

*Leica* M 3



*Leica* — the standard  
of comparison in 35 mm photography

LEICA means precision, versatility, rugged reliability, and the last word in optical excellence. As the pioneer modern miniature camera, the LEICA has always been in the technical forefront of optical and mechanical progress. And we are confident that it will always retain its lead.

Here we present our most advanced model, the ultimate in 35 mm rangefinder cameras, the LEICA M3. Combining outstanding versatility with luxurious ease of operation, the LEICA M3 reduces picture-taking technique to its simplest level.

Study the technical specifications of the M3, and especially the exclusive features of the LEITZ universal brilliant-frame range-viewfinder, the fastest, most accurate, and easiest-to-use focusing and framing device ever conceived.

Best of all, ask your franchised LEICA dealer to demonstrate the camera for you — he's an expert and can show you why there ought to be a LEICA in your photographic life. Once you've handled the LEICA yourself you'll know why famous photographers regard this masterpiece of precision as

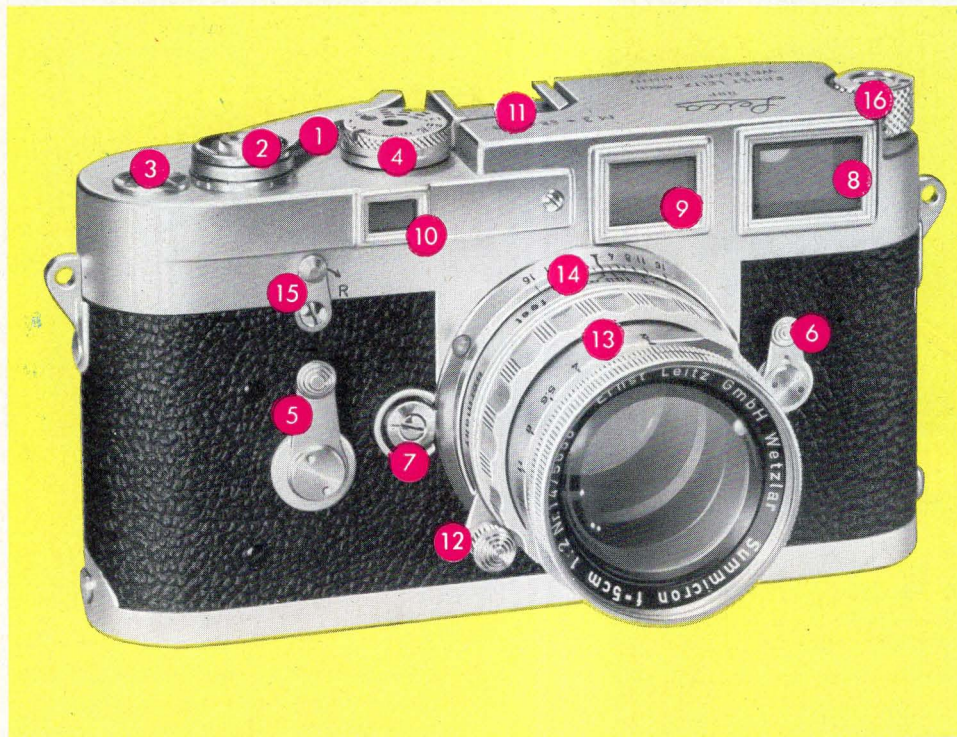


# the perfected camera

photograph by J. Behnke



## LEICA M 3 features:

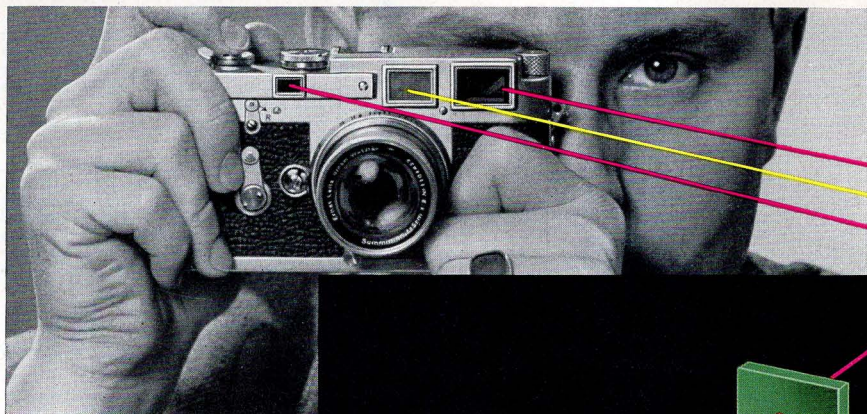


- 1 Rapid-Action Transport Lever**  
advances the film and cocks the shutter with a single stroke.
- 2 Release-Button for the Focal-Plane Shutter**  
Ideally positioned for gentle, vibration-free shutter release, this button is blocked until the shutter has been cocked, thus eliminating any possibility of accidental double-exposures.


The focal-plane shutter moves so smoothly, and so quietly, that you hardly notice it. Positioned immediately in front of the LEICA's film-plane it remains equally efficient with all interchangeable LEICA lenses, even those with f/1.4 apertures.

- 3 Automatic Frame-Counter**  
