LEICA DIGILUX 1

The digital reportage camera
Classic values, new opportunities  What does the LEICA DIGILUX 1 have in common with the LEICA I of 1925? With its outstanding optical quality, high speed and mobility, the first Leica soon became a successful reportage camera and it paved the way for the enormous growth of 35 mm photography. Outstanding optical quality, high speed and mobility are also the characteristics of the digital reportage camera LEICA DIGILUX 1. The result of intensive technological cooperation with Panasonic, it combines modern digital technology with the optical know-how of Leica. Classic elements of design and operating convenience make the LEICA DIGILUX 1 a synthesis of experience and innovation. It is an extraordinary, fast and easy-to-use digital camera with outstanding imaging quality that gives photographers a great many new creative possibilities. And that, above all and in every respect, makes it a typical Leica.

“The LEICA DIGILUX 1 is the result of intensive cooperation between Leica Camera AG and Panasonic. Our teams of engineers worked together very successfully. To me, the camera is proof of the fact that the two partners complement one another extremely well.” Ralf Coenen, Chief Operating Officer, Leica Camera AG

“The LEICA DIGILUX 1 made me appreciate one of the great advantages of digital photography – one can refine a photograph immediately, on site, and if necessary improve it. The unusually large monitor display that shows the pictures with great clarity is especially useful for this purpose.” Horst A. Friedrichs, photographer
The LEICA DIGILUX 1 at a glance

___ Photograph creatively
Numerous manual setting choices for individual creative freedom. Optional TIFF format for the highest image quality without compression losses. High-grade ACDSee and Adobe Photoshop Elements software is included.

___ Work faster
Very short shutter lag for snapshots. Exceptionally quick signal processing. Exposure sequences of up to 8 pictures at a rate of approximately 4 images per second.

___ Everything in view
Unusually large LC display (2.5") with the very high resolution of 205,000 pixels for optimal picture evaluation and manual focusing. An attachable monitor hood for the monitor display permits working in daylight and protects against scratches. Large optical viewfinder with diopter compensation.

___ Handling : Very easy
Many familiar operating elements and functions adopted from analog cameras. Easy to use, even for photographers who are using a digital camera for the very first time.

___ Mobility included
Memory card with exceptionally high capacity : 64 MB, approx. 32 pictures in the best JPEG quality or approx. 484 pictures at lowest resolution. Low power consumption. Powerful lithium-ion battery. Active readiness time : Up to 3 hours.

___ Impressive image quality
Perfect harmony between lens, sensor, electronics and software. Exposure control and metering adapted from classic analog photography. High-speed aspherical Leica lens with 3 x optical zoom. The result : Outstanding image sharpness, natural color rendition and impressive dynamics.
Every detail matters  High pixel quantities alone are not the decisive factors in the performance capability of a digital camera. With the LEICA DIGILUX 1 the high potential is optimally translated into outstanding pictorial results.

Harmonized : The components  In the LEICA DIGILUX 1, lens, sensor, electronics and software are a harmonious team. Because outstanding image quality can only be achieved by means of the optimal interplay of all components. Towards this end, the lens was tailored specifically to the 4-megapixel sensor in order to make full use of the optical and electronic capabilities. Recording and processing the image data were optimized for the best pictorial effect. This is where the high quality standards and great photographic know-how of Leica are decisive factors. The result is a highly refined digital camera that can master most any photographic situation.

Essential : A large display  In order to evaluate a picture effectively, one must be able to see it well. That is why the 2.5" LC display on the LEICA DIGILUX 1 is 50 to 90% larger than those on comparable digital cameras. Its size is ideal for meticulous picture evaluation. Another plus : The very high resolution of 205,000 pixels, which also makes manual focusing much easier. The attachable monitor hood makes good picture evaluation possible even in daylight. For those photographers who prefer to work without using the LC display, an outstanding optical viewfinder with diopter compensation has also been incorporated.

