underlying principle that applies to all Leica M cameras has been articulated with consummate brilliance in the new Leica M9.



## MODERN TECHNOLOGY AT YOUR SERVICE

The superior performance of Leica lenses is based on the most modern technologies: aspherical elements enable the construction of highly compact lenses that provide breathtaking performance. The use of floating elements (differentially movable optical groups) ensures superb resolution at close focusing distances. Apochromatic correction in the optical systems of telephoto lenses guarantees brilliant reproduction without any color fringing effects. Sophisticated solutions for the suppression of internal reflections enhance contrast and shadow detail. It is safe to say that every Leica lens delivers superb performance even at its maximum aperture. Stopping down serves mainly to increase the depth of field.



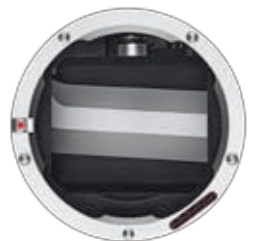
## FOCUSED

Everything newly designed or further developed in the evolutionary process of the Leica M-System satisfies a genuine photographic need. This principle was also constantly borne in mind throughout the development of the new M9. The outcome is a digital rangefinder camera that quite intentionally does not offer every feature made possible by modern technology, but rather limits itself exclusively to what makes real sense in terms of photography. This includes, for instance, such unique capabilities as precise exposure control by means of a tonal value histogram that is recalculated each time a different detailed area of the captured image is viewed.



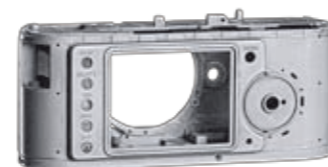
## COMPATIBILITY

Leica engineers created a timeless standard when they designed the Leica M bayonet in the 1950s. This lens mount ensures absolute system compatibility with all M cameras up to the incomparable new Leica M9. Almost all older M lenses are fully compatible with and function flawlessly on the M9. However, Leica system compatibility is decidedly forward-looking, with an eye toward the future. Thanks to the new 6-bit coding of lens mounts, the Leica M9 automatically recognizes the characteristics of the attached lens and employs this information for internal processing. Of course, uncoded Leica lenses can also be used on the M9 with its new, advanced bayonet mount. Likewise, the new, 6-bit coded lenses are also perfectly at home on any of the earlier M film cameras.



## TOUGH

People who take photography seriously usually live their lives at the edge; in searing heat or bitter cold, pouring rain or swirling dust. The M is built to be consistent, dependable, and tough under almost any imaginable conditions. This is why resilience and endurance are always prime concerns in the design and construction of every M camera. It also explains why the body is manufactured exclusively from only the best materials: brass for the top deck and baseplate and high-impact magnesium alloy for the chassis. The digital components are also carefully selected to ensure utter reliability over countless years of practical use. Matchless manufacturing precision and painstaking assembly guarantee functional reliability for decades to come.



## UNIQUE CUSTOMER COMMITMENT

Precision is the be-all and end-all in the construction of any Leica product. No product ever leaves the Leica factory before all critical manufacturing phases have been rigorously checked. Products that can still be serviced and repaired decades after they were built are extremely rare in these times of planned obsolescence and disposable products. But the Customer Service department at Leica still services and repairs all M cameras – from the very first one built in 1954 to the very latest models!

# LEICA M-SYSTEM

Everything at a glance.

## THE LEICA M CAMERAS



LEICA M9  
Available in steel-grey paint or black paint finish  
Order No. 10 705/10 704

You can find more information about Leica M cameras and M lenses online at [www.leica-camera.com](http://www.leica-camera.com) or in the M-System brochure available from your authorised Leica dealer.

