my point of view

LEICA DIGILUX 2
The "analog" digital camera
Digital photography in a new light  

Leica Camera AG forges ahead with an independent position in the digital era by combining the current best of two worlds: The new LEICA DIGILUX 2 features modern digital technology and the proven concepts of analog photography in a splendid combination. It is the first digital camera that can be operated like a classic professional camera. With the shutter speed dial on the top cover, the focusing ring and the setting rings for aperture and focal length on the lens, its operation is familiar, fast and precise. That makes the LEICA DIGILUX 2 the ideal tool for expressive images in an individual style. And because the results must be brilliant even in poor light situations, its core component is a high-performance lens with 13 elements in ten groups, incorporating valuable optical glasses as well as the legendary optical competence of Leica. That and its optimal harmonization with the sensor and the electronics lead to photographs with extraordinary quality. The LEICA DIGILUX 2 with its ingenious features thus carries on the trend that began so successfully with its predecessor Digilux 1, itself the recipient of many awards. The classic styling with structured rubber covering and the rugged magnesium body furthermore make it a durable reportage camera in our fast-paced era.

"The LEICA DIGILUX 2 is an expression of our loyalty to the craft of photography. At Leica, pictorial results and creativity are the priority, not whether the picture is exposed by digital or analog means. With the Digilux 2 we are providing photographers with a tool that enables them to search for those magic moments as intuitively as they did with their familiar analog professional cameras. The positive respect for tradition, even in product development, is the basis for products with great value retention. Now that the digital photo market has established itself, there is still room for solutions that bring together tradition and modernity."

H.-P. Cohn, CEO of Leica Camera AG
The LEICA DIGILUX 2  New approaches to digital photography

**Distinctive feature**
The fast LEICA DC VARIO-SUMMICRON 7–22.5 mm f/2.0–2.4 ASPH. zoom lens (which corresponds to a 28–90 mm zoom lens on a 35 mm camera) offers great photographic latitude. From a large wide-angle shot of a group or an architectural subject, all the way to an ideal focal length in the short telephoto range for portraits. Thanks to the large aperture, outstanding pictures can be achieved at all zoom settings, even in decidedly poor light conditions.

**Stay in control**
The clean design elegantly incorporates a 2.5” display with a detail-rich resolution of 211,000 pixels that is exceptionally large and brilliant for this class. Contrast is high and the image on the display permits optimal evaluation, even at an angle. An electronic magnifier facilitates exact manual focusing.

**Simple familiar operation**
The classic operating elements are arranged in a clear manner and similarly to the accustomed 35 mm cameras. In conjunction with comfortable automatic functions, they allow precise and quick operation of the camera. Because of the familiar positioning of the controls, analog photographers will become accustomed to the new camera very quickly. Our goal is to bring the traditional photographic experience to the digital world.

**For comprehensive reportage**
A 64 MB SD-Memory Card makes high mobility possible without the need for changing the card. This means that 5 brilliant pictures in the RAW format without compression or up to 484 pictures at the lowest resolution and highest compression can be stored on this memory card. And the powerful lithium battery provides continuous operating readiness for up to 3 hours.

**Large viewfinder image**
The high-resolution electronic viewfinder was chosen over an optical viewfinder. All display indicators as well as the electronic magnifier are available in the viewfinder. The viewfinder image with its 235,000 pixels delivers the same 100% of the subject being photographed as the display.
A summary of the features The combination of ease of use and optimal harmonization of all the components makes the LEICA DIGILUX 2 a digital photojournalistic camera.

As spontaneous a moment might be, and even when light conditions are poor – the Digilux 2 enables every photographer to inconspicuously capture extraordinary moments with brilliant photographs.

Perfect harmonization With the goal of making the best pictorial result possible, the lens, the sensor and the electronics have been optimally harmonized to one another. The 2/3"-CCD sensor is very large for its resolution of 5 million pixels. The unusually large size of the pixels makes high light sensitivity possible. Larger than normal individual pixels register more light and thus reduce errors. This combination of the high optical quality of the lens and the large sensor surface per pixel that make the extraordinary image quality possible.

