

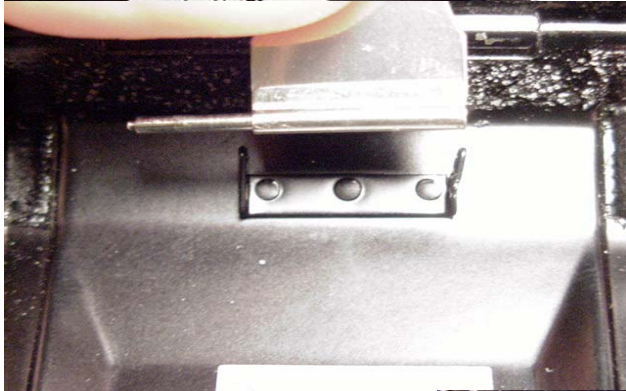
ProSeal Instructions for Canon FT QL

Please read these instructions completely before you start. Knowledge strengthens confidence, and like most jobs, this is better done right the first time. I think you'll find it rewarding and fun, and I've tried to keep things as easy and logical as possible. This is a very well-designed SLR, and the job you're doing now is very important in repairing one of its most common problems.

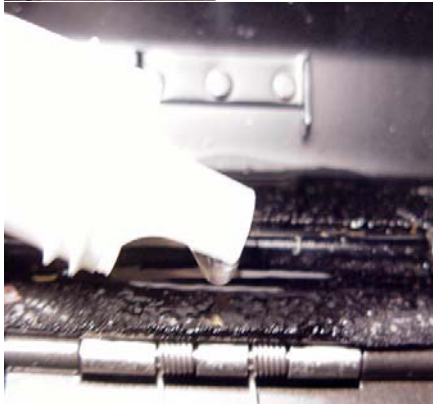
Here are some things you may need: (1) a safe surface to work on—I like to use a piece of cardboard about 1.5' by 1.5', but you can work on fiberboard, newspaper or anything else handy—the important thing is to protect the surface beneath you. (2) Solvent--Naphtha (cigarette lighter fluid is the same thing) or denatured alcohol are what I would use. (3) 2 or 3 paper towels. (4) some toothpicks or your bamboo tool—if you have access to a wooden cuticle stick, this is a handy tool. (5) a safety razor blade, hobby knife, or small scissors. (6) a small screwdriver (7) a pair of tweezers (8) a metal ruler or straightedge to use in cutting the foam. Now, let's take a look inside your camera:



To the left, you see old deteriorated foam on the inner hinge seal and the body itself. In cases like this, it is often hard to know if the foam originally was attached to the body or the film door. In this case, it was attached to the body. You will also see small felt pads on the inside corners of the film door (at the hinge end and the latch end, also). Finally, you will see the Quick Load flap, and we will need to move that out of the way in order to do our work...



Carefully bend one end of the tab slightly. The stainless flap and retaining pin will slip out. Be very careful to remove the retaining pin and keep it safe. It can slide out of the flap and get lost. Replacement of this flap will be the reverse order of what we just did. Once the flap is removed, you may begin cleaning the old foam from the film door and hinge area of the body...



In the three frames above, you can see I begin by dropping solvent on the hinge seal. I will use enough to wet it, but not to the point of dripping. After the solvent has set for a moment, I will use the wide end of my bamboo tool to loosen and remove it. When I have removed as much as I can, I will use a bit of paper towel or paper napkin and solvent to clean the area thoroughly. In the final frame above, you can see I have not removed the small felt pieces, but they will be removed in the same fashion. **Important note:** Clean the edges of your film door, too. They will have sticky residue on them, and you do not want this to foul your new foam.



The long thin slots in the body must be cleaned well, also. Push a small piece of paper towel or napkin into the slot with the thin end of the bamboo tool. Wet it with solvent (I'm using denatured alcohol), and push it through the slot until it is clean. You may need to repeat this several times to get it very clean. Begin at the film frame reset pin and work away from it to avoid pushing any old seal foam into the camera. Repeat for the bottom slot as well.

