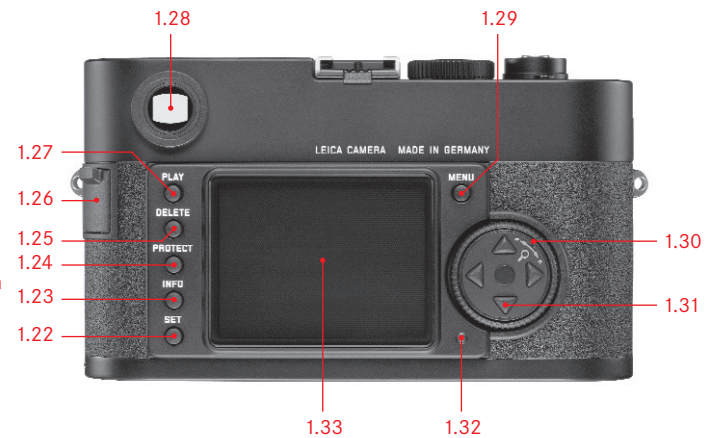
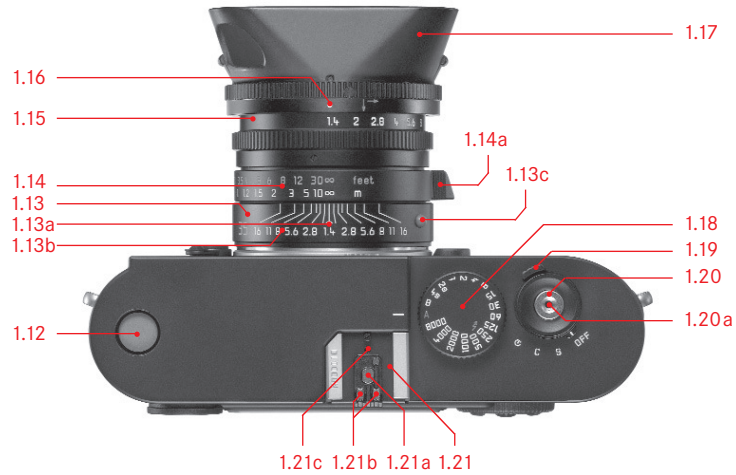
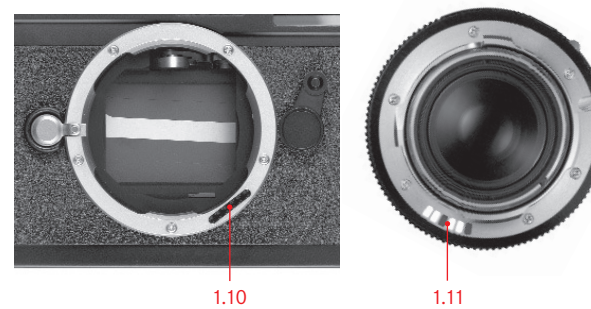
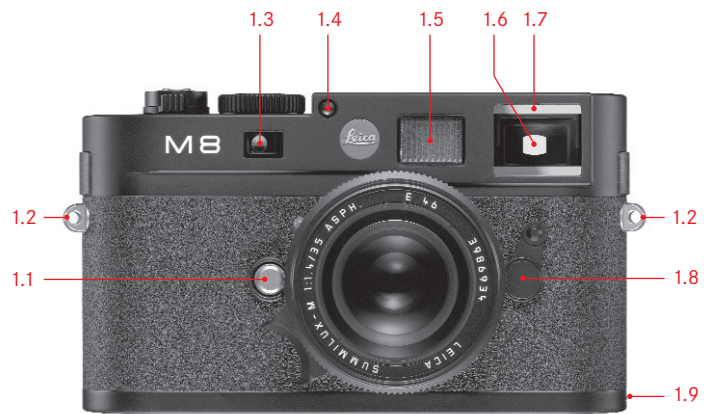
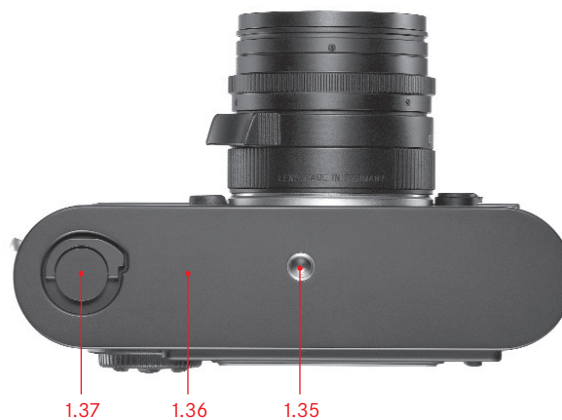




LEICA M8

Anleitung/Instructions





Foreword

Dear customer

Leica would like to thank you for purchasing the LEICA M8 and congratulate you on your choice. With this unique digital view- and rangefinder camera, you have made an excellent choice.

We wish you a great deal of pleasure and success using your new LEICA M8.

In order to make best use of all the opportunities offered by this high performance camera, we recommend that you first read these instructions.

This manual has been printed on 100% chlorine free bleached paper. The complex manufacturing process eases the burden on the water system and thus helps to protect our environment.

This is a Class B product based on the standard of the Voluntary Control Council for Interference from Information Technology Equipment (VCCI). If this is used near a radio or television receiver in a domestic environment, it may cause radio interference. Install and use the equipment according to the instruction manual.

FCC Note: (U.S. only)

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

FCC Caution:

To assure continued compliance, follow the attached installation instructions and use only shielded interface cables with ferrite core when connecting to computer or peripheral devices.

Any changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate this equipment.

Trade Name: LEICA
Model No.: LEICA M8
Responsible party/
Support contact: Leica Camera Inc.
156 Ludlow Avenue
Northvale, New Jersey 07647
Tel.: +12017679608
Fax: +12017678666
e-mail: olesin@aol.com

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:
(1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

This Class B digital apparatus complies with Canadian ICES-003

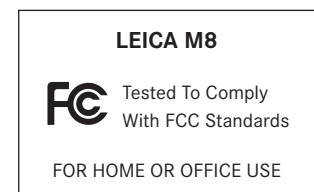


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Warning messages

- You should use exclusively the recommended accessories to prevent faults, short circuits or electric shock.
- Do not expose the unit to moisture or rain.
- Do not attempt to remove parts of the body (covers); specialist repairs can be carried out only at authorized service centers.

Legal notes

- Please ensure that you observe copyright laws. The recording and publication of pre-recorded media such as tapes, CDs, or other published or broadcast material may contravene copyright laws.
- This also applies to all of the software supplied.
- The SD logo is a registered trademark.
- Other names, company or product names referred to in this manual are trademarks or registered trademarks of the relevant companies.

Disposal of electric and electronic equipment

(Applicable in the EU, and other European countries with segregated waste collection systems)



This device contains electrical and/or electronic components and should therefore not be disposed of in general household waste! Instead it should be disposed of at a recycling collection point provided by the local authority. This costs you nothing.

If the device itself contains exchangeable (rechargeable) batteries, these must be removed first and, if necessary, also be disposed of according to the relevant regulations (see also the respective comments in this unit's instructions).

Further information on this point is available at your local administration, your local waste collection company, or in the store where you purchased this device.

Scope of delivery

Before using your LEICA M8 for the first time, please check that the accessories supplied are complete.

