



# FAQ LEICA M8 & LEICA M8.2

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Overview

1. Downloading/computer connection/saving data
2. Compatibility
3. Use of UV/IR filters
4. General functions

## 1. Downloading/computer connection/saving data

### 1.1 When DNG's are downloaded via the USB Interface onto a PC, they are renamed to TIFF files.

This is a software bug in Windows XP. Windows is not able to identify the DNG format. Microsoft has been informed by Leica about this fact. If DNG files are downloaded via a card reader, the files are identified properly. Nevertheless, even the "wrong" Tiff files can be opened normally in Capture one and Photoshop Programs.

This problem does not exist with Windows Vista, the files are transferred with the correct ending in this case.

### 1.2 When DNG's are downloaded together with JPG's via the USB Interface onto a PC, two TIFF files are copied instead of DNG+JPG.

Please use the Windows Scanner and Camera assistant to transfer the files instead of Windows explorer.

### 1.3 I am trying to connect the camera to my Mac computer but the Mac software won't recognise the camera. Is the camera compatible with Mac?

Many digital cameras appear as a hard drive on the desktop of Mac-OS. The M8 does not appear as a hard drive but as a camera device. For file transfer via USB a program like Image capture (part of Mac-OS) or I-photo is needed.

#### **1.4 With some SD cards, the picture numbers are reset even though the menu item “Picture Numbering” is set to “Continuously”. How can this be avoided?**

This effect can be avoided by formatting the card in “FAT” standard instead of in “FAT32” standard. Windows users can proceed as follows:

- Insert the card into a card reader
- Click on the respective drive in the Windows Explorer
- Click the right mouse button on the respective drive letter to select the item “Formatting”
- Select “FAT” instead of “FAT32” under “File System”
- Click on “Start”

#### **1.5 Why is RAW data stored in the 8-bit format?**

The LEICA M8 is equipped with a nearly loss-free compression of the image data in the case of files in DNG format. This doubles storage speed while requiring only half of the storage capacity. During the prototype phase, tests were performed with a 16 bit version, but they did not reveal any image quality advantages. As a result, Leica opted for the 8 bit technology.

## **2. Compatibility**

#### **2.1 Can I use all SD/SDHC cards available in the market for the M8 and M8.2?**

The choice of SD and SDHC cards in the market is already very big and is constantly growing. Therefore, Leica Camera AG is not able to do comprehensive compatibility- and quality testing with all available cards in the market. We recommend “Extreme III” or “Professional” from the leading brands such as “SanDisk” or “Lexar”. Using other card types, will not damage camera or card, but as especially “no name” cards do not respect the full SD or SDHC standards, Leica Camera AG cannot warranty full function with those cards.

#### **2.2 When using one of the external viewfinders mounted on the hot shoe, a flash unit cannot be triggered due to the missing sync socket.**

Remedy: In specialist stores adapters featuring a sync socket are available (e.g. from Hama, art. no. 00006951, for approximately € 12.50), thus allowing flash units to be triggered. It is not planned to include the socket in the LEICA M8.

#### **2.3 Is the software delivered with the camera, i.e. Capture One LE (RAW data converter) and LEICA Digital Capture (for remote control) compatible with Windows Vista and Mac OS 10.5 (Leopard) ?**

Users of the software Capture One LE can update their program once free of charge via the software manufacturer’s homepage ([www.phaseone.com](http://www.phaseone.com)). The actual software release Capture One 4 is compatible with Vista and Mac OS 10.5.

The remote control software Leica Digital Capture is not compatible with Vista and Mac OS 10.5. An updated version is currently not planned.

## **2.4 Some of the SUMMILUX-M 35mm/f1.4 models (built from 1961-1995, non-aspherical, Made in Canada) cannot be mounted on the LEICA M8 or cannot be focused to infinity.**

In certain cases, these lenses' rear baffle may collide with internal camera parts. These lenses can be modified by Leica Camera AG's Customer Service, allowing them to be used on the LEICA M8.

## **2.5 Rechargeable batteries of other makes are now being offered for the LEICA M8. Can I use them without hesitation in my camera?**

Tests with these batteries have revealed that they sometimes have considerably less capacity than the original Leica battery 14 464 (e.g. 1400mAh instead of 1900mAh as in the case of the original). The other make battery is not equipped with the charging circuitry dedicated to the camera electronics, therefore malfunctions may occur, such as a false indication of the remaining capacity, or the camera may switch itself off suddenly and unexpectedly. Above all, the camera's warranty expires if malfunctioning is caused by the use of non-dedicated accessories (see warranty conditions in the Warranty Card).

