Important Tips Before Placing Your Order

The Mania MFZ camera system offers you almost unlimited possibilities to configure your personal camera. The available packages are designed so you can start shooting immediately. Optional accessories give you even more ways to expand your camera according to your needs.

This flexibility is fantastic, but at first glance, it can also feel a bit overwhelming. To make it easier to get started, we have compiled the most important tips for selecting and configuring your camera.

If you're still unsure or have specific questions, feel free to contact us directly—we'll be happy to help!

1. Choose the Right Camera for Your Purpose

First, consider which camera is best suited for you. You have the following options:

6×17 Camera

- For 120 roll film and formats up to 6×17.
- Also allows the use of **6×6** and **6×12** formats.

4×5 inch Cameras

You can choose between two models:

a) Mania MFZ

- Supports the use of multiple cassettes and backs, e.g., the *Lomo Grafloch Instant Back* for Fuji Instax photos.
- The optional **Stabi-Bar** can be used to stabilize intermediate frames for focal lengths from 95mm (see Table3 for more details).
- Offers the most flexibility and customization options.

b) Mania MFZ-E

- Only allows the use of Lisco and Fidelity cassettes (and others of the same size) and does not support the Stabi-Bar.
- Interior is not black-coated.
- With fewer additional threads, it looks slightly cleaner and more elegant.
- More affordable, but still allows (almost) all uses of front panels and intermediate frames like the Mania MFZ.

2. Choose the Right Front Panels for Your Purpose

Once you've decided on one or more backs (e.g., 6×17 and/or 4×5 inch), the next step is to choose the front panels that suit your needs.

Recommended front panels for 6×17 backs:

- 6×6 TSP Panel
- 6×12 TSP Panel
- Shift Panel
- Universal Panel

The middle pinhole on the "three-hole panels" (TSP & Shift) is always universally usable for all formats and backs.

Recommended front panels for 4×5 inch backs:

- 4×5 TSP Panel
- Shift Panel
- Universal Panel

Even unusual combinations are possible! Examples:

- A 6×6 TSP Panel on a 4×5 back for vertical shift shots
- A 6×12 TSP Panel as a vertical shift on a 6×17 back

Important notes:

- Decide when ordering which look and pinhole spacing ("focal lengths") you want.
- 6×17 or 6×12 TSP shots are not suitable with a 35mm "focal length," as the image circle would be too small. You need at least 55mm.
- Shifting with 35mm may cause vignetting on one side, depending on the format.
- All panels are delivered with a standard pinhole diameter of 0.2mm for 35mm / 55mm / (limited 75mm) "focal lengths."
- Pinhole diameter of 0.3mm for 55mm / 75mm / 95mm (limited 115mm) must be specified when ordering. Larger pinhole diameters for longer "focal lengths" can only be pre-ordered (delivery may take several months).

A table with recommended pinhole diameters for the respective focal lengths can be found below (Table1).

If you want specific image effects, such as more or less vignetting, select the "focal lengths" accordingly. See Table2 for guidance.

3. Choose the Right Intermediate Frames

Depending on the desired field of view, you may need one or more intermediate frames. The appropriate angles of view for each focal length are shown in Table 3.

Always select a frame with markings as your first intermediate frame. If you order a package, this is done automatically.

4. Choose Your “Exposure Stick”

There are two versions of the exposure stick (light meter aid):

Standard version (default for all orders):

- No correction values.
- You can calculate exposure time using your own formula or an app.

“+” version (optional replacement for the standard version):

- Includes a conversion table with Reciprocity Failure correction for different films (ideal for Ilford FP4, HP5, and many others).
- Perfect for quick, practical exposure time calculations.

Both tables are also included in the manual (PDF), which you can print or take on your smartphone.

Tip:
If you order multiple panels and intermediate frames, you can make the most of the system’s possibilities and discover which combinations you like best.

Appendix – Tables

Table 1:
Recommended pinhole diameters for the corresponding “focal lengths.”

pinhole distance (focal length)	recommended pinhole size
35mm - 55mm (75mm)	0,2mm
55mm - 95mm (115mm)	0,3mm
115mm <	0,4mm

Table 2:
Overview of vignetting behavior at different “focal lengths” and formats.

focal length	4x5 Inch	6x6	6x12	6x17	4x5 Inch (TSP)	6x6 (TSP)	6x12 (TSP)
35mm	strong	slight	strong	✗	✗	(strong)	✗
55mm	slight	✓	slight	strong	strong	slight	strong
75mm	✓	✓	✓	slight	slight	✓	slight
95mm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 3:
This table shows which combinations of pinhole diameters and “focal lengths” result in which f-stop values and angles of view, and which combinations are recommended.

The indicated angles of view refer to the formats **4×5 inch, 6×12, and 6×6 TSP**.
Note: The smaller the capture format, the narrower the angle of view. For larger formats like 6×17 or 6×12 TSP, the angle of view is correspondingly wider.

The symbols mean:

- **(** **)**: Combination generally usable, sometimes with limitations
- **((** **))**: Very limited usability; practical testing recommended
- **!**: Mandatory

pinhole distance (focal length)	Pinhole Diameter (mm)	Aperture	35mm Equiv. for 4x5 (6x12 similar)	Angle of view (approximate values)	Stabi-Bar (recommended)
35mm	**0,2**	f 175	**ca. 10mm**	120°	✗
55mm	**0,2**	f 275	**ca. 16mm**	95°	✗
(75mm)	**0,2**	f 375	**ca. 22mm**	77°	(✓)
((95mm))	**0,2**	f 475	**ca. 28mm**	65°	✓
(35mm)	**0,3**	f 117	**ca. 10mm**	120°	✗
55mm	**0,3**	f 183	**ca. 16mm**	95°	✗
75mm	**0,3**	f 250	**ca. 22mm**	77°	(✓)
95mm	**0,3**	f 317	**ca. 28mm**	65°	✓
(115mm)	**0,3**	f 383	**ca. 35mm**	55°	✓ !
((135 mm))	**0,3**	f 450	**ca. 40mm**	48°	✓ !
(95mm)	**0,4**	f 238	**ca. 28mm**	65°	✓
115mm	**0,4**	f 288	**ca. 35mm**	55°	✓ !
135mm	**0,4**	f 338	**ca. 40mm**	48°	✓ !
(155mm)	**0,4**	f 388	**ca. 47mm**	42°	✓ !