- A. Battery
- B. Charger
- C. USB connecting lead
- D. Carrying strap
- E. CD-ROM with instructional PDF, remote control software LEICA DIGITAL CAPTURE 1.0
- F. CD-ROM with Capture One LE from Phase One

Designation of parts


Front view

- 1.1 Lens release button
- 1.2 Eyelets for carrying strap
- 1.3 Distance meter viewing window
- 1.4 Brightness sensor¹
- 1.5 Bright line illumination window
- 1.6 Viewfinder window with reflectors for better visibility of the viewfinder displays in very bright conditions
- 1.7 Self timer LED
- 1.8 Frame selector
- 1.9 Bottom cover retaining clip

Front view of camera bayonet /rear view of lens bayonet

- 1.10 Sensor for lens identification code
- 1.11 6 bit lens identification code

Top view

- 1.12 LCD
- 1.13 Fixed ring with
 - a. Index for distance setting
 - b. Depth of focus scale and
 - c. Red index button for changing lenses
- 1.14 Distance setting ring with
 - a. Finger grip
- 1.15 Aperture setting ring
- 1.16 White index point for aperture setting
- 1.17 Lens hood
- 1.18 Shutter speed dial with
 - **A** detent position for automatic control
- 1.19 Main switch with detent positions for
 - **OFF** (camera switched off)
 - **S** (single pictures)
 - **C** (series exposures)
 -  (self timer)
- 1.20 Shutter release button with
 - a. Thread for cable release
- 1.21 Flash (hot) shoe with
 - a. Central (firing) and
 - b. Control contacts, and
 - c. Hole for locking pin

¹ Leica M lenses with viewfinder attachments cover the brightness sensor. Information about the use of these and other lenses can be found in the sections "The displays/In the viewfinder", p. 78, and "Leica M lenses", p. 86.

Illustrations inside front and rear covers

Rear view

- 1.22 **SET** button for calling up the picture parameter menus/for calling up the sub-menus within the menus/for confirming settings/functions selected in the sub-menus
- 1.23 **INFO** button for displaying image data when reviewing pictures
- 1.24 **PROTECT** button for selecting delete protection function
- 1.25 **DELETE** button for selecting delete function
- 1.26 USB port cover
- 1.27 **PLAY** button for switching on (continuous) review mode/for return to full-size picture display
- 1.28 Viewfinder eyepiece
- 1.29 **MENU** button for entering and exiting the main menu
- 1.30 Central setting ring for navigation in menus/ setting the selected menu items/functions, scrolling in the memory and for enlarging/ reducing the pictures viewed
- 1.31 Direction buttons for navigation within the menus/for setting the selected menu items/ functions and for scrolling through the memory
- 1.32 LED for indicating picture taking mode/ recording data on to the card
- 1.33 Monitor

View with USB port cover open

- 1.34 USB port (5-pin, for connecting to computers)

Bottom view

(with bottom cover in place)

- 1.35 Tripod thread A 1/4, DIN 4503 (1/4").
- 1.36 Bottom cover
- 1.37 Locking toggle for bottom cover

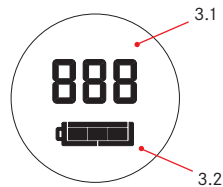
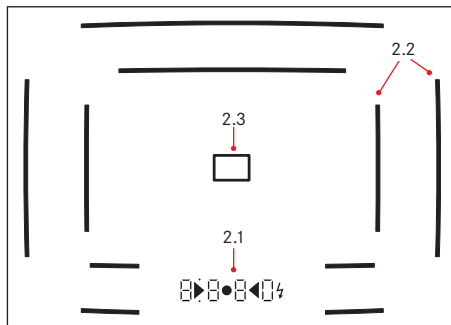
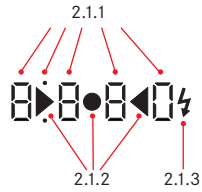
(with bottom cover removed)

- 1.38 Battery compartment
- 1.39 Battery locking catch
- 1.40 Memory card slot

Charger

- 1.41 Charging bay for battery with
 - a. Contacts
- 1.42 Green (**POWER**) LED to indicate mains connection
- 1.43 Yellow (**CHARGE**) LED to indicate charging
- 1.44 2-pin socket for car charging cable
- 1.45 Unlocking slider for
- 1.46 Interchangeable mains plugs (Euro/GB/USA)

The displays



2. In the viewfinder

2.1 LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes)

(with automatic brightness control, adapts to the ambient brightness¹) for:

2.1.1 Four-digit seven-segment digital display with dots above and below

Digital display:

- Display of the automatically determined shutter speed for aperture priority mode, or for counting down exposure times longer than 1 s
- Warning that the metering or setting ranges are overshoot or undershot using aperture priority mode

- Information that the buffer memory is (temporarily) full

Dot above:

- Information (when lit) that metering memory lock is being used

Dot below:

- Information (flashing) that an exposure compensation is set

2.1.2 Two triangular and one circular LED:

- Jointly used as light balance for manual exposure control
- Warning of values below the metering range

2.1.3 Flash symbol:

- Flash readiness
- Details of flash lighting before and after the picture

2.2 Bright line frames for 24 mm and 35 mm (example)

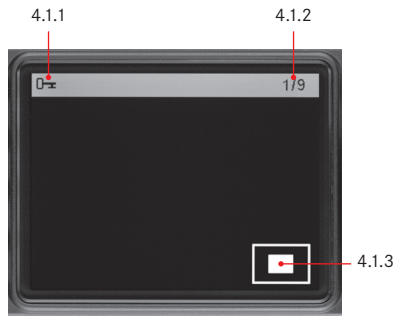
2.3 Metering field for distance setting

3. In the top panel LCD

3.1 Number of pictures remaining

3.2 Battery status

¹ The automatic control is not available for Leica M lenses with viewfinder attachments, since they cover the brightness sensor 1.4 which supplies the information required for their operation. In such cases the displays always maintain a constant brightness.

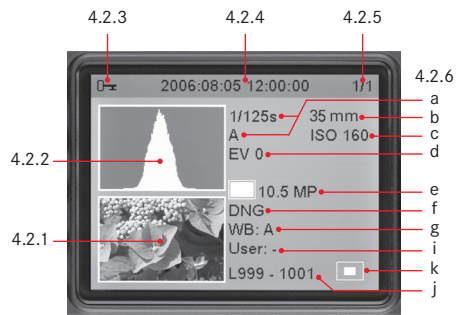


4. In the monitor

4.1 At normal review

(image/s fill the entire monitor area)

- 4.1.1 Delete protection symbol (only if set)
- 4.1.2 Picture number/total number of available pictures
- 4.1.3 Enlargement level and/or position of section shown
schematic, for enlarged view only)
- 4.1.4 Selected picture
(for reduced viewing of 4 or 9 pictures only)



4.2 Reviewing with additional information

(INFO; reduced picture size)

- 4.2.1 Picture (if necessary with “Clipping” display¹)
- 4.2.2. Histogram
 - a. Luminance (brightness)
 - b. Red/green/blue
(separate display of individual colors)
- 4.2.3 Delete protection symbol (only if set)
- 4.2.4 Date/time
- 4.2.5 Picture number/total number of available pictures
- 4.2.6 Picture information
 - a. Exposure mode and shutter speed
 - b. Focal length²
 - c. Sensitivity
 - d. Exposure compensation
 - e. Resolution
 - f. Compression/file format
 - g. White balance
 - i. User profile number
 - j. Folder number/file name
 - k. Size and position of section (only if in use)

¹ see “The Histogram”, p. 92

² Only with the latest M lenses with 6-bit coding, or suitably converted lenses (see p. 86)

Menu items

5.1 In the main menu

5.1.1	Lens Detection	Lens type detection
5.1.2	Save User Profile	User-specific profile (save)
5.1.3	Self timer	Self timer delay time
5.1.4	Sharpening	Sharpening of image
5.1.5	Color Saturation	Color saturation of image
5.1.6	Contrast	Image contrast
5.1.7	Monitor Brightness	
5.1.8	Histogram	Graphic to indicate distribution of brightness
5.1.9	Picture Numbering	
5.1.10	Auto Review	Automatic replay of last picture
5.1.11	Auto Power Off	Automatic power off
5.1.12	Flash Sync	Firing time of flash
5.1.13	Auto Slow Sync	Shutter speed with flash
5.1.14	Color Management	Working color space
5.1.15	Reset	Reset all settings (to original factory settings)

5.1.16	Sensor Cleaning	Shutter opening for cleaning the sensor
5.1.17	Date	
5.1.18	Time	
5.1.19	Acoustic Signal	Button acknowledgement tones
5.1.20	Language	
5.1.21	Format	Formatting the memory card
5.1.22	Firmware	Firmware version

5.2 In the picture parameters menu

5.2.1	ISO	Sensitivity
5.2.2	Exp. comp.	Exposure compensation
5.2.3	White Balance	
5.2.4	Compression	Compression rate/file format
5.2.5	Resolution	
5.2.6	User Profile	User-specific profile (recall)

Quick guide

You will need the following items:

- Camera
- Battery (A)
- Memory card (not supplied)
- Battery charger (B)

Presets

1. Insert the battery (A) into the charger (see p. 83)
2. Connect the charger (B) to the mains, to charge the battery (see p. 83)
3. Set the main switch (1.19) to **OFF**.
4. Insert the charged battery into the camera (see p. 84).
5. Insert a memory card (see p. 85).
6. Set the main switch (1.19) to **S**.
7. Select the desired language (see p. 95).
8. Format the memory card (see p. 120).

