

ProSeal Instructions for Olympus OM-10 style SLR

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) Naphtha (cigarette lighter fluid is the same thing) or denatured alcohol for a solvent. (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. Now, let's begin working on your camera:



As you look at the hinge end, you'll see a deteriorated old foam seal there. Using solvent and a wooden or bamboo tool, clean this as per the instructions in your seal kit. Finish cleaning with some solvent on a bit of paper towel. You want the area to look clean and nice, like the camera to your left. Using wood or bamboo to remove the old seal prevents damage to the painted areas and helps keep your camera from being unsightly. We will use 1mm foam or fabric seal to replace this...either will work fine, so this is your choice.



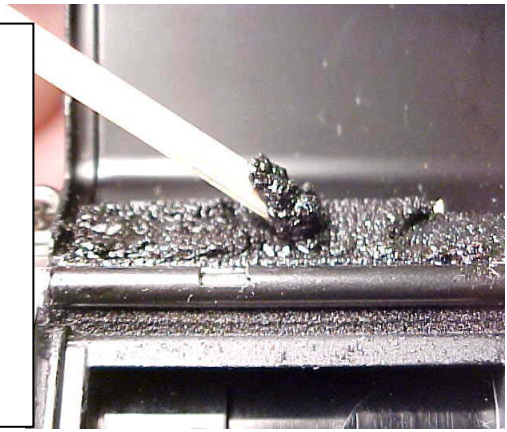
To the left, you can see I've replaced the seal with 1mm foam. Notice the strip does not extend all the way from end to end. It should end before the rail slot. Remember to lick the adhesive side of this piece to give yourself time to position it correctly. While you are working on this area, be sure to clean any old seal material from the door and its edges using paper towel and solvent.

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. I prefer Naphtha and Denatured Alcohol to other solvents, because it is safe on plastics, most paints and it evaporates slowly. If you use much of it, or if you want to keep it handy, you can store it safely in an old contact lens cleaner bottle. This will provide a handy dropper also.

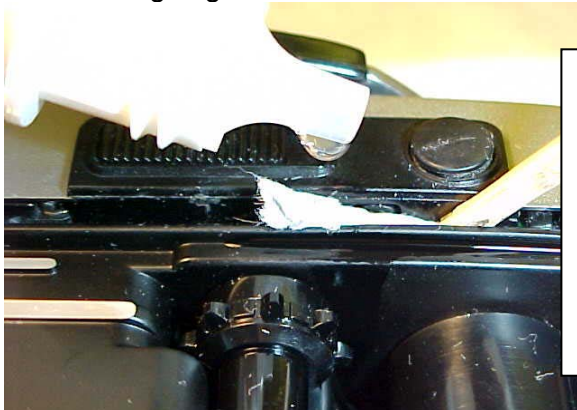
Below are two frames showing the process of removing old seal material in a Yashica. While not an OM-10, the principle is the same. Let the solvent do the work for you and take your time.



Left: applying the solvent.
Right: cleaning the old seal up with the bamboo tool. Clean both pieces of seal, on the door and on the body.
Wipe with a paper towel and solvent when finished



Now we're going to clean out the rail slots on the camera body and replace those seals. Here's how:



First, run a toothpick with the end broken off or the narrow end of your bamboo tool through the slot to remove the gunk. Repeat if needed, working away from the frame counter reset lever, and don't push old seal material into the frame counter reset area. Then run a small piece of paper towel with a little solvent on it through the slot to finish cleaning it. You'll probably need to repeat this a few times, until the slots are really clean.