jumps back to starting position as soon as the film take-up spool is withdrawn so you can't forget to set the counter. The frame-number is readily visible through the built-in magnifier.
- 4 Shutter Speed Dial**  
clearly shows all speeds from 1 to 1/1000 sec, plus "B", for time exposures, and can be set either before or after cocking the shutter. The non-spinning dial is blocked at the end of the scale so that it can be set in the dark, and it couples directly to the LEICAMETER MC photoelectric exposure meter.
- 5 Built-in Self-Timer**  
provides an adjustable delay of 5 to 10 seconds duration.
- 6 Finder-Frame Preselector**  
brings the 90- and 135 mm finder frames into view whenever you wish, thus letting you study the effects of the different lenses without having to change the lens itself. (See pages 6 and 7.)
- 7 Bayonet Lens-Mount**  
secures the lens with utmost rigidity while permitting rapid exchange of lenses. A special internal device automatically actuates the proper focal frame for the lens in use.
- 8 Finder Window**  
combines the brilliant focal frames and the coupled rangefinder.
- 9 Illuminating Window**  
supplies light for the brilliant finder frames.
- 10 Rangefinder Window**  
forms the moving rangefinder image.
- 11 Accessory Shoe**  
accepts the coupled LEICAMETER MC, flash units, or auxiliary viewfinders.
- 12 Lens Focusing Lever**  
locks at the infinity position. A gentle pressure releases the lens for focusing at closer distances.
- 13 Lens Aperture Scale**  
is readily visible from above.
- 14 Distance and Depth-of-Field Scales**  
indicate your shooting distance and the zone of sharpness for each lens aperture.
- 15 Reversing Lever**  
for rewinding the film after exposure.
- 16 Rewinding Knob**  
pulls up for film rewinding. Center part turns when film advances properly eliminating any doubts on this score.

