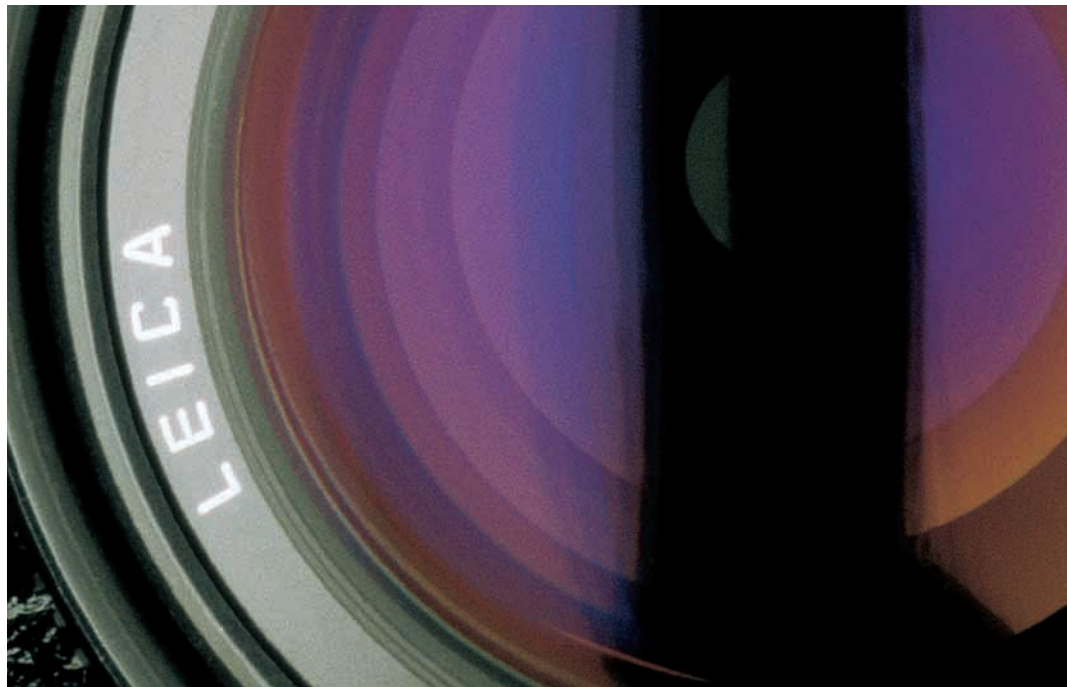




LEICA

LEICA M-System: Cameras



Fascination and Precision



New possibilities with the classic LEICA M6

The names of great photographers of our time are closely associated with LEICA M cameras for compelling reasons. Because this classic among 35 mm cameras – now refined even further – never followed fleeting trends. Instead, it was always designed to provide the greatest possible freedom for creative picture composition.



The new LEICA M6 TTL rangefinder system camera continues the legend of the Ur-LEICA of 1914: conceived with the same passionate dedication and fabricated with the same skilled craftsmanship. And perfected with the very latest modern know-how. With the LEICA M6, we have deliberately designed a camera that almost completely dispenses with automatic functions and electronic niceties. There were important reasons for that decision: While sophisticated automatic controls make certain functions more practical and more convenient, they also limit your creative potential. The LEICA M6, on the other hand, is designed to let you apply your personal creativity without constraints. This individual creative ability in particular, is essential for transforming light, color and shapes into an expressive picture. It is for that reason that in the LEICA M6 we created a camera that represents our proven philosophy in its purest form: concentration on the essentials – for the unrestricted expression of your own personal creativity. Man should control the camera – not the other way around. In order to keep the LEICA M6 up-to-date with current needs, we have been improving it continuously and judiciously. The latest refinement of the LEICA M6

is TTL (through-the-lens) flash exposure metering, so that you can also enjoy greater creative freedom with flash photography. A larger shutter speed dial provides more convenient handling. And you also have the choice of a LEICA M6 version with a viewfinder image that is nearly 20% larger (0.85x magnification), which gives you additional advantages in composing your images, especially when working with lenses with long focal lengths. Especially when you wish to take spontaneous and unobserved pictures, there is nothing as effective as the new LEICA M6 TTL.