Please remember: Your work will go better if you are patient and give the solvent time to dissolve and loosen the old adhesive. IMPORTANT NOTE: Observe the precautions on the solvent can. Work in a well-ventilated area and avoid too much skin contact or contact with eyes, and don't drink it.

~~The Replacement Seal Pieces~~

Now that the film door and body back have been cleaned, please cut replacement foam/fabric pieces as follows: The hinge end seal is cut from 1.5mm thick open-celled self-adhesive foam and is 6mm wide x 50.5mm long. The felt pads are: (2) at 4mm x 19mm and (2) at 3mm x 19mm, all cut from 1.6mm thick self-adhesive fabric seal. You may also cut the mirror damper pad now. We will install it later. It is cut from 2mm thick open-celled self-adhesive foam and is 3mm wide x 35mm long.



To the left, you will see I have replaced the hinge end seal and the felt inner pad. Please remember to **lick** the adhesive side of these pieces before you install them. Doing this will give you time to position them exactly as you want them...it will delay the adhesive quality for a few minutes. Once your saliva is dry (after 20 or 30 minutes), you can press the pieces down again. As you can see, this camera is looking much better. Next, we will replace the long thin body slots...

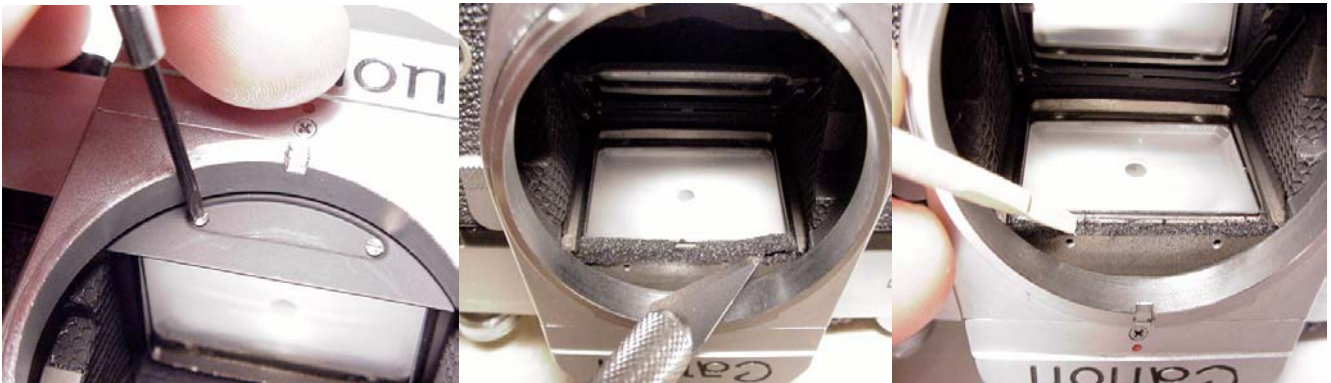
Before we go further, please re-assemble the pin into the Quick Load flap and replace it in the tabs which hold it. Make sure the flap lifts up the Quick Load mechanism and moves freely inside it. Bend back the tab you originally bent with needle-nosed pliers, being careful to engage the tip of the pin.

The long thin body slots are the same for virtually all 35mm cameras. I am going to show you the process using a Nikon. You may find it interesting to notice Nikon used the same inside fabric seal on their film door, but the seal was much smaller...

