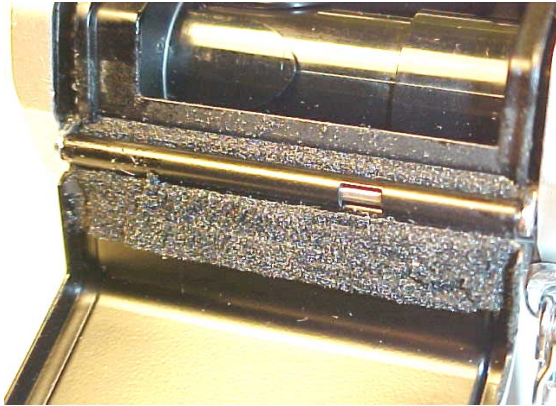


ProSeal Instructions for Yashica FR II style SLR

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 take a look inside your camera:

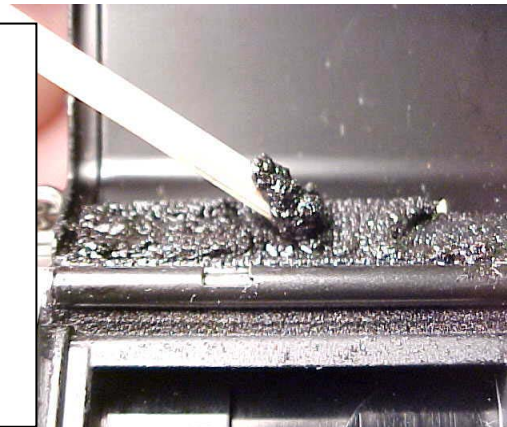


As you look at the hinge end, you'll see the much wider than normal seal material is applied to the film door and the body (near the hinge). Along the top and bottom of the film door, you'll see flanges which fit inside long thin slots on the body. There is seal material in there, although it has probably quit working long ago. At the latch end, there is also a seal we'll replace, and if you remove the lens and look at the area up toward the front of the focus screen, you'll see seal material there, too. Sound like fun? It will be. Let's see...

You will probably see black seal residue on the camera body and the film door edges—you may wipe that off at any time with solvent on a bit of paper towel. Use your small screwdriver as a dropper to carefully drop naphtha (lighter fluid) or denatured alcohol on the hinge end seal. I normally use enough to saturate it, but not to the point of dripping. Let it sit 2 to 5 minutes 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. I prefer Naphtha to other solvents, because it is safe on plastics, most paints and it evaporates slowly. It is also very good for watch repair and electronics use. 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 neat dropper also. Take a look:



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





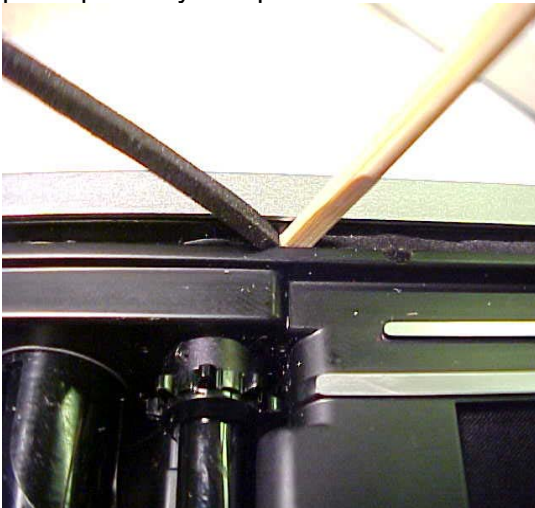
Install the seal on the film door, leaving a small space at each end. Lick the adhesive side of the seal piece which fits under the hinge (or moisten with solvent). This will temporarily “free” the adhesive so you can slide it underneath, making sure it is level with the edge of the body. Wait about 30 minutes for the piece to dry and then press it into place. The seal material used on this camera’s hinge is wider than normal. On the body (under the hinge), I’m using 1mm seal, and on the film door, I’m using 1.5mm seal foam.

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



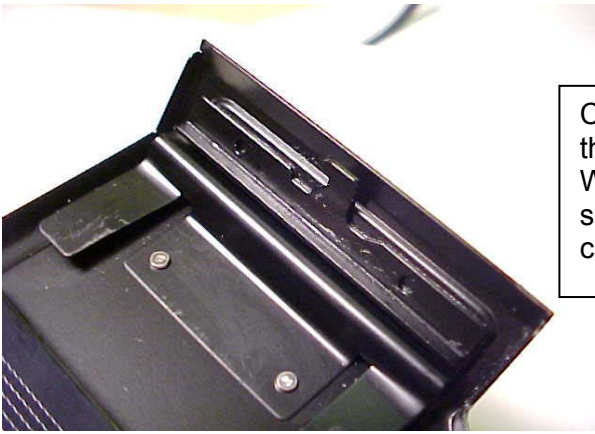
First, run a toothpick with the end broken off or the narrow end of your bamboo tool through the slot to remove the gunk. Repeat if needed, working away from the frame counter reset lever, and don’t push old seal material into the frame counter reset area. Then run a small piece of paper towel with a 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. 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 foul your new seal.

