

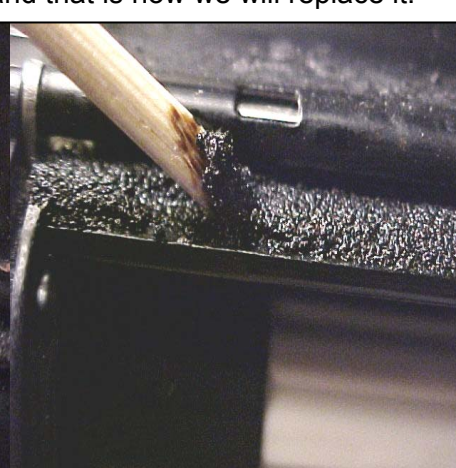
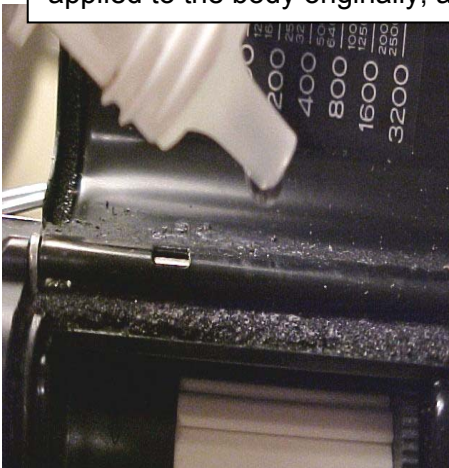
ProSeal Instructions for Sears KS 500, Ricoh KR5 and some similar Ricoh styles

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 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. Now, let's take a look inside your camera:



The first two seals for your film door are the hinge end seal (upper left), the inside radius seals (upper middle) and the latch end seal (upper right). We'll start by removing these and cleaning the areas well. It is also important to clean the edges of the film door with a bit of paper towel and solvent. The old seal is stuck to the body and film door, but there was only seal material applied to the body originally, and that is how we will replace it.

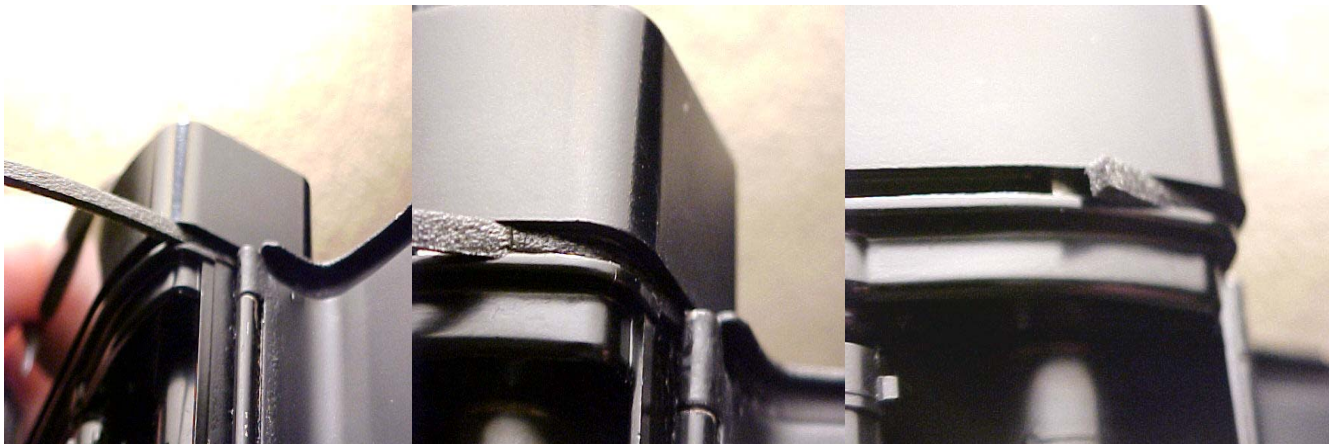


Use your small screwdriver as a dropper (or an old dropper bottle) to carefully drop denatured alcohol or naphtha on the hinge and latch end seals. I normally use enough to saturate it, but not to the point of dripping (I've used too much in the final frame above). Let it sit a minute or so and then 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. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Observe the precautions on the solvent can. Work in

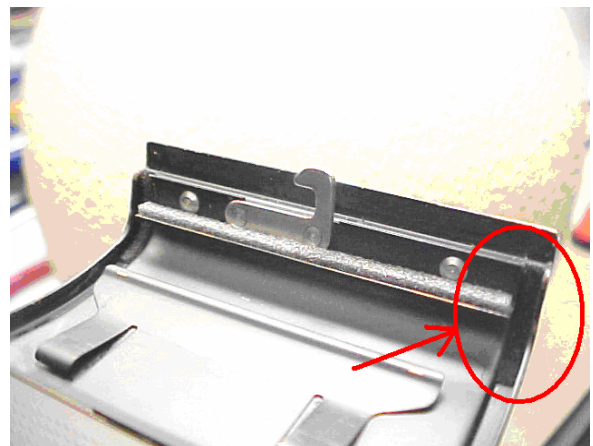
a well-ventilated area and avoid too much skin contact or contact with eyes, and don't drink it. You will probably see black seal residue on the film door edges—you may wipe that off at any time with solvent on a bit of paper towel.