When you work with a single lens reflex camera, you would operate at a distance from the subject, and would preferably move away even a little further. Not so with the LEICA M6 TTL. It encourages you to be up close to your subject. The purely mechanical shutter works nearly silent and independent of batteries. You remain inconspicuous and discreet right in the middle of the goings-on. And furthermore: you yourself become part of the action. This enables you to capture images which are possible with virtually no other camera.

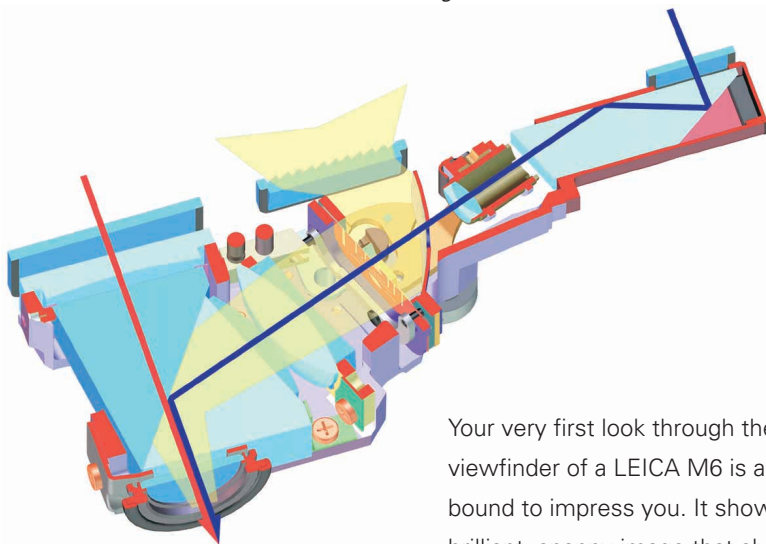


With the LEICA M6 you remain inconspicuous in the midst of activities.

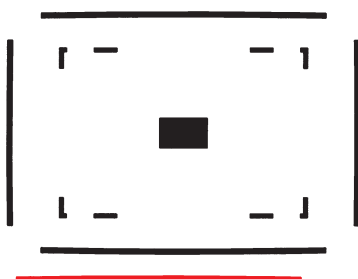
Axel Nordmeier

The right setting for your subject

The viewfinder of the LEICA M6 clearly displays all the information you need for total control of focusing and exposure metering. Unsurpassed precision gives you the assurance of immediately being able to find the correct settings in any situation. Even under difficult light conditions.



The rangefinder of the LEICA M6 consists of more than 100 individual parts. It is far more complex to assemble than the finder of a single lens reflex camera.



The light balance serves to establish the correct combination of shutter speed and aperture and it informs you of the status of the flash unit by means of light-emitting diodes (LEDs) in the viewfinder.



Reflects light onto the silicon photo diode in the upper interior of the camera for accurate exposure determination: the white spot on the shutter curtain.

Your very first look through the viewfinder of a LEICA M6 is already bound to impress you. It shows a bright, brilliant, snappy image that always retains the same size. The surroundings of your subject are always clearly visible: a significant advantage for maintaining an overview of the action, especially with fast-moving subjects. When a lens is attached to the camera, a brightline frame that corresponds to the focal length of that lens is automatically activated in the viewfinder. These bright and clearly visible brightline frames show the area of the subject covered by the respective lenses. But the different brightline frames can also be brought into view manually, without changing lenses, by means of the frame selector lever. So that you can quickly and conveniently determine which lens will give you the most effective cropping of your subject.

