

Meyer Optik Görlitz

KAMERA/BEGRIFFE

Historischer ostdeutscher Optikerhersteller bekannt für charakteristische Objektiventwicklungen mit schönem Bokeh, warmer Darstellung und einzigartigem optischen Charakter. Meyer Optik-Objektive stellen eine eigenständige optische Tradition aus dem Kalten-Krieg-Deutschland dar.

Definition Meyer Optik Görlitz was an East German optical manufacturer producing distinctive lenses throughout the 20th century. Their optical designs are increasingly appreciated for beautiful bokeh rendering, warm color signature, and unique optical character that defines a specific epoch of optical engineering. Historical Context Origins and Development Founded : 1896 in Görlitz, Germany (East Germany after 1945) Period : Operated for nearly a century as independent optical manufacturer Philosophy : Practical optical design emphasizing rendering character Legacy : Influential optical designs adopted by other manufacturers Cold War Separation After German division, Meyer Optik continued as East German (DDR) manufacturer: Independent Development : Distinct optical philosophy from Western counterparts Technical Development : Despite isolation, continued distinctive designs Export Markets : Popular in Soviet bloc and niche Western markets Closure : Company eventually ceased operations post-reunification Notable Lens Designs Flektogon Series Legendary Wide-Angle Design : Distinctive focal lengths (20mm, 25mm, 35mm) Beautiful bokeh rendering Warm color signature Slight softness adds artistic quality Trioplan Portrait Lens Standard : Exceptionally beautiful bokeh Strong swirly bokeh character Warm, creamy rendering Soft focus rendering ideal for portraiture Summicron / Summaron Standard and Ultrawide Options : Sharp, clinical rendering Good contrast Warm color signature Practical cinematography focal lengths Oreston Fast Standard Lens : Wide aperture options (f/1.9 to f/2) Balanced optical design Good for low-light work Characteristic Meyer bokeh Optical Characteristics Signature Meyer Rendering Color Science : Distinctive warm tone Golden highlights Slightly elevated color saturation Organic color palette Bokeh Quality : Beautiful, artistic bokeh shapes Soft rendering, especially at wider apertures Gentle vignetting adds dimension Bokeh balls maintain coherent shape Focus Transition : Smooth focus rendering Minimal focus breathing Organic falloff from focus to out-of-focus Artistic focus transition Optical Character : Slight softness (especially at wider apertures) Gentle flare with amber coloration Low contrast rendering (affects postproduction) Distinctive optical fingerprint Production Applications Contemporary Cinematography Period Pieces : Perfect for accurate vintage optical aesthetic Art Cinema : Intentional selection of vintage optical character Documentary : Warm, characterful rendering for humanistic cinematography Music Videos : Distinctive aesthetic that separates from mainstream look Commercial Work : Premium vintage aesthetic for luxury brands Photographic Applications Portrait Photography : Legendary for portrait bokeh (especially Trioplan) Street Photography : Wide-angle options perfect for environmental capture Fashion Photography : Warm, flattering rendering for fashion work Fine Art : Artistic bokeh and rendering for conceptual work Technical Specifications by Line Flektogon (Wide Angle) Focal Lengths : 20mm, 25mm, 35mm Apertures : f/4 to f/5.6 (typical for era) Mount : M42, Kiev, Contax alternatives Optical Formula : 4-5 elements, distinctive design Character : Warm, soft, artistic wide-angle rendering Trioplan (Portrait) Focal Lengths : 40mm,

