



## **New 6-bit coding of Leica M system lenses for image optimization in connection with the planned digital camera model**

Leica Camera AG, Solms will be giving the lenses of the Leica rangefinder system a new code on the bayonet ring in future to enable the planned digital Leica M camera to recognize the lens type. The information on the lens that is being used helps the camera to optimize image quality. All lenses leaving the factory from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 onwards will have the new coding, although they can still be fully used with the current analog cameras LEICA MP and LEICA M7 as well as classic models built after 1954. Lenses in the current range as well as many earlier models can be retrofitted at the cost of the owner to benefit from the image optimization in the camera. The lenses are compatible with the planned digital M camera even without retrofitting, except that the additional features cannot be used.

The lens coding is called '6-bit coding' because six fields in the bayonet ring are marked in black or white to represent a number from 1 to 64 in binary code. The planned digital M camera reads this information optically and can identify the lens on the basis of this code. Apart from the improvement in image quality, this information is also written into the EXIF image file.

"On account of their legendary quality, nearly all Leica M lenses are ideal for digital use. However, the new 6-bit coding also uses the performance reserves in the image processing of the camera to give our customers the excellent image result they expect from Leica," says Rainer Bültert, product manager for the M system at Leica Camera AG.

Lenses bought in the past will be converted at the request of the customer for 95 euros at the Customer Service of Leica Camera AG in Solms or the Leica agencies of other countries. Many of the lenses made from 1963 onwards can be converted. A list of such models is available on the following pages or from the Leica Info-Service (Tel. 06442/208-111). The only lens in the current range that will not be given a 6-bit coding is the LEICA APO-TELYT-M 135 mm f/3.4. It is not codable later, either, as its extension factor of 1.33 makes it unsuitable for use on the planned digital M camera. The launch of the digital Leica rangefinder camera is planned for the second half of 2006.



### List of present lenses that can be updated:

Name	Color	Order No.	Delivered from
Elmarit-M 21mm f/2.8 ASPH.	Black	11135	1997
Elmarit-M 24mm f/2.8 ASPH.	Black	11878	1996
Summicron-M 28mm f/2 ASPH.	Black	11604	2000
Tri-Elmar-M 1:4/28-35-50mm f/4 ASPH.	Black	11625	2000
Summilux-M 35mm f/1.4 ASPH.	Black	11874	1994
Summicron-M 35mm f/2 ASPH.	Black	11879	1996
Summicron-M 35mm f/2 ASPH.	Silver	11882	1996
Noctilux-M 50mm f/1.0	Black	11822	1994
Summilux-M 50mm f/1.4 ASPH.	Black	11891	2004
Summilux-M 50mm f/1.4 ASPH.	Silver	11892	2006
Summicron-M 50mm f/2	Black	11826	1994
Summicron-M 50mm f/2	Silver	11816	1994
Elmar-M 50mm f/2.8	Black	11831	1995
Elmar-M 50mm f/2.8	Silver	11823	1994
Summilux-M 75mm f/1.4	Black	11810	1998
Apo-Summicron-M 75mm f/2 ASPH.	Black	11637	2005
Apo-Summicron-M 90mm f/2 ASPH.	Black	11884	1998
Elmarit-M 90mm f/2.8	Black	11807	1990
Macro-Elmar-M 90mm f/4	Black	11633	2002
Macro-Elmar-M 90mm f/4	Silver	11634	2002
Macro-Adapter M	Black	14409	2002



### Discontinued lenses that can be updated:

Besides those presently available, even lenses that were discontinued quite a while ago can be updated (see list below). Since Leica Camera AG regards system compatibility as a vital virtue, many lenses introduced as long ago as 1963 can be updated.

### List of discontinued lenses that can be updated:

Name	Color	Order No.	Delivered from-until
Elmarit-M 21mm f/2.8	Black	11134	1980-1997
Elmarit-M 21mm f/2.8 ASPH.	Silver	11897	1997-2004
Elmarit-M 24mm f/2.8 ASPH.	Silver	11898	1996-2005
Elmarit-M 28mm f/2.8	Black	11804	1979-1992
Elmarit-M 28mm f/2.8	Black	11809	1992-2005
Tri-Elmar-M 28-35-50mm f/4 ASPH.	Black	11890	1998-2000
Tri-Elmar-M 28-35-50mm f/4 ASPH.	Silver	11894	1999-2000
Summilux-M 35mm f/1.4 ASPH.	Silver	11883	1994-2004
Summicron-M 35mm f/2	Black	11310	1979-1996
Summicron-M 35mm f/2	Silver	11311	1993-1996
Noctilux-M 50mm f/1.0	Black	11821	1975-1994
Summilux-M 50mm f/1.4	Black	11868	1992-2004
Summilux-M 50mm f/1.4	Silver	11856	1992-2004
Summicron-M 50mm f/2	Black	11817	1969-1979
Summicron-M 50mm f/2	Black	11819	1979-1994
Summicron-M 50mm f/2	Silver	11825	1992-1994
Summilux-M 75mm f/1.4	Black	11814	1980-1982
Summilux-M 75mm f/1.4	Black	11815	1982-1998
Summicron-M 90mm f/2	Black	11136	1980-1989
Summicron-M 90mm f/2	Silver	11137	1993-1989
Apo-Summicron-M 90mm f/2 ASPH.	Silver	11885	2002-2004
Tele-Elmarit-M 90mm f/2.8	Black	11800	1973-1989
Elmarit-M 90mm f/2.8	Silver	11808	1997-2004
Elmarit-M 135mm f/2.8	Black	11829	1963-1997

Please ask either your authorized Leica dealer or Customer Service in Solms to perform the update. The latter will be happy to inform you on this subject. Customer Service is available under the phone number +49 (0)6442 208-189.