Pinpoint focusing

Experts consider the long-base rangefinder of the LEICA M6 to be a masterpiece. While the focal length

and the aperture of the lens being used determine the measuring base in a single lens reflex system, on the LEICA M6 it always remains unchanged – regardless of the lens that happens to be attached. This permits pinpoint-accurate focusing even with low-contrast subjects that no other 35 mm camera can provide. With short focal length lenses, the focusing accuracy of the LEICA M6 is far greater than that of a single lens reflex camera. With the combination split-image and coincidence rangefinder, you can place pinpoint sharpness exactly where you want it. Quickly and effectively. Even under extremely poor light conditions.

Selective exposure metering

Back lighting, grazing lateral light, spot lighting. Outstanding photographs often involve unusual lighting situations, and that is precisely when accurate exposure is of decisive importance. Selective through-the-lens exposure metering with the LEICA M6 gives you the assurance of rendering every subject in the right light. A silicon photodiode positioned behind a collector lens measures the light reflected by a white spot on the focal plane shutter curtain. Thanks to its extraordinarily high sensitivity, the built-in exposure meter of the LEICA M6 measures the light conditions of any situation with great accuracy – even in extremely poor light.

The glow of a single candle already suffices.

Easy exposure setting

The viewfinder provides you with an overview of the necessary indicators for setting the exposure. The exposure meter is activated by gently depressing the shutter release button, so that you can conveniently use the light balance to

set the right combination of shutter speed and aperture: Two triangular light emitting diodes indicate the direction in which you must turn the aperture ring or the shutter speed dial. A round light emitting diode in the center lights up to signal when the correct setting is made.



The new shutter speed dial of the LEICA M6

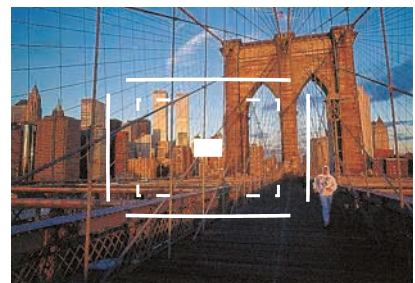
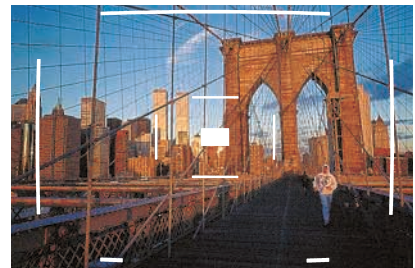
- Enlarged shutter speed dial: faster and more convenient setting of shutter speeds.
- New "OFF" switch: prevents the activation of the exposure meter while the camera is being transported.
- The shutter speed dial now turns in a direction that corresponds to the direction indicated by the triangular light emitting diodes of the exposure meter that are visible in the viewfinder. When the LED points to the right, you turn the shutter speed to the right, and vice-versa – just like you do on LEICA R cameras.

The alternative with the larger viewfinder image

With the LEICA M6 you have the choice of two viewfinder options: one with the accustomed 0.72x magnification – and now a new one with an 0.85x viewfinder magnification. If you frequently use lenses with longer focal lengths, you will be especially pleased with this new version.



The comparison makes it easy to understand: Not only the subject itself, but also the brightline frames and the rangefinder field that are visible in the viewfinder of the LEICA M6 0.85x are enlarged by nearly 20%. And the expansion of the effective measuring base of the rangefinder from 49.9 mm to 59.1 mm increased the focusing accuracy even further. A noticeable plus when lenses with large apertures or with long focal lengths are being used.



0.85x viewfinder magnification

0.72x viewfinder magnification

New: TTL flash exposure metering with the LEICA M6

Metered flash exposures with an M-camera? But of course, and even better with the new LEICA M6 TTL! In combination with the new LEICA SF 20 flash unit or other SCA-3000-compatible flash units, flash exposures with an M-camera are, for the first time, metered where the picture is actually recorded: on the surface of the film.