## LEICA SF FLASH UNITS



LEICA SF 24D FLASH  
Order No. 14 444



LEICA SF 58 FLASH  
Order No. 14 488

## WIDE-ANGLE LENSES



LEICA TRI-ELMAR-M  
16-18-21 mm f/4 ASPH.  
Order No. 11 642



LEICA SUPER-ELMAR-M  
18 mm f/3.8 ASPH.  
Order No. 11 649



LEICA SUMMILUX-M  
21 mm f/1.4 ASPH.  
Order No. 11 647



LEICA ELMARIT-M  
21 mm f/2.8 ASPH.  
Order No. 11 135



LEICA SUMMILUX-M  
24 mm f/1.4 ASPH.  
Order No. 11 601



LEICA ELMARIT-M  
24 mm f/2.8 ASPH.  
Order No. 11 878



LEICA ELMAR-M  
24 mm f/3.8 ASPH.  
Order No. 11 648



LEICA SUMMICRON-M  
28 mm f/2 ASPH.  
Order No. 11 604



LEICA ELMARIT-M  
28 mm f/2.8 ASPH.  
Order No. 11 606



LEICA SUMMILUX-M  
35 mm f/1.4 ASPH.  
Order No. 11 874



LEICA SUMMICRON-M  
35 mm f/2 ASPH.  
Order No. 11 879



LEICA SUMMARIT-M  
35 mm f/2.5  
Order No. 11 643

## STANDARD LENSES



LEICA NOCTILUX-M  
50 mm f/0.95 ASPH.  
Order No. 11 602



LEICA SUMMILUX-M  
50 mm f/1.4 ASPH.  
Order No. 11 891



LEICA SUMMICRON-M  
50 mm f/2  
Order No. 11 826



LEICA SUMMARIT-M  
50 mm f/2.5  
Order No. 11 644



LEICA APO-SUMMICRON-M  
75 mm f/2 ASPH.  
Order No. 11 637



LEICA SUMMARIT-M  
75 mm f/2.5  
Order No. 11 645



LEICA APO-SUMMICRON-M  
90 mm f/2 ASPH.  
Order No. 11 884



LEICA SUMMARIT-M  
90 mm f/2.5  
Order No. 11 646



LEICA APO-TELYT-M  
135 mm f/3.4  
Order No. 11 889



LEICA MACRO-ELMAR-M  
90 mm f/4  
Order No. 11 634

## TELEPHOTO LENSES

## MACRO LENSES

# LEICA M9

Digital photography enters a whole new dimension.



Full-size view, available in steel-grey paint or black paint finish.

7 |



Full-size view

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The history of 35-mm photography began almost 100 years ago with the legendary Ur-Leica. Today, it is the Leica M9, a landmark camera that carries the proud heritage of Leica M cameras into the digital age. The Leica M9 is the world's first digital system camera of its size to be built with a full-frame sensor – a CCD sensor developed specifically for the M9 – that is capable of perfectly capturing the full 35-mm format (24 × 36 mm) in ultra-high resolution. The new M9 – in the familiar, classic, and timeless M design, represents the quintessence of its predecessors based on the consummate technological level of our time. It is the perfect contemporary tool for those who set the highest standards in image quality and are committed to creating images of enduring value.

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|--|---|
| 1 UNCOMPROMISING IMAGE QUALITY           | 6 COMPLETE CONTROL OF ALL PICTURE PARAMETERS            |
| 2 COMPATIBILITY AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE | 7 FULL-FRAME 24 x 36 MM CAPTURE WITHOUT ANY COMPROMISES |
| 3 ENDURING PERFORMANCE AND VALUE         | 8 OPTIMIZED SENSOR                                      |
| 4 SILENCE AND DISCRETION                 | 9 INTUITIVE CONTROLS                                    |
| 5 SPEED AND FLEXIBILITY                  | 10 FULL INFORMATION AT THE PUSH OF A BUTTON             |

# LEICA M9

Concentrating on the essentials: maximum image quality.



Full-size view

Like every M camera of the past half century, the M9 is concentrated, by design, on the most photographically relevant functions. Its manual focusing – based on the combined viewfinder and rangefinder concept – and aperture priority exposure mode enable photographers to achieve maximum creative expression without imposing any limitations on their creative freedom. In combination with the 2.5-inch LCD monitor on the back, the simple, intuitive menu navigation system controlled by only a few buttons ensures rapid access to the entire range of camera functions.