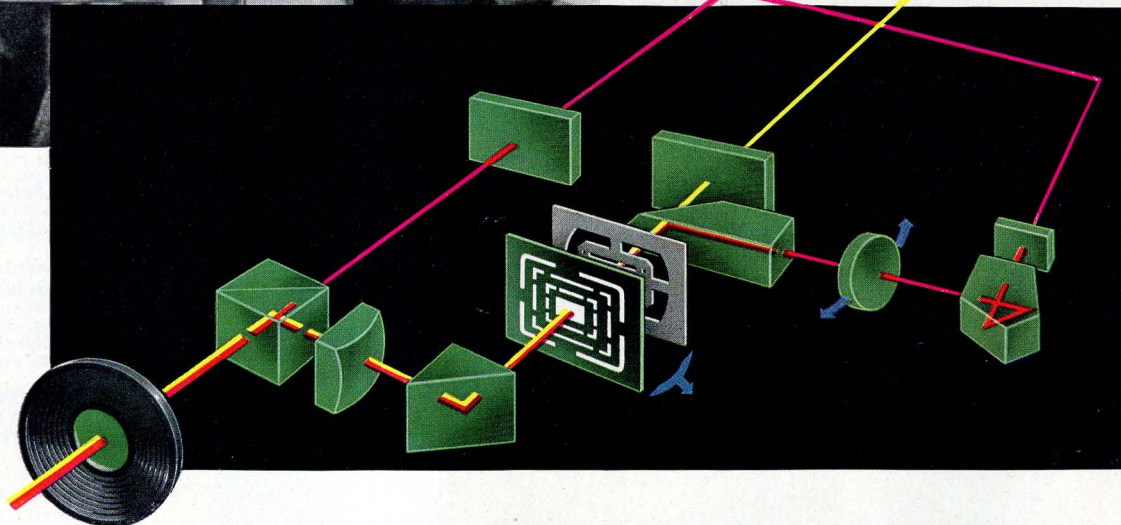




The red lines show the path of the range-finder rays. The yellow line indicates the path of light rays forming the brilliant focal frames.

 Movement of the bright-line frames for parallax compensation.

**How the  
LEICA M 3  
combined  
range-viewfinder  
works:**



## Inside the focusing viewfinder

The brilliant-frame range-viewfinder of the LEICA M 3 is a universal focusing viewfinder providing single-eyepiece viewing and focusing with parallax-compensated focal frames for 35-, 50-, 90-, and 135 mm LEICA lenses.

**you see:**

The subject: present all the time, nearly life-size, and always clear inside the brilliant focal frames which remain brightly visible, even in poor light.

The rangefinder field: for rapid and effortlessly accurate focusing with a sharply outlined rectangular field that lets you employ either coincidence or split-image focusing.

A large surrounding area outside the focal frames makes you aware of moving subjects before they enter the lens-field, a particularly important advantage when shooting rapid action with long-focus lenses.



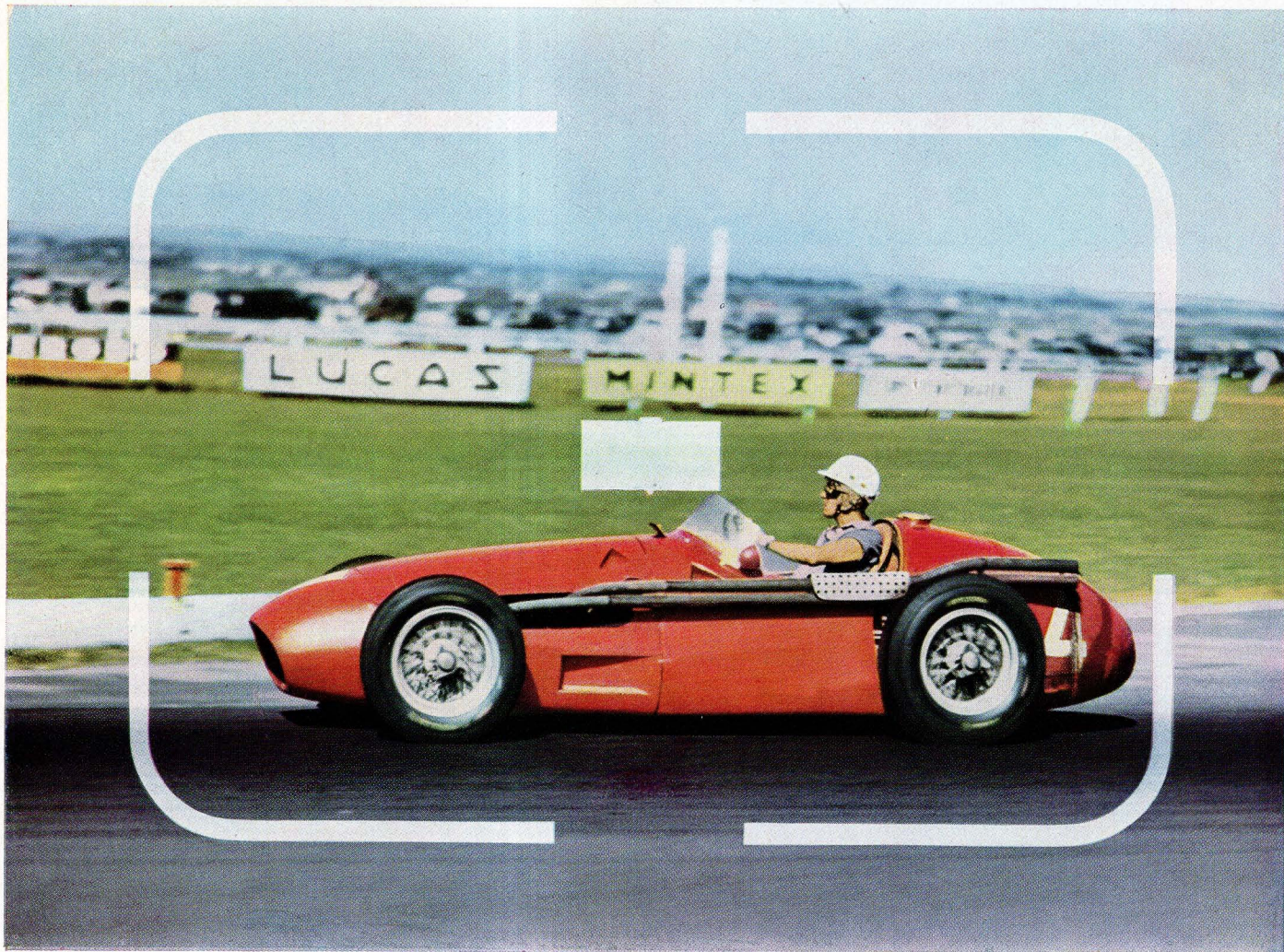
## The big picture window:

