

ProSeal Instructions for Minolta X-Series Models

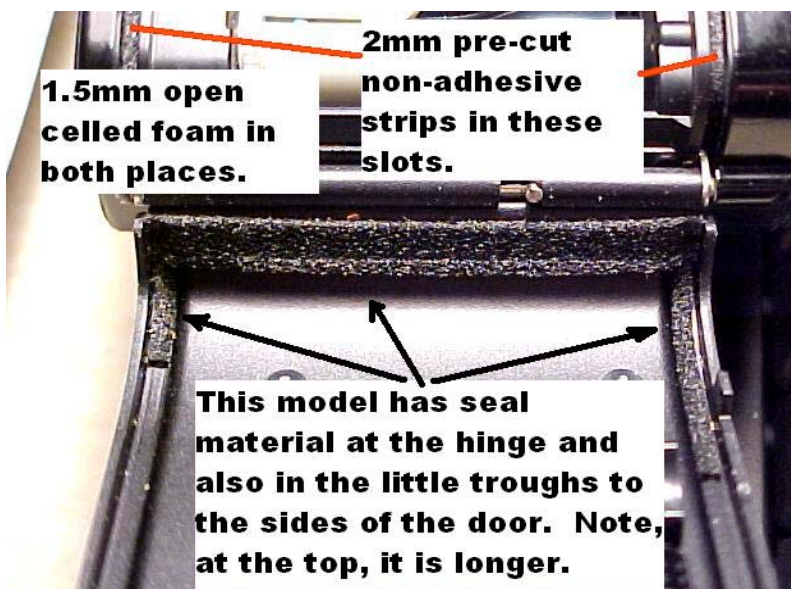
Please read these instructions completely before you start. Knowledge strengthens confidence, and like most jobs, this is better done right the first time. I think you'll find it rewarding and fun, and I've tried to keep things as easy and logical as possible. Capacitor failure and light leaks are the two most common failures of these cameras. I am not writing instructions for each model (X300, X370, X570 and so on) because they were all very similar. Please note: I am assuming you have read my general re-sealing instructions before reading these instructions.

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...a wooden cuticle stick is also 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 straightedge to guide you in cutting the seal material.

~~Generally A Simple, Straightforward Design~~



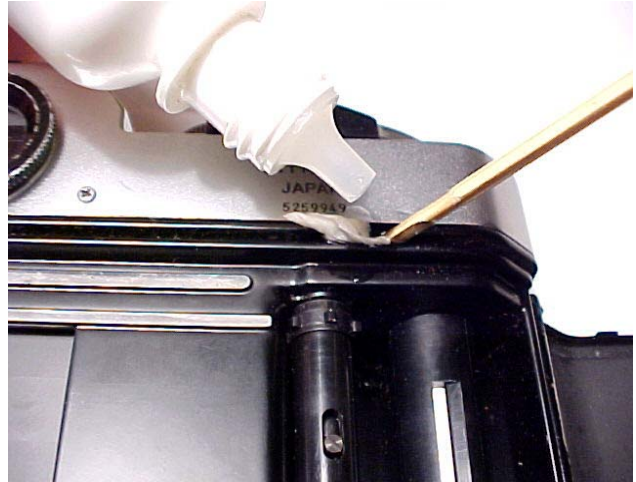
To the left, you see old deteriorated foam on the inner edges of the film door. This is one of two designs Minolta used for the film door seal. As you see, there is foam only on the inner edge of the film door. To clean off this old foam, drop solvent on it (denatured alcohol or naphtha). I'll let this solvent dissolve the old foam and adhesive and then I'll begin removing it using my bamboo tool. To clean it very well, I will wet a small bit of paper towel with solvent and wipe the area. I will also clean all old foam off of the film door edges, top and bottom and the camera body inside the hinge area.



To left, the other style of film door seal Minolta used. You'll notice it is just the same as above except there are two small strips of foam running part way down the little troughs. These will be cut from 1.5mm self-adhesive foam and will be about 2mm wide. Please remember to lick the adhesive side of the foam before you install it. This will delay the adhesive and give you time to position the piece as you want. Also, please note the top strip runs from the end of the film door to about 5mm past the film frame reset tab.