The mandatory protective measures for Li-ion batteries may be different from the original and therefore insufficient in the case of these other make products. As a result, Leica will not accept any liability concerning any damage caused by using these batteries, including damage occurring during charging and transportation.

## **3. Use of UV/IR Filters**

### **3.1 Why should I use a UV/IR filter with my LEICA M8?**

The M8's very high image quality was achieved by – among other things – employing an especially thin IR blocking filter on the CCD sensor. However, this also causes a raised sensitivity to long-waved IR light. In most cases, this will not have any effect whatsoever on the resulting images. In certain situations however, e.g. when black (synthetic) fabrics are illuminated by incandescent light, these are rendered purple or dark red.

Using Leica UV/IR filters on the lenses is a very simple and effective way to eliminate these effects without otherwise impairing image quality with the LEICA M8. Additionally, they protect your valuable lenses' front elements against mechanical damage.

### **3.2 Will using these filters lead to a light loss (Which extension factor must I consider with these UV/IR filters)?**

The LEICA UV/IR filters limit only the infrared and ultraviolet light from passing through. The extension factor is 1.0, so you do not have to calculate any exposure compensation.

### **3.3 Do my lenses have to be 6 bit coded when using UV/IR filters?**

Using the Leica UV/IR interference filters on wide-angle lenses from 16 to 35mm causes annoying colour casts in the frame corners. Therefore, Leica recommends using coded lenses in this focal length range. The LEICA M8 recognizes 6 bit coded lenses and compensates the specific colour cast for each lens by digitally modifying the image data accordingly. With lenses beyond 35mm, the colour cast is negligible.

The colour cast compensation for every 6 bit coded lens used with an UV/IR-filter is included in every firmware as of version 1.10.

### **3.4 Can I leave the UV/IR filters attached when photographing with analogue M cameras?**

Leaving the UV/IR filters attached when photographing with conventional film would cause colour casts in the frame corners. Therefore, Leica recommends removing the attached UV/IR filters when using lenses from 16 to 50mm in analogue photography.

### **3.5 Why could the filter not be built into the camera?**

In the LEICA M8, a very thin glass cover consisting of an IR blocking filter and a protective plate is mounted on the sensor. Keeping this cover as thin as possible ensures that the lenses' full capacity in terms of rendition quality can be utilised. This is a result of the Leica M system's especially compact dimensions which lead to light rays at the frame edges reaching the sensor at comparatively oblique angles.

On the other hand, a thin filter also results in a reduced filter effectiveness which is why the LEICA M8 displays an above-average sensitivity to IR light.

Increasing the filter thickness would have led to a deterioration of the image quality, especially in the frame corners. The solution of utilizing UV/IR filters that are attached on the lenses does not reduce image quality since the filter is located outside of the optical system.

### **3.6 Is the filter solution going to be permanent? Will the sensor / the camera be modified in the future?**

Considering the LEICA M8's compact dimensions, the solution of employing a thin absorption filter in front of the sensor and an additional filter on the lens presently represents the best possible one from a technical point of view allowing full utilisation of the M lenses' imaging power.

As soon as alternative technologies come to market that will ensure this imaging power, Leica will make these available for our customers. Today, statements as to when and in which camera model they could be introduced cannot be made.

### **3.7 Can a colour profile in a raw data converter be utilised to eliminate the IR effect?**

Professional ICC profiles allow substituting individual colours, e.g. black for purple. Theoretically, this may seem to be a solution but in everyday practise, certain colours which occur in nature, such as that of an aubergine or certain complexions, would also be influenced by such a profile. Additionally, according to tests evaluated by Leica, this would only shift the effect not eliminate it.

### **3.8 Why does this effect occur mainly with black fabrics?**

When textiles are coloured black, this is achieved by a high degree of colour saturation. To do so, highly concentrated magenta (dark violet), blue black, or brown red is used in the colouring baths. Especially in the case of modern synthetic fabrics such as polyamide, polyester, and polyurethane compounds a true black colouring involves enormous problems. Due to the human eye's imperfection the viewer registers these colours as black – even though it is only e.g. deep dark violet. Under incandescent lighting especially, these fabrics do not appear black, but rather display a distinct colour shift towards violet or also brown violet.

