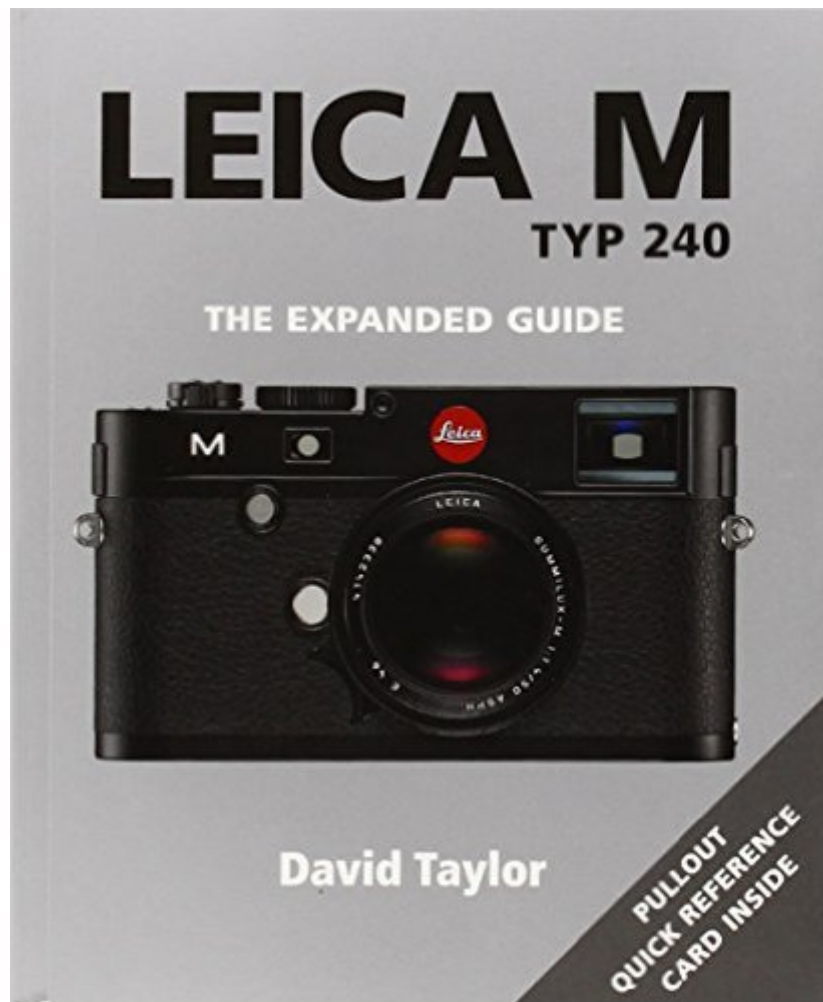


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Leica M TYP 240 (Expanded Guides)



Synopsis

The 24-megapixel Leica M (Typ 240) is the latest digital rangefinder model that replaces the M9. Leica dropped the numbering system that has identified its rangefinders since the M3 was introduced in 1954, yet the simple elegance of its design still takes its cue from earlier models, and is available in black or chrome. Despite this, the M is definitely a camera for the 21st century. The first rangefinder to use a full-frame CMOS image sensor, it enables live view, and offers a choice of magnified view or focus peaking for precise through-the-lens manual focusing. It is also the first M model capable of movie shooting, capturing 1080p footage at 25 or 24 frames per second. The camera has a 920k dot rear LCD with scratch-resistant cover. Compact for a full-frame camera, it measures 3.1 by 5.5 by 1.7 inches, but its brass and magnesium construction gives it a heavy-for-its-size weight of 1.5 pounds. A large optical viewfinder is located in the top right corner of the body and a second, smaller window towards the left; this captures a patch of light and together with the viewfinder, serves as a rangefinder mechanism. Peering through the viewfinder the center is brighter than the surrounding area, because it shows light from both windows. When the lens is out of focus the image in the center will be ghosted; when the lens is focused the patches align to form a single image. Framelines are illuminated using internal LED lights in a choice of red or white. Although the framelines are not visible when the camera is turned off, they are easy to see in dim lighting. The 0.68x magnification finder keeps the same sets of framelines that have been built into the M series since the M9: depending on the lens that's mounted, 28mm and 90mm, 35mm and 135mm, or 50mm and 75mm.

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Customer Reviews

Lets me start off by stating what this book does, it does well. First, it does provide the reader with a good, logically laid, easy to read and understand treatment of the basics of the M 240. If you are new to the M 240, this is a great place to start. However, after reading it over, I am left with the feeling that this was a minor refresh of this author's M9 book. True, it did add a chapter on movies. However, it overlooked several of the features that make the M 240 so intriguing. First, there is live view. This is an alternative method of focusing the lens that avoids many of the problems with the range finder system. Rather than using the ranger finder system with its problems of parallax, you look through the lens and see what the camera see. Focusing is now a different experience. Second, it ignores for the most part the EVF (electronic view finder). With the EVF, the user has an alternative method of focusing the lens. I have been using this system (with the olympus VF-2 rather than the Leica version) and have found it interesting. It covers the Leica M 240 into a mini Leica DSLR. Third, the author shows how Leica lens can be used on other systems with the appropriate adapters. What he does not cover is that of using the Leica R system lenses on the M 240. When Leica decided to terminate the R line (its SLR system), I could not bear to turn in my R8 and R9. I kept them along with the truly outstanding 35-70mm f4.0 macro zoom - considered by most to the one of the best Leica R lenses ever produced. With Leica's new adapter, I can use that lens on my M 240. This is Nirvana! The downside is that I have to focus using live view. The upside - at this time, Leica R lenses are far cheaper than their M equivalents. For example, the R version of the 28mm f2.

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