Notes:

- This is required generally only if the card has not been factory-formatted
 - Formatting deletes all data on the memory card.
9. Set the date and time (see p. 95/96).

Taking photographs

10. Attach the desired lens to the camera (see p. 87).
11. With the viewfinder to the eye, set the focus using the distance setting ring on the lens (see p. 104).
12. Press the shutter release button (1.20) as far as the first pressure point to activate the camera exposure metering.
13. Set the exposure using the aperture setting ring on the lens (1.15) and/or the camera shutter speed dial (1.18) (see p. 107)
14. Press the shutter release button all the way down to take the picture.

Viewing pictures

For automatic brief reviews of the last picture (within picture taking mode).

The LEICA M8 is factory-set to this function - **Auto Review**. Various function options can be selected in the main menu under this item (5.1.10) (see p. 89).

For review without a time limit:

1. Select review mode by pressing the **PLAY** button (1.27) (see p. 88).
2. Press the left or right direction button (1.31) to view other pictures.

Enlarging pictures in the monitor

Turn the central setting ring (1.30) to the right (clockwise) to enlarge the picture display (see p. 116).

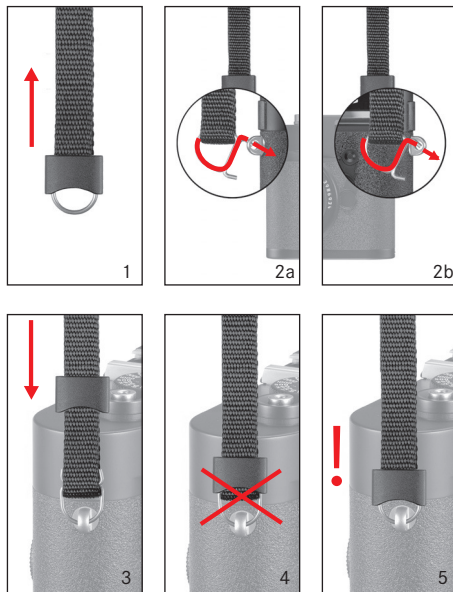
Deleting pictures

Press the delete button (**DELETE**, 1.25) and follow the instructions in the monitor (1.33) (see p. 117).

Comprehensive instructions

Preparations

Attaching the carrying strap



Charging the battery

The LEICA M8 is powered by a Lithium ion battery (A).

Attention:

- Only the battery type specified and described in this manual, and/or battery types specified and described by Leica Camera AG, may be used in this camera.
- This battery may only be used in the units for which it is designed and may only be charged exactly as described below.
- Using this battery contrary to the instructions and using non-specified battery types can result in an explosion under certain circumstances.
- Never throw batteries into a fire as this can cause them to explode!
- The charger supplied should be used exclusively for charging this battery type. Do not attempt to use it for other purposes.
- Ensure that the mains outlet used is freely accessible.
- The charger may not be opened. Repairs may only be carried out by authorized workshops.

Notes:

- The battery should be charged before the LEICA M8 is used for the first time.
- The battery must have a temperature of 0°-35°C / 32°-95°F to be charged (otherwise the charger will not switch on, or will switch off again).

- Lithium ion batteries can be charged at any time, regardless of their current charge level. If a battery is only partly discharged when charging starts, it is charged to full capacity faster.
- The batteries warm up during the charging process. This is normal and not a malfunction.
- If the yellow **CHARGE** LED (1.43) flashes after charging has started, this indicates a charging fault. In this case, disconnect the charging unit from the mains and remove the battery. Ensure that the above temperature conditions are met and then restart the charging process. If the problem persists, please contact your dealer, the Leica office in your country or Leica Camera AG.
- A new battery only reaches its full capacity after it has been fully charged and – by use in the camera – discharged 2 or 3 times. This discharge procedure should be repeated every 25 cycles. To ensure a maximum service life of the battery, it should not be exposed to constant extremes of temperature (e.g. in a parked car in the summer or winter).
- Even with optimum conditions of use, every battery has a limited service life! After several hundred charging cycles, this becomes noticeable as the operating times get significantly shorter.

- Defective batteries should be disposed of according to the respective instructions (see p. 74).
- The replaceable battery provides power to a back-up battery which is built into the camera. This back-up battery maintains the reference data such as the date for up to 3 months. If this back-up battery becomes discharged it must be recharged by inserting the replaceable main battery. Once the replaceable battery has been inserted, the full capacity of the back-up battery is recovered after about 60 hours. This process does not require that the camera be switched on.



1. Insert the plug appropriate to the mains supply into the charger. To do this the unlocking slider (1.45) must be
 - a. pushed upwards (towards the plug),
 - b. held there, and
 - c. the mains plug (1.46) exchanged for the appropriate sort

2. Insert the mains plug into a socket.
 - The green LED (1.42) marked **POWER** lights up.



3. Insert a battery with its contacts and the end marked with an arrow facing downwards obliquely in the charging bay (1.41) of the charger.
4. Then press it downwards until it lies flush in the charging bay.
 - When it is in the correct position the yellow **CHARGE LED** (1.43) will light up to confirm that charging is in progress. After completion of charging – about 3 hours – the yellow LED goes out.

5. The charger should then be disconnected from the mains. However, there is no risk of overcharging.
6. Remove the battery by pulling its upper face upwards a little and then pulling it out of the charger bay.

The following LED displays indicate that charging is defective or is not possible:

	LED not lit	LED flashing
Green / POWER LED	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mains connection not correct b. Inserted battery cannot be charged 	–
Yellow / CHARGE LED	Battery is not being charged <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Battery not inserted correctly b. Inserted battery already fully charged 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Battery outside temperature range specified above b. Battery totally discharged, pulsed precharging will be carried out first

If a fault cannot be resolved by eliminating the causes stated in the above table, you should contact your dealer, the Leica office in your country or Leica Camera AG.



Inserting the battery into the camera/removing the battery from the camera

1. Set the main switch (1.19) to OFF.



2. Remove the bottom cover (1.36) of the camera. To do this:
 - a. flip up toggle (1.37) in the bottom cover,
 - b. turn it to the left as far as the stop, and
 - c. lift off the bottom cover.



3. Insert the battery into the compartment with its contacts facing forwards. Press it into the compartment (1.38) until the white sprung locking catch (1.39) moves over the battery to hold it in place.

4. Replace the bottom cover. To do this:
 - a. hang it onto the retaining clip (1.9) on the side of the camera
 - b. swing it down,
 - c. lock it by turning the toggle to the left as far as the stop, and
 - d. push the toggle back down.

To remove the battery, follow these instructions in reverse order. The white sprung locking catch in the battery compartment must be pushed to the side to unlock the battery.

Note:

Always switch the camera off before removing the battery.

A fully charged battery (to the CIPA standard) is sufficient for approx. 400 pictures each reviewed for 4 s.

