

ProSeal Instructions for Yashica Electro 35 Series

Please read these instructions completely before you start. Confidence increases with knowledge, 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. You're working on a great rangefinder with excellent capabilities, and the job you're doing now is very important in repairing one of its most common problems. You have been given this set of instructions for any of several reasons, and I think you 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. Naphtha (cigarette lighter fluid is the same thing) or denatured alcohol. (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:



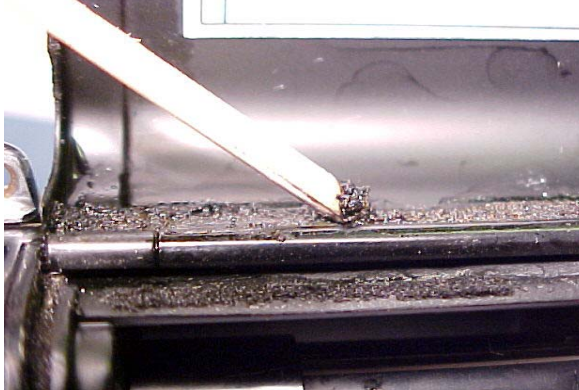
At the top of the interior, just beneath the top plate, you will see a long thin rail slot. There is a corresponding slot at the bottom. About an inch or so from the right hand side, you will see the frame counter reset lever (inside the slot). It is important not to cover this with seal material or run any material underneath it. There will be a seal at the hinge end, too. It may be on the door, or on the camera body. I have seen it located in both places, possibly depending on when the camera was produced, who may have re-sealed it along the way, etc.



Not to be forgotten, at the latch end there are two seals. One of which you will replace, and one of which you need not worry about. There are little seals that wrap their way around the inside radius of the film door. The fabric seal running along the latch channel should be okay...these last a long time. One is wider, one is more narrow. In this camera, it appears the assembler (or somebody) got lazy and simply used the narrow seal on both sides. For your reference, the measurements are 3mm x 21mm and 4.5mm x 21mm. The fabric seal has little "flaps" which sit atop the seals.

Now we need to clean up the old gummy goey junk. You will probably see black seal residue on the camera body and the film door edges. Use your small screwdriver as a dropper to carefully drop solvent on the hinge end seal, or you may use a small dropper bottle like an old contact lens cleaning solution bottle. 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 wide end of your bamboo tool, a wooden cuticle stick, or you may use the tip of your small screwdriver. 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:



Pretty unimaginative work, but you need to be careful not to scratch the paint. You can see old seal material stuck to the film door and the camera body. In this case, I'm going to replace the seal on the film door, as that is clearly where it was originally located. I'm going to use the 1.5mm open-celled foam, and the strip I will cut is 3.5mm wide x 52mm long. 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.



Left, cleaning the hinge seal area with a piece of paper towel soaked in solvent. To the right, I'm doing the same thing to the film door edges. There will be old sticky material left here, and I don't want it to foul my new seal strips. You may also wipe the film pressure plate with solvent to clean it.



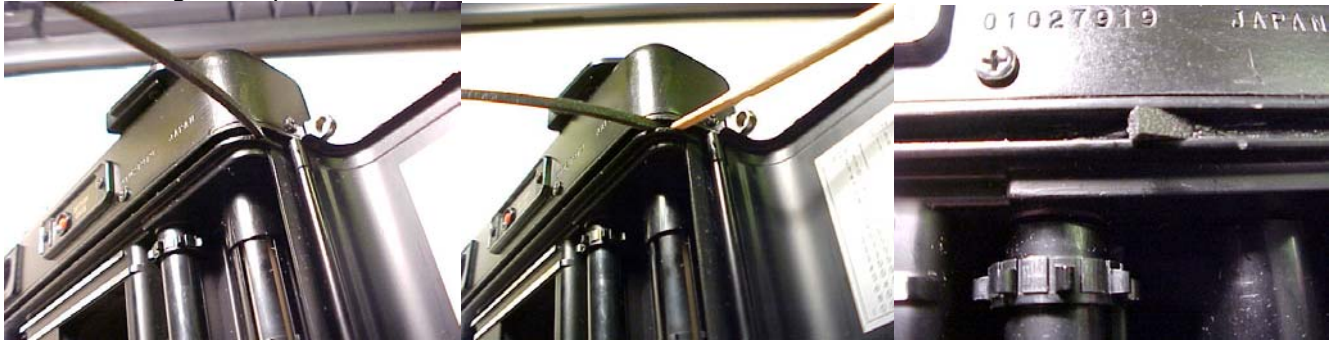
Now we're going to clean out the rail slots on the camera body and replace those seals. Here's how:



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. Be careful not to 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 may need to do this several times to get the slot fully cleaned.

Next, take a long 2mm piece of seal material and press it into the slot using your fingertip. Start at the hinge end and work toward the film frame counter. 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. 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. When you reach the frame counter lever, use a razor blade, small knife or tiny scissors to trim the excess so the strip will finish at end of the rail slot. Repeat this procedure for the part of the slot starting at the film frame reset and extending to the latch end. Repeat for the lower slot, using a single long piece. Now, with a blunted toothpick 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 both rail slot end. Here are three images for you to see:



Let's replace the hinge end seal. Remember the dimension I used was 3.5mm x 52mm. Lick or moisten the adhesive side of the piece after removing the paper backing. This will give you time to position it neatly.



The hinge end seal installed, as shown below (left). Position it neatly along the door's edge.



The latch end seal installed, as shown above (right). Please lick or wet these before installing to allow time to adjust for position.

Now, close your film door and let your camera sit a few hours or overnight to allow the new seals to get happy with their new surroundings. You may use the 1/16" fabric seal or the 1.5mm open-celled sponge in this camera with equal success. The 1.5mm open-celled foam more closely matches what was originally used in your Yashica. Please do not use inferior seal products on 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.

~~NOTES~~

(a) The early Electro 35 (G Model) had a film canister cutout on the film door & body. Simply follow around the contour of this slot (after cleaning out old material) with your longer 2mm non-adhesive strip, and you'll be sealed up nicely.