As a result of its above-average sensitivity for infrared light, the LEICA M8 “sees” these “red” fabrics quite intensely.

### **3.9 Do the UV/IR filters interfere with other filters such as polarisers?**

Combinations of filters, i.e. polarisers and UV/IR filters can be used in conjunction without restrictions. The order in which the light travels through the filters is also irrelevant.

### **3.10 Are there any seasonal effects that must be considered?**

In winter indoor shots under incandescent light are more common. Since these light sources have a stronger infrared proportion, the annoying effect of black colours reproduced in magenta can be expected more often.

In spring and summer there are stronger IR reflections from the chlorophyll in green vegetation. This can lead to a yellowish rendition of plants during this season and therefore make it necessary to employ a UV/IR filter.

### **3.11 Does this problem also affect me in B/W photography with the Leica M8?**

If you intend to do B/W photography with your Leica M8, the camera's increased infrared sensitivity does not come into effect. Only synthetic black fabrics are rendered slightly brighter than they appear to the eye. This phenomenon was not considered to be important in any of the investigated cases.

### **3.12 I had some reddish corners in pictures taken with my LEICA TRI-ELMAR-M 16-18-21mm/f4 ASPH in spite of the fact that I used a UV/IR filter and set the menu item "Lens Detection" to "On with UV/IR". What did I do wrong?**

Probably a shorter focal length was set in the menu than on the lens, leading to an over-compensation. Please make sure that both the focal length set on the lens and in the menu are the same.

## **4. General functions**

### **4.1 When taking a picture with the camera coming from stand-by, 0/0 is displayed in the bar above the automatically replayed image.**

The LEICA M8 takes approx. 1 second to power up. It takes approx. 3-4 seconds to read the SD card completely. If the shutter is released before the card is read completely, information on the card is not accessible. In such cases the automatically replayed image will be referred to as number 0/0, but, when the camera is switched to permanent reviewing, the camera will show the correct image number.

### **4.2 Why isn't it possible to select lower sensitivities than ISO 160, e.g. ISO 100 and 50?**

The basic sensitivity of the LEICA M8's sensor is ISO 160. Lower settings would reduce the dynamic bandwidth and thus impair image quality.

#### **4.3 Bright sources of light near the image edges occasionally lead to a green stripe reaching all the way to the centre of the image.**

Leica is aware of this effect and its cause. Unfortunately, it won't be possible to eliminate this effect with a firmware update. The stripes can be avoided, if it is paid attention that very bright light sources (such as headlights etc.) are not reproduced at the very edge of the image

#### **4.4 The automatic white balance does not always function satisfactorily.**

From firmware version 1.201, greatly improved algorithms for the automatic white balance have been integrated. This improvement allows colour-neutral images under almost all lighting conditions. In comparison to former firmware versions, the writing time will be slightly longer (approx. +1.3 seconds with „fast“ cards), if JPG or DNG+JPG was chosen as the output format. If images are taken in the DNG format, the writing time will remain unchanged.

#### **4.5 Why is there an option to disable the lens detection when, according to my experience, it makes no difference?**

If uncoded lenses are used with this option active a false code may be “recognised”, because with some lenses, there is a screw in exactly that position in the bayonet flange. This may lead to faulty results as was the case several times during internal tests.

#### **4.6 How does Leica recommend cleaning the sensor?**

All commercially available products specially designed for cleaning DSLR camera sensors can be used. We recommend systems based on Isopropanol (alcohol). Generally, removing the contamination with a bellows blower or a specialised pressured-air blower should be attempted first. In case of doubt, cleaning should be performed by specialists.

#### **4.7 My frame counter does not operate correctly sometimes, e.g. in the case of series exposures.**

The size of JPEG image files may differ greatly depending on the photographed subjects. Subjects with lots of detail may result in files of up to 8MB, whereas unsharp photos or shots of subjects with large uniform areas may only lead to files of 1.5MB. Due to this, the storage capacity is indicated based on an average file size. So, after taking a series of JPEG shots (with small effective file sizes), the frame counter may react by advancing by only one digit.