The combined range-viewfinder of the *LEICA M 3* is the fastest, easiest-to-use, and most accurate focusing viewfinder ever constructed. A remarkably bright and unusually contrasty colorless rangefinder patch is centered within the image-field to make precise focusing easy even under very dim lighting conditions. In the normal focusing method two images of the same subject are united to form a single sharp image. However, because of an ingenious

internal masking mechanism (see diagram at left), the rangefinder patch is sharply outlined to permit split-image rangefinding as well as the previously described coincidence method. In this case the photographer reconstructs a broken vertical subject-line. The Leicaman is thus able to utilize both kinds of rangefinder focusing whenever either method is preferable. Brilliantly illuminated focal frames outline the field of 35-, 50-, 90-,

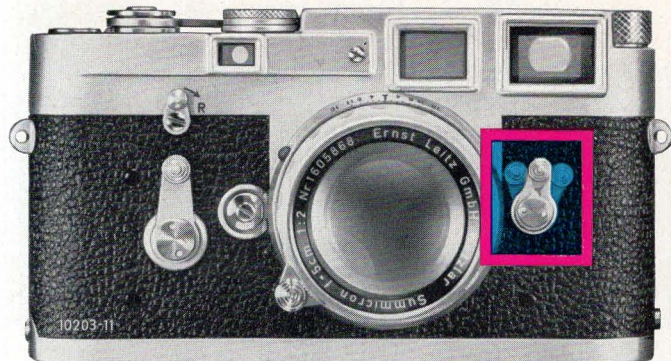
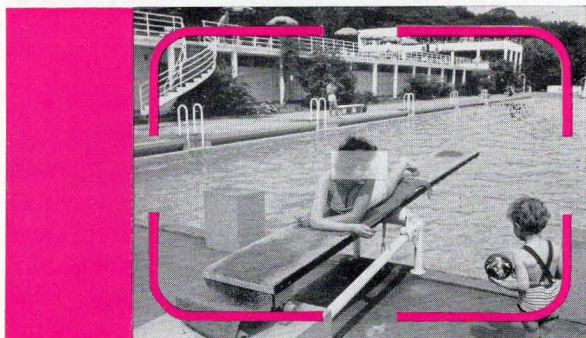
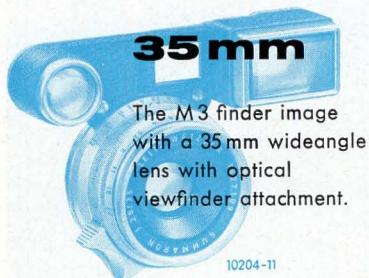
and 135 mm *LEICA* lenses, and these frames are coupled to the *LEICA*'s focusing mechanism so that they move within the finder to provide continuously automatic parallax protection at all focusing distances. And, due to a special optical design, it doesn't matter whether you look straight through the finder or at an angle—you utilize every millimeter of the film area without annoying parallax errors.