Charge level displays (3.2)

The charge level of the battery is displayed in five stages by the top panel LCD (1.12).

- : approx. 75–100%
- : approx. 50–75%
- : approx. 25–50%
- : approx. 5–25%
- : approx. 0–5%, battery replacement or recharging necessary

Notes:

- Remove the battery if you will not be using the camera for a long period of time. When doing so, turn the camera off using the main switch first.
- After 3 months out of use, the back-up battery in camera will be exhausted (see also the last note under “Charging the battery”, p. 82), and all individual settings must be input again.

Inserting and removing the memory card

The LEICA M8 saves the picture data on an extremely compact SD (secure digital) card.

SD memory cards are small, light and interchangeable external storage media. SD memory cards, particularly those with a high capacity, allow significantly faster read/write times and significantly faster recording and replay of the data. An SD card has a write protection switch, that can be used to prevent unintentional storage and deletion of pictures. This switch takes the form of a slider on the non-beveled side of the card; in the lower position, marked LOCK, the data on the card is protected.

SD memory cards are available from different suppliers and with different capacities.

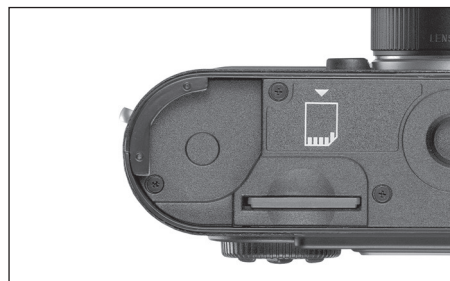
Note:

Do not touch the memory card contacts.

1. Set the main switch (1.19) to **OFF**.



2. Remove the bottom cover (1.36) of the camera.
To do this:
 - a. flip up toggle (1.37) in the bottom cover,
 - b. turn it to the left as far as the stop, and
 - c. lift off the bottom cover.



3. Insert the memory card into the slot (1.40) with the contacts at the back and with the beveled corner pointing downwards. Slide it completely into the slot against the spring resistance until you hear it click into place.
4. Replace the bottom cover. To do this:
 - a. hang it onto the retaining clip (1.9) on the side of the camera
 - b. swing it down,
 - c. lock it by turning the toggle to the left as far as the stop, and
 - d. push the toggle back down.

To remove the memory card, switch off the camera and follow this procedure in reverse order. To release, the card must first be pressed slightly further in – as indicated on the camera bottom.

Notes:

- The range of SD cards available is constantly changing; some cards in certain circumstances may malfunction when used in the LEICA M8. A current list of the cards suitable for use can be found in our Homepage under:
www.leica-camera.de/photography/m_system/m8
- If the memory card cannot be inserted, check that it is aligned correctly.
- If you remove the bottom cover or take out the memory card, the monitor displays the respective warning messages instead of the normal display:
 - **Bottom cover removed**
 - **No SD card**
- Do not open the bottom cover nor remove the memory card while the red LED (1.32) to the bottom right of the monitor (1.33) is flashing, indicating image recording and/or data saving to the card. Otherwise the not yet (completely) saved image data may be lost.
- As electromagnetic fields, electrostatic charges, and defects on the camera or the card can lead to damage or loss of the data on the memory card, we recommend that you also transfer the data to a computer and save it there (see p. 121).
- For the same reason, it is recommended that the card is always stored in its antistatic cover.

The most important settings / controls

Leica M lenses

Essentially, most Leica M lenses can be used with the LEICA M8. Details on the small number of exceptions and restrictions can be found in the following notes. Usage is independent of the initial format of the respective camera – whether 18x27 mm (sensor size) for the digital LEICA M8 or 24x36 mm for the 35mm models up to the LEICA M7, and also independent of the lens features – with or without the 6-bit coding in the bayonet (the latest version, see next section). Even without this additional feature, i.e. when using Leica M lenses without identification, the LEICA M8 will supply good pictures in all cases.

Important:

• Cannot be used:

- Hologon 15 mm f/8,
- Summicron 50 mm f/2 with close focusing.
- Elmar 90 mm f/4 with collapsible tube (production period 1954-1968)

• Can be used, but risks damaging the camera

Lenses with retractable tubes can only be used with their tubes extended, i.e. their tubes must never be retracted into the LEICA M8.

This is not the case with the current Macro-Elmar-M 90 mm f/4, whose tube does not protrude into the camera body even when retracted. It can therefore be used without any restrictions.

• Can be used, but precise composition is not possible

The LEICA M8 has bright-line frames for focal lengths up to 90 mm (see p. 102). Therefore, when using longer focal lengths such as the 135 mm models, their image field in the camera viewfinder – which is very small to start with – can only be “determined” very imprecisely.

Notes:

- Exposure metering is not possible with:
 - Super-Angulon-M 21 mm f/4
 - Super-Angulon-M 21 mm f/3.4
 - Elmarit-M 28 mm f/2.8 with serial nos. earlier than 2 314 921.
- Leica Customer Service can update many Leica M lenses with the 6-bit coding. Enquire for specific cases to (address, see p. 137).

Turning the lens type detection on/off

The 6-bit coding in the bayonet (1.11) of current Leica M lenses allows the LEICA M8 to recognize the type of lens. It does this using the sensor in its bayonet (1.10).

– This information is used among other things for optimizing the image data. Thus vignetting which can be particularly noticeable with wide-angle lenses and large apertures can be compensated in the respective image data.

– Flash exposure and flash reflector control also uses the lens data (see “Compatible flash units”, p. 110).

– In addition, the information delivered by this 6-bit coding is written to the respective EXIF file for the picture. The picture data shown in the **INFO** display (see “The monitor”, p. 92) additionally includes the display of the lens focal length (4.2.6b, see p. 79).

When using a lens without 6-bit coding, the recognition function of the camera must always be turned off, to prevent malfunctions.

Setting the function

- In the main menu (see p. 80/93), select **Lens Detection** (5.1.1) and in the respective sub-menu, select the desired option.

The extension factor

The nominal focal lengths of Leica M lenses are based on the 35 mm-format, i.e. on a film format of 24x36mm. In comparison, with its 18x27mm, the sensor in the LEICA M8 is somewhat smaller though – by a factor of 0.75. Therefore, when used on the LEICA M8, these lenses have angles of view corresponding to lenses with focal lengths that are longer by a factor of 1.33 (1.33 = reciprocal of 0.75). This has the respective effects on their perspective, but not on their depth of field, which, with the LEICA M8, can also be read directly off the lens (see the lens instructions for more details).

The bright-line frame in the viewfinder of the LEICA M8 of course always shows the “correct” field of view for this camera, i.e. it takes account of the increased focal length. You can therefore compose your pictures in the normal way, just as for other cameras in the Leica M series (see also “The bright-line view- and rangefinder”, p. 102).

Attaching a lens



1. Hold the lens by the fixed ring (1.13).
2. Align the red index button (1.13c) on the lens with the unlocking button (1.1) on the camera body.
3. Then push the lens straight on in this position.
4. Turn the lens slightly to the right, and you will hear and feel it click into place.

Removing a lens



1. Hold the lens by the fixed ring (1.13).
2. Press down the release button (1.1) on the camera body.
3. Turn the lens to the left until its red index button (1.13c) is aligned with the release button.
4. Then pull the lens straight off.

Notes:

- To protect the LEICA M8 against ingress of dust etc. into the interior of the camera, it is important always to have a lens or a cover attached to the camera body.
- For the same reason, changing lenses should always be done quickly and in an environment that is as dust-free as possible.

Switching the camera on and off/the main switch



The LEICA M8 is turned on and off using the main switch (1.19). This is below the shutter release button (1.20) and is a lever with four detent positions:


- a. **OFF – Camera is switched off**
This is the inactive position – the camera is switched off.
- b. **S – Single picture**
Pressing the shutter release button (see below) takes only one picture, irrespective of how long it is kept pressed.
- c. **C – Continuous series of pictures**
Pressing the shutter release button (see below) takes up to 10 pictures in succession – as long as the capacity of the memory card being used and

the camera's internal buffer memory are sufficient (see "Inserting and removing the memory card", p. 85).

d. – Self timer

Pressing the shutter release button (see below) starts the pre-set delay time (see p. 120), after which a picture is taken.

