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M1, 2, 3 4 pdf

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There are a LOT of books which do that quite well. Collect all of them, they are great. OK, so I am assuming you know which are which. I call them the "Orphan Leicas": It signaled an entirely new level of excellence, not only for Leica, but for the entire camera industry. It was kind of like introducing a sports car when the competition was a four door sedan! Sales took off like no other pro rangefinder, before or since. New Leica M bayonet mount. Previous Leicas were screw mount. The bayonet offered much faster lens changing, as well as complete backward compatibility with the older lenses by using the Leica screw mount to bayonet adapters -- see Profile. A MUCH improved viewfinder with a host of new features: Frameline change was automatic when lenses changed -- a first! Previous screw mounts offered only bottom loading, which at times can be a pain. Yet, the M3 has much slower film loading than the M4 and later cameras. The film advance spool must be removed each film loading to reset the film counter. A lever film advance, a first for Leica. Intermediate speeds can be set on most shutter speeds. The right or left image displacement inside the M rangefinder patch tells the photographer which way to turn the lens to focus. Focus your lens -- a vertical subject will be easier for this illustration. Notice how image is lined up inside as well as outside the rangefinder patch. Now turn the lens out of focus and look again. Compare the image line outside the rangefinder patch with the image inside the rangefinder patch. The M3 has a round film counter set into the top plate. The middle frameline illumination window is smooth on the M3, with raised borders around both viewfinder windows. The missing vulcanite body covering on this worn M3 can be repaired, but new vulcanite coverings are no longer available from Leica. In use "single strokes" are generally much preferred, but some old timers are adamant that the "double strokes" are smoother and even last longer because each stroke puts less stress on the gearing. Notice the little cutouts on the upper and lower edges of the RF image. Many people believe, rightly or wrongly, that these cameras are the highpoint of Leitz craftsmanship. It was the end of production with a very experienced work crew of craftsman. NOTE that earlier cameras could be converted to later features by Leitz or authorized repair stations. See my Profile on Rangefinder Viewfinders. If your main lenses are the 50 or longer, the M3 has the largest and therefore the best viewfinder for you. Do you really need a 28 or 35 with your M3? If you use it regularly, spend the bucks to have it overhauled, cleaned, lubricated, adjusted. Use an adapter and you can use the standard PC cord. You can also have your repairman install a standard PC outlet. The M3, M2, M1 left the factory with a slow film loading system. Even after the Quickload kit, they are much slower to load than the M4 and later cameras. Another option is installing the easier M4 type loading, but the conversion is not cheap. The M3, M2, M1 share a slow film rewind knob. The new Leica MP rewind lever attachment is very well made, the most expensive, but unfortunately not well designed. Some dedicated Leica nuts are just sure their Leica will be better if it has another finder in it. Upgrading the M2 finder to the M3. I have also heard of some people paying the extra dough to have a M4 finder in the M3. Cure the problem with tape or a rubberized cutout, or M donuts. Be very careful about mounting the meter. I remember one mint M2. Unfortunately I witnessed the event. It made me sick. I had to shoot Nikons for a week to get over it. The VC II is to my mind far and away the best meter ever for meterless Leica rangefinders, of any vintage. Tom Abrahamsson of Rapidwinder. They are difficult to find, but well worth looking for -- much less expensive as well as more reliable than the original MP Leicavit. The M3 uses a different advance system, though if you are willing to throw enough money at it, I have seen a M3 adapted by an independent repair man to take the MP Leicavit or Rapidwinder. Likewise, if you are fanatic enough and can find the repairman who will tolerate your fantasies, either can be adapted to the M6 winder if your pockets are deep enough. M2 The M2 is a modified single stroke M3. At a quick glance, the M3 and M2 can easily be mistaken for each other. Starting with the M2, the frameline illumination window had fresnel cover to it to gather more light. Unlike the M3,