photograph by T. March





# 4 focal lengths in



Another special LEICA feature is the **finder frame selector** which lets you preview the fields of the other lenses without having to change the lens in the camera. The longer the focal length, the greater the surrounding area in the finder. This is particularly valuable for shooting fast-moving action with long-focus LEICA lenses.

The operation of the universal M3 finder is not affected by the frame selector lever. On inserting any 35-, 50-, 90-, or 135 mm LEICA lens, the correct frame appears automatically within the finder. (With no lens in the camera the finder shows the 135 mm frame.)



# the viewfinder of the M 3



## 50 mm

This is how the subject appears in the M 3 finder when you use a standard 50 mm LEICA lens. Note the sharply-defined rangefinder patch in the center of the field.



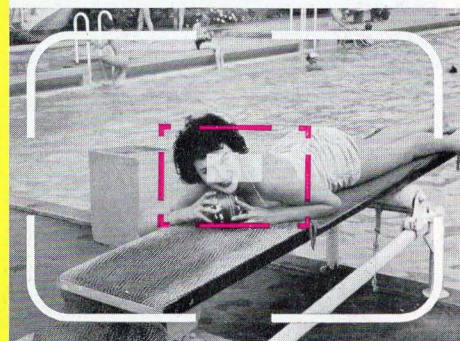
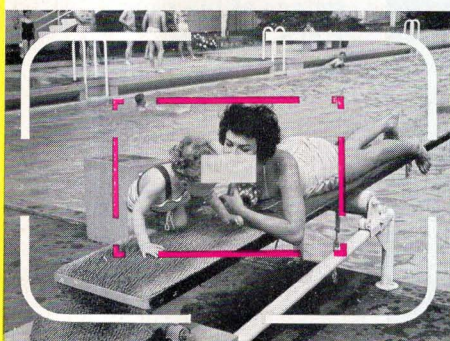
## 90 mm

On fitting a 90mm LEICA lens you see the correspondingly smaller image frame. The enclosed area shows the full film area. The 90 mm lens magnifies the image 1.8 times that obtained with the 50 mm lens.



## 135 mm

When the 135 mm Elmar lens is attached to the M 3 the appropriate image frame again appears automatically in the finder. This lens magnifies the image 2.7 times larger than the normal 50 mm image.

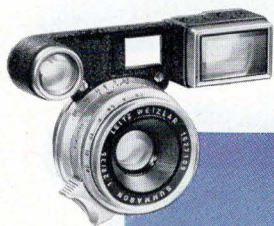


photographs by S. Hartig



**35mm SUMMILUX f/1.4**  
**35mm SUMMICRON f/2**  
**35mm SUMMARON f/2.8**

A wideangle lens takes in a much larger field of view than the standard 50mm lens at the same shooting distance. Wideangle lenses are useful for outdoor pictorial work as well as for cramped indoor conditions in which you need more elbow-room. Applications include architectural, industrial and advertising photography, as well as candid indoor photography. <sup>64°</sup> In addition, wideangle lenses are often used for candid action shots in which their great depth-of-field is a real asset. The three 35mm LEICA lenses are therefore the most widely used accessory lenses for the LEICA.



## Control your Perspective!

Control the relative sizes of foreground and background objects by using different focal lengths and changing your subject distance. Note how famous photographer Walther Benser has created different interpretations of the same scene with his interchangeable LEICA lenses.



