

ProSeal Instructions for Olympus 35RC (and possibly 35DC)

Please read these instructions completely **before** you start. Knowledge will increase your confidence, and like most jobs, this is better done right the first time. In the right frame of mind, re-sealing to be fun, and I've tried to keep things as easy and logical as possible. Sealing your camera is one of the best ways to help it perform as it should. You have been given this set of instructions for any of several reasons. You should have already read and understood the general directions which accompany my light seal kits. **Note:** These are excellent cameras, but they are not a lot of fun to clean and there are a couple of odd-shaped pieces we'll need to construct in order to restore the camera to like-new condition. More to follow...

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) Some solvent. Naphtha (cigarette lighter fluid is the same thing) or denatured alcohol are my favorites. (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 and a metal straightedge. (6) a small screwdriver (7) a pair of tweezers. Now, let's take a look inside your camera:

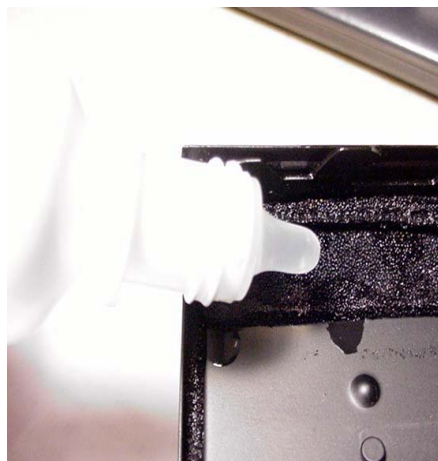


To the left, you'll see a sloping, rather triangular-shaped piece which acts to hold the film canister in place (this will not be present on one of the 35 DC models). Above that, you'll see a strip of foam on a ledge, and you will see foam strips running along the inner sides of the film door. Please note one of these strips is an odd shape. You will also see a foam piece at the hinge end...mounted onto the camera's body. Before we start, I think you should remove the film pressure plate to make things easier.

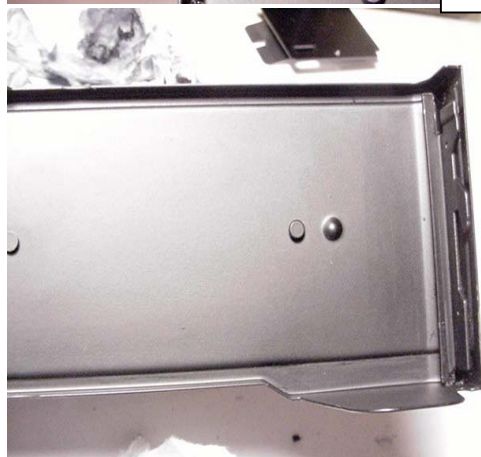


Slide the pressure plate back (moving away from the hinge end) until the tab is clear of the small button holder. Then you can "click" it away from the button holder on the other side. Please note the pressure plate must be installed with the cutout at the bottom of the film door. The film tractor wheel fits into it. Set the pressure plate aside for now.

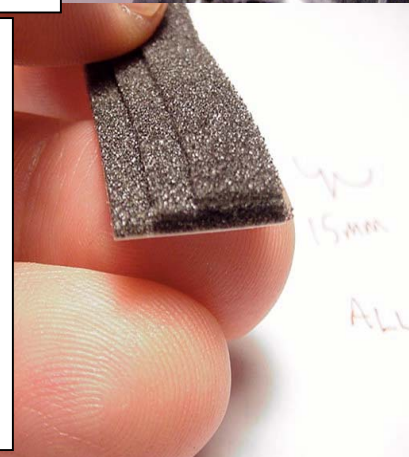
Now, we'll clean the film door. To apply the solvent, you may use a small dropper bottle like an old contact lens cleaning solution bottle, or you may drop it on with the tip of a small screwdriver. I normally use enough to saturate the old foam, but not to the point of dripping. Let it sit a minute or so and then begin scraping it off. You may use a toothpick with the end broken off, the end of your bamboo tool, a wooden cuticle stick, or a popsicle stick or coffee stirrer. Work carefully and try not to scratch the painted surface. 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. Please see below:



Left: Drop some solvent on the old foam and let it penetrate.
Right: Use the large end of your bamboo tool to loosen the old foam and remove it. After I have removed as much as possible with the bamboo tool, I will use a piece of paper towel soaked in solvent to finish cleaning. (image to right is of a Konica and not this camera, but the cleaning process is the same)



Left: It will take time and work, but I will get the film door completely clean, as you can see to the left.
Right: You can see I have begun to re-create the odd-shaped piece which holds the film canister in place. I'll tell you how I do that next...