- 1 UNCOMPROMISING IMAGE QUALITY** With its extremely high-resolution image sensor in full-frame 35-mm format and cutting-edge image-processing system, the Leica M9 is uncompromisingly dedicated to capturing images of the very highest quality. The photographer may choose between image storage in JPEG format for fast processing, or as raw data in DNG format that supports a multitude of post-processing options. Alternatively, both formats may be stored simultaneously. In the DNG format, photographers may also choose between a compressed, but faster and greater space-saving option, or an uncompressed version that preserves maximum image quality.
- 2 COMPATIBILITY AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE** Of course the Leica M9 offers photographers access to the complete Leica M lens system lenses, long acclaimed by experts and users as the best in the world. Its development began in 1954, and the M-System has been continually advanced and improved ever since. The high-resolution, full-format image sensor of the M9 fully exploits the performance of legendary Leica lenses from corner to corner.
- 3 ENDURING PERFORMANCE AND VALUE** It is hardly unusual that a Leica, once owned, becomes a lifelong companion. This also applies to the digital M9: Its closed, full-metal housing, crafted from a high-strength magnesium alloy, and its top deck and bottom plate machined from large blocks of brass, provide perfect protection for its precious inner mechanisms. The digital components and shutter assembly of the M9 are similarly constructed with endurance in mind. Free firmware updates ensure that the camera benefits from the latest technology. In short: The Leica M9 is an investment for a lifetime.
- 4 SILENCE AND DISCRETION** Discretion and unobtrusiveness are particular strengths of the M-system. In operation, the shutter of the M9 is as quiet as a whisper. An extremely low noise level when cocking the shutter is ensured by a sophisticated motor and gearing system. In discreet mode, the shutter is only cocked after the photographer's finger is lifted from the shutter release button when, for instance, the camera is concealed under a jacket. When shooting handheld at long exposure times, or whenever extreme steadiness is essential, slight pressure on the shutter release button in 'soft release' mode is sufficient to trigger the camera. In addition to these advantages, the fact that the combination of camera and lens is significantly more compact than any other full-frame camera system contributes to the fact that M photographers are frequently unnoticed and often simply blend into the background.
- 5 SPEED AND FLEXIBILITY** The Leica M9 adapts to its intended uses in a seamlessly flexible manner. Its sensitivity ranges from ISO 80 for wide-open apertures on bright days to ISO 2500 for low-light image capture. Very low noise levels and finely detailed images are achieved throughout the sensitivity range, even at the highest ISO settings. Very low image noise characteristics, an extremely bright viewfinder/rangefinder, low-vibration shutter and the availability of super fast lenses make the M9 the perfect camera for available-light photography.
- 6 COMPLETE CONTROL OF ALL PICTURE PARAMETERS** The Leica M9 aids photographers with automatic functions whenever they're required, but it never dictates how to shoot or interferes with the picture-taking process. Depending on the light level, the automatic ISO shift function increases the sensitivity of the camera as soon as the shutter speed falls below a hand-holdable value. At the same time, it also limits the shift to a maximum value determined by the photographer. This means that correct exposure without camera shake and the lowest possible sensitivity is always available to guarantee the best possible image quality in all situations. In addition, the M9 also offers automatic exposure bracketing with a user-selectable number of shots and exposure increments. This function ensures that even high-contrast subjects are perfectly captured.

# LEICA M9

The ultimate in rangefinder precision meets cutting-edge digital technology.



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Full-size view

The Leica M9 embodies the heritage and amassed experience of more than five decades of the M-System. It is also, simultaneously, a digital system camera at the absolute pinnacle of modern technology. For Leica designers, photography has always been their prime concern – whether film or digital. The combination of an extremely efficient image sensor, the latest digital components, and the classic viewfinder/rangefinder principle – consistently optimized over many years – make the Leica M9 absolutely unique in all the world.

## 7 FULL FRAME 24 × 36 MM – WITHOUT ANY COMPROMISES

The CCD image sensor in the M9 was specifically designed and developed for this camera and offers full 35-mm film format without any compromises. All M lenses mounted on the M9 offer the same exact angle of view they had when shooting film material and therefore can now be used to an optimum effect. In other words, all the outstanding characteristics of Leica M lenses are now fully maintained for digital photography as well. In short, the high resolution and superior image quality of the M9 has the ability to fully exploit the enormous potential of M lenses.

