Five top-performing lenses for the Mamiya 7II.

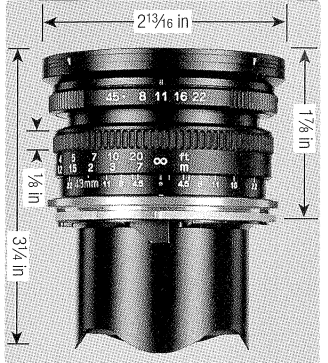
We tested all five Mamiya lenses made for the Mamiya 7II in conjunction with our "Hands On" test of the camera (page 66). The lenses are a 43mm f/4.5, 50mm f/4.5, 65mm f/4, 80mm f/4, and a 150mm f/4.5.

Finished in attractive semi-matte black, the lenses are compact compared to other lenses for the 6x7 format. Each lens has knurled rings for focusing and aperture selection. The former are covered in a rubber-like material, the latter are hard plastic. That tactile difference tells you which ring is which, without having to look. The focusing action is smooth and well-damped. All close-focus by turning the focusing ring counterclockwise, and have nonrotating front lens barrels. Aperture rings at the outer edge of the lens barrel are marked in white and clicked-stopped in full-stops. The lenses have large, easily seen distance scales with metric distances in white and footages in yellow. Below the distance scales are legible white-on-black depth-of-field scales, infrared index marks in red. The bayoneting lensmounts have white mounting alignment dots. All mount with an easy twist and balance nicely on the camera. Front rings are threaded for screw-in filters, and each lens has a bayoneting sun shade that reverses for storage and transport.

In the lab/field: We are not able to test medium-format lenses on our electronic optical bench, but according to the results of lines-per-mm tests, all five lenses showed excellent performance in the center (on-axis) and corners (off-axis). Test slides were uniformly very sharp and contrasty from center to corner at every aperture, except as noted. All lenses produced extremely accurate exposures, with less then 1/10 f-stop underexposure, except at maximum aperture where performance varied slightly as indicated. Flare was very well controlled with minimal ghosting for all lenses.

Conclusion: The Mamiya 7 lenses performed very well. They had the most consistently excellent performance of any 6x7-format lenses we've tested. Some photographers might want the option of a lens faster than f/4, but that's probably not in the cards optically, given the circumference of the Mamiya 7 lensmount and leaf shutter timing considerations. Overall handling was great and we especially liked the rubbery aperture rings and agreeably compact size of these lenses. The 150mm, for example, is about the size of a 150mm in the 35mm format (3.5 inches long, 1 lb 2 oz), yet it covers the 6x7 format!

43mm f/4.5 L Mamiya 7 N

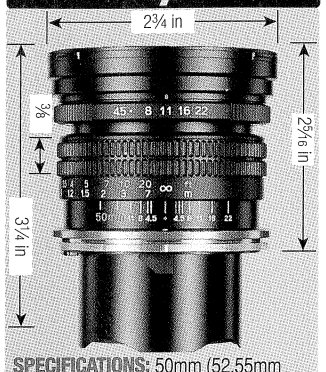


SPECIFICATIONS: 43mm (43.75mm tested), f/4.5 (tested measurements not available due to instrument limitation), 10 elements in 6 groups.
- View angle: Diag 92º.
- Min aperture: f/22. Focusing turns 80 degrees counterclockwise; min focus 3 ft 3⅜ in.
- Weight: 14 oz.
- Filter size: 67mm.
- Mount available: Mamiya 7. Included lenshood, optical viewfinder.
- List price: $4,034; street price: $2,599.

Resolution @ 43mm		
f-stop	Center (l/mm)	Corner (l/mm)
4.5	68 excellent	30 excellent
5.6	77 excellent	30 excellent
8.0	77 excellent	34 excellent
11.0	61 excellent	43 excellent
16.0	54 excellent	33 excellent
22.0	48 excellent	24 very good

Results: Lens showed slight pincushion distortion (0.65 percent). Exposure was extremely accurate (less than 1/10 stop underexposure), except at maximum aperture (1/3 stop underexposure due to light falloff). At the measured minimum focusing distance of 39 inches (1:20), center and corner sharpness were excellent at every aperture. Optimum performance was at f/11. In the field, light falloff was gone by f/8. Field test slides showed slight softness, center and corners, at maximum aperture; all other apertures produced uniformly sharp, contrasty slides.