Comparison of display sizes

High resolution : 4 million pixels  With its 4 million pixels, the sensor of the LEICA DIGILUX 1 renders extremely fine details with the very best quality. That is not a matter of course, because the more pixels are contained in a sensor, the lower the amount of light that is available for each pixel. The LEICA DIGILUX 1 utilizes the available light as efficiently as possible : for great detail fidelity, remarkable sharpness, natural color rendition, and high dynamics.

High speed : The Leica lens  The LEICA DC VARIO-SUMMICRON 7–21 mm f/2–2.5 ASPH.  3x zoom lens, which is equivalent to a 33–100 mm zoom lens on a 35 mm camera, was designed specifically for the sensor of the LEICA DIGILUX 1 and it is equipped with a ring for manual focusing. As a result, it delivers outstanding pictorial results – in the close-up range too, by the way – in full accordance with the renowned high Leica standards.

Remarkable : The extreme quickness  When speed is of the essence – and this is particularly important in reportage photography – the LEICA DIGILUX 1 is virtually unbeatable. Its minimal exposure delay makes spontaneous snapshots possible, the extremely short time needed for image storage and its decisively fast signal processing ensure virtually continuous readiness. Sequences of approx. 4 pictures per second at the best JPEG quality or approx. 8 pictures in 2 seconds at a higher compression rate are possible. In addition, its high-speed data transfer capability allows video recordings with sound, whose lengths are limited only by the capacity of the storage card (for instance : 6 minutes with the 64 MB memory card).
Clear : The modular design
Straight lines and concentration on the essentials lead to formal independence. The styling of the LEICA DIGILUX 1 is reminiscent of the clean layout of the legendary Leica rangefinder cameras. The robust yet very lightweight die-cast magnesium body and the classic operating elements accentuate its timeless styling, which was developed by professor Achim Heine.

Flexible : Constant readiness
The LEICA DIGILUX 1 provides flexibility and independence. The SD memory card supplied with it has an unusually high capacity of 64 MB that can store 32 images with the highest resolution and lowest compression or up to 484 pictures with low resolution at the highest compression. With the monitor display switched on, its very low power consumption allows readiness for approximately 2 hours or, with the monitor display turned off, for approximately 3 hours. Another feature is the powerful lithium-ion battery and the charger that is supplied with it. The battery charger (AC Adapter) can be connected to an electrical outlet, enabling the LEICA DIGILUX 1 to achieve full readiness in just about 2 hours. That makes Digilux photographers independent and mobile at all times.

Get closer with a spotting scope
Especially hunters, birdwatchers and astronomers enjoy using Leica spotting scopes. The unique Digital Adapter makes it possible to record the observed scenes conveniently and with high quality. For this purpose, the LEICA DIGILUX 1 is attached to the spotting scope by means of the zoom eyepiece. The large monitor display permits an excellent evaluation of the telephoto images.

Unusual : The delivery scope
The LEICA DIGILUX 1 is supplied as a complete set with a variety of high-grade accessories. An unusually powerful lithium-ion battery, a high-performance battery charger (AC Adapter) that can be connected to an electrical outlet, a memory card with a greater-than-average 64 MB capacity and the two programs (ACDSee and Adobe Photoshop Elements) that are supplied with it for subsequent creative image manipulation constitute an extraordinary delivery scope.

The 35-year old photographer of Frankfurt, Germany became known internationally for his reportage work for Stern and Spiegel magazines, the New York Times, and for advertising campaigns and books. He works primarily with the LEICA M6. He cruised the streets of his adopted home city of London to create the essay shown here, for which he used his LEICA DIGILUX 1 to capture surprising perspectives of the traditional “Routemaster” double-decker bus.
“The camera is quick and easy to operate – especially when I need to react spontaneously. I can confidently evaluate the result on the large monitor display while still on location. I like to use my LEICA M6 to take pictures under difficult light conditions, on rainy days or at night. I used the LEICA DIGILUX 1 under the very same conditions in London – with astoundingly good results.” Horst A. Friedrichs