Switching on

After switching on, i.e. setting the lever to one of the three functions **S**, **C** or , the LED (1.32) lights up briefly and the displays in the viewfinder (2.1.1) and on the top panel LCD (1.12) appear (see p. 78).

Note:

Ready status is achieved approx. 2 s after switching the camera on.

Switching off

Even if the main switch is not set to **OFF**, the camera automatically switches itself off if an automatic power-off time is set using menu control (**Auto Power Off**, 5.1.11, see p. 93/96) and it is not operated during this time.

Note:

When transporting the camera, e.g. in a case, and if the camera will not be used for a long time, it should be turned off with the main switch.

Selecting picture taking and review modes

After switching on, the LEICA M8 is always in picture taking mode, i.e. the monitor (1.33) remains dark – after ready status is achieved (see p. 88) .

To review the pictures, you can choose between two modes:

1. **PLAY** Review for unlimited time
2. **Auto Review** Brief review after taking the picture

Review for unlimited time - PLAY

By pressing the **PLAY** button (1.27) you can switch to review mode.

- The last picture taken appears in the monitor along with the corresponding displays (see p. 79).
However, if the memory card inserted does not contain any image files, the following message appears when you switch to review mode: **No valid image to play.**

Automatic review of the last picture - Auto Review

In **Auto Review** mode each picture is shown in the monitor immediately after it has been taken. This allows you to quickly and easily check whether the picture was successful or needs to be taken again. The function permits

1. selection of the duration for which the picture is displayed, and
2. review of the picture data, with or without histogram (see p. 92).

Setting the function

1. In the main menu (see p. 80(93), select **Auto Review** (5.1.10),
2. in the respective sub-menu first select the item **Time**, and
3. in the sub-menu that appears subsequently, select the desired function or duration: (**OFF**, **1 Second**, **3 Seconds**, **5 Seconds**, **Hold**).
4. To select whether the review is presented with or without histogram (see p. 92), call up the first sub-menu again,
5. select **Histogram**,
6. and select the desired option (**Standard**, **Without**).

From **Auto Review** mode, you can switch to normal, i.e. unlimited, **PLAY** review mode at any time.

Note:

If you are taking photographs using the series exposure function (see p. 90), the last picture in the series is shown first in either review mode. Details of how to select the other pictures in the series and further options in the review modes are described in the sections under "Review mode" starting on p. 115.

The shutter release button

The shutter release button (1.20) has three pressure points:

1. Briefly pressing to the first pressure point activates the exposure metering and viewfinder displays, and starts a pre-set self timer delay time, if this has been programmed (see p. 120). If the shutter release button is let go, the metering system and the displays remain activated for around a further 12s (for more details, refer to the sections under "Exposure metering" on p. 105). If the shutter release button is kept at this pressure point, the displays remain shown, or if the camera had previously been set to review mode (see p. 115), it switches back into picture taking mode. If the camera had previously been in stand-by mode (see p. 88), it will be reactivated and the displays switched on.



Note:

The shutter release is locked

- if the internal buffer memory is (temporarily) full, e.g. after a series of up to 10 pictures,
- if the memory card in use is full and the internal buffer memory is (temporarily) full, or
- if no memory card is inserted and the internal buffer memory is full.

2. Pressing through to the second pressure point memorizes the exposure metering value in aperture priority mode, i.e. the shutter speed determined by the camera (for more details, refer to the section “Metering memory lock” on p. 106). After the shutter release button has been let go a new metered value can be determined.

3. If the shutter release is pushed fully down, a picture is taken. The data are then sent to the memory card.

Notes:

- Even if review mode (see “Selecting picture taking and review modes”, p. 88) or menu control (see p. 93) had been activated, pressing the shutter release button immediately switches the camera to picture taking mode.
- Menu control allows selection or setting of button acknowledgement (feedback) tones (see p. 96).
- To avoid camera shake, the shutter release button should be pressed gently – not jerkily, until the shutter releases with a soft click.

The shutter release button has a standard thread for a cable release.

Note:

With cable release the second pressure point is not perceptible.

Serial exposures

Thanks to the integrated shutter cocking motor, the LEICA M8 can be used not only for single pictures – main switch 1.20 set to (S [single]), but also for series of pictures – main switch set to (C [continuous]) – for example to capture sequences of movement in several stages.

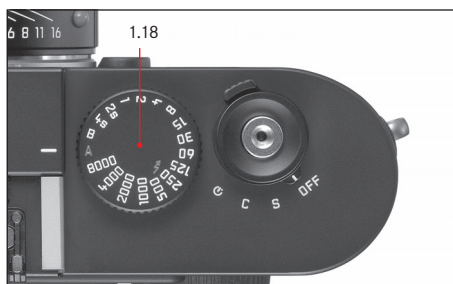
Apart from the operation of the shutter release button (1.20), series of pictures are taken in the same way as single pictures: As long as you hold down the shutter release button (provided that the memory card has sufficient capacity), a series of pictures is taken. If however you only press the shutter release button briefly, this will again result in a single picture.

Pictures can be taken at a maximum of about 2 pictures a second and up to 10 in succession. For detailed information on the total possible numbers of pictures, refer to the table on p. 97.

Note:


Regardless of how many pictures have been taken in a series, the **PLAY** (see p. 88) and **Auto Review** (5.1.10, see p. 89) functions initially always show the last picture.

The shutter speed dial



The size and position of the shutter speed dial (1.18) on the LEICA M8 are ergonomically optimized: On the one hand – even with the camera to the eye – it is very easy to use. On the other hand it is well protected against unintentional setting. In addition its direction of rotation (like that of the aperture setting ring on the lenses) corresponds to the exposure meter displays in the viewfinder for manual adjustment: If for example the left-hand triangular LED lights up, rotation in the direction of the arrow, i.e. to the right, leads to the required slower shutter speed.

The two exposure control modes are selected with the shutter speed dial of the LEICA M8,

- aperture priority mode by setting the **A** position, marked red,
- manual mode by selecting shutter speeds from $1/8000$ s to 4 s, (intermediate values in $1/2$ step graduations are also available) as well as
 - the shortest possible sync speed of $1/250$ s for flash mode, additionally marked with the  symbol, and
 - **B** for long exposures. The setting **B** keeps the shutter open as long as the shutter release button is kept pressed.

In aperture priority mode the exposure is controlled automatically and steplessly. The shutter speed range is from $1/8000$ s to 32 s.

The LEICA M8 shutter speed dial has no stop, i.e. it can be turned in either direction from any position. It detents at all marked positions and at the intermediate values. Values between the detent positions cannot be used.

Notes:

- As described in connection with the ISO settings on p. 100, when using higher sensitivities and in particular with dark, even surfaces, a certain amount of noise will become apparent. To reduce this annoying phenomenon, following exposures with slower shutter speeds (approx. below $1/30$ s, differing depending on menu control settings) the LEICA M8 automatically takes a second “black picture” (taken with the shutter closed). The noise present in this parallel picture is then digitally “subtracted” from the data set for the real picture. This doubling of the “exposure” time can be significant in particular at longer exposures and must be considered. During this time the camera should not be switched off. For shutter speeds of 2 s or more the message **Noise reduction in progress 12 s*** appears in the monitor.
- If the **B** function is selected in conjunction with the self timer (see p. 120), the shutter release button does not need to be kept pressed; the shutter will remain open until the shutter release button is pressed a second time (this is then equivalent to a **T** function).

More details on setting the correct exposure can be found in the sections under: “Exposure metering” from p. 105.