Use your small screwdriver as a dropper (or an old dropper bottle) to carefully drop solvent on the hinge end seal. You will find evidence of it on both the body and the film door. I normally use enough to saturate it, but not to the point of dripping. Let it sit a minute or so and then begin scraping it off. You may use a toothpick with the end broken off, the wide end of your bamboo tool, a wooden cuticle stick, or anything that will not damage the paint. When finished, wipe with a paper towel and solvent. Your work will go better if you are patient and give the solvent time to dissolve and loosen the old adhesive. Remove and clean the areas where the inner seals were on the film door at this point, also. 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 Body Slots~~



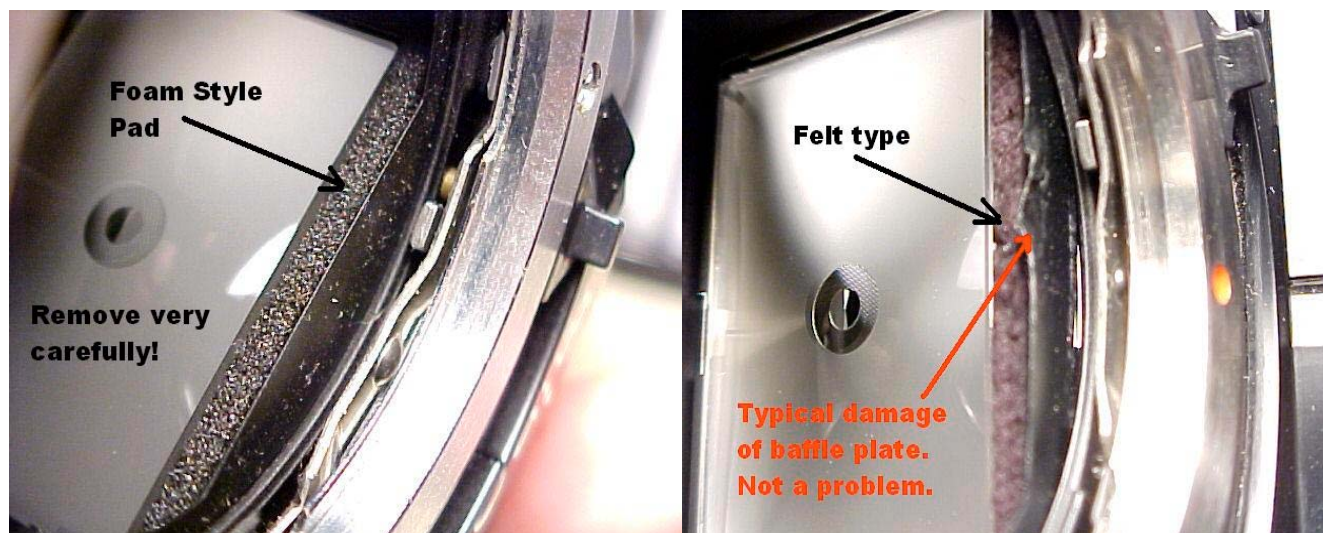
Above left, I am cleaning the film door edges with a bit of paper towel soaked in solvent. These will be dirty, and I don't want this goo ruining my new foam. To the above right, I am placing a bit of paper towel in the body slot and wetting it with solvent. I start at the film frame reset lever (about 1.25 inches from the hinge end) and I'm careful not to damage it or push anything into it. I will clean the slot on the other side of the reset lever using the same method. I will run pieces of paper towel wet with solvent through the slots until they are all clean. You will need to do this several times. Repeat this procedure for the top and bottom slots.



In the first frame above, I start a "Seal Strip" into the slot at the end. Please overlook the fact this is a Nikon...the procedure is the same for all 35mm cameras which used this seal design. 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). 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.

~~THE MIRROR DAMPER~~



Minolta hid the damper pad behind a thin plastic or metal baffle plate (yours may show some damage, but this is nothing to worry about--see frame to the right above). This baffle plate makes removing the old pad very challenging. In time, Minolta learned this made servicing the camera difficult and time-consuming, and they quit using foam pads. Above, you will see examples of the two types of damper pads Minolta used. To the left, the foam pad. To the right, the felt pad. If you have the felt pad, please leave it alone. It will **not** deteriorate over time. If you have the foam pad, and if it needs replacing, the best way to remove it is by using a small pair of tweezers and a lot of patience. Take your time, and pick the old pad out bit by bit. You may find a tiny screwdriver helps you to pick out bits of the pad, also. Please be careful not to drop any on your focus screen. Please do not use solvent...this can drip on to your focus screen and make a mess or ruin it. Once you have removed all bits of the old pad, you can cut a new one from 2.5mm thick self-adhesive open-celled foam. Replacing it will be easy. Lick the adhesive side and set it in place using the baffle as a guide.

Guess what? You're finished, and your camera is back to "like new" condition and 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 my seal material, 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. 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 15 to 20 minutes, your saliva will have dried, and you can press the piece down for a final seal.

Jon Goodman --- 2007