



FAQ LEICA M9

Status September 2009

Why does the LEICA M9 not use the Maestro processor?

The use of conventional DSP components allows a very flexible treatment on JPG processing, a great advantage with the very unique sensor design of the M9 sensor. In addition, the LEICA M9 was developed parallel to the LEICA S2. Due to the development schedule, we awarded the contract for the digital components to Jenoptik.

How was the need for the UV/IR Filter eliminated?

The LEICA M9 uses a cover glass in front of the sensor which functions as an absorption filter for infrared light. Through increased thickness and glass selection, different than the M8, it is possible to eliminate the need for additional filters on the lens. The effect of the incorporated filter is on the same level as other current professional cameras. In extreme situations (black synthetic fabric under low tungsten illumination), a slight IR effect (Magenta color shift) can be seen.

I use both the M8 and M9. Can I leave the UV/IR filters on the lenses?

For focal lengths of 35mm and longer, yes. For focal lengths wider than 35mm this is not recommended, because through the UV/IR filter a color shift will appear in the corners.

Is a Silver chrome version planned?

No, this is not planned. Silver lenses match the control elements on the steel gray version.

Why does the M9 not have an image preview function?

The sensor is a so-called "full frame sensor" (this has nothing with the size of the sensor, but describes the mode of operation). In this sensor type, all pixel lines simultaneously are submitted for image analysis, the amount of data would be too large and the refresh rate too slow for a preview. Full frame sensors offer the highest image quality, therefore Leica selected this technology for the M9.

Why doesn't the M9 have sapphire monitor cover glass? Can it be retrofitted?

Sapphire glass the size the 2.5" monitor is very expensive. A goal in the development of the M9 was to be able to offer the camera for an attractive price as possible. Therefore we decided not to offer the sapphire glass. A retrofit is not planned. Depending upon demand, we may offer this as a retrofit or an additional model in the future.

Why is Adobe Photoshop Lightroom offered instead of Capture One 4?

With Adobe we could partner with the leading provider of image processing software. Adobe Photoshop Lightroom offers a substantially larger feature range than Capture One. With Lightroom, DNG files can be converted, but additionally functions include image processing, archiving, printing preparation and web gallery functions.

Can my LEICA M8 or M8.2 be upgraded with the Sensor of the M9?

No. In addition to the sensor, many additional components have been changed (e.g. the shutter) an upgrade of the M8 or M8.2 is economically non-sense and therefore not offered.

Why was the display for battery and pictures remaining on the top plate omitted?

The monitor offers substantially more room for a clear and exact display of the data and permits additional information such as card size, shutter speed and lens type. In contrast to the display on the M8, the information can be easily seen in low light situations. For this reason we decided to remove the display in the top plate.

Why are the framelines calibrated at 1m, instead of 2m as in the M8.2?

As a result of the larger sensor size compared to the M8 and M8.2, a much smaller enlargement factor of the lens arises. Therefore the proven setting of the LEICA M7/MP was selected for the M9.

Can I use my 135mm lenses on the LEICA M9?

The LEICA M9 possesses a 135mm bright line frame. 135mm lenses can be used on the M9. Because of the narrow depth of field of this focal length and resulting ultra precise focusing required, we recommend stopping the lens down at least 2 aperture steps. The current LEICA APO-TELYT-M 135mm/f3.4 will not be available in a 6-bit coded version.

Which types of memory cards will work with my LEICA M9?

In principle, all cards complying with the SD/SDHC specifications will work. Since this market with its many distributors changes quickly, Leica cannot constantly check the compatibility. The M9's performance is very much based on the card's speed. Therefore, we suggest using the faster types on the list below containing memory cards checked by Leica.

Type of card	Speed when used in LEICA M9
SanDisk Ultra II 4 GB	++
SanDisk Ultra II 16 GB	++
SanDisk Ultra II 2 GB	++
PNY 8 GB	+
Panasonic 8 GB 20 MB/s	+
Lexar Professional 8GB 133x	+
Panasonic 4 GB 20 MB/s	+
SanDisk Ultra II 32 GB	+
SanDisk Video HD 16 GB	+
SanDisk Extreme III 30 MB/s 4 GB	+
SanDisk Ultra II 8 GB	+
SanDisk Extreme III 30 MB/s 8 GB	+
Lexar 20MB/s 8 GB	+
Transcend 32GB	-
Lexar 16 GB	-
Transcend 4 GB	-
Transcend 16 GB	-
Lexar 8 GB	-
SanDisk Extreme III 4 GB	-