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Leica M-A (Typ 127) Camera Instruction Manual

Model: 10371

1. Introduction

The Leica M-A (Typ 127) is a fully mechanical 35mm film camera designed for photographers who appreciate traditional photographic processes. This camera operates without a battery, relying entirely on mechanical controls for shutter speed, aperture, and focusing. Its robust construction and minimalist design emphasize the fundamental aspects of photography.

2. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Leica M-A (Typ 127) embodies the essence of analog photography with its durable all-metal body and precise mechanical operation. It features a classic rangefinder focusing system and manual controls for a direct photographic experience.



Front view of the Leica M-A (Typ 127) camera with a lens attached, showcasing the classic rangefinder design and silver finish.



Top view of the Leica M-A (Typ 127) camera, displaying the shutter speed dial, film advance lever, and the Leica branding.



Rear view of the Leica M-A (Typ 127) camera, showing the film ISO reminder dial and the viewfinder.

3. SETUP

3.1. Attaching the Lens

- 1. Align the red dot on the lens with the red dot on the camera body's lens mount.
- 2. Gently insert the lens into the mount.
- 3. Rotate the lens clockwise until it clicks into place, indicating it is securely locked.

3.2. Loading Film

- 1. Open the camera's base plate by rotating the locking key.
- 2. Pull up the film rewind knob to open the film chamber.
- 3. Insert a 35mm film cassette into the chamber.
- 4. Pull the film leader across to the take-up spool and ensure it engages with the teeth.
- 5. Close the film chamber and replace the base plate, securing it with the locking key.

6. Advance the film two frames by operating the film advance lever and pressing the shutter button to ensure the film is properly loaded and the frame counter resets.

3.3. Setting Film Speed (ISO)

The M-A (Typ 127) does not have an internal light meter. The ISO dial on the back of the camera serves as a reminder for the film speed currently loaded. Rotate the dial to match the ISO of your film (e.g., ISO 100, 400, 800).

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

4.1. Focusing

The Leica M-A (Typ 127) uses a manual rangefinder focusing system:

- 1. Look through the viewfinder. You will see a bright frame and a central, brighter patch.
- 2. Within the central patch, you will see a double image.
- 3. Rotate the focusing ring on your lens until the double image in the central patch merges into a single, clear image. This indicates that your subject is in focus.

4.2. Setting Exposure (Aperture and Shutter Speed)

Exposure is set manually by adjusting the aperture on the lens and the shutter speed on the camera's top dial. There is no automatic exposure mode. Photographers must use an external light meter or their experience to determine the correct settings for desired exposure.

- Aperture: Controlled by the ring on the lens. Adjust to control depth of field and light entering the lens.
- **Shutter Speed:** Controlled by the dial on the top plate. Adjust to control motion blur and duration of light exposure.

4.3. Taking a Photograph

- 1. Ensure film is loaded and advanced.
- 2. Set the desired aperture on the lens.
- 3. Set the desired shutter speed on the top dial.
- 4. Focus on your subject using the rangefinder.
- 5. Gently press the shutter release button on the top plate to capture the image.
- 6. Advance the film using the film advance lever for the next shot.

4.4. Self-Timer

The camera is equipped with a self-timer function. To activate, wind the self-timer lever located on the front of the camera, then press the shutter button. The shutter will release after a short delay, typically 10-12 seconds.

5. MAINTENANCE

5.1. Cleaning the Camera

Use a soft, lint-free cloth to wipe the camera body.

- For the lens, use a lens brush to remove dust, followed by a lens cleaning solution and a microfiber cloth. Avoid touching the lens elements directly.
- Keep the viewfinder and rangefinder windows clean for clear focusing.

5.2. Storage

Store the camera in a dry, dust-free environment, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. If storing for extended periods, remove any film and keep the lens cap on.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

- **Film not advancing:** Ensure the film leader is properly engaged with the take-up spool. Check if the film rewind knob rotates when advancing the film.
- Shutter not firing: Confirm the film advance lever has been fully wound.
- **Images out of focus:** Practice using the rangefinder focusing system to ensure the double image merges completely.
- Exposure issues (too dark/too bright): Verify aperture and shutter speed settings are appropriate for the lighting conditions, potentially using an external light meter.

7. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Brand	Leica
Model Name	10371
Model Series	M-A (Typ 127)
Compatible Mountings	Leica M
Photo Sensor Technology	Other (Film)
Image Stabilization	Digital (Note: This refers to post-processing, camera is mechanical)
Metering Description	Automatic (Note: This refers to the internal light meter, which is not present in the M-A. Exposure is manual.)
Are Batteries Included	No
Special Feature	Fully Mechanical, No Battery Required
Item Weight	1.3 Pounds
Light Sensitivity	ISO 100 to ISO 3200 (film dependent)
Viewfinder	Optical
Shooting Modes	Manual
Has Self-Timer	Yes

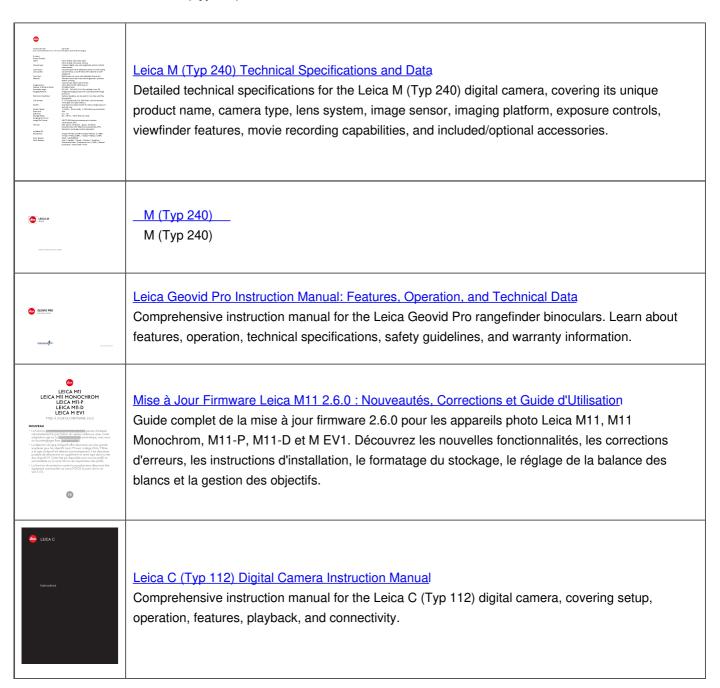
Focus Type	Manual Focus	
Autofocus	No	

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The Leica M-A (Typ 127) camera comes with a manufacturer's warranty. For specific details regarding warranty coverage, duration, and terms, please refer to the documentation provided with your purchase or visit the official Leica website. For technical assistance, service, or further inquiries, please contact Leica customer support directly.

You can find more information and support resources on the official Leica website: Visit the Leica Store

Related Documents - M-A (Typ 127)



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Short-Term Confidentiality Request for Leica S (Typ 007)

Confidentiality request letter from Leica Camera AG to the Federal Communication Commission for the LEICA S (Typ 007) camera, requesting short-term confidentiality for photographs, test setup, and user manual until product marketing.