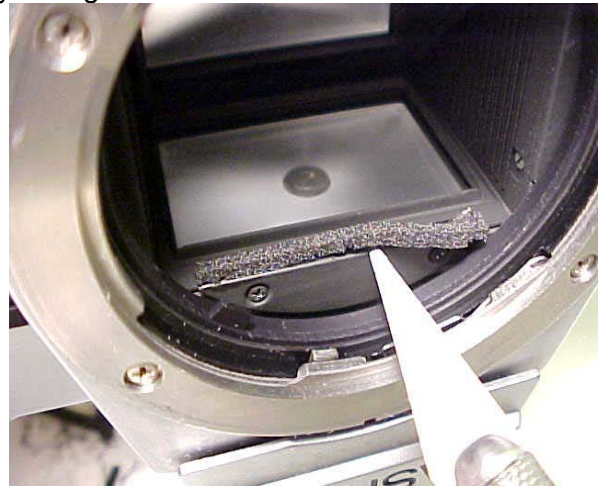
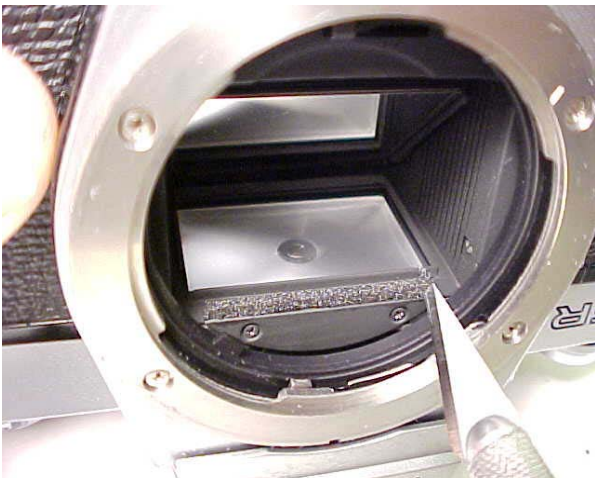


Clean the latch end in the same fashion as you cleaned the hinge end...using solvent and your bamboo tool. When finished, wipe off with a piece of paper towel soaked in solvent. To the left is my latch end, nicely cleaned and ready to accept the new seal material.

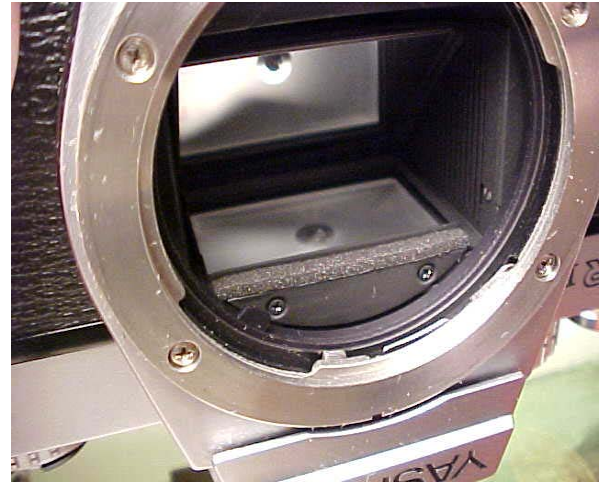
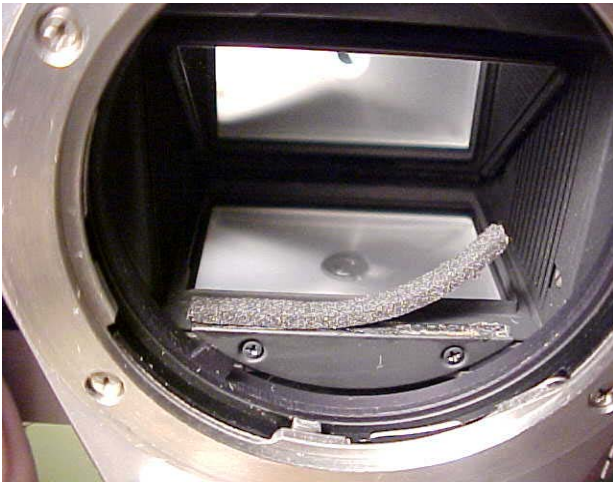


Use a thin piece of 1.5mm foam for the ledge running the width of the door. NOTE: Attach this with the adhesive side facing the upturned part of the mount. I know, you want to attach the sticky side "down," but it won't work as well this way. To each side of the film door, use the 1mm thick velvet feeling pieces of self-adhesive material. Remember to lick the adhesive side of these pieces before you install them to de-activate the "stickiness," and make them easier to adjust.

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



To the left, I use a common X-Acto knife to cut the old damper cushion off. To the right, I continue with the cut all the way to the end, and then lift the old damper cushion out with the blade tip or tweezers. Be careful not to let it fall back onto your focus screen, and 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, I've started installing the new mirror damper...it is 1.5mm open-celled foam. I lick the adhesive side, set it in place with tweezers, align it against the rear edge of the little metal shroud and carefully guide it into place 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, 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 see little depressions in the seal material after it "sets," particularly if you used the neoprene type seal material. This is normal...your seal material is doing just what it is supposed to be doing, and the product will be a very effective light seal for years to come.

~~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 cut your own seal pieces from my seal material. In order to duplicate the original design and dimensions for the hinge end seal, I used 1mm self-adhesive foam on the body and 1.5mm self-adhesive foam on the film door, but my personal preference would have been to use 1mm fabric on both places. For the long thin door slots, use a "Seal Strip"—a 2mm non-adhesive strip cut from a foam I had made especially for this purpose. For the mirror damper and latch end seal, you may use 1.5mm self-adhesive open-celled foam, and for the small areas next to the latch end seal, use 1mm self-adhesive fabric seal.