

ProSeal Instructions for Vivitar 35ES and Minolta Hi-Matic 7sII

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. I think you'll find 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 take really nice pictures. 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.

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. Denatured Alcohol or Naphtha (cigarette lighter fluid is the same thing) 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. (6) a small screwdriver (7) a pair of tweezers (8) metal straightedge to use in cutting seal pieces. Now, let's take a look inside your camera:

~~First the Vivitar 35ES~~

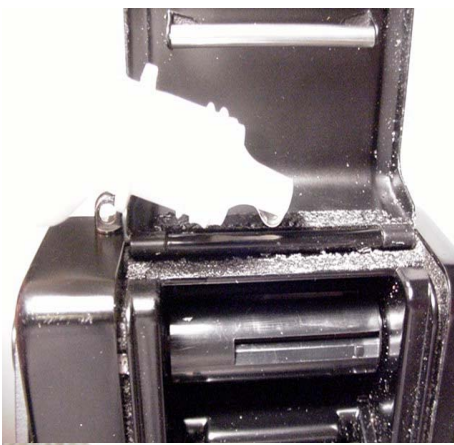


At the hinge end, you are likely to see a real mess. Generally, the old seal has deteriorated to the point where it looks like there was originally seal foam applied to both the body and the film door, but there wasn't. At the latch end, you will see a tapered foam piece which acts as light seal and film canister retainer.

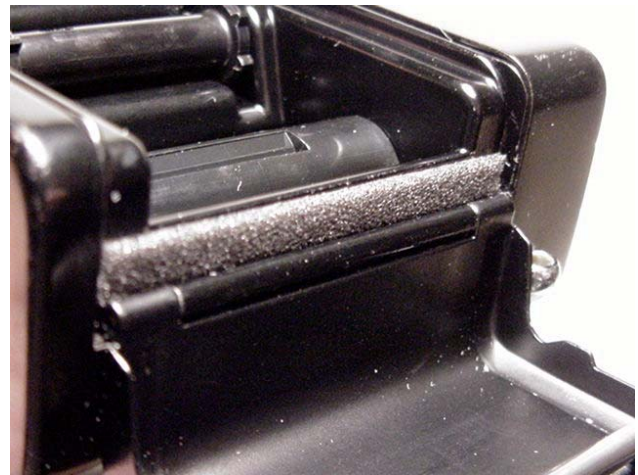


A closer view at the latch end piece. Originally this piece tapered from 6mm thick to 3mm thick and was 18mm wide by 48.5mm long. Reconstructing it will be a bit interesting, but we can do it, and the pad we'll make will work just as good as the original and last much longer. First, we're going to clean all the old foam out in preparation for the re-sealing. Please read on...

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:

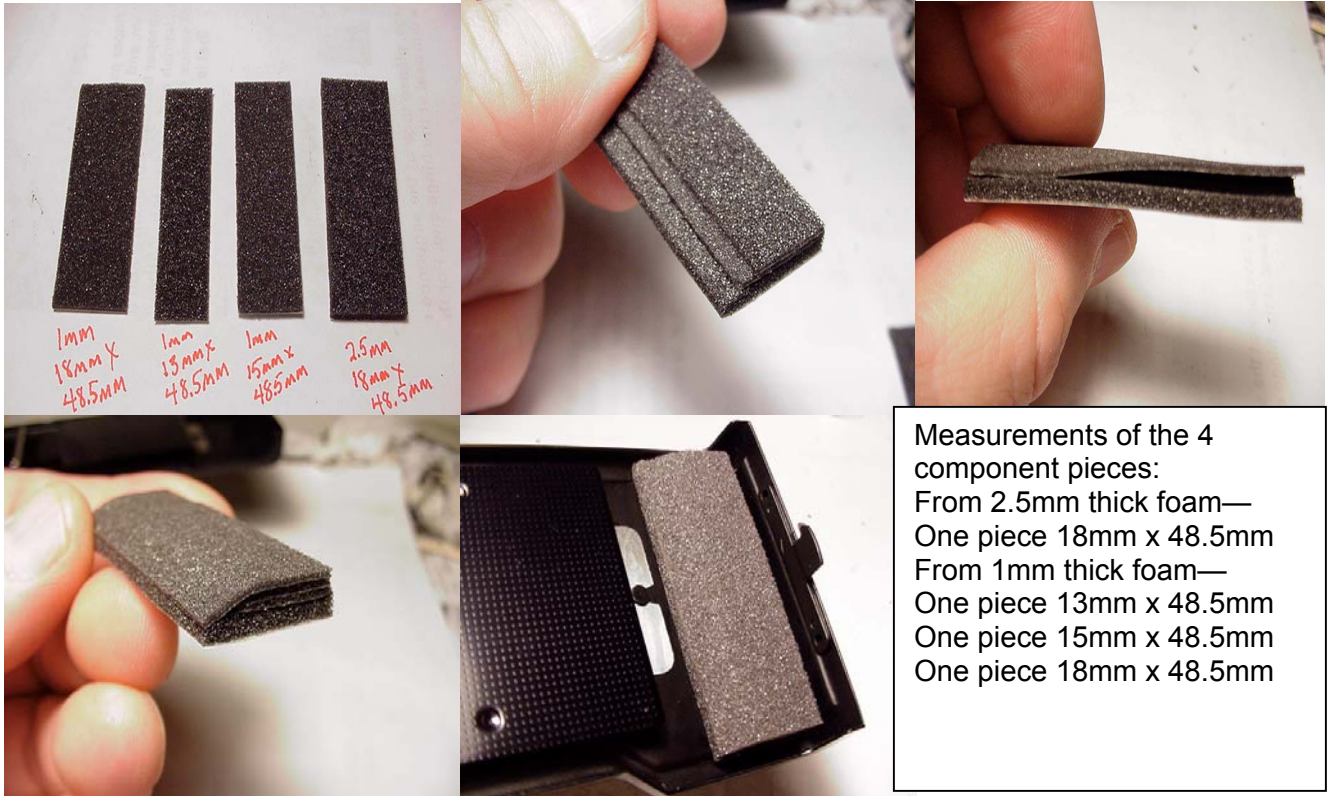


Top left-I drop solvent onto the old seal from an old dropper bottle. I use just enough to saturate it. Next, I use the wide end of my bamboo tool to loosen and remove from both the film door and camera body. I will also use a paper towel with solvent to clean this area very well. Next, I clean the film door edges well with paper towel and solvent. Next, I drop solvent on the latch end pad and remove it in the same fashion as I did the hinge end seal. Next, I clean the area very well with paper towel and solvent. You can see the cleaned area next. Finally, I run a bit of paper towel soaked with solvent through the body slots using the narrow end of my bamboo tool. Get them very clean and avoid pushing anything into the film frame counter reset lever area.



Above, you will see I've replaced the hinge end seal. Here's how that is done: First, cut a piece of 1mm thick self-adhesive foam 5mm wide x 47mm long. Remove the backing paper and lick the adhesive side very well. You will want to get this piece very moist, because you're going to slide it behind the hinge itself for a very good seal. In the first image above, you can see I have set the piece in place (do not cover the body slots). In the second image, you can see I have slid it down behind the hinge so that a thin line of the body shows above the top of the seal. Use your bamboo tool to gently slide it downward. When this is dry (it will take between 30 minutes and an hour), you can press it down for a final fit.

~~Reconstructing the Vivitar Latch End Piece~~



Measurements of the 4 component pieces:
 From 2.5mm thick foam—
 One piece 18mm x 48.5mm
 From 1mm thick foam—
 One piece 13mm x 48.5mm
 One piece 15mm x 48.5mm
 One piece 18mm x 48.5mm

As shown above, cut the 4 component pieces (measurements in the text box). Laminate the 15mm and 13mm wide pieces cut from 1mm foam onto the piece cut from 2.5mm foam. This will look like the stair-step piece in the second image above. Then laminate the 18mm piece cut from 1mm foam onto this as shown in the third image above and fold it over. The end product will look like the left hand image in the second row. Remove the backing paper from the 2.5mm piece, **lick** the adhesive side well and install it, making sure to leave a small space behind it and the film door (this provides the light seal). When dry (30 minutes to an hour), you can press it down for a final "stick".

~~Installing the long thin strips~~



As you see in the above three images, I begin with a 2mm non-adhesive "Seal Strip" at the end of the slot, tucking it in with the thin end of my bamboo tool. Install it with the coated or glossy side facing upward, and please do not worry that there is no adhesive. Sidewall pressure will keep it in place indefinitely. Do not let the strip rotate or flip over as you tuck it in. Continue around the corner and trim so the piece will end right at the film frame counter reset lever (last image above). Tuck this in and repeat for the remaining part of the top slot and the bottom slot.

If you are re-sealing the Vivitar 35ES, you're finished, and you can close your film door to let the seals set for a few hours. It is normal for the door to feel tighter than before, as you had virtually no sealing action left when you began.

~~The Minolta Hi-Matic 7sII~~

Some people think these two cameras are the same. Mechanically they are not, but from a body style standpoint, they are very similar. In fact, the only difference in the Hi-Matic 7sII is the latch end. Let's take a look and see how the two cameras differ:



Above, you will see the Minolta uses a thin metal tab to hold in the film canister, and also there is a thin metal baffle plate used to hold the latch end seal. This is very similar to the design used in the Konica Auto S2. To replace this, first clean out the old seal with solvent and bits of paper towel. Next, cut from 3mm self-adhesive foam a piece 8mm x 49mm. Remove the backing paper, **lick the adhesive side very well** and slide this piece down so the adhesive side faces the baffle piece (as shown in image number two above). In the final image, you can see I have slid the piece down so that the top of the seal rests just under the edge of the baffle piece. Once it is dry, I will press it down for a final fit with the thin end of my bamboo tool. Sometimes I will leave this overnight to dry, especially if the weather is very humid. All other parts of the Minolta are the same as the Vivitar and use the same dimensions of foam.



One final note...you will notice on both the Vivitar and the Minolta the bottom slot has a double bend in it. The "Seal Strip" is a professional solution for these slots which has been designed and cut from foam which will allow you to follow right through that "S" curve easily. You can see how I do this in the image to your left. Just gently push the strip in place using the thin end of your bamboo tool and remember to keep the coated side facing upward (as you see me doing).

Please **do not** use inferior seal products in your cameras. Using the best costs no more, and there is no substitute for a job professionally done with professional quality materials.