**50mm SUMMILUX® f/1.4**  
**50mm SUMMICRON® f/2**  
**50mm ELMAR® f/2.8**

The standard 50mm lens is the most versatile of all LEICA lenses with an angle of view that's neither too wide for general outdoor photography nor too constricted for most indoor shooting situations. The high-speed SUMMICRON f/2 is particularly popular with experts because of its truly outstanding image quality. The special "dual-range" 50mm SUMMICRON is described on page 10. Available-light color photographers frequently rely upon the 50mm SUMMILUX with its super-fast f/1.4 aperture, while sportsmen and mountain-climbers appreciate the compactness and light weight of the collapsible 50mm ELMAR f/2.8.



**90mm SUMMICRON f/2**

**90mm ELMARIT f/2.8**

**90mm ELMAR f/4**

By far the most popular long-focus LEICA lenses, these 90's reproduce the subject nearly twice as large as the standard 50mm lens. Candid action shots, close-up portraits and other tightly-composed scenes are ideal subjects for this medium long-focus lens. The lens heads of all LEITZ 90mm lenses (except the 90mm collapsible ELMAR) are removable for use in various short focusing mounts for VISOFLEX II reflex photography. Thus the Leicaman is able to choose not only the best focal length for the picture at hand, but the preferable focusing method as well!

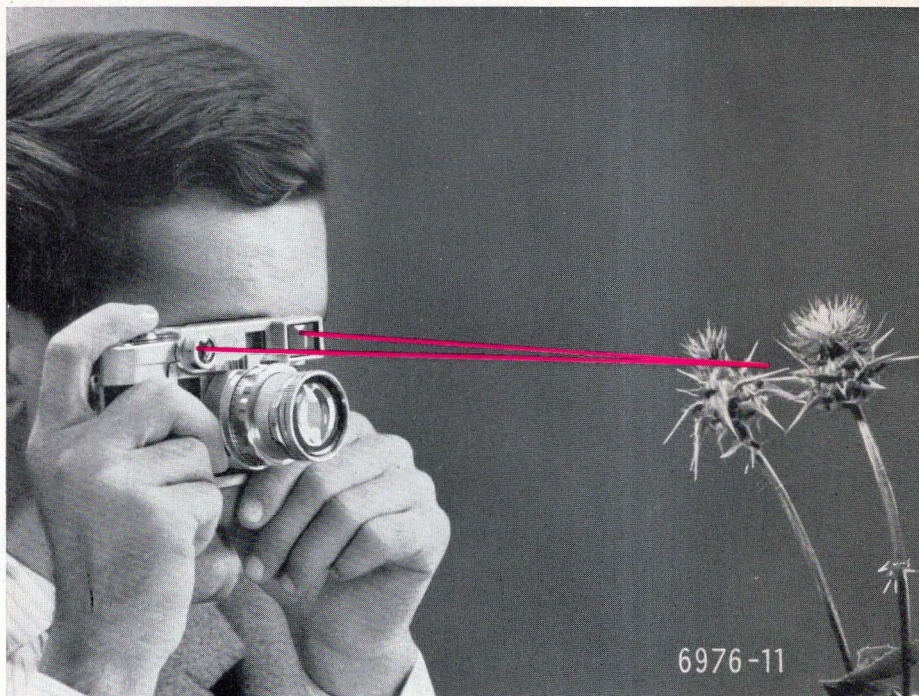


### **135mm ELMAR f/4**

<sup>18°</sup>  
This really long-focus LEICA lens provides particularly effective perspective renditions when used from longer shooting distances. The background comes closer, thus dominating the picture. With 2.7 times the magnification of the normal 50 mm lens, the 135 mm ELMAR f/4 is particularly useful for producing format-filling color transparencies with great viewer-impact. It yields large-scale, close-in views of distant scenes, records the finest details of otherwise unreachable architectural subjects, and produces dynamic full-frame head-and-shoulders portraits — — — to mention just a few of the most successful applications of this lens.







## The 50 mm SUMMICRON f/2

represents the highest standard of optical quality ever achieved with the most advanced computing methods and the latest high-refractive rare-earth optical glasses. In addition to being remarkably free from vignetting – even at full aperture – the 50 mm SUMMICRON is exceptionally well corrected for all focusing distances. Even at f/2 the SUMMICRON yields outstanding resolution and contrast; its image brilliance and color correction are truly amazing. It is available in two models: as a standard lens for focusing from infinity to 40 inches, and as a special lens with a built-in close-focusing range.

