



Questions and Answers about the S System

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Overview:

1. **System components: body**
2. **System components: lenses**
3. **Service packages**

1. System components: body – functions, use, care, and cleaning

1.1 Data transfer/data recording/software:

1.1.1 Which memory cards can I use with the S2?

The image data from the S2 can be saved on CF cards (Compact Flash) and/or SD cards (Secure Digital Memory Card). You can use cards of both types with up to 64GB memory capacity.

1.1.2 Which memory cards with which specifications does Leica recommend for the S2?

The LEICA S2 features a SD- and a CF-cardslot. Pictures can be saved sequentially and parallelly. The camera is compatible with SD and SD-HC cards as well as CF card, which means from CF 1 to UDMA6. The camera's performance depends on the memory medium. Therefore Leica recommends the usage of fast memory cards, e.g. SanDisk Extreme Pro CF 90MB/s.

1.1.3 What memory volumes should be considered for individual image formats?

The size of an individual image file may vary according to the subject, i.e. depending on the information content in terms of structures, color tones, etc. On average, a DNG file requires about 75MB of memory, a loss-free compressed DNG requires about 35-45MB, JPEG fine between 5 and 8MB, and JPEG standard between 2 and 3MB.

1.1.4 Why is it not possible to use the entire memory when using CF cards?

When you import your images into Adobe Lightroom and then delete them from the card without emptying the Trash Can at the same time, residual data elements remain on the card. A Trash Can is actually installed on CF cards when using Mac computers. Regular emptying of the Trash Can from your computer and reformatting your cards ensures that the complete memory capacity will be available.

1.1.5 What options does LEICA Image Shuttle software offer?

“Image Shuttle” software allows you to control the most important features and functions of the Leica S2 from a computer. For instance, you can set up the most important shooting parameters for the S2 on screen and use the software’s user interface to operate the camera’s shutter release. In addition, “Image Shuttle” provides a much better on-screen option for precise image quality control because the image data is downloaded directly via USB to your computer’s hard drive. A further advantage is that it allows even more flexible working that is limited only by the memory available on your computer.

1.1.6 Why does the bundle include Adobe Photoshop Lightroom and not Capture One 4?

We are pleased to say that we have been able to arrange a collaboration with Adobe, one of the world’s leading providers of advanced image processing software. Adobe Photoshop Lightroom is a comprehensive set of tools designed specifically for digital photography. Its powerful features enable you to import, process, manage, and present images individually or as batches from a complete shooting assignment.

Adobe Photoshop Lightroom offers a much broader range of functions than the pure RAW data conversion capability offered by Capture One. Lightroom of course also lets you convert DNG files. However, this software also lets you process and archive your shots as well as offering pre-print and printing options and a slide-show function. A further advantage is the ability to adjust settings in a selective way. Lightroom means that you spend less time at your computer and more behind your camera.

1.1.7 Why is the S2 connected to computers by a USB 2.0 cable for data transfer and not FireWire 800?

Leica consciously chose to employ a connection option with superior stability in terms of mechanical and data transfer characteristics. In contrast to FireWire 800, a standard that is susceptible to considerable instability with regard to power supply, a USB 2.0 connection guarantees fast and extremely reliable data transfer.

1.2 Camera parameters

1.2.1 How do I activate the camera’s self-timer?

You can find the self-timer function in the sub-menu “Camera” in the category “Drive Mode.” In addition to the drive options “Single” and “Continuous”, you can also select the self-timer mode with delays of either 2 or 12 seconds. This function is combined with the mirror lock-up function to prevent camera shake.

1.2.2 What is the difference between AFs and AFc mode?

The S2 offers a choice of two autofocus modes: the Single Autofocus Mode (AFs) features focus priority and is particularly suitable for static subjects. This means that the shutter can only be released when the camera has found the precise point of focus.

Continuous Autofocus (AFc) is particularly suitable for moving subjects. In this mode, the autofocus remains active as long as the shutter release is held at the first pressure point. During focusing, the AFc mode operates with shutter release priority, i.e. the shutter can be released at any time, independent of the actual point of focus.