50mm f/4.5 L Mamiya 7 N

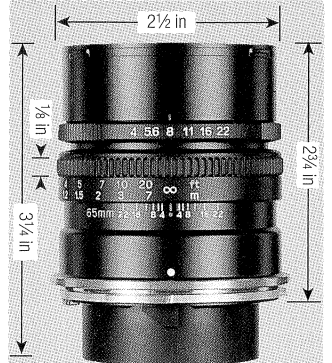


SPECIFICATIONS: 50mm (52.55mm tested), f/4.5 (tested measurements not available due to instrument limitation), 10 elements in 6 groups.
- View angle: Diag 84º.
- Min aperture: f/22. Focusing turns 80 degrees counterclockwise; min focus 3 ft 3⅜ in.
- Weight: 15½ oz.
- Filter size: 67mm.
- Mount available: Mamiya 7. Included lenshood and viewfinder.
- List price: $2,920; street price: $1,949.

Resolution @ 50mm		
f-stop	Center (l/mm)	Corner (l/mm)
4.5	58 excellent	37 excellent
5.6	66 excellent	41 excellent
8.0	74 excellent	46 excellent
11.0	66 excellent	41 excellent
16.0	58 excellent	37 excellent
22.0	46 excellent	24 very good

Results: Mamiya's 50mm f/4.5 exhibited minimal barrel distortion (0.45 percent). Exposure was extremely accurate with less than 1/10 stop underexposure, except at maximum aperture which showed 1/3 stop underexposure due to light falloff. At the measured minimum focusing distance of 37.5 inches (1:15.87), center and corner sharpness were excellent at every aperture. Optimum performance was at f/8. In the field, light falloff was gone by f/8, and test slides were sharp and contrasty from center to edge at all apertures.

65mm f/4 L Mamiya 7 N



SPECIFICATIONS: 65mm (64.75mm tested), f/4 (tested measurements not available due to instrument limitation), 9 elements in 5 groups.
- View angle: Diag 69º.
- Min aperture: f/22. Focusing turns 80 degrees counterclockwise; min focus 3 ft 3⅜ in.
- Weight: 13⅝ oz.
- Filter size: 58mm.
- Mount available: Mamiya 7. Included lenshood.
- List price: $2,501; street price: $1,599.

Resolution @ 65mm		
f-stop	Center (l/mm)	Corner (l/mm)
4.0	46 excellent	37 excellent
5.6	52 excellent	42 excellent
8.0	59 excellent	42 excellent
11.0	66 excellent	42 excellent
16.0	59 excellent	37 excellent
22.0	46 excellent	26 very good

Results: This optic had minimal barrel distortion (0.35 percent). Exposure was extremely accurate (less than 1/10 stop underexposure), except at maximum aperture (1/5 stop underexposure due to light falloff). At the measured minimum focusing distance of 39 inches (1:12.73), center sharpness was excellent at every aperture. Corner sharpness was very good from f/4 to f/5.6 and excellent from f/8 to f/22. Optimum performance was at f/11. In the field, light falloff was gone by f/5.6. Test slides were sharp and contrasty, center to edge at all apertures.

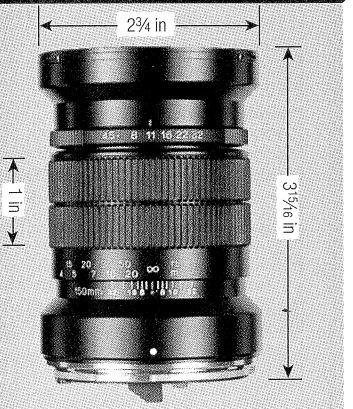
80mm f/4 L Mamiya 7 N

SPECIFICATIONS: 80mm (78.92mm tested), f/4 (tested measurements not available due to instrument limitation), 6 elements in 4 groups.
- View angle: Diag 58º.
- Min aperture: f/22. Focusing turns 80 degrees counterclockwise; min focus 3 ft 3⅜ in.
- Weight: 10¾ oz.
- Filter size: 58mm.
- Mount available: Mamiya 7. Included lenshood.
- List price: $2,017; street price: $1,299.