Left: We'll clean the rail slots, which are the last of the seals for the film door. Put a bit of paper towel into the slot, wet it with solvent and push it through the trough with the thin end of your bamboo tool or a blunt toothpick. You may need to do this several times to get the slot really clean. I normally begin at the film frame reset lever (about 1 inch from the hinge end in the slot) and work away from it, being careful not to push any old material or solvent into it. Repeat for all parts of the top and bottom slots.

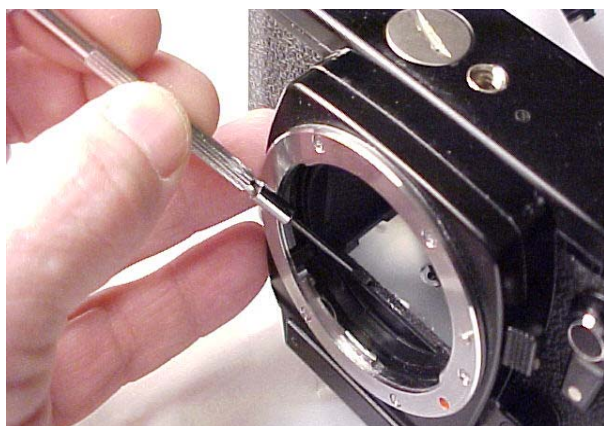


In the first frame above, I start a "Seal Strip" into the slot at the end. I push it into place with the thin end of the bamboo tool. In the second frame, I continue around the curve, and in the final frame, you can see where I have trimmed the strip so that it will end just at the film frame counter lever. I will tuck that strip in and continue the strip on the other side of the film frame counter, all the way to the latch end. Repeat for the bottom slot.



In the upper left frame above, you can see I've installed the hinge end seal on the film door. I've used a piece of 1mm thick self-adhesive fabric seal cut 51mm x 5mm. **Licking** the adhesive side of the seal piece will make it easier to install...doing this temporarily de-activates the "stickiness," and gives you time to position the piece. It also keeps it from sticking to your fingers. If you happen to get this crooked, simply moisten with solvent and let it sit for a minute or two. This will release the adhesive, and allow you to re-position the seal. When the solvent is dry, you can press the piece into place effectively. In the frame to the right above, you can see I have installed the latch end seal. For it, I used a 1.5mm open-celled self-adhesive foam cut 2mm wide x 47.5mm in length. Inside the red circle, you will also see two inner radius seals. These are 1mm thick fabric seal, and the dimensions are 1.5mm wide x 12mm long. The procedure is the same...lick the adhesive side well and set in place with tweezers. You should be able to position these pieces right where you want them as long as they are wet. After about 20 minutes, your saliva will be dry and you can press them gently down for a final fit.

~~THE MIRROR DAMPER~~



My experience with these cameras has been that the mirror damper is difficult and time-consuming to remove. However, it can be done. The problem is that there is a small ledge in front of the damper pad which prevents you from slicing it off with an X-Acto knife. So, I use a small screwdriver (as in the image upper left) and very slowly and carefully pick off parts of the old pad. A pair of angle-tipped tweezers (as in the image upper right) are also helpful to pick off pieces of the old pad. Tilt the camera so that anything that falls off will fall out the lens opening, and not toward the focus screen. If any bits fall on the focus screen, blow them off with your breath...do not use any other method. Keep at this until you have removed as much of the old pad and adhesive as possible. It will take time. Do not use any solvent here. The chance of damaging your focus screen is too great.



In the first frame to the left above, you can see I've removed as much of the old pad as possible. In the middle frame, I have installed a new damper pad. It is a piece of 2mm thick self-adhesive open-celled foam cut 2mm wide by 38mm long. Please remember to lick the adhesive side before you install it. You may set it in place with tweezers and adjust for the right position while it is still wet. Set aside for about 20 minutes to let your saliva dry and then lift the mirror up and use it to press the pad down.

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, and it will be much better for your camera.

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 20 minutes or so, your saliva will have dried, and you can press the piece down for a final seal.

Jon Goodman --- 2005