Maik Scharfscheer



"My pictures are spontaneous, unposed, direct. Even under poor

light conditions. With the LEICA SF 20 flash unit, I can react quickly, it is handy, lightweight and uncomplicated. As small as it is, its performance is impressive."

Maik Scharfscheer, Germany

LEICA M cameras have long distinguished themselves for their superior focusing in poor light and in low contrast situations. But even when you use ultra high speed lenses, there are always situations when you need supplementary lighting. The new LEICA M6 TTL optimally combines the advantages of super-imposed image rangefinding for accurate focusing in low ambient light with the precise control of the flash exposure by means of TTL flash exposure metering.

Simple and precise:

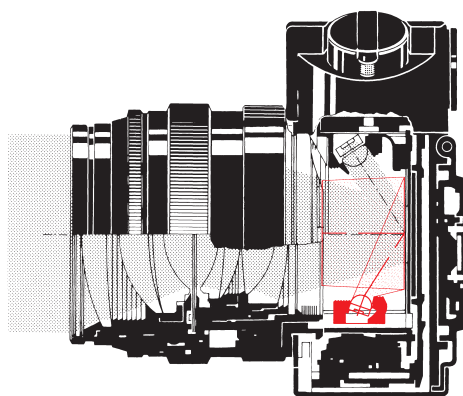
TTL flash exposure control

Fill-in flash in low light situations? Placing accents in the foreground with light? Record every subject in darkened rooms with confidence? With the TTL flash exposure control of the new LEICA M6 TTL you have the best prerequisite for creating impressive photographs as you envision them. Confidently. Even in

difficult light conditions. Because vibration is extremely low when the shutter is released, you obtain evenly exposed photographs with the LEICA M6 TTL, even with the longer synchronized flash exposure times, and the natural illumination of the background blends harmoniously with the foreground that has been enhanced with fill-in flash. And deliberate control of the flash output of the LEICA SF 20 – or of other system-compatible flash units – creates additional creative opportunities for you. Especially in situations where you must add fill-in flash in spite of high speed lenses, the advantages of the super-imposed image rangefinder and TTL flash exposure metering on the new LEICA M6 TTL become clearly evident.

LEICA SF 20 flash unit

A LEICA M camera should be used with a flash unit whose quality, design and functionality are tailored perfectly to that camera. The compact LEICA SF 20 is a high quality electronic flash unit that completely satisfies those requirements. Its typical Leica design harmonizes beautifully with the LEICA M6 TTL and also with the LEICA R8. It can be used with TTL flash exposure control on both cameras without additional adapters. Also for automatic flash exposure control with all LEICA M and R cameras with hot shoe contacts – and of course with the earlier version of the LEICA M6. With the LEICA SF 20



With its built-in additional photodiode, the new LEICA M6 now features TTL exposure metering.

you can apply your own creative control during the preparation for flash exposures. Deliberate over- and under-exposures up to three aperture stops are possible (override). All control elements on the LEICA SF 20 are arranged in a clear, logical and convenient manner. And there is a display on the back cover – which can be illuminated – that provides an overview of all the information that is relevant to the picture.

Plus points for flash photography with the new LEICA M6 TTL

- Accurate focusing in poor light and low contrast situations.
- Reduced danger of camera shake with long synchronized flash exposure times because of negligible vibration when the shutter is released.
- Balanced lighting mood between the background (available continuous illumination) and the foreground (lightened with fill-in flash).
- “Frozen subject”: At the instant when the picture is taken, the subject that is illuminated by the flash can be evaluated in the viewfinder: Has the person turned? Were the eyes closed?
- Was the shutter set for the wrong speed for flash synchronization? The new LEICA M6 TTL alerts you to incorrect flash sync speeds by means of the flash-ready display in the viewfinder. As of now, half blackened flash pictures are a thing of the past.
- Controlled application of flash illumination: The operating concept of the new LEICA M6 TTL gives you creative latitude with the control of the flash unit.
- Flash techniques for the professional: Most photographers deliberately use longer synchronized shutter speeds for reportage photography in order to incorporate ambient lighting into the picture composition.