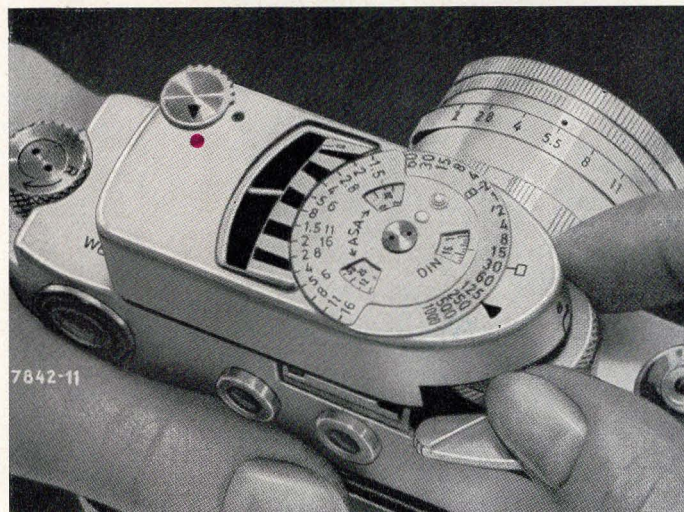
**The 50 mm "Dual-Range" SUMMICRON with close-focusing range** covers distances between 35 and 19 inches (88- and 48 cm) away from the film-plane, as well as the normal infinity-to-40-inch focusing range. A special optical finder attachment for the close-focusing range, supplied with each lens, brings LEICA rangefinder accuracy and parallax compensation right down to the 19-inch distance. A clever safety lock makes sure that you can use the lens in the close-up range only with the optical attachment, and in the normal range only without it. In addition, the optical unit of the **50 mm SUMMICRON f/2** is removable for use in a variety of LEITZ

close-focusing and copying devices. **Far and away the finest 50 mm lens ever achieved, the SUMMICRON combines high speed with real gains in image quality.**

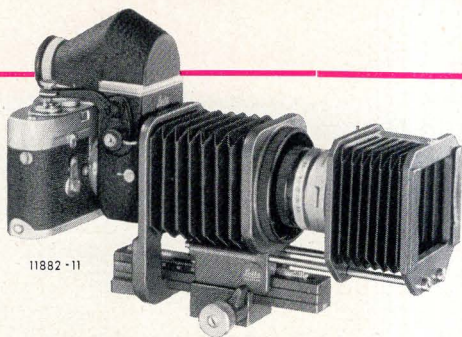
## The Coupled LEICAMETER® MC Exposure Meter

Specially designed for the LEICA "M" models, the LEICAMETER MC attaches to the camera's accessory shoe and couples directly to the shutter speed selector dial. Select the shutter speed you want to use, aim the LEICAMETER MC at the subject and the pointer needle indicates the lens-aperture for perfect exposure. Or, turn the meter's knurled ring until the aperture you've selected lines up with the pointer, and the correct shutter speed is set, automatically.

The LEICAMETER MC has two built-in sensitivity ranges for bright and dim lighting conditions, and an accessory booster-cell is provided for very weak light, increasing the meter's sensitivity four times. An extremely accurate instrument, the compact LEICAMETER MC has film-speed index calibrations from ASA 6 to 1,000, and offers the additional advantage of working both on and off the LEICA®.