* Time quoted is an example only

The monitor



The LEICA M8 has a large 2.5" liquid crystal color monitor (1.33). This is for viewing pictures that have been recorded on the memory card. It reproduces the entire image plus the selected data and information (see "The displays / In the monitor", p. 79, and "Displaying the picture data", on this page).

Note:

Most digital system cameras – as distinct from digital compact cameras – employ sensors that cannot show a preview picture, since the data can be read only picture by picture and not permanently.

Monitor pictures are therefore only available in review mode (see p. 115), and must be switched on using the **PLAY** button (1.27) or, if the **Auto Review** function (see p. 89) is activated, are displayed automatically.

To allow undistracted viewing, only the following information is displayed in the standard setting (i.e. if additional information has not been selected using the **INFO** button (see p. 79):

1. in the header line, only the picture number (4.1.2), and
2. for deletion-protected pictures (see p. 118) the respective symbol (4.1.1, ) ,
3. for enlarged and/or displaced images, in addition at the bottom right a respective symbol (4.1.3, ) , that shows – roughly – the position and size of the section.

Setting the brightness

The brightness of the monitor picture can be adjusted to five different levels using the menu control, so that you can select the optimum brightness for any situation, i.e. the ambient lighting conditions.

Setting the functions

1. In the main menu (see p. 80/93) select **Monitor brightness** (5.1.7), and
2. in the sub-menu select the desired one of the five levels (**Low**, **Medium low**, **Standard**, **Medium high**, **High**).

Displaying the picture data

The **INFO** button (1.23) allows you to select a whole range of additional picture data (see p. 79) together with a reduced picture size.

With menu control (**Histogram** 5.1.8, see p. 80/93) you can additionally select various histogram options (see next section).

The histogram

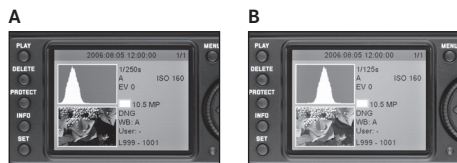
The histogram (4.2.2) depicts the brightness distribution in the picture. The horizontal axis shows the tone values from black (left) through grey to white (right).

The vertical axis depicts the number of pixels of each brightness level. This form of presentation – together with the impression of the picture itself – permits an additional quick and easy assessment of the exposure setting after taking the picture.

The LEICA M8 allows you to choose between four variants of the histogram: Based on either the overall brightness or separately for the three primary colors red/green/blue, optionally with or without identification (red) of the picture areas without definition because they are too bright (clipping).

Note:

The histogram display always refers to the section of the picture displayed at that time.



A: Predominantly dark pixels, only a few light ones:
Underexposure

B: Majority of pixels are of average brightness:
Correct exposure

C: Predominantly light pixels, only a few light ones:
Overexposure

Setting the function

1. In the main menu (see p. 80/93) select **Histogram** (5.1.8), and
2. in the associated sub-menu select the desired function: (**Stand. w/o. Clipping, Stand. w. Clipping, RGB w/o. Clipping, RGB w. Clipping**).

Note:

The histogram is not available when simultaneously viewing several reduced pictures (see p. 116).

Menu control

Many settings for the LEICA M8 are controlled using either of two separate menus (see p. 80). Based on experience, the menu items are grouped and separated according to which are used most frequently, allowing them to be called up and set quickly and easily.

Main menu

The main menu comprises 22 items (5.1.1-22, see p. 80) which relate to the camera's basic settings, saving the user profiles and secondary functions.

Picture parameters menu

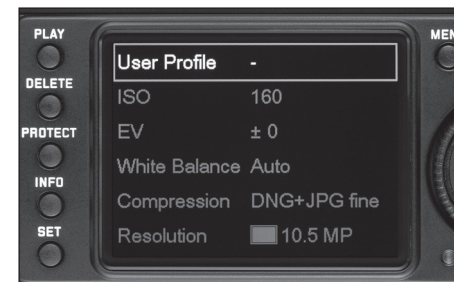
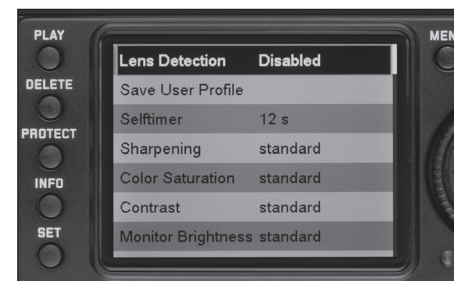
The picture parameters menu comprises 6 items (5.2.1-6, see p. 80), i.e. the basic settings for picture taking and the selection of the saved user profiles.

When the camera is switched on, an overview of the respective settings and step-by-step instructions for setting these functions can be viewed in the monitor (1.33).

Settings are made in the same way in both menus, differing only in how they are accessed and exited.

Setting the menu functions

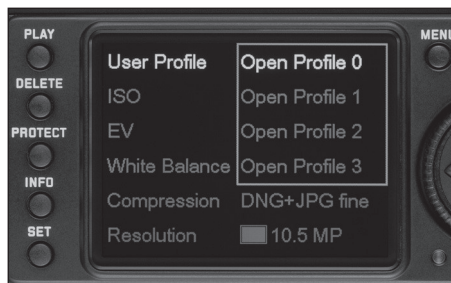
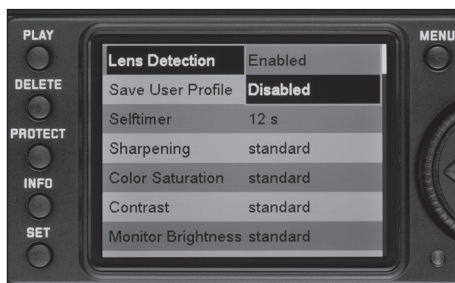
1. The main menu is called up using the **MENU** button (1.29); the picture parameters menu using the **SET** button (1.22).
 - On calling up the menu, the first 8 items of the main menu, and all items of the picture parameters menu appear.The function that is currently active is reversed out against a black background with a red border. Along the line to the right, the current setting of the functions options is shown.



Notes:

- The picture parameters menu is accessible only when the camera is in picture taking mode (see p. 88).
- If the **DELETE** or **PROTECT** functions are activated (see p. 117/118), the main menu cannot be accessed.

2. You can select the desired menu item either by turning the central setting ring (1.30) or by pressing the up/down direction buttons (1.31).



3. To set the respective function, first press the **SET** button (in the picture parameters menu, press it again).

- The associated multi-line sub-menu, identified by a red border, appears to the right of the menu item. The item selected is highlighted for identification.

4. You can then select the desired function option either by turning the setting ring or by pressing the up/down direction buttons.

5. Save your setting by pressing the **SET** button once again.

- The function option thus set is shown on the right side of the menu line.

6. Exit the main menu by pressing the **MENU** button again; exit the picture parameters menu by
- a. pressing the shutter release button (1.20) if you wish to switch to picture taking mode, or by
 - b. pressing the **PLAY** button (1.27) to switch to review mode.

Notes:

- In the main menu, you can exit a sub-menu at any time without saving any settings you have made in them by pressing the **MENU** button.
- By pressing the shutter release button (1.20) you can exit either menu at any time and switch directly to picture taking mode; by pressing the **PLAY** button (1.27) you can switch to review mode (see also “Selecting picture taking and review modes”, p. 88).

Menu items such as **Date** (5.1.17) and **Time** (5.1.18), and the **White balance** function (5.2.3) require further settings. The corresponding explanations, as well as further details about the other menu functions, can be found in the relevant sections.

Presets

Basics settings for the camera

Menu language

By factory default, the language used for menu control is English, i.e. all menu items initially appear with their English names. German, French, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, and Chinese can all be selected as alternative menu languages.

Setting the function

1. In the main menu (see p. 80/93) select **Language** (5.1.20), and
2. in the respective sub-menu, select the desired language.
 - Apart from a few exceptions (button names, short designations), all linguistic information changes.

Date and time

The date and time are each set using separate menu items.

Date

There are 3 variations available for the sequence of the date.