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the M2 has no raised borders around the viewfinder windows. The M2 and M3 lack hot shoes and affordable motors, if that is your need. M4 A lot of people, myself included, consider the M4 to be the last classic standard production M. The M4 finder was basically a M2 finder, with the paired with 35 frame. This helps keep the M4 prices up. While made primarily in chrome, both black paint and black chrome versions were produced. There is little doubt the enamel is much more beautiful when new. Each finish shows wear very differently. I call it an "orphan Leica. Shutter speeds visible in the finder A very large and convenient shutter speed dial. The shutter speed dial over hangs the top plate, so it can easily be turned by the right index finder while selecting the shutter speed in the finder. A smaller more precise metering area than the M6 thanks to the metering cell in front of the shutter curtain, which snapped down just before the exposure. The M5 was the last hand assembled Leica, made the "old fashioned" way. Alas, poor M5 sales almost killed the M system, literally. Only persistent efforts of M lovers managed to get M production going again in Canada at Leitz Midland. The M5 has been discovered by collectors. Clean examples command high prices. This is very ironic since it was no sales success. Black chromium was introduced on the M5. Unfortunately black chrome cameras have a tendency to look down right UGLY with a lot of wear, unlike black paint cameras that tend to have "personality" with the same amount of wear. Chrome was also a standard finish option. The rarest production M5 is the Leica 50th Anniversary model. I suspect a M5 stripped repainted black or grey hammertone would look marvelous. Well used M5 bodies, however, can be bargain priced satisfying users. The M5 was made for the outlawed in the US mercury battery. The easiest solution is to buy them out of the country where they are still easily available. Sometimes disparaged because of its made in Japan heritage, the CL occupies a unique and important spot in the Leica M world. So far, it is also the only Leica M camera made by another manufacturer. I call it an "orphan Leica. This was a critical event for the Leica M, and for the Leica camera company. Without his intervention, the M camera would have likely died with the shut down of the M5 production line. Unfortunately all Leica SLRs have always been outdated body designs from their day of introduction, albeit with great lenses, and very poor sales. The M was a simplified, cheapened M4, without the famous Leica script top plate engraving and the traditional vulcanite body covering. The M was the first of the Plain Jane Leicas. Real world, the M amounts to a cheapened M4 with a hot shoe and out of the box motor capability added. With production moving to Midland Canada, many believe the M initially suffered teething problems and quality control compared to either its M ancestors or M descendents, yet many owners report they are quite happy with their M The vulcanite was replaced by a cheaper plastic material which in my experience does not wear as well. The old chrome finish is replaced by what seems be a thinner finish with less luster. The magnificent old black enamel was replaced by less expensive black chrome which looks very ugly when it wears. Chrome examples are rare and expensive. There was also a gold M commemorating Oskar Barnack, the inventor of the Leica camera.

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Mount[edit] This new bayonet mount, which has not been changed in the following half century, is called the Leica M-mount. Lenses are changed faster than with a screw mount, and framelines set automatically. They adapt the 50mm base viewfinder to the viewfield of the 35mm. It was the first Leica to combine rangefinder and viewfinder into one window. Other cameras, such as the Contax II , already had this feature before World War II ; and other companies were making screwmount bodies with combined finders. Framelines for 50, 90 and mm are shown, although none for any wider lenses. However, Leica solved this problem in two different ways: The drawback of this attachment is that they reduce the famous brightness of the viewfinder. The Summicron lens could not turn to the near range settings unless the auxiliary "specs" were fitted in place on the lens. The viewfinder image is slightly larger. There are two ways to select the 90mm or mm framelines: This way, one can see the tele-framelines when using a 50mm lens. It helps visualise the field of view for another focal length. Earlier versions did not have a lever to view the 90mm frameline without attaching the lens. This parallax problem is compensated in the M3 by moving the framelines when the lens is focused. This full parallax compensation is limited to one metre; closer distances require special "Leica glasses" as described above. Film transport[edit] Film type indicator on the rear of the body Leica IIIf and its predecessors had used a knob to advance the film. For fear of tearing the film, early M3s had a double stroke advance lever, like the Neoca 2s would. Later models from model no had single-stroke levers, which quickened up operation of the camera. Another type of variation is in the film pressure plate used. Early models used a glass plate to keep the film flat; later models used a metal plate. Loading of the film is done by removing the bottom plate, like on the Leica II and III series; A Door flap on the rear of the camera can be raised, allowing for easier access to the film and overcoming a problem associated with these earlier screw lens fitting Leicas. The film is inserted from the bottom of the camera pre-attached to the take-up spool. Special cassettes were also available. Shutter[edit] Speed shutter dial, advance lever with shutter button, and frame counter. Previous screw mount Leicas used two separate shutter speed dials for slow and fast speeds the fast speed dial on top of the camera rotated during firing. The M3 combined slower and faster speeds and the dial does not rotate during firing. Supposedly, this reduces vibrations in the camera. Early models used a non-geometrical series of shutter speeds. Variants and successors[edit] Variants of the M3 were made for specific purposes. The Leica 24x27 was a camera with neither rangefinder nor viewfinder, made for the postal service to photograph electricity meters. The M3 was supplemented by the M2 with a 0. The next model was the rangefinder-less M1 , intended as an interface with scientific instruments or with a visoflex. With the exception of the larger Leica M5 , subsequent Leica M-series cameras have a strong family resemblance to the M3. British Journal of Photography.

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In one package the CL is 1) the smallest Leica rangefinder camera 2) the smallest M mount camera and 3) the smallest TTL metering interchangeable lens rangefinder camera. See details in Profile Real world, they have a reputation as charming cameras, but not as reliable as their Leica M big brothers.

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