

Leica **M2**

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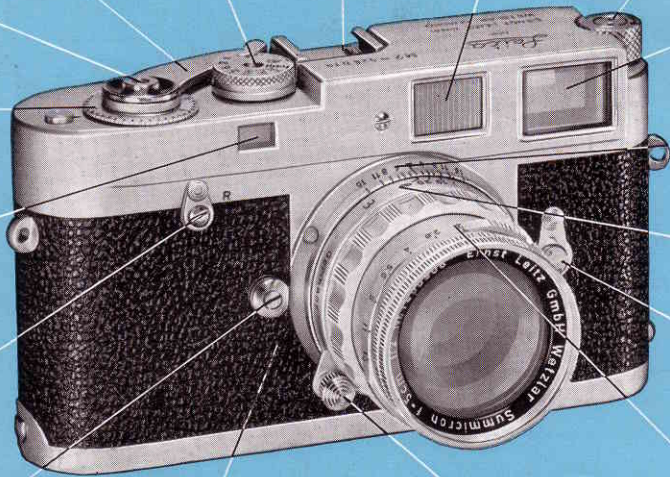
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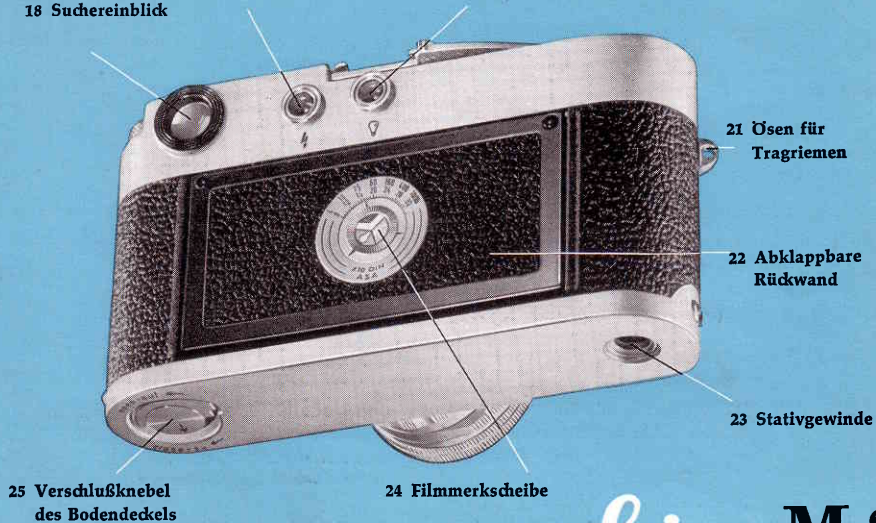
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Leica **M 2**

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

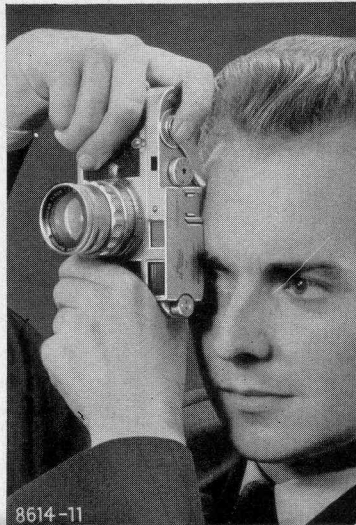
First of all get used to holding the LEICA correctly. This is most important for quick and reliable shooting, and for high quality, pin-sharp pictures.

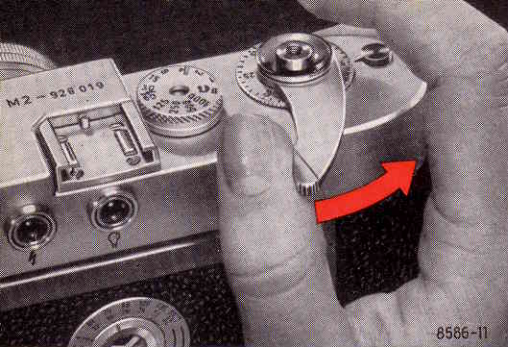
Grip the LEICA so that it rests in the palms of both hands. The right thumb rests lightly against the transport lever (2), while the right index finger just touches the release button (1). Use the left hand to focus the lens (9). Keep your eye as close as possible to the finder eyepiece (18). Support 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.

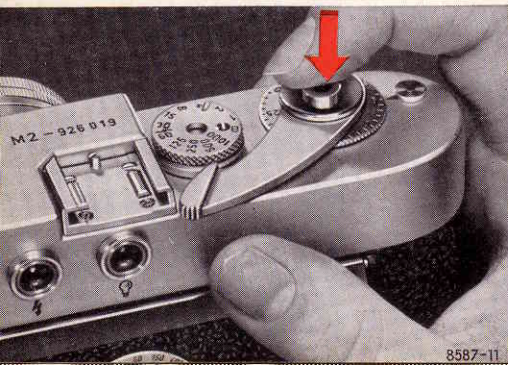




The Film Transport Lever (2)

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.

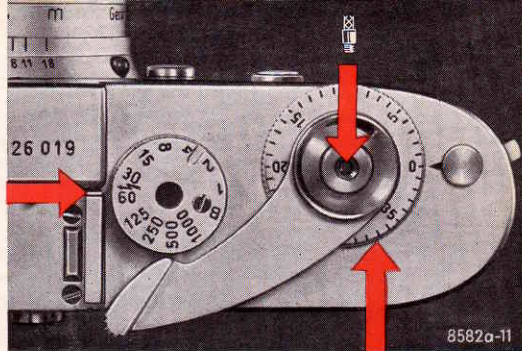
After each exposure lift your finger off the release button. This frees the mechanism so that you can operate the transport lever.

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.