Next, take a long 2mm piece of seal material from your kit and press it into the slot using your fingertip. Start at the frame counter reset lever (but don't cover it or go underneath it) and work toward the latch end. Gently press the seal into the slot with the thin end of your bamboo tool, and don't let the seal material turn or twist. Don't worry that there is no adhesive. With this seal you don't need it. I designed it so the pressure of the seal material against the channel walls will keep it in place perfectly and provide a full-channel and completely effective light baffle. Here's a picture:



When you reach the end, use a razor blade, small knife or tiny scissors to trim the excess so the strip will finish at end of the rail slot. Using the small piece left from what you just trimmed off, repeat this procedure for the part of the slot starting at the film frame reset and extending to the hinge end (or vice-versa if you prefer). Repeat for the lower slot. Now, with a blunted toothpick or your bamboo tool, trace the seal's length, pressing it gently down into its slot to seat it. Don't poke into it or damage it. Now, close your door. It is normal to feel resistance from your new seal material. Don't worry unless the resistance seems excessive. If you encounter too much resistance, make sure you got your seal material neatly tucked into the ends at each end of the slot.

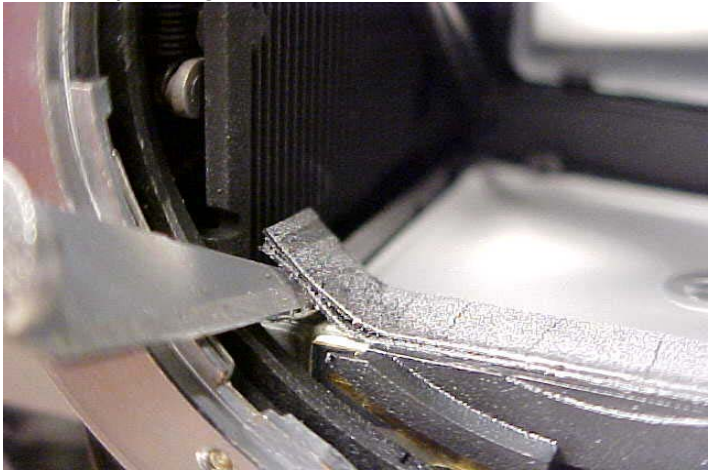
You will want to be sure to install so the glossy side of the strip (there are two glossy sides) faces upward in the slot. Next, clean the edges of the film door with a little naphtha on a piece of paper towel. They'll usually have sticky residue on them, and you don't want this to ruin your new seal.



Clean the latch end in the same fashion as you cleaned the hinge end...using solvent and your bamboo tool. When finished, wipe off with a piece of paper towel soaked in solvent. To the left is a picture of the latch end, showing there are actually three seal pieces you will need to replace. One is a simple strip of seal on a ledge. The other two are small pieces that rest under the tabs which hold the film canister in place. Be careful when cleaning these to let the solvent do your work. Use 1.5mm open-celled foam for all three. See tip below.

NOTE: When attaching the long thin strip above, attach it so the adhesive side is facing the latch side of the door. I know...the normal tendency is to want to point the adhesive strip downward toward the base of the ledge, but trust me, the strip will seal better if you use my method. How to slide the small foam pieces under the metal tabs? **Lick** the adhesive side first. This will de-activate the adhesive, and it will give you plenty of time to position them as needed.

Now for the mirror damper. This is actually easier than you might think. Let's take a look:



To the left, you can see the old cracked and dead damper. I use a common X-Acto knife to carefully lift the old damper cushion up at the tip. Then, I will gently remove it. You may use tweezers if needed. NEVER, EVER use any solvent in this area. It is too easy to make a mess of your focus screen, and that is not something that is easy to fix. Simply take your time and work carefully. Avoid distractions when you're working in here.



Above left, you can see I've removed the old damper pad. I cut the new pad from 1.5mm self-adhesive foam, **lick** the adhesive side and set it in place lightly with tweezers before pressing it down for the final fit. Hint: you can watch your work in the mirror. Another hint: If you need to clean the mirror of an SLR, use a Q-Tip with both ends covered in lint-free fabric. Secure the fabric to the shaft of the Q-Tip with a piece of tape. Wet one end with Windex and clean the mirror using almost no pressure at all...the same pressure you would use if you were touching your bare eyeball with your finger! Dry with the dry end of your Q-Tip.

Now, we're finished and ready to enjoy this camera again!

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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 cut your own seal pieces from my seal material, using the instructions in your seal kit. If you have any questions, please let me know at jgood21967@aol.com or Jon_Goodman@yahoo.com.

Jon Goodman --- 2004