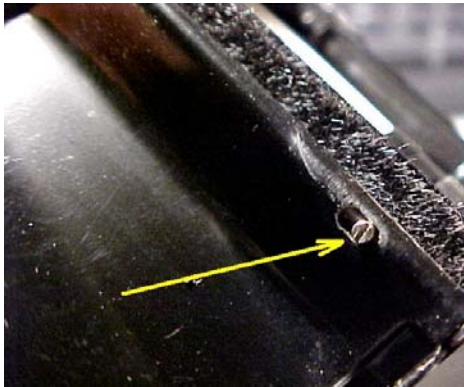


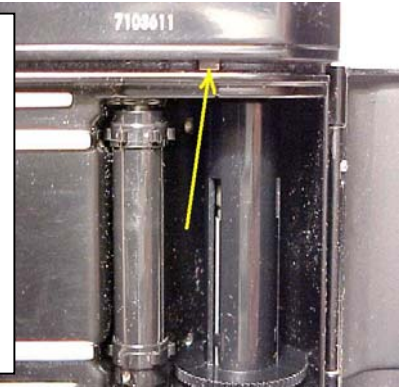
ProSeal Instructions for Pentax ME series SLR

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 popular and well-designed SLR, and the job you're doing now is very important in repairing one of its most common problems.

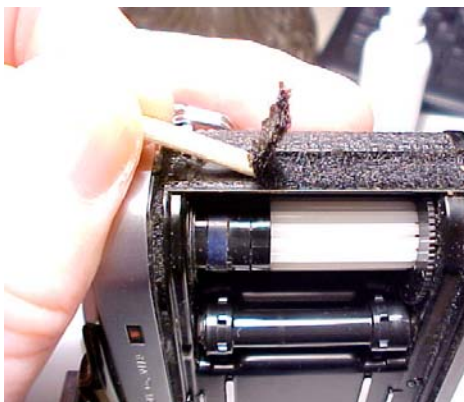
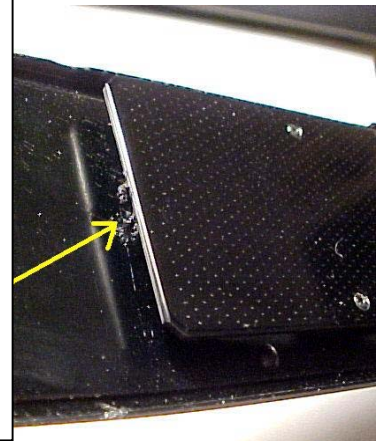
Here are some things you may need: (1) a safe surface to work on—I like to use a piece of cardboard about 1.5' by 1.5', but you can work on fiberboard, newspaper or anything else handy—the important thing is to protect the surface beneath you. (2) Naphtha (cigarette lighter fluid is the same thing) or 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 take a look inside your camera:



As you look inside the hinge area, you'll see a small screw there (as in the circle). Slide it downward, and you'll be able to remove the film door. Removing your film door will make it much easier to clean and replace the old seal material. To the right, you will see the film frame reset lever in the top slot.



As you look at your film door, you will see the old seal foam stuck to the door edges. Using a paper towel, moisten it with solvent and clean the film door edges really well. In the frame to the right, you may notice a sticky blob of seal material under the edge of your pressure plate. If so, remove and clean this off, also. Please do not remove the pressure plate...it is not easy in this model. This little 1.5mm pad may be replaced or left off...your choice.

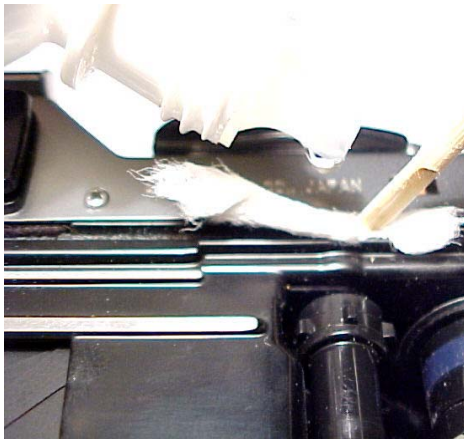
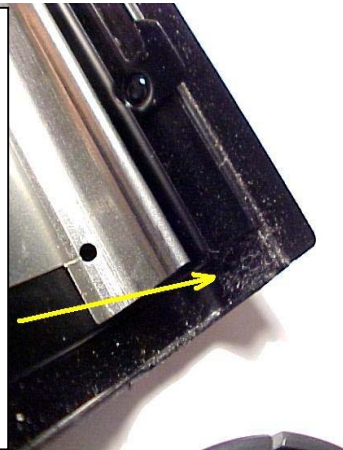