VISOFLEX I  
with extension bellows



VISOFLEX II  
with Telyt 200 mm

## VISOFLEX II®

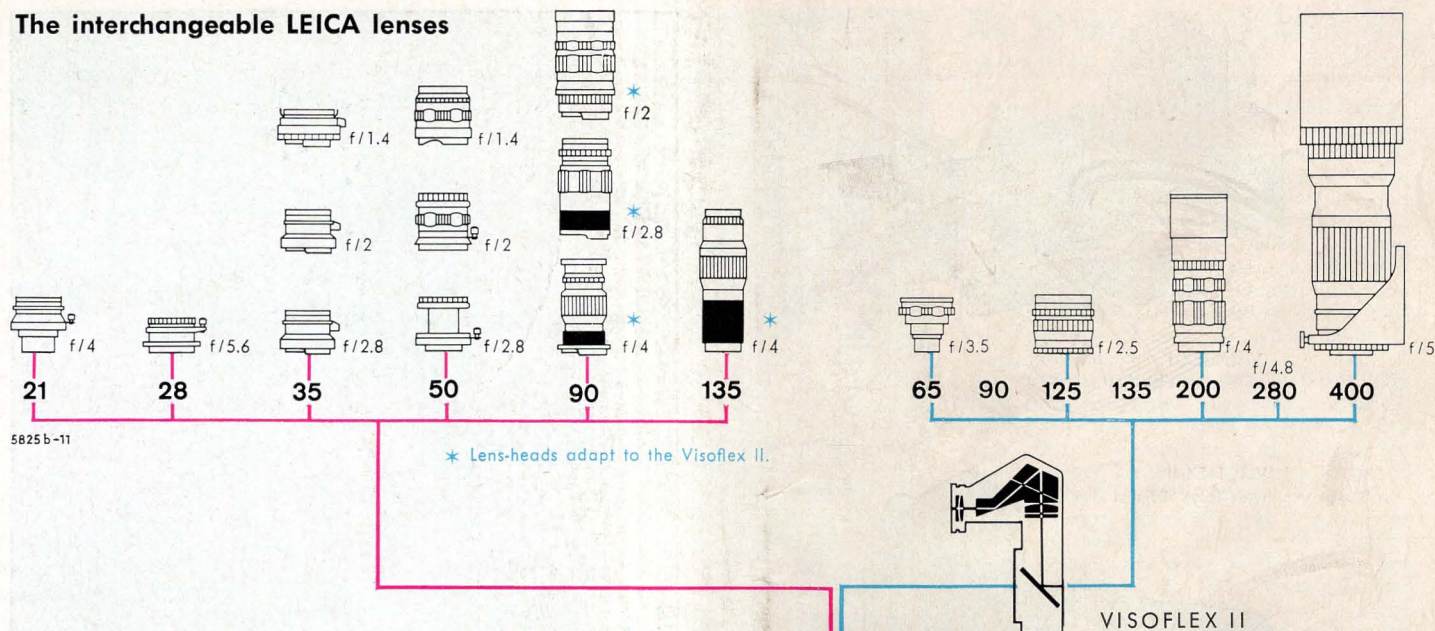
With the VISOFLEX II the LEICA becomes a compactly efficient single-lens reflex camera so that the Leicaman is able fully to exploit the alternative advantages of combined range-viewfinder or reflex ground-glass focusing. With short-to-normal focus lenses there can be no doubt of the range-viewfinder's superior speed accuracy and convenience. For long-focus lenses, as well as when making extreme close-ups, there can equally be no doubt of the advantages of a perfectly parallax-free groundglass image. For these reasons both focusing methods are essential parts of the LEICA SYSTEM, the world's most successful system of photography. For further information about the VISOFLEX II and FOCUSING BELLOWS II, please ask your LEICA dealer for our brochures No. 11-40 and 12-29.



photograph by H. Doering



## The interchangeable LEICA lenses



## pradovit®

Show your color transparencies to best advantage – with the LEITZ pradovit projectors. Fully automatic, these LEITZ-built projectors provide the last word in optical quality with such lenses as the five-element 90 mm COLOR-PLAN® f/2.5. Ask your LEICA dealer to demonstrate the remarkable pradovit models, and request our leaflet No. 31–34.



® = registered trade mark

Design subject to alterations without notice.

**ERNST LEITZ GMBH WETZLAR GERMANY**  
**Subsidiary: Ernst Leitz (Canada) Ltd., Midland, Ontario**  
**U. S. Distributors: E. Leitz, Inc., 468 Park Ave. South, New York 16, N. Y.**