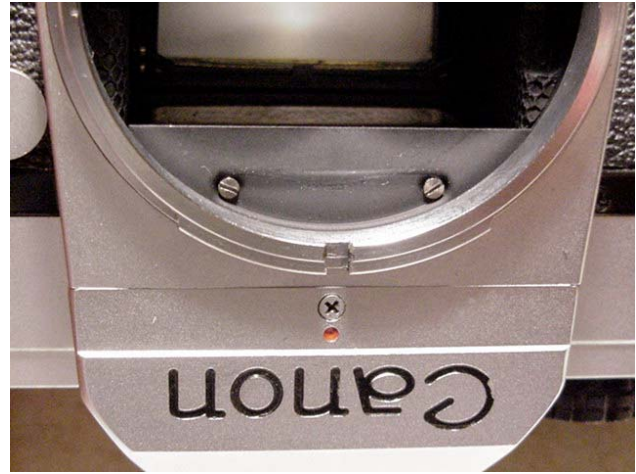
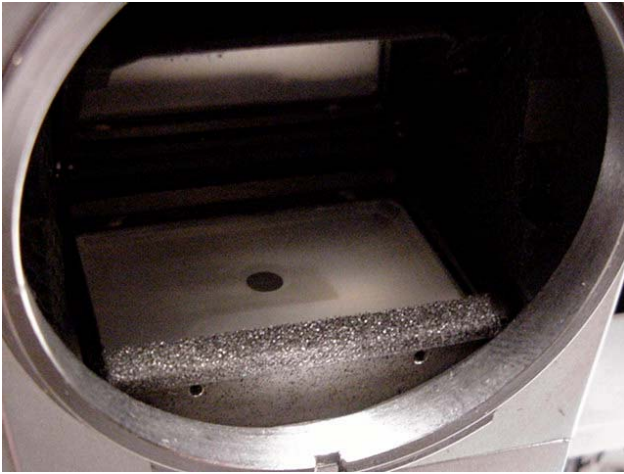


In the first frame above, I start a "Seal Strip" into the slot at the end. I push it into place with the thin end of the bamboo tool, being careful not to twist it. In the second frame, I continue around the curve, and in the final frame, you can see where I have trimmed the strip so that it will end just at the film frame counter lever. I will continue the strip on the other side of the film frame counter, all the way to the latch end. Repeat this for the bottom slot as well. Install the strip with the glossy side facing outward (there are two glossy sides) and be sure not to let it turn sideways as you install it. Do not worry that no adhesive is used. This strip has been carefully designed so that sidewall pressure will keep it in the slot indefinitely. When you close your film door, you will notice it feels tighter, and after the door has sat closed overnight, the seals will adjust and the door should be easier to close after that.

~~THE MIRROR DAMPER~~



Upper left: I'm using a tiny screwdriver to remove the two screws holding the baffle piece. I will set those aside so they will not be lost. Middle: I'm using a sharp-tipped X-Acto type hobby knife to remove the old damper pad. I will **carefully** remove this, not allowing it to fall forward on the focus screen. Use the knife and work very slowly. Do not use any solvent near your focus screen...it is too easy to ruin the screen with solvent. Final image: I've removed the old seal and now I am using the small end of my bamboo tool to very carefully pick out the remaining bits of foam and adhesive. You will notice there is a ledge at the front of the focus screen. This will help you keep from getting old foam onto the focus screen. Work slowly. Take as much time as you need. This is not a race. Think of yourself as an archaeologist working carefully to preserve an important piece of history.



Above, once I have cleaned the mirror damper mounting area well, I will **lick** the adhesive side of the damper piece I cut and carefully center it in place. You will notice it does not extend to the end of the mounting area. There are edges to the mirror assembly which turn upward and should not hit the foam damper pad. Once my saliva has dried, I will push it down again. In the image to the right, you can see I have replaced the baffle piece, tightened the screws and...

Now you're finished, and your camera is ready to enjoy again.

~~NOTES~~

These instructions were given to you as an accompaniment to a general seal kit, or for any of several reasons. You should be able to easily cut your own seal pieces from the material in my kits, and you should **never** use inferior materials as a substitute. Using the best costs no more. Remember—your camera is a precision piece of equipment. Do not compromise it or risk damaging it by using low-grade foam or foam of an improper thickness or density.

About licking the self-adhesive side: You'll be working with small pieces of foam with one sticky side, and you'll be working in close quarters. Work just like a pro and make it easy on yourself by licking the adhesive side before you install the pieces. This will de-activate the adhesive temporarily, and keep the material from sticking to your fingers or tweezers as badly, too. After 20 to 30 minutes, your saliva will have dried, and you can press the piece down for a final seal.

Jon Goodman --- 2007