



Press information

Leica S3: Leica Camera delivers the latest model of the Leica S medium format system to retailers

Wetzlar, March 6, 2020. Today Leica Camera delivers the latest model of its medium format system to retailers worldwide – having previously announced the development of the Leica S3 at photokina 2018. The outstanding excellence of the Leica S and its lenses is rooted in a well thought-out system in which every component represents an integral element of the recording process. With the market release of the Leica S3 on March 6, 2020, Leica Camera once again lives up to the ambitious quality standards the company's customers have come to expect.

In addition to the most obvious improvement – an increase in resolution from 37.5 to 64 megapixels – the medium format camera features a number of technological advances. Just like its predecessors, the Leica S3 also utilises the Leica ProFormat developed especially for the Leica S-System. With dimensions of 30 x 45 millimetres, it corresponds to the classic 3:2 aspect ratio of the 35 mm full-frame format, but offers a 56 percent larger sensor area. In comparison with its predecessor, the new 64 megapixel sensor developed exclusively for Leica offers a 71 percent increase in resolution, a dynamic range of 15 f-stops and a maximum ISO sensitivity setting of 50000 – thereby providing sufficient reserves to be ready to handle any imaginable lighting situation and fully exploit the strengths of the medium format. Subjects can be composed in the large and bright SLR viewfinder, focused sharply with the fast and reliable autofocus and captured at a continuous shooting rate of three frames per second. In addition to all other essential exposure settings, an electronic levelling aid (horizon) can also be displayed in the viewfinder. Whenever required, the LCD screen displays a Live-View image with a refresh rate of up to 60 fps is available in both still picture and video recording mode that also allows focus peaking, brightness and exposure data, a clipping warning, grids and a

histogram to be superimposed onto the image.

The entire area of the sensor can be used not only for videos in full-HD, but, for the first time, also for 4K cinema resolution – including the characteristic medium format look. When capturing video footage, 48 kHz, 16-bit stereo sound with automatic or manual level adjustment can be recorded with either the integrated or an external microphone.

The Leica Maestro II processor and a 2 GB buffer memory ensure a smooth workflow that is essential for handling the enormous amounts of data generated by the sensor. Shooting in tethered mode is also possible with the Leica Image Shuttle app, whereby all essential exposure settings can be made with the help of the app and the images captured in DNG and JPG format can be transferred directly to a computer via a USB 3.0 interface. Using the Lightroom Tethered Plugin allows the Leica S3 to be connected directly to the image processing package without any need for additional software.

In addition to a GPS function, which determines the precise geographical location and the exact time with the aid of satellites and saves them to the EXIF data, the Leica S3 also has a WLAN module with which the camera can be remotely controlled in conjunction with the Leica FOTOS 2.0 app.

As with other members of the Leica S-System, the Leica S3 is constructed using superior-quality and extremely resilient materials: examples include the magnesium body, the Corning® Gorilla® Glass cover plate of the 3-inch monitor screen as well as the lens bayonet, which is made from particularly solid stainless steel. Furthermore, the numerous seals that protect the camera against the ingress of moisture, dust and other foreign bodies contribute to the reliability and long service life of the camera when shooting on location. The familiar and proven intuitive handling concept of Leica S (Typ 007) has been carried forward to the Leica S3: the central control elements are two setting dials and a five-way joystick, which control the shutter speed and aperture and enable quick and easy menu navigation. The rear screen is surrounded by four buttons which can be configured in accordance to the photographer's preferences and needs. And lastly, the main switch can be used to choose between the camera's focal plane shutter or a central shutter – provided this is a feature offered by the lens mounted on the camera.

With a special construction concept that ensures protection against dust and spray, the S-Lenses are an integral element of the Leica S-System. As is the case with other Leica lenses, S-Lenses are designed to offer sufficient performance reserves to meet the demands of future generations of imaging technology and retain their value as a long-term investment that can fully exploit the potential of future camera generations. The optical performance delivered by these lenses is still by no means exhausted by sensors with a resolution of 64 megapixels. A further highlight of the S-System is the central shutter available as an alternative option for six lenses of the S-System portfolio. In contrast to a focal plane shutter with a maximum sync speed of 1/125 s, a central shutter allows flash synchronization even at its fastest shutter speed of 1/1000 s. This opens up considerably greater exposure leeway for creative photography, particularly when working with professional studio flash systems or shooting in bright ambient light. In such situations, the larger image circle of Leica S-Lenses as a consequence of the sensor dimensions not only creates the characteristic medium format look, but also significantly shallower depth of focus.

The Leica S3 will be delivered to retailers worldwide on March 6, 2020.

About Leica Camera

Leica Camera AG is an internationally operating, high-end-segment manufacturer of cameras and sport optics products. The legendary status of the Leica brand is founded on a long tradition of excellence in the construction of lenses. And today, in combination with innovative technologies, Leica products continue to guarantee better pictures in all situations in the worlds of visualisation and perception. Leica Camera AG has its headquarters in Wetzlar, in the state of Hesse in Germany, and a second production site in Vila Nova de Famalicão, Portugal. The company operates branch offices in Austria, Australia, China, France, Italy, Japan, Russia, Switzerland, Singapore, South Korea, UK and the USA. New and innovative products have been the driving force behind the company's positive development in recent years.