A display with magnitude The large 2.5"-display on the LEICA DIGILUX 2 is trans-reflexive: The illumination of the display combines background illumination as well as ambient light, which leads to enhanced brilliance. Disturbing reflections that occur on the display surface under strong ambient light are greatly reduced. The image can be evaluated even when the display is viewed at an angle. The camera’s display with its high resolution of 211,000 pixels provides a bright picture that is rich in contrast. A magnifier can be activated that shows an enlarged section of the subject for easier manual focusing.

A lens with inner beauty The fast LEICA DC VARIO-SUMMICRON 7-22.5 mm 1/2.0-2.4 ASPH. zoom lens corresponds to a 28-90 mm zoom lens for the 35 mm format. It consists of 13 lens elements made exclusively of genuine optical glass with complex coatings. It is arranged in ten groups, two lens elements have aspheric surfaces and several elements are made of high-refraction glass. The first group of lens elements remains stationary over the entire zoom range. This results in high mechanical stability, which in turn results in high focusing accuracy, longevity and precise mechanical movements. Both focusing as well as focal length changes take place exclusively inside the lens. The rear group focusing design makes it possible to focus quickly and without camera shake.

Classic operation This is unique for a digital camera: On the LEICA DIGILUX 2, the decisive photographic parameters of sharpness, aperture and focal length can be controlled just like they are controlled on a classic single lens reflex camera, i.e. by means of setting rings on the lens and shutter speed. This provides the photographer with great creative freedom. In addition, there are many comfortable automatic functions, all of which can be selected easily and quickly. The menu is multi-lingual (German, English, French, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese) and all the indicators shown in the display are also available in the viewfinder.

Lens hood A lens hood is supplied with the Digilux 2. We recommend its use at all times, because it further enhances pictorial results and it prevents reflections caused by incident rays of sunlight.

A viewfinder with the highest resolution The electronic viewfinder renders a high contrast image with a high resolution of 235,000 pixels. The viewfinder image covers 100 % of the subject being photographed and all the indicators shown in the display are also available in the viewfinder. There is no viewfinder vignetting. The viewfinder image corresponds exactly to the coverage of the subject because there is no parallax shift. Stored images can also be viewed in the viewfinder – a distinct advantage in very bright sunlight. The electronic magnifier is also available in the viewfinder. Eyeglass wearers are also accommodated by means of diopter compensation and the large distance of the exit pupil of 15 mm.

Longevity is built in In the DIGILUX 2, the highest quality is maintained in all disciplines: Its special optical performance and the meticulous fabrication of high-grade materials at Leica make it a durable digital camera. One can see and feel it – on the solid metal body made of magnesium; and one can also read it – in the 3-year guarantee. The styling of the camera is classic and timeless. These three points prove a usefulness that is far longer than that of conventional digital cameras.

Flash with an IQ The powerful built-in flash, with a guide number of 10 (meters) or 33 (feet), has a range of 4.5 m or 15 feet in the wide-angle setting, and 4.0 m or 13 feet in the telephoto setting. For the first time, the flash head can be tilted. That makes it possible, for example, to use the built-in flash for indirect flash by bouncing it off the ceiling. That results in smoothly balanced illumination without red eyes and with all the advantages of indirect flash lighting.
The passion for photography already gripped California native David Alan Harvey when he was only ten years old. At age twelve he bought a Leica III f and later on he studied art and journalism. As a Magnum photographer he has published many color photographic essays from around the world in magazines such as National Geographic. His particular interest in the Spanish speaking world has led to two books: "Cuba" and "Divided Soul". He conducts frequent seminars in which he describes how he observes and how he builds trusting relationships with the people he photographs. He used the LEICA DIGILUX 2 to record his impressions of San Miguel De Allende, Mexico.
"With a camera like this I set out and slip into this kaleidoscope of smells, sounds and light. I am an observer who is intensively curious, but not an equal. I do not find the pictures, the pictures find me. Sometimes many photographs leap out of the whirl of impressions, but often there are only a few." David Alan Harvey