Manual focus is recommended when the camera's autofocus system is unable to find enough criteria to enable precise automatic focusing. This is particularly the case in low-light situations or when subjects have no or too few contours, structures, or contrasting elements.

1.2.3 What exposure times can be used for flash synchronization?

Flash synchronization up to a maximum of 1/125 s are available when the main switch of the S2 is set to FPS (Focal Plane Shutter).

If the main switch is set to CS (Central Shutter – aka leaf shutter), and assuming that a Leica CS lens is mounted, flash synchronization is available for all speeds of the central shutter up to 1/500 s.

1.2.4 Does the S2 support HSS (high-speed sync) in flash mode?

In addition to the advantage of flash synchronization at all speeds when using Leica CS lenses, the S2 also supports HSS when used in combination with the Leica SF 58 flash unit. In this flash mode, it is also possible to select focal plane shutter speeds shorter than the usual 1/125s flash sync speed – in other words, up to the shortest shutter speed of 1/4000 s. This flash mode opens up a whole new range of daylight fill-in flash options, e.g. for portraits in bright ambient lighting situations, when using a wide aperture to limit depth of field or for “freezing” fast-moving subjects. Further details can be found on page 27 of the Leica SF 58 flash manual.

1.2.5 What accessory flash units are suitable for use with the S2?

We recommend the use of the Leica SF 58 flash unit for perfect exposures in TTL, automatic, and manual flash modes. The software of the SF 58 flash unit is specially designed for compatibility with the technical specifications of the S2.

Furthermore, the S2 supports all flash units with SCA 3502 compatibility.

1.3 Shooting parameters

1.3.1 Why is the lowest ISO value called “Pull-80”?

The basic sensitivity of the S2 sensor is ISO 160. For special image effects that require longer shutter speeds or larger apertures, it is possible to virtually “pull” the basic sensitivity down to a value of 80. When doing this, the basic image quality characteristics remain comparable with those of images shot at ISO 160.

1.3.2 What are the advantages of DNG format?

The LEICA S2 allows you to save your image data simultaneously in DNG and/or JPEG format. In contrast to JPEG or TIFF formats, the standardized DNG (Digital Negative) format with guaranteed future functionality preserves full image data in its original form. When images are captured in DNG format, the camera first saves a “latent” image that is later “developed” in a subsequent image-

processing program by processing image characteristics to create a finished picture that can then be converted into a typical format and saved. Subsequently, various parameters such as white balance, tonal values, gradation, sharpening, etc. can be adjusted during processing to achieve the best possible image quality.

1.3.3 Is it possible to shoot black and white with the S2?

If you save your images in JPEG format, these can be shot directly in black & white with no need for subsequent conversion. To do this, go to the “Image” menu and select “Black/White” from the settings for “Saturation.”

It is not possible to shoot black-and-white images in DNG format. As the S2 is equipped with a color sensor, and DNG format preserves all image content in its original form, DNG files can only be converted to black and white during subsequent processing (e.g. in Adobe Lightroom).

1.4 Setup parameters

1.4.1 How do I configure and save custom settings?

To enable faster access or modifications to setting options, it is possible to directly assign three customized preset functions to three menu buttons. To do this, go to the camera’s “Setup” menu and select the option “Custom Functions” and assign a function that you wish to customize to the first button under “Function 1.” The options for customizing buttons are selected from the sub-menus “Camera” and “Image”: ISO, file format, white balance, color management, user profile, drive mode, focus mode, exposure metering, exposure compensation, exposure bracketing, auto slow sync, flash sync mode, and mirror up mode.

1.4.2 Which rear panel monitor parameters can I set?

In the setup menu under the settings category “Monitor,” you can choose between the monitor on the back of the camera and the monitor on the top cover. There are also settings for brightness and back lighting for the monitor on the back. If you select the “Automatic” option, the back lighting adjusts automatically to ambient light conditions.

1.5 General functions and information

1.5.1 How long can I shoot on average with freshly charged batteries?

The Leica S system is designed with the greatest possible energy efficiency in mind. In accordance with the CIPA standard, you can shoot over 1000 images on one battery charge.

1.5.2 How is the diopter compensation range of the eyepiece defined?

The factory setting for the S2 eyepiece is -1 diopter. For wearers of glasses, the diopter values can be adjusted from -3 to +1 by turning the eyepiece ring.