Using 1mm thick adhesive foam, I cut a piece 43mm x 49mm. I need 4 pieces of foam...two of them are 15mm x 43mm, one is 11mm x 43mm and one is 8mm x 43mm. So I cut those pieces from the 43mm x 49mm piece. Use one of the 15mm wide pieces as the bottom. Remove the backing paper from the 11mm wide piece and laminate on top of the 15mm wide piece and then laminate the 8mm wide piece on top of those two pieces...this is exactly what I have done in the image above to the right. Then, laminate the last 15mm wide piece on top, and here is what you will have: (remember you can lick the adhesive side to allow freedom in assembly)



Image of the pieces on the next page...

The cut pieces look like this. It is far easier to cut one piece 43mm x 49mm and then cut the individual pieces so all will be the same length.

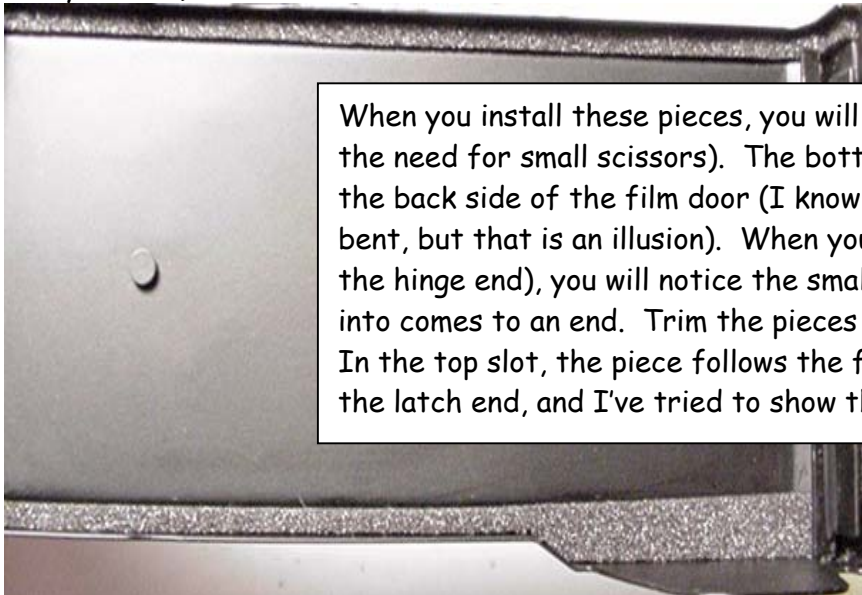


Okay, now that we've conquered that piece, let's cut the pieces for the rest of the film door. Using 1.5mm thick foam, please cut a piece about 2mm wide x about 122mm long (to allow for trimming at the end). This will be the top slot. For the bottom slot, you will see the piece is odd-shaped, and the measurements are approximately 5mm wide for about 32mm, a diagonal cut back to 2mm and then about 87mm to the end. You will need to test this piece without removing the backing paper before you install it and possibly trim with scissors. The pieces you cut will look like this:



Except...you will notice I have cut the odd-shaped piece wrong. It is upside-down, meaning I have to cut a new one which points the right way. In case you think I never make mistakes, now you can see that is not true.

So, now I will remove the backing paper, lick the pieces well...get them really wet (because this will delay the adhesive and give you time to position them without becoming a frustrated and crazy maniac)...and then I will install them. Like this:



When you install these pieces, you will need to trim them to fit (hence the need for small scissors). The bottom piece fits rather flush with the back side of the film door (I know this image makes things look bent, but that is an illusion). When you reach the end of the slot (at the hinge end), you will notice the small "trough" or slot the seals fit into comes to an end. Trim the pieces so that they stop at that end. In the top slot, the piece follows the film door up toward the top of the latch end, and I've tried to show that in this image.