Setting

1. In the main menu (see p. 80/93) select **Date** (5.1.17), and
2. call up the sub-menu. It consists of the 2 items, **Setting** and **Sequence**.
3. Select **Setting**.
 - A further sub-menu appears, containing groups of figures for the year, month and day, in which the currently active group, i.e. the one that can be set, is identified by a black background and red border.
4. The figures are set using the central setting ring (1.30) or the up and down direction buttons (1.31), while the left and right direction buttons are used to switch between the groups of figures.

Notes:

- Using the setting ring is normally not only more convenient but also significantly faster.
 - By pressing the **MENU** button (1.29) you can return to the main menu at any time – *without* saving any changes you may have selected in the sub-menu.
5. After setting all 3 values, confirm and save by pressing the SET button (1.22).
 - The list of menu items appears again.
 6. To change the way in which the figures are displayed, select **Sequence** in the sub-menu.
 - The three available sequences **Day/Month/Year**, **Month/Day/Year**, and **Year/Month/Day** appear.
 7. The preferred option is set and confirmed as described in points 3 and 4.

Note:

Even when no battery is inserted in the camera or the battery is flat, the date and time settings are maintained by a built-in back-up battery for about 3 months (see also “Charge level displays”, S. 84). However, after that time the date and time must be set again as described above.

Time

The time can either be shown in 24-hour or 12-hour format.

Setting

Both the two groups of figures and the display format are set under the **Time** menu item (5.1.18) using the **Setting** and **View** sub-items, essentially as described for the **Date**.

Automatic power off

This function switches the LEICA M8 off automatically after a pre-set time. This switched-off condition is equivalent to setting the main switch to **OFF** (1.19, see p. 88).

You can select,

- a. whether to activate this function, and if so
- b. after what period of time the camera should be switched off.

In this way, you can tailor this function to your own personal working methods and also significantly extend the life of your battery charge.

Setting the function

1. In the main menu (see p. 80/93) select **Auto Power Off** (5.1.11), and
2. the desired function.

Note:

Even when the camera is in ready status, i.e. the displays have gone out after 12s, or the activated **Auto Power Off** function has switched it off, it can be reactivated at any time by pressing the shutter release button (1.20).

Button acknowledgement and signal tones

With the LEICA M8, you can decide whether you want your settings and other functions and warning messages to be acknowledged by an acoustic signal – two volumes are available – or whether operation of the camera should be largely silent.

A click or a beep tone is used as an acknowledgement, which can be activated individually to confirm presses of buttons and to indicate a full memory card.

Note:

By factory default, the signal tones are deactivated.

Setting the functions

1. In the main menu (see p. 80/93) select **Acoustic Signal** (5.1.19), and
2. call up the sub-menu (see p. 94). There are three items, **Volume**, **Key Click** and **Attention SD card full**.
3. Select **Volume**, and
 - A further sub-menu appears containing the 3 alternatives **Off** (no tones at all), **High** (loud) and **Low** (quiet).
4. Choose the desired function in this sub-menu.
 - After confirmation, the initial monitor screen appears again.
5. In the other two sub-menus, choose whether or not you want to activate the tones for the respective functions.

Basic picture settings

Resolution

The picture data can be recorded at four different pixel settings, i.e. resolutions. This allows you to adjust the setting precisely to the intended use or to the available memory card capacity.

At the highest resolution (which also means the largest data volume), which you should select for optimum quality for larger prints, of course considerably fewer pictures can be saved on a card than at the lowest resolution, which is perfectly adequate for sending a picture by e-mail or for a website.

Note:

Saving in raw data format (**DNG**, see the next section) is always performed at the highest resolution.

Note:

The details in the table relate to a 1GB memory card and retention of the same settings. If, on the other hand, you change the resolution and/or compression rate, the resulting number of pictures will be different.

Setting the function

1. In the picture parameters menu (see p. 80/93) select **Resolution** (5.2.5), and
2. in the respective sub-menu, select the desired resolution.

Possible resolutions and resulting numbers of pictures

Compression rate/ file format Resolution	DNG	JPG fine (low compression) ¹	JPG basic (normal compression) ¹	DNG+ JPG fine ¹	DNG+ JPG basic ¹
■ (10 MP)	93	276	386	70	75
■ (6 MP)	-	491	687	78	82
■ (2.5 MP)	-	>1000	>1000	86	88
■ (1 MP)	-	>1000	>1000	90	91

¹ Average values, can differ significantly depending on the subjects.

Compression rate/file format

The picture data is recorded either

- a. using one of two different compression rates – **JPG fine / JPG basic**,
- or
- b. using the **DNG** file format,
- or
- c. using combinations of one of the two compression rates and **DNG**, i.e. two files are generated per picture. In these cases the **JPG** file will always be saved with the respectively selected resolution.


On the one hand this permits a precise match to the intended usage and the available memory card capacity, and on the other hand provides security and flexibility essential for subsequent decisions on usage.

Setting the function

1. In the picture parameters menu (see p. 80/93) select **Compression** (5.2.4), and
2. in the respective sub-menu, select the desired compression/combination.










Notes:

- The standardized **DNG** (Digital Negative) format is used for uncompressed storage of completely unprocessed raw picture data.
- If **DNG** is selected for raw data storage, the resolution is set automatically, and irrespective of the existing setting (for the respective JPEG format) to  (10 MP) (see previous section).
- If simultaneous storage of picture data as **DNG** and **JPG** is selected, the JPEG format for the existing resolution setting is used, i.e. the resolutions of the two files can be quite different.
- A high compression rate such as for **JPG basic** can result in very fine structures in the subject being lost or incorrectly reproduced (artifacts; e.g. “stepped” diagonal edges).
- The remaining number of pictures shown in the monitor does not necessarily change after every picture. This depends on the subject; with JPEG files very fine structures result in higher quantities of data, homogeneous surfaces in lower quantities. The details in the table are based on an average file size for the set resolution. The file sizes are often smaller, depending on the picture content and the compression rate, which means that the remaining memory capacity is then greater than previously calculated and displayed.
- For the possible compression rates and the resulting numbers of pictures, refer to the table in the previous section.


White balance

In digital photography, white balance ensures neutral rendition of color in any light. It is based on the LEICA M8 being preset to reproduce a particular color as white.

With the LEICA M8, you can choose from nine different settings:

- **A** For automatic control, which provides neutral results in most situations,
- Six fixed presets for the most frequent light sources,
 -  e.g. for indoor pictures with (prevailing) incandescent lamp light,
 -  e.g. for indoor pictures with (prevailing) light from fluorescent tubes,
 -  e.g. for outdoor pictures in sunshine,
 -  e.g. for pictures with (prevailing) electronic flash illumination,
 -  e.g. for outdoor pictures with cloudy skies,
 -  e.g. for outdoor pictures with the main subject in shadow,
-  For manual setting by measurement, and
- **Kelvin setting**¹ For a directly set value.

Note:

When using an electronic flash unit that satisfies the technical requirements of the System Camera Adaption (SCA) for the System 3000 and an SCA-3502 adaptor (from version 4 onwards), the automatic white balance setting (**A**) will render the correct colors. If however other flash units are used, which are not specially dedicated to the LEICA M8, the camera white balance will not be automatically adjusted, and the setting  should be used.

Setting the function**For automatic or fixed settings**

1. In the picture parameters menu (see p. 80/93) select **White balance** (5.2.3), and
2. in the associated sub-menu select the desired function.

¹ All color temperatures are specified in Kelvin.

For direct setting of color temperature

You can directly set values between 2000 and 13100 (K!) (from 2000 to 5000K in increments of 100, from 5000 to 8000K in increments of 200 and from 8000 to 13,100K in increments of 300). This provides you with a broad scope, covering almost all color temperatures that can occur in practice and within which you can adapt the color reproduction very sensitively to the existing light color and/or your personal preferences.

