

Setting the Infinity Stop

Voigtlander VM-E Leica M to Sony FE Adapter

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Having an accurate infinity stop is important to me, as is using good, compact optics. I find the Leica M optics of more than 50 mm work very well on the Sony a7 cameras. Most adapters are not made to have the adapted manual focus lens actually be perfectly in focus at very distance objects when they are at their "infinity" stops. To correct this and be sure that the Leica M lens has the most distant objects in focus when the lens is at the focus stop, I use the Voigtlander VM-E adapter.

Voigtlander



This \$309 adapter has a limited focusing ring of its own that allows one to focus closer than other adapters and also to set the correct infinity stop distance. (This product is widely available.)

I attach a scale to the VM-E adapter for calibration purposes.



There is a strip of white label paper with red marks that are 1 mm apart. This is attached and taped to the stationary part of the mount. On the mount's focusing ring I tape a triangular marker. With the VM-E mount focused all the way in, the marker is at the first of the 1 mm red marks.

When a lens is attached to the mount, and the lens is set to its infinity stop, the VM-E adapter can then be used to focus very carefully on a very distant object, like a far distant mountain ridge top on a clear day. This is where the marker is when this is done:



It is best to be able to lock the VM-E focus ring at this point. One could use tape to do this. An easier to lock and un-lock system would be helpful.

Voigtlander put an infinity lock system on the adapter, but it's not set correctly according to all the Leica M lenses I have and the two Sony a7r bodies I use. As it happens, modifying the Voigtlander infinity focus lock so that it works for the adjusted focus setting shown above is not hard.



The (red) "key" (my term) on the VM-E focusing ring is easy to remove and file so that its edge is at the appropriate place relative to the keyhole in the stationary part of the VM-E mount. To shorten the keyhole at the other side, a small (just under 3 mm) piece of metal was cut off some metal plumbers

tape with tin shears. This was bent to have a sharp, right angle turn. Just enough of the little metal piece sticks into the keyhole to stop the red key from turning when the red key is pushed down into its locked position. The longer piece of the 3 mm piece of metal is large enough to epoxy onto the stationary part of the VM-E mount.

It may not be the prettiest modification, in part because I use some tape over it to be sure the red key does not move up accidentally. Looks aside, the modification works very well and consistently for all my M optics, 2 Sony bodies, and 2 VM-E adapters.