1.5.3 Why isn’t sapphire monitor glass standard on the S2? Can it be retrofitted?

Sapphire glasses the size of the 3" back monitor are extremely expensive to manufacture. During the development of the S2, our aim was to make the camera available at the most attractive price possible for its expected area of application. That is why Leica has decided to only offer sapphire glass on Leica S2-P models. A retrofitting option for standard S2 cameras is not currently planned.

1.5.4 Who designed and built the sensor of the S2?

The sensors were designed in a cooperative venture between Leica and Kodak ISS, an established and reliable partner for many years. Kodak also supplies the sensors.

1.5.5 Why has the autofocus system of the S2 only one AF sensor?

The utmost priority in the development of the camera's AF system was the highest possible precision with regard to focus tracking. Superior precision in the medium-format segment is currently still only possible with a central cross sensor.

1.5.6 Will the future see more interchangeable focusing screens available as accessories?

Leica will soon be offering further interchangeable focusing screens that S2 users can fit themselves as alternatives to the standard ground-glass screen. A grid screen, showing the "golden ratio" for precise image composition, and a micro prism screen for manual focusing are being planned.

1.5.7 What accessories are part of the S2 body package?

The S2 body package includes an eyepiece cap, a camera cap, a rechargeable Li-ion battery, a battery charger, a USB cable, an S2 carrying strap and software licenses for free downloads of the current release of Adobe "Photoshop Lightroom" and Leica "Image Shuttle."

1.5.8 How often should the camera be sent to Leica customer service for a check-up?

To ensure consistent functional reliability of the S2 for many years, the body should be sent to Leica customer service for servicing every two years, or after 100,000 shutter release cycles. Servicing includes cleaning, checking, and adjustment of all camera functions.

1.6 Camera care recommendations

1.6.1 What sensor cleaning methods does Leica recommend?

We recommend that the large format, and therefore very sensitive, sensor be cleaned by highly qualified technical personnel at Leica customer service centers. Customers may of course clean their own sensors with commercially available sensor cleaning kits. However, any sensor damage resulting from cleaning the sensor yourself is not covered by your camera warranty terms.

2. System components: lenses – functions, use, care, and cleaning

2.1 Questions and answers about Leica CS lenses

2.1.1 What shutter speeds are available when the CS (central shutter) preset is selected?

Shutter speeds between 8 s and 1/500 s can be selected when using the central shutter integrated in CS lenses.

2.1.2 For how many shutter release cycles is the central shutter of Leica CS lenses guaranteed?

Functional integrity of Leica S2 system CS lens shutters is guaranteed for 100,000 shutter release cycles.

2.1.3 How often should the Leica CS lenses be sent to Leica customer service for a check-up?

To ensure consistent functional reliability of CS lenses for many years, the lenses should be sent to Leica customer service for servicing every two years or after 100,000 shutter release cycles. Servicing includes cleaning, checking, and adjustment of all lens functions.

2.1.4 Can I upgrade my S lenses without central shutters to CS lenses?

Retrofitting of central shutters in S lenses is not possible because such a modification would be so time-consuming as to be economically unrealistic.

2.2 General functions and information

2.2.1 Will Leica be releasing their own program of filters?

No. Due to the common E82 and E72 filter threads (depending on the lens type) and the immense number of different filters already on the market, Leica has decided not to offer their own range of filters. High-quality filters can be obtained, as in the past, from traditional manufacturers like B+W and Heliopan.

3 Questions and answers about S2 service packages

3.1. Where can I purchase service packages?

Service packages may only be purchased from authorized Leica S system dealers, and they are validated by registration of the sale by the dealer on the Leica Web site (a list of authorized dealers around the world can be found on the Leica Web site). Following registration, the customer is handed a certificate printed out by the dealer that serves as proof of entitlement when making claims covered by the service agreement. In addition to this, all relevant data is archived in a central

database and can be retrieved from the dealer zone of the Leica Web site. Direct purchase of service packages from Leica customer service centers operated by Leica Camera AG is not possible.