Left-saturate the old seal with solvent, let it sit a minute or two, and remove it using the large end of your bamboo tool. Once the old seal has been removed, use a bit of paper towel soaked in solvent to finish cleaning, as you see in the frame to the right. The replacement seal will measure 6mm x 48mm (1.6mm fabric seal)

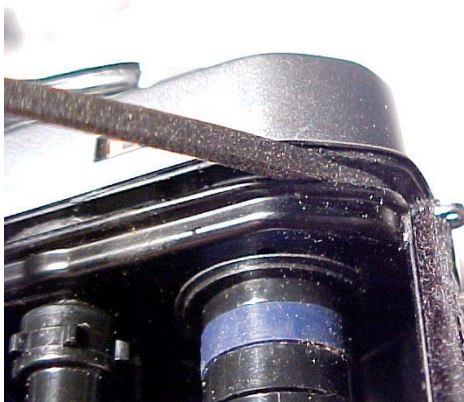




Left: The new hinge seal, installed. After you cut the piece, remove the backing paper and lick the adhesive side well to delay adhesion. Then you can slide it into place easily. After 20 minutes, your saliva will be dry, and you can press it down for a final fit. Right: On your film door, there will be two tiny seal pieces at the end. Clean and replace using the same 1.6mm fabric seal



Left: With the thin end of the bamboo tool and a bit of paper towel, clean out the film door slots completely. This will take several passes with bits of paper towel and solvent. Right: When the slots are clean, begin installing the Seal Strip at the end of the slot, glossy side facing out.

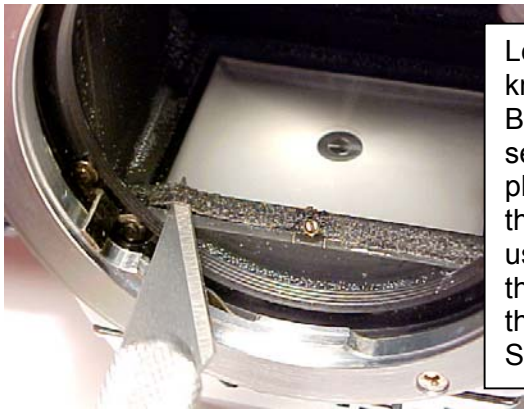


Follow around with the Seal Strip as shown, keeping it straight in the slot and pressing it gently into place with the thin end of your bamboo tool. Stop right as you reach the film frame reset lever, as shown to the right. Repeat for the other side and install a strip for the bottom slot, also.

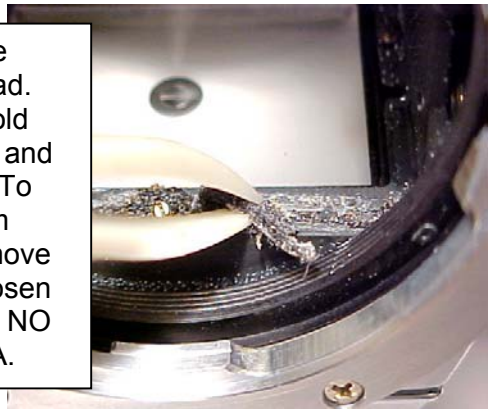


You will notice there are two curves in the film door slots. Simply go through those as I have done to the left. To the right, we will now begin work on the mirror damper pad. Yours may look like mine did, or it may be even worse. Note the tiny screw in the middle...