1. In the picture parameters menu (see p. 80/93) select **White balance** (5.2.3) and
2. in the associated sub-menu select the **Kelvin setting** option.
3. Use the central setting ring (1.30) or the up/down direction buttons (1.31) to select the desired value, and
4. confirm your setting by pressing the **SET** button once again.

For manual setting by metering

1. In the picture parameters menu (see p. 80/93) select **White balance** (5.2.3), and
2. in the respective sub-menu, select the **□** option.
3. Press the **SET** button (1.22).
 - The message **Attention Point the camera at a white surface and release the shutter** will appear in the monitor.
4. The actual setting is made by subsequently taking a picture in which you should aim at a white or neutral gray surface in the center of the picture.
 - Instead of the menu list, the picture just taken will appear in the monitor, and within it the message **WB is set**.

However, if the exposure is not assessed as correct or the surface you aim at is not neutral, this is indicated by **Bad exposure** or **WB not set**. In such cases, repeat step 2 with the correct exposure setting or with a more neutral surface.

A value set in this way remains saved and will be used for all subsequent pictures until it is either replaced by a newly metered value or when you use one of the other white balance settings.

Note:

A white balance setting achieved by metering which has already been saved can also be recalled, even after the white balance setting had been changed over to one of the other settings. This is done by performing steps 1-3 and (instead of step 4) pressing the **SET** button once again.

ISO sensitivity

In traditional photography, the choice of the ISO value reflects the light sensitivity of the film used. Higher speed films allow faster shutter speeds and/or smaller apertures and vice versa, at the same brightness. The ISO setting on the LEICA M8 also allows the shutter speed/aperture value to be adjusted to meet the requirements of the relevant situation, in five steps. Optimum reproduction quality is achieved by using the lowest setting, ISO **160**. The higher sensitivities ISO **320**, **640**, **1250** and **2500** result in increasing “picture noise”. This effect can be compared to the “graining” that occurs with highly sensitive films.

Setting the function

1. In the picture parameters menu (see p. 80/93) select **ISO** (5.2.1), and
2. in the associated sub-menu select the desired film speed.

Image properties/Contrast, sharpness, color saturation

One of the many advantages of electronic photography over traditional photography is that it is very easy to change critical properties of a picture. While photographic software – after recording and transfer to a computer – provides great scope for doing this, the LEICA M8 itself allows you to influence three of the most important picture properties even before taking the picture:

- The contrast, i.e. the difference between light and dark sections of the image, determines whether an image has a more “flat” or “brilliant” effect. As a consequence, the contrast can be influenced by increasing or reducing this difference, i.e. by lighter reproduction of light sections of the image and darker reproduction of dark sections.
- Sharp reproduction – at least of the main subject – using the correct distance setting is a prerequisite for a successfully picture. In turn, the impression of sharpness of a picture is to a great extent determined by the edge sharpness, i.e. by how small the transition area between light and dark is at edges in the picture. The impression of sharpness can thus be changed by expanding or reducing these areas.

- The color saturation determines whether the colors in the picture tend to appear as “pale” and pastel-like or “bright” and colorful. While the lighting and weather conditions (hazy/clear) are given as conditions for the picture, there is definite scope for influencing the reproduction here.

All three picture properties can be adjusted – independently – to five different levels using the menu control, so that you can set the optimum values for any situation and lighting conditions. In the case of **Color Saturation**, **Black+White** can also be selected as a sixth option.

Note:

If the file format **DNG** is specified, these settings have no effect as in this case the image data is always saved in its original form (changes must be made later on the computer).

Setting the functions

1. In the main menu (see p. 80/93) select **Sharpening** (5.1.4), or **Color Saturation** (5.1.5), or **Contrast** (5.1.6), and
2. in the respective sub-menu select the desired level (**Low**, **Medium Low**, **Standard**, **Medium high**, **High**).

Working color space

The requirements in terms of color reproduction differ considerably for the various possible uses of digital picture files. Different color spaces have therefore been developed, such as the standard RGB (red/green/blue) that is perfectly adequate for simple printing. For more demanding image processing using appropriate programs, e.g. for color correction, Adobe® RGB has become established as the standard in the relevant sectors. In the professional pre-printing stage, ECI is used extensively.

The LEICA M8 permits setting to one of these three color spaces: sRGB, Adobe RGB or ECI RGB.

Note:

When using ECI RGB the depiction of the colors in the monitor is paler than when reproduced in reality (i.e. in a print).

Setting the function

In the main menu (see p. 80/93) select **Color Management** (5.1.14), and in the associated sub-menu select the desired function.

Notes:

- If you want to have your prints produced by major photographic laboratories, mini labs or Internet picture services, you should always select the sRGB setting.
- The Adobe RGB/ECI RGB settings are only recommended for professional image processing in completely color-calibrated working environments.

Holding the camera correctly



For sharp, blur-free pictures, the camera should be held as steadily and comfortably as possible. To ensure suitable secure “three point support” for the LEICA M8, hold the camera with the right hand, with the index finger on the shutter release button and the thumb behind the rear of the camera body for stabilization. The left-hand either supports the lens from below, ready for fast focusing adjustments, or is around the whole camera. Holding the camera against the forehead and cheek provides additional support. For portrait format pictures, turn the LEICA M8 to the left. The hands remain in the same position as for pictures in landscape format.

However, you can also turn it to the right. In this case, it may be advantageous to release the shutter with the thumb.



Notes:

- As a practical accessory, we recommend the M8 Hand Grip which allows you to hold the LEICA M8 extremely steadily and to carry it with one hand (order no. 14 471 black, 14 472 silver).
- The LEICA M8 is fitted with an integral sensor which detects the position of the camera – horizontal or vertical (both directions) – for each picture. This information allows the pictures always to be presented upright automatically when subsequently displayed on a computer running the appropriate programs (not on the camera monitor!).

The bright-line frame view- and rangefinder

The LEICA M8's bright-line frame view- and rangefinder is not only a very high-quality, large, brilliant and bright viewfinder, it is also a highly accurate rangefinder coupled to the lens. It has an enlargement factor of 0.68 x.

If lenses with nominal focal lengths* of 24, 28 (Elmarit 28 mm from serial number 2 411 001), 35, 50, 75 and 90 mm are used, the associated bright-line frames are automatically mirrored-in in the combinations 24+35 mm, 28+90 mm, 50+75 mm.

The size of the bright-line frame is matched to the taking format of the LEICA M8 and corresponds to a sensor size of around 18x27mm at the shortest setting distance for each focal length. At longer distances, the camera records more of the subject than can be seen within the bright-line frames.

The bright-line frames are linked to the distance setting in such a way that parallax – the misalignment between the lens and the viewfinder axes – is automatically compensated and the image within bright-line frame and the resulting picture are identical over the entire distance setting range 0.7 m to ∞.

The rectangular distance metering field, which is brighter than the surrounding image field, is in the middle of the viewfinder image. All Leica M lenses from 16 to 135mm focal length connect with the range finder when used on the LEICA M8.

When the exposure meter is turned on, the exposure meter LEDs and the flash symbol LED appear at the lower edge of the viewfinder image.

For more details about setting the distance and exposure metering, together with flash mode, refer to the relevant sections on pages 104/105/110.

Note:

When using longer focal lengths than those for which there are bright-line frames (90 mm, see above), such as the 135 mm models, their image field in the camera viewfinder – which is very small to start with – can only be “determined” very imprecisely.

The frame selector

The frame selector (1.8) expands the possibilities of the LEICA M8 viewfinder. This built in universal viewfinder allows you to call up those bright-line frames at any time, which do not belong to the lens currently being used. You can then see immediately if, for image composition reasons, it would be better to photograph the relevant subject using a different focal length.

If the lever is swung outwards, that is away from the lens, the frames for 24 and 35 mm focal length are shown*.

If the lever is moved to its vertical central position, the frames for the focal lengths 50 and 75 mm are shown.

If the lever is swung inwards, that is towards the lens, the frames for 28 and 90 mm focal length are shown*.

* see “The extension factor”, p. 87