3.2. In which countries are service packages purchased in combination with the S system valid?

The extended warranty, offering the same terms and conditions as the one-year manufacturer's warranty, and other service package services are valid around the world – regardless of where the system was purchased. However, the free replacement service offered by the Platinum package to cover for equipment under repair cannot be offered in the countries of Central and South America or India due to import and customs regulations.

3.3. Who do I contact when I need services covered by my service package?

Your initial point of contact in such cases is the Leica S system dealer from whom you purchased your equipment, or your nearest Leica S system dealer (a list of authorized dealers around the world can be found on the Leica Web site).

3.4. Can I purchase a service package at a later date, if I have already purchased an S2?

You can purchase service packages at any time after the purchase of an S2. However, service packages are always valid from the date of purchase of the S system products you own. Leica reserves the right to demand proof of initial purchase documentation (completed warranty card and a copy of your receipt) and may decline to honor claims under service package terms and conditions in cases of reasonable doubt of validity.

3.5. Can I upgrade my Premium service package to Platinum?

You can upgrade your Premium service package to Platinum at any time. The term of the package, however, can not be extended a second time. As in the case of the first service package, its validity begins only from the initial purchase date of your S system product.

3.6. I would like comprehensive service as described in the terms and conditions of the service package for all my S system equipment or “bundle” – is this covered when I purchase a service package?

Our service packages are product-related. The services described in the terms and conditions of service packages apply only to the respective S system body or lens. A new service package must be purchased for each newly purchased S system product before you can take advantage of the services offered for that particular product. This also applies to S system bundle offers.

3.7. Does a service package retain its validity when I sell it along with S system equipment?

Service packages are product-related not customer-related. This means that the service package retains its validity when sold to a new owner along with the S system product. Service packages are non-returnable.

3.8. How do I update my service package certificates in cases where a product is replaced as the result of a service claim?

In product replacement cases, customers receive a new printout of their certificate, updated with the serial number of the replacement product. The validity period (from initial date of purchase) remains unchanged despite replacement.

3.9. Who covers shipping costs for equipment sent in under service claims?

Leica Camera AG is responsible for the shipping costs for defective equipment, and for the dispatch and collection of equipment loaned to customers as replacements. Should the dispatch or collection of the equipment not be carried out by the service provider specified by Leica (UPS), Leica will reimburse the shipping costs up to a maximum of 100 euros per shipping order on presentation of proof of the shipping costs incurred.

3.10. Is it possible to extend the warranty period beyond the usual 24-month standard service package term?

At present, the one-year manufacturer's warranty can only be extended by a further 12 months to a total warranty period of two years from the initial date of purchase.

3.11. Why can't the free replacement service offered by the Platinum package to cover for equipment under repair be offered in the countries of Central and South America or India?

Replacement equipment is generally available for use on the following working day. This service depends on the import and customs regulations of the respective countries and can therefore not be guaranteed on a worldwide basis. Above all, the delays to be expected in the countries of Central and South America and India make it impossible for us to guarantee this service.

3.12. How often can I take advantage of the 30% discount on repair costs after purchasing a service package?

You can take advantage of the repair price discount only once during the term of each service package. Any other repairs of the same S system product will be carried out at the normal price. The repair comprises only the restoration of technical functionality. No discounts are given on cosmetic repairs. The customer may take advantage of the 30% discount for the cost of repairs not covered by the S2 warranty, e.g. through inappropriate treatment (damage by dropping, impact damage, or water damage) and carried out by Leica AG in Solms or an authorized Leica S system repair workshop.

3.13. How often can I take advantage of free servicing after purchasing a Platinum service package?

You can take advantage of free servicing of the respective S system product by Leica customer service in Solms only once during the term of your Platinum service package. Servicing includes product cleaning (including camera sensors), checking and adjustment of all functions in accordance with Leica Solms testing and approval procedures, and repair or replacement of parts in the case of malfunctions (incl. materials).

3.14. What can I do if I lose my service certificates?

All the data relevant to your service documentation and the S system products you own (initial date of purchase, serial number, and contact data) is archived in a central database at Leica Camera AG and can be retrieved from the dealer zone of the Leica Web site. Your dealer can issue a new certificate as soon as your data has been verified.