Resolution @ 80mm		
f-stop	Center (l/mm)	Corner (l/mm)
4.0	48 excellent	32 excellent
5.6	55 excellent	42 excellent
8.0	58 excellent	42 excellent
11.0	58 excellent	42 excellent
16.0	65 excellent	37 excellent
22.0	55 excellent	26 very good

Results: This standard lens for the Mamiya 7II showed minimal barrel distortion (0.25 percent). Exposure was extremely accurate with less than 1/10 stop underexposure, except at maximum aperture which showed 1/5 stop underexposure due to light falloff. At the measured minimum focusing distance of 53 inches (1:15.74), center and corner sharpness were excellent at every aperture. Optimum performance was at f/11. In the field, light falloff was gone by f/5.6, and test slides were sharp and contrasty from center to edge at all apertures.

150mm f/4.5 L Mamiya 7 N



SPECIFICATIONS: 150mm (151.76mm tested), f/4.5 (tested measurements not available due to instrument limitation), 6 elements in 5 groups.
- View angle: Diag 34º.
- Min aperture: f/32. Focusing turns 150 degrees counterclockwise; min focus 5 ft 10⅞ in.
- Weight: 1 lb 2 1/16 oz. • Filter size: 67mm.
- Mount available: Mamiya 7. Included lenshood.
- List price: $2,767; street price: $1,799.

Resolution @ 150mm		
f-stop	Center (l/mm)	Corner (l/mm)
4.5	42 excellent	33 excellent
5.6	55 excellent	33 excellent
8.0	60 excellent	42 excellent
11.0	60 excellent	47 excellent
16.0	55 excellent	47 excellent
22.0	47 excellent	37 excellent
32.0	35 very good	27 very good

Results: Mamiya's 150mm f/4.5 had minimal pincushion distortion (0.45 percent). Exposure was extremely accurate (less than 1/10 stop underexposure), except at maximum aperture (1/5 stop underexposure due to light falloff). At the measured minimum focusing distance of 69 inches (1:10.36), center and corner sharpness were excellent at every aperture. Optimum performance was at f/11. In the field, light falloff was gone by f/5.6. Field test slides showed slight softness, center and corners, at minimum aperture; all other apertures produced uniformly sharp, contrasty slides.

Tilt-Shift for Dingbats

continued from page 99

add a lens or an adapter, is to replace the entire body of the camera, creating in effect a mini-view camera—the if-you-can't-beat-'em-join-'em approach. (And a couple of medium-format systems were designed from the ground up to provide view-camera movements.)

We describe the three approaches in separate boxes in this article, and the chart on page 98 will tell you what gizmo will work with your existing camera.

Can these various lenses and accessories replace a view camera? Honestly, no. The view camera, after all, was designed almost from the start to allow all sorts of corrective movement. Tilt-shift devices for smaller formats, no matter how well-engineered, are essentially afterthoughts and will always have more limitations than a big bellows camera.

So is a tilt-shift lens or accessory for you? Even though we (and a lot of you) are confirmed gadget freaks, we would err on the side of consumer discretion. One of these gadgets, after all, can cost as much as a pretty good 4x5 camera and lens! But then again, you can't very well slip a 4x5 into a corner compartment of your small gadget bag. Much of what you pay for with tilt-shift devices is convenience.

A suggestion: Find a professional photo dealer who rents the equipment you're interested in and try it out. If you find that the tilt-shifter is no great shakes, well, not much is lost. But if you find you're shooting pictures you couldn't get before, and loving it, well—maybe it's time for yet another photographic purchase....