After my saliva has dried (about 30 minutes to an hour), I can press them down for a final fit. After these are installed, I will install the film canister retaining pad (remember to lick it):



While I am at it, I will also install the small pad which sits above the film canister retaining pad. This is also made from 1.5mm thick foam, and it measures 49mm x 2.5mm. You can lick this piece before you install it, also. Doing this will make your work much easier and more accurate. (now you see the film door and seal both appear to be straight again.)

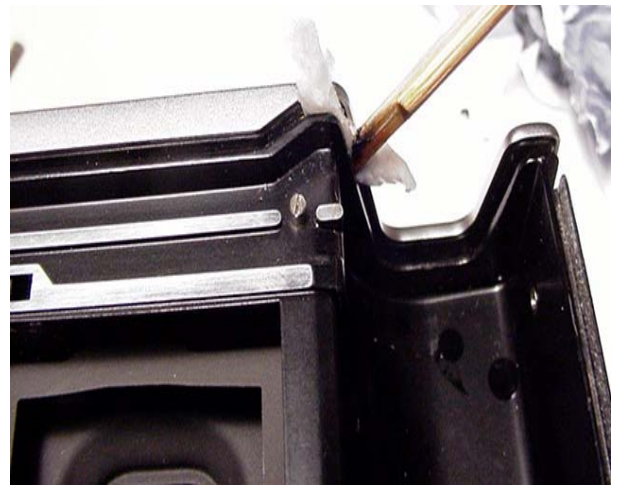
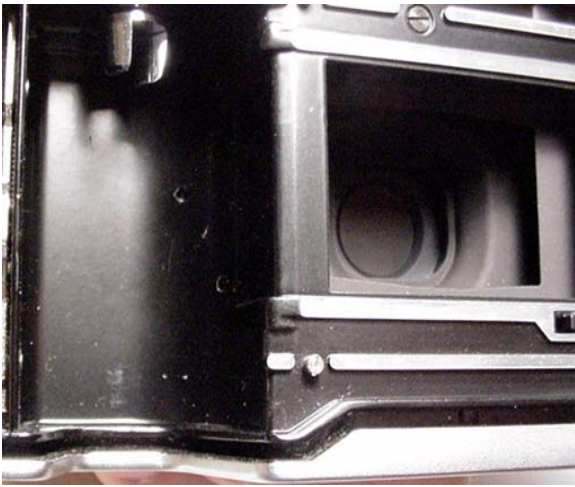


All finished on the latch end, and looking just like new again...ready to do the hinge end seal (which will be a nice easy break for you)...



In the image to the left, you will notice two things: One—you can see how I have stopped the little foam strips in their "troughs" or slots. The upper one is still wet. When it dries, I will make it straight as I press it down. Two—the hinge end seal is very simple. While the original seal was a very thin foam strip, I have chosen to use the thin adhesive fabric (velvet) material here. It is easy to use, it will seal this area excellently, and it will last for many years. The piece is 46mm x 4mm (1mm thick)...yes, lick it, also.

Okay, only one more area to re-seal, and that is the lower slot near the film canister cutout. Let's take a look:



In the image to the left above, you can see the area where the last seal material will be located. It begins apx $\frac{1}{2}$ inch past the upward leading angle of the slot, and extends back and through the cutout area. In the image to the right above, you can see how I will clean this slot out. With the thin end of your bamboo tool, push a piece of paper napkin or paper towel which has been soaked with solvent through the slot. Keep doing this until there is no more evidence of the old foam or adhesive, and then cut a piece of 1.5mm thick foam 1.5mm wide by 70mm long. Remove the backing paper, put the piece in your mouth to make it very wet and then carefully guide it through the slot. Hint: Begin at the end of the slot and work your way back through the cutout area. This will make sure you don't have to trim the piece at the end. Be careful not to let it twist or rotate as you guide it into the slot. Then let it dry very well...overnight is ideal...and then press it down with your bamboo tool.

When all is, replace the pressure plate, close your film door and let your camera sit a few hours to allow the new seals to get happy with their new surroundings. Please **do not** use inferior seal products in your cameras. Using the best costs no more, and the benefit will be less strain on your film door plus a more professional product with a longer life expectancy.

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