TECHNICAL DATA

Leica S3

Sensor

Dimensions	30 x 45 (Leica ProFormat)
Aspect ratio	2:3
Resolution	64 million pixels
Dynamic range	Up to 15 f-stops
White balance	Presets: Daylight, cloudy, shade, incandescent, fluorescent, HMI, halogen warm, halogen cool, flash, tungsten grey card, grey card Live View, automatic, colour temperature (Kelvin)
Low-pass filter	No (for maximum detail resolution/sharpness)
IR filter	On the sensor
ISO sensitivity	ISO 100, ISO 200, ISO 400, ISO 800, ISO 1600, ISO 3200, ISO 6400, ISO 12500, ISO 25000, ISO 50000, auto ISO

Focusing

Type	Predictive TTL autofocus with central cross sensor and phase detection
AF modes	AFs (single) = focus priority, AFc (continuous) = predictive focus tracking, manual override of AF settings is possible at any time
AF lock	Shutter release or five-way joystick
MF	Via lens with electronic focusing aid

Exposure settings

Exposure metering	Exposure metering through the lens (TTL)
Metering modes	Multi-segment (five fields), centre-weighted, selective/spot metering (3.5% of image frame)
Exposure control	Programme AE (with manual shift) (P), shutter speed priority (T), aperture priority AE (A), manual exposure control (M)
(M) Exposure compensation	+/- 3 EV (in half-stop increments)
Exposure bracketing	3 or 5 exposures; 1/2, 1, 2, 3 stop(s)

Shutter

Shutter	Focal plane shutter, central shutter with Leica CS lenses
Drive modes	Single, continuous, interval, self-timer 2 s / 12 s (with mirror pre-release)
Shutter speeds	8 minutes (depending on ISO setting) to 1/4000 s, in half-stop

	increments
Burst rate	Up to 3 fps
Self-timer	2 s or 12 s, with mirror pre-release
Mirror pre-release	Yes

Video

Video recording	4K cinema and full-HD in Leica ProFormat (large format video)
Resolution	Full-HD: 1920 x 1080 p, 4K cinema: 4096 x 2160 p
Frame rate	Full-HD: 24, 25, 30 fps, 4K cinema: 24 fps
File format	MOV (motion JPEG)
Colour subsampling	4:2:2
Exposure control	Manual and automatic
Audio level	Manual and automatic
Audio (onboard)	Integrated stereo microphone. 48 kHz, 16 Bit
Audio (external)	Audio-in (3.5 mm stereo jack), Audio-out (3.5 mm stereo jack), with Leica Audio-Adapter-S
Time code	Internal
Miscellaneous	Focus peaking, clean uncompressed full-HD (1080p) 8-Bit, 4:2:2, HDMI video stream for recording on off-camera HDMI recorders

Live View

Refresh rate	Up to 60 fps
Focusing	Manual, AF metering field shift to any part of the viewfinder image
Exposure control	Multi-segment (five fields), centre-weighted, selective/spot (linked to AF metering field)
Exposure simulation	Yes
Miscellaneous	Histogram with clipping, focus peaking, levelling aid (horizon), exposure information

Viewfinder

Type	Pentaprism viewfinder with high-eyepoint eyepiece, illuminated LCD bar
Magnification	0.87x (with 70 mm lens at infinity, 0 dpt.)
Viewfinder coverage	Approx. 98%
Dioptré compensation	-3 to +1 dioptres
Focusing screens	Exchangeable: standard focusing screen with AF cross hairs and spot marking (supplied with the camera), focusing screen with engraved grid, microprism focusing screen
Viewfinder information	Levelling aid (horizon), shutter speed, exposure control mode, aperture, flash status, exposure compensation scale, flash sync display, focus indicator, exposure compensation, remaining exposures (on storage medium), buffer memory, error messages, ISO settings display

Display panels

Monitor screen	3-inch TFT LCD display
Resolution	921,600 pixels
Colour space	sRGB, 16 million colours
Oblique viewing angle	170°
Display cover glass	Corning® Gorilla® Glass
Top-deck display panel	Monochrome LCD display

Flash

Connections	Lemo® flash sync socket, hot shoe with centre and control contacts
Flash synchronisation with focal plane shutter	1/125 s
Flash synchronisation with central shutter (leaf shutter)	Up to 1/1000 s
High-speed sync	HSS function up to 1/4000 s (with compatible external flash units)
Flash triggering point	Sync on first or second curtain (FPS)

Shooting

Drive modes	Single, continuous, interval, self-timer 2s with mirror pre-release, self-timer 12s with mirror pre-release
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Data recording

Image data formats	Lossless compressed DNG, DNG + JPEG
Buffer memory capacity	2 GB buffer memory, up to six lossless compressed DNG image files, JPEG no limit (dependent on memory card type, shutter speed and ISO setting)
Storage media	SD card (SDXC), CF card (UDMA7), external (PC)

Miscellaneous

Playback mode	Full image, histogram with clipping, focus peaking, exposure information
GPS	Yes
WLAN	Integrated in camera body (remote camera control and image assessment by smartphone app), IEEE802.11n
Date/time	Manual or automatic date/time setting with GPS module
Levelling aid (horizon)	Display sensitivity < 1° (at ambient temperatures from 0–40°C)

Interfaces

USB	Lemo® USB 3.0 SuperSpeed
HDMI	HDMI type C socket
Audio	With Audio-Adapter S (audio-in, audio-out)
Flash synchronisation	Lemo® flash sync socket
Remote release	Lemo® cable remote release
WLAN	Integrated in camera body

Body

Materials	Magnesium body with non-slip rubber armouring. Magnesium top deck, aluminium baseplate. Stainless steel bayonet and control elements
Dimensions	160 × 80 × 120 mm

Weight ~ 1260 g (without battery)
Dust-proof/splash-proof sealing Yes