

LEICA MINI

1991



Serial n.1830741

Characteristics and functions

The Leica Mini, introduced in 1991 was produced by Minolta on behalf of Leica Elmar lens and equipped with 35mm. It is an autofocus camera, motorized with built-in electronic flash and a pre-flash system to reduce the "red-eye" effect. The lens is a Leica Elmar 35mm. f./3.5. The active-type infrared autofocus with cancelable lock focuses from a minimum distance of 0.65m. The programmed exposure meter works from EV 6 to EV 16 with 100 Iso films (from 1/5sec. and f.3.5 to 1/250sec. and f.14). The range of film sensitivities allowed ranges from 50 to 1000 Iso with decoder DX loaders; while with magazines without DX decoding the camera sets 100 ISO always.

The camera looks like a parallelepiped with rounded edges. At the extreme right of the upper side there is a rectangular button that is used to switch the camera on and off (ON / OFF). Just to the left we find the shutter button, with a square shape, which has a double function: when pressed halfway, it activates the exposure meter and focus by blocking and memorizing the distance; pressed at the end of the stroke it triggers the shutter and advances the film to the next frame. On the upper side we find, on the far left, the liquid crystal display that provides all the information on the status of the settings: there is an efficient / exhausted battery signal (the completely black battery symbol indicates that the battery is efficient, if the symbol is white means that the battery is running low, if the white battery symbol flashes it means that the battery has to be replaced immediately). The additive counter also has the countdown function to highlight the recovery of the exposed film (when the frame returns to "0" again, the film is completely rewound and the back can be opened. If you press the Self-Timer button (located on the far left of the top of the camera, under the liquid crystal

display, a red LED is activated on the front of the camera (the shot will take place with a 10" delay). This self-timer signal active remains solid red for seven seconds, flashes for two seconds and finally lights up steadily in the last second before shooting. The self-timer function can be locked and canceled by simply turning the camera off ("ON / OFF" button). At the right end of the display the indications of the "flash" settings appear: "AUTO" for a completely automatic management of the flash, "ON" for the forced activation of the flash and "OFF" to completely exclude the flash. When the camera is turned on, it sets the flash with "AUTO". The "MODE" button to the right of Self-Timer button sets the mode of the flash (AUTO, ON, OFF) and also to set the lock focused at infinity. On the far right is the small push-button for the intentional recovery of the film not completely exposed with the relative symbol (to activate the function, press with a pointed object in the small hole). The back zipper is located on the left side of the camera. On the right side of the camera is attached the wrist strap for transport and the back release system (move the 3mm slider in the direction of the arrow - "Open"). The door of the film compartment completely occupies the rear part of the camera, in the upper part there is the window of the eyepiece. In the viewfinder appear the light frame with parallax references in close-up shots, the focus area with cancelable memory and along the upper side a green led that comes into operation with the shutter-release button partially pressed and indicates: focus / exposure locked ". The LED, if it flashes quickly, indicates that the subject is too close to a correct focus (the shutter remains locked), if it pulses slowly it indicates that the camera sets slow times - risk of blur. On the right side of the door is the window for viewing the introduced charger. There are 6 vertical lines in relief allowing a better grip even with the right hand only. On the front side we find an asymmetrical shaped window that contains the electronic flash, the autofocus system with the viewfinder in the center and the exposure meter cell and the red self-timer led. Continuing towards the right is marked "Leica" positioned in a circular field of red. The front of the Leica Mini is ergonomically shaped so that the user successfully support the right index finger, right, and index and middle fingers of his left hand in order to have a firm grip, but also that your fingers do not go interfering with lens and flash. Below the flash there are the words "Leica Mini", screen-printed in white. When the camera is turned on, the lens mount comes out of the camera body and settles into the working position. The lens is contained under an anti UV protection glass. Under the lens is the white words: "Leica Elmar 1: 3.5 / 35" On the lower side we find the thread for the use of the stand (on the extreme left, in a very advanced position), the word "Manufactured in Japan for Leica Camera GMBH" and the engraved serial number. Just on the right front edge of the cap is located in the battery compartment scroll (one 3v. Battery type DL 123A is required). There is also a version with a back date (QD) scheduled until 2019. Weight 160g. Length 118mm. Height 65mm. 38.5mm depth (In the version, without date back and without batteries).