## 8 OPTIMIZED SENSOR

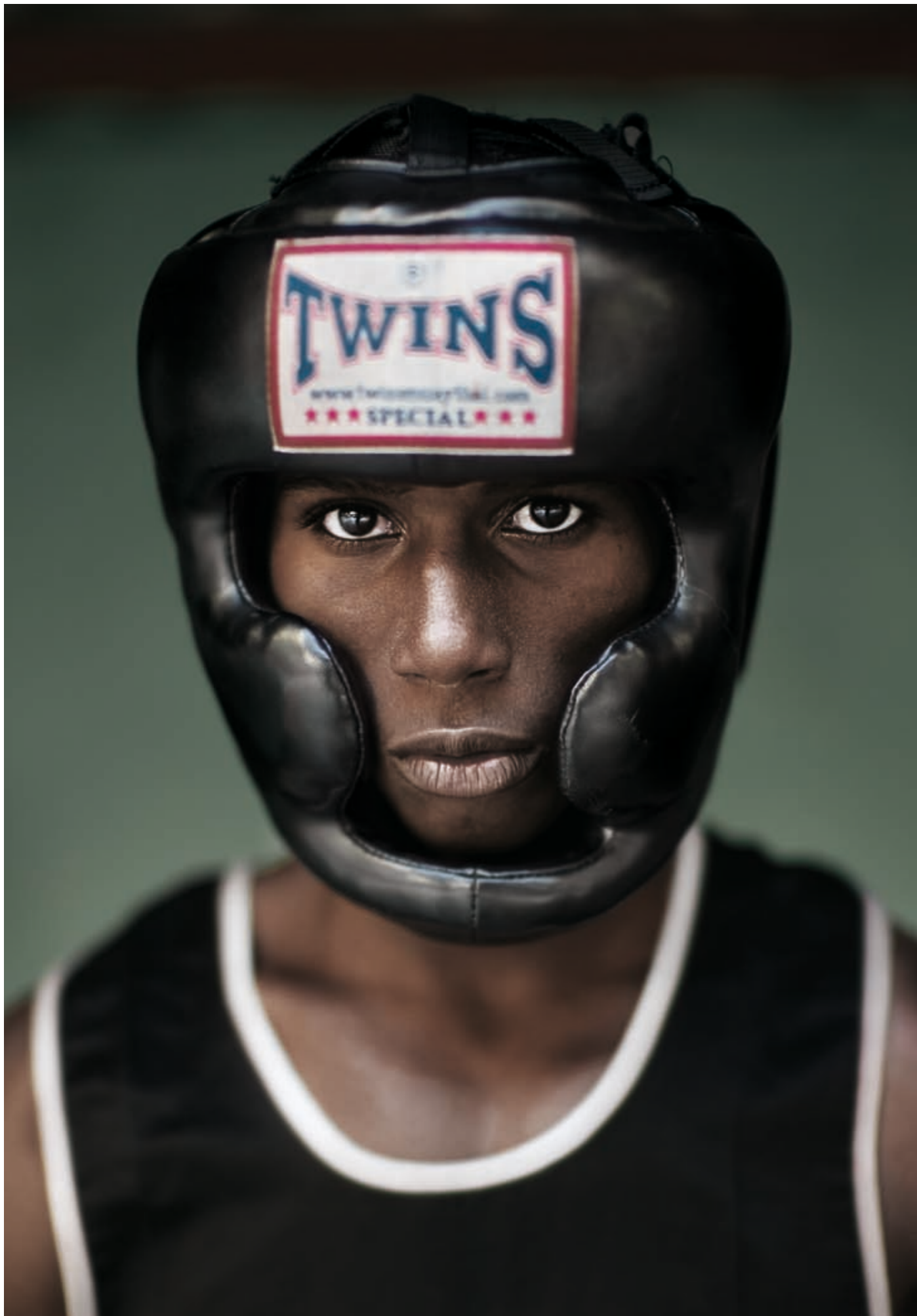
In the case of the M9, it wasn't a matter of modifying the lenses to match the image sensor, but rather the other way around. Our dedication to further developing the image sensor has resulted in a component perfectly matched to its intended role in the very compact M-System as well as to the performance of M lenses. The special layout of the micro lenses found in the M9 sensor makes it tolerant of oblique light rays impinging on its surface, thus assuring uniform exposure and extreme sharpness from corner to corner in every image. As a result, future Leica M lenses can be designed and optimized with uncompromising dedication to the achievement of the highest performance and compact construction. A newly developed sensor filter ensures the suppression of undesirable infrared light. The conscious decision to do without a moiré filter, a cause of image deterioration through loss of resolution, ensures maximum resolution of fine detail. The optimized signal-noise ratio of the CCD image sensor reduces the need for digital post-processing and ensures that M9 images possess an unrivaled and natural visual impact.