Paragon of precision and dependability

Selected high-grade materials, extremely tight tolerances and strict quality control at every step of manufacture of the LEICA M6 TTL ensure flawless precision, the highest dependability and decades-long value retention.



With discreet and elegantly classic exterior styling, the LEICA M6 body contains a myriad of optical and mechanical components of stringent precision.

Robust mechanisms, whisper-quiet shutter release

Impressive scenes can only be captured if the camera is ready for action at all times. Especially in unforeseen situations. The new LEICA M6 TTL offers the best premises for this purpose. It is small, handy and lightweight. And it can be made ready for shooting quickly, without attracting much attention. Its controls are arranged ergonomically and they can be operated while wearing gloves (which is practical, for instance, while skiing). Thanks to a tactile marking, lenses can be changed quite instinctively, even in the dark.

And you are likely to be especially pleased with the whisper-quiet sound of the LEICA M6 shutter when you need to take pictures inconspicuously. The hinged mirror that flips up and the

spring-loaded iris diaphragm that are needed for single lens reflex camera operation are absent. This, furthermore, allows the shutter to be released without vibrations, enabling you to take photographs with considerably slower shutter speeds while still holding the camera by hand. With the real-time shutter release of the LEICA M6 – which is nearly 10 times as fast as that of a single lens reflex camera – you can always capture that “decisive moment” in real time. And since you advance the film manually, you don’t have to endure the disturbing buzz of the automatic film advance after you release the shutter.

Quality “made by Leica”

With a LEICA M6 you can immediately sense the exquisite precision with which it was manufactured. And with the selection of raw materials, only the very



best will suffice. When you hold the new LEICA M6 TTL in your hands for the first time, it will have already passed its toughest inspections and tests.

- For instance: longevity tests. Even after you have exposed several thousand films with your LEICA M6 – the shutter will operate as accurately and reliably as it did on the first day.
- In vibration tests, the LEICA M6 has to prove its extraordinary shock- and impact resistance.
- In climate tests, the LEICA M6 is exposed to repeated extreme

temperature fluctuations, after which it must still function flawlessly.

The “made by Leica” standard of quality is present in all the details of this camera. For example, the LEICA M6 is not merely lacquered, instead it is plated with black or silver chrome in accordance with a proprietary process developed by Leica especially for this purpose. This robust camera will not let you down. The camera body as well as all LEICA M lenses were built for heavy duty use.



Loading and advancing the film with Leica quality: Guiding elements and a hinged back cover position the film with a high degree of accuracy.

Plus points of the LEICA M system at a glance

- The LEICA M system stands for reliable performance in all situations, for value retention and for longevity.
- The combined range- and viewfinder is always bright and brilliant and it clearly shows the surroundings of the subject. Even dynamic subjects can quickly be framed in the picture.
- The long-base rangefinder with its constant measuring base permits fast pinpoint focusing even in low contrast situations.
- Selective through-the-lens exposure metering guarantees accurate results even in poor light conditions.
- The new TTL flash exposure metering feature expands the possibilities of LEICA M photography and it makes flash photography more accurate and convenient.
- The mechanical shutter release is gentle and quiet, and it is vibration-free: ideal qualities for inconspicuous photography.
- There is no delay in the release of the shutter, so that “decisive moments” can be captured in real time.
- The robust precision mechanisms operate extremely reliable, even under the harshest conditions.
- With its handy shape, the LEICA M6 is an ideal companion – for both serious amateur- and professional photographers.
- Leica offers a large assortment of high performance lenses for the LEICA M6, with focal lengths ranging from 21 to 135 mm and speeds as fast as f/1. Excellent sharpness, extraordinarily high contrast performance and strictly neutral color rendition are their outstanding characteristics.
- Leica customer service and more than 100 Leica representatives all over the world, as well as a large network of authorized Leica dealers ensure qualified Leica service most anywhere.