

## Using Leica Screw-Mount Lenses on the Leica M Typ 240

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Without a doubt the most exciting development in the world of Leica is the Leica M Typ 240. Capable of using nearly any Leica camera lens manufactured since the production of the Leica, this new M brings the temptation for many a Leicaphile to try out every lens they can get their hands on.

When we first received the camera at the Tamarkin Camera showroom, we tried a number of lenses, old and new. We lined up M-adapters and lenses of all sorts. One of the first we tried was a 35 Elmar f3,5. We popped the lens on the camera and hit the “live view” button, curious to see what would happen. “No Lens Connected” showed on the LCD screen. Fair enough. So, we went about shooting, never giving it another thought. This lens and that lens, this M-adapter, that one.

Then, one Sunday afternoon, just for kicks, I tried a 90 Tambar f2,2 (a rescue lens that sadly had spent two weeks under water in a flooded, musty basement after a tornado, but which cleaned up just fine!), on which I keep an after-market adapter (wider around its edge than the Leica version, allowing the 6-bit code sensor to be fooled into thinking an M lens was on the camera). I put the Tambar on the camera hit “live view” out of curiosity and it worked! I made photos all day with the lens and its adapter, never noticing the adapter’s differing width covering the sensor – I assumed it was the amount of light coming it through the lens that allowed the “live view” function to engage, or not.

At the LHSA meeting in San Francisco, the question was posed about using screw-mount lenses on the new M, and how the 6-bit coding detector reacts when “live view” is engaged. Perhaps a firmware update can cure this, but until then, I’ve discovered the remedy to be tape. Plain and simple, tape. It seems that the 6-bit coding sensor simply needs to be covered for “live view” to work with the M-adapter. And so, rummaging around the shop back in Chicago, we tried all kinds of tape – masking, painter’s, electric, gaffer’s, duct, Scotch and other – and found the very best to be foil tape. Thin, very sticky and tear-resistant, silver foil tape is nearly invisible and holds up best.

Using one thin piece of foil tape, I took out 2 lenses: a 35 Elmar f3,5 and a 50 Xenon f1,5. The results of the lenses are not surprising one bit – the vintage lenses are excellent on the new M camera. The Elmar was crisp and contrasty, although certainly not as eye-popping as the newest lenses. The Xenon a little fuzzy, as expected.

So there is the answer and the (hopefully temporary) solution. Enjoy your screw-mount lenses on the Leica M Typ 240 – but get used to cutting teeny, tiny little strips of tape every now and then.