## 9 INTUITIVE CONTROLS

The key control element of the M9 is an intuitive four-way switch and dial combination used in conjunction with the 2.5-inch LCD monitor on the back. To set the ISO sensitivity, simply maintain light pressure on the ISO button while simultaneously turning the dial to select the required setting. All other functions important for everyday situations are quickly and easily accessible by pressing the set button: white balance, image-data compression, resolution, exposure correction, exposure bracketing, and programmable user profiles. The user profiles can be programmed with any combination of camera and shooting settings, stored under an assigned name, and accessed quickly whenever required for a particular situation. An additional pre-defined snapshot profile is also available. In snapshot mode, the M9 automatically sets as many settings as possible, thus providing a valuable aid to spontaneous and discreet photography. All other functions – from automatic lens recognition via six-bit lens-mount coding and selection of the required color space to cleaning of the sensor – are easily found in the clearly arranged main camera menu.

## 10 ALL INFORMATION AT THE PUSH OF A BUTTON

Pressing the "info" button in shooting mode displays the precise charge level of the battery, the remaining number of frames on the installed memory card, and the most important basic shooting settings, for example the shutter speed, on the camera's brilliant 2.5-inch LCD monitor. In image-view mode, users can switch between an image-only view (with a zoom option up to single pixel level) or access other information by simply turning the dial. The available data includes information on the ISO sensitivity setting and shutter speed in use, plus a precise histogram display.



LEICA M9, LEICA NOCTILUX-M 50 mm f/0.95 ASPH., ISO 160, f/0.95, 1/250 s

## LEICA M9

### Accessories.

You can find more information about Leica accessories online at [www.leica-camera.com](http://www.leica-camera.com) or in the comprehensive M-System brochure available from your authorized Leica dealer.

Product	Order No.					
Flash Leica SF 24D	Order No. 14 444					
Flash Leica SF 58	Order No. 14 488					
Viewfinder magnifier M 1.4x	Order No. 12 006					
Viewfinder magnifier M 1.25x	Order No. 12 004					
Compact charger for digital Leica M <small>(included in the scope of delivery for the Leica M)</small>	Order No. 14 470	compact charger				
	Order No. 14 421	UK power cord				
	Order No. 14 422	AUS power cord				
Battery for digital M cameras	Order No. 14 464					
Correction lenses M	Order No. 14 350	+0.5	Order No. 14 352	+1.5	Order No. 14 354	+3.0
	Order No. 14 355	-0.5	Order No. 14 357	-1.5	Order No. 14 359	-3.0
	Order No. 14 351	+1.0	Order No. 14 353	+2.0		
	Order No. 14 356	-1.0	Order No. 14 358	-2.0		
Tabletop tripod	Order No. 14 100					
Ball and socket head	Order No. 14 110					
Bright-Line viewfinder M	Order No. 12 022	18 mm, black paint finish	Order No. 12 024	21 mm, black paint finish		
	Order No. 12 023	18 mm, silver chrome	Order No. 12 025	21 mm, silver chrome		
	Order No. 12 026	24 mm, black paint finish	Order No. 12 027	24 mm, silver chrome		
Viewfinder for 21/24/28 mm lenses	Order No. 12 013					
Leica angle finder M	Order No. 12 531					
Leica universal wide-angle finder M	Order No. 12 011					
Cable release	Order No. 14 076					
Camera carrying strap à la carte	Order No. 14 453	saddle leather, black	Order No. 14 454	vegetable-tanned leather, cognac		
	Order No. 14 456	napa, racing green	Order No. 14 457	calf leather, smooth, red		
	Order No. 14 458	calf leather, mocha	Order No. 14 465	reptile texture, black		
	Order No. 14 466	ostrich texture, black	Order No. 14 467	ostrich texture, chestnut		
	Order No. 14 468	napa, bordeaux red	Order No. 14 469	calf leather, blue		
Comfort carrying strap	Order No. 14 455					
Hand grip M9	Order No. 14 490	steel-grey paint	Order No. 14 486	black paint finish		
Combi bag "Billingham"	Order No. 14 854	black	Order No. 14 855	khaki		
Ever-ready case for digital M cameras	Order No. 14 872					
Neoprene bag M	Order No. 14 867	with short front	Order No. 14 868	with large front		
	Protector					
	Order No. 14 869					



Leica Camera AG / Oskar-Barnack-Straße 11 / 35606 Solms / Germany  
Telephone +49(0)6442-208-0 / Telefax +49(0)6442-208-333 / [www.leica-camera.com](http://www.leica-camera.com)