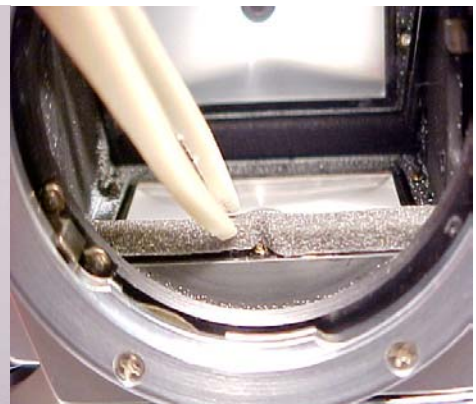
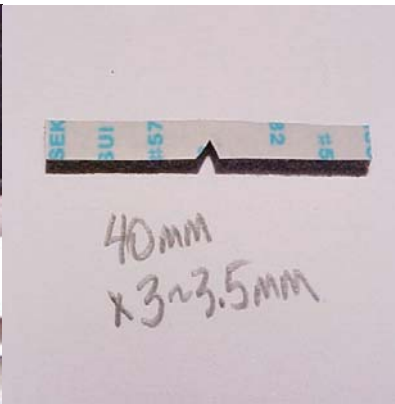




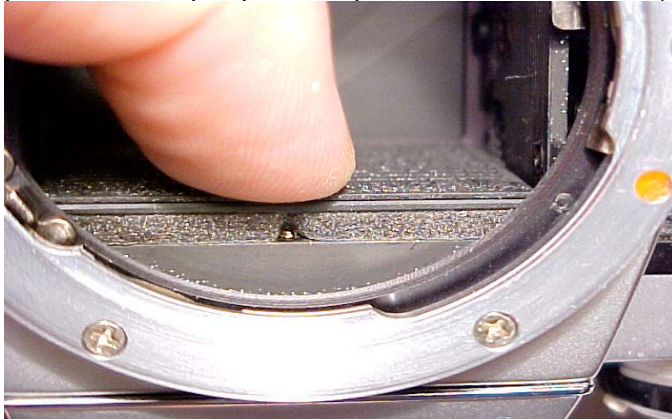
Left: I use an X-Acto type knife to remove the old pad. Be careful not to get the old seal on the focus screen, and please read note below. To the right, you will see I am using my tweezers to remove the old bits of pad as I loosen them with the knife. USE NO SOLVENT IN THIS AREA.



NOTE: Please do not place paper or tissue on your focus screen in an attempt to keep it clean. This is an amateur's mistake, and it almost always leads to problems. One: You can (and probably will) trap bits of old seal underneath it, and these will be smudged onto your focus screen. Two: this gives you a false sense of security, and this is not always a good thing. Work like a pro. Tilt the camera slightly as you work so the bits will fall out of the lens opening.



In the first frame above, you will see I have cleaned the old pad off. Please do not obsess about getting it perfectly clean. You can not use solvent here because you can ruin your focus screen too easily, so just work slowly and carefully and remove the best you can. Take your time...it is not a race. Middle frame shows the pad cut from the 2.5mm thick foam. The length is 40mm and the width is 3 to 3.5mm. In the very center, use small scissors or a very good razor to carefully cut a V notch (to expose the tiny screw). In the last frame, you can see me setting the pad in place with my tweezers. The secret to success is to lick the adhesive side of the pad well so it will not stick before you get it placed where you want it to be. Now look below to see how a professional camera repairman will press the damper pad into place once it has dried (about 20 minutes or so):



Simply lift the mirror up gently to meet the newly installed damper pad and press against it. Easy? Yes it is, and you will also provide uniform pressure so that your pad will be installed correctly, just like a pro would do it. Most people tell me they worry about replacing the damper pad the most, but that wasn't so bad, was it? Certainly not.



Only one more seal...the latch end seal. Clean the little ledge as shown to the left with paper towel and solvent. As to the right, cut a piece of 1.5mm thick open-celled foam 2mm x 43mm, lick the adhesive side, set it in place and adjust it before it dries. After a few minutes, press it down for a final fit.

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, using methods described in my general kit instructions. Your camera is a fine precision instrument, and the materials you are using have been carefully tested to be compatible with its design. You should **never** use inferior seal materials as a substitute. On the hinge end and for the tiny pieces at the latch end of the film door, I use 1.6mm self-adhesive fabric seal. You could use my 1.5mm open-celled foam seal, however I prefer the fabric in this instance. For the long thin door slots, use a "Seal Strip"—a 2mm non-adhesive strip cut from a foam product I had made especially for this purpose. For the mirror damper, use 2.5mm self-adhesive open-celled foam.

About licking the adhesive first...when you do this, you temporarily de-activate the "stickiness." This allows you time to position the piece correctly, and it keeps it from sticking to your fingers or tweezers. After 15 to 20 minutes or so, you can return and press it down again.

Jon Goodman --- 2005