50mm, 100mm Apertures : Typically f/2.8 to f/4 Distinctive Feature : Exceptional bokeh rendering
Optical Formula : 3-element Trioplan design Character : Creamy bokeh, soft focus characteristics
Oreston (Standard) Focal Length : 50mm Apertures : f/1.9, f/2 Mount Options : M42, Kiev Speed :
Relatively fast for era Character : Balanced rendering with Meyer warmth Modern Adaptation Using
Meyer Optik in Contemporary Production Mounting Challenges : Original mounts (M42, Kiev, Contax)
require adapters Quality adapter essential for modern camera safety Focus infinity calibration may
require adjustment Some mounts not well-suited to modern cameras Mechanical Considerations : All
manual focus (no autofocus available) Fixed aperture or mechanical iris adjustment Potential
mechanical wear on vintage mechanisms May require professional CLA (cleaning, lubrication,
adjustment) Digital Integration : Work well with modern digital sensors Warm color signature may
require color correction Slight softness translates well to digital capture Optical imperfections
add character on digital Market and Availability Sourcing Options Used Market : Relatively
available through: Vintage lens dealers Online marketplaces Photography/cinema equipment markets
Estate sales and auctions Price Range : Standard Oreston: \$50-\$150 Flektogon: \$100-\$400 Trioplan
(premium): \$200-\$800 Rare variants: \$500-\$2,000+ Condition Considerations : Mechanical wear common
in vintage glass Coating separation affects optical performance Fungus or dust inside elements
problematic Require professional inspection before purchase Competitive Comparison Manufacturer
Character Bokeh Availability Cost Warmth Meyer Optik Warm, Soft Excellent Moderate Low-Med High
Zeiss (East) Sharp, Neutral Good Rare High Low Jupiter (Soviet) Soft, Warm Beautiful Good Very Low
High Cooke (West) Creamy, Warm Good Excellent Very High High Popular Meyer Optik Combinations
Travel Light Kit (35mm Format) Flektogon 25mm (wide) Oreston 50mm (standard) Trioplan 100mm
(medium tele) Portrait Specialty Flektogon 20mm (environmental) Trioplan 50mm (primary portrait)
Oreston 50mm (alternative standard) Documentary/Cinema Flektogon 35mm (primary) Oreston 50mm
(standard) Longer focal length as needed Maintenance and Care Preservation Storage : Dry,
temperature-stable environment essential Silica gel packets prevent fungus Protective cases
maintain condition Avoid extreme temperature fluctuations Cleaning : Professional optical cleaning
recommended Improper cleaning damages coatings Avoid touching optical elements Use air blower for
dust removal only Service : CLA service: \$100-\$300 per lens Focus mechanism maintenance: \$50-\$100
Aperture cleaning: included in CLA Shutter servicing: additional cost if applicable Common Issues
Coating Separation : Age-related delamination of lens coatings Causes internal reflections and
reduced contrast Cannot be fully repaired, only accepted Affects image quality negatively Fungus :
Mold growth inside lens elements Appears as cloudy spots or patterns Professional cleaning
required Prevention through proper storage Focus Ring Stiffness : Mechanical lubrication
degradation CLA service resolves most issues Heavy use risks mechanical damage Professional repair
recommended Aperture Mechanism : Sticky or non-responsive iris CLA includes aperture cleaning
Avoid forcing mechanical controls Professional service protects investment Contemporary Adoption
Growing interest in Meyer Optik among: Vintage cinematography enthusiasts Portrait photographers
valuing bokeh Art photographers seeking character Film photographers exploring optical history
Digital photographers embracing analog aesthetics Investment Perspective Collector Value Meyer
Optik lenses have appreciated in value: Rare variants command premium prices Flektogon models
increasingly valuable Trioplan bokeh fame drives demand Investment potential for well-maintained
examples Practical Value For cinematographers: One-time acquisition cost Dramatic optical effect
in production Period accuracy for period pieces Unique aesthetic unavailable from modern glass
Long-term durability if maintained Creative Pairing With Modern Glass Meyer Optik often paired

with: Contemporary fast primes (optical contrast) Modern zoom lenses (backup coverage) Cooke anamorphics (shared warmth) Other vintage glass (era-consistent aesthetic) With Film Stocks (Digital Emulation) Kodak Vision3 500T : Warm base matches Meyer warmth Fujifilm Eterna : Subtle vintage rendering ProImage 100 : Warm shadows complement Meyer character Conclusion Meyer Optik Görlitz represents a distinct optical tradition shaped by Cold War separation and practical East German engineering philosophy. Their lenses deliver unique bokeh and warm rendering that contemporary cinematographers and photographers increasingly appreciate. While requiring acceptance of vintage mechanics and potential maintenance needs, Meyer Optik lenses offer optical character that cannot be replicated digitally - making them invaluable for productions intentionally embracing vintage optical aesthetics. The resurgence of interest in Meyer Optik reflects broader appreciation for optical character and artisanal lens design, showing that outstanding optical achievements transcend political boundaries and historical periods.

FilmFarm - filmfarm.de/c/meyer-optik-gorlitz