

35mm Film to 120 Spool Adapter

Prologue

This adapter has top and bottom parts which exactly centers the 35mm film canister. Combined, the dimensions are the same as a 120 spool, and the film is fully exposed, sprocket holes and all, leading to interesting effects.



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Using this enables the use of films not available in 120 format such as infrared, CineStill, and other specialty films.

Installation

Note: do not force the adapters in. They should slide in with little force or can be wiggled in with slightly more effort. Using force can break the prongs.

The adapter comes in two parts. The bottom part, with the long prongs, goes into the bottom of the film canister. The top part, which has a recess as well as prongs, goes into the top of the film canister. Align the prongs with the tabs inside the canister before pushing in. The adapter should be a light friction fit on most commercial 35mm canisters. If it is a bit loose, a bit of tape or a spot of nail polish (let it dry thoroughly first!) applied to the prongs can increase the friction.

Some custom-loaded and bulk-loaded 35mm canisters have thicker walls than commercial 35mm canisters. In these, the adapter may be an overly tight fit and some sanding of the rim around the end of the prongs with a nail file may be necessary to get a light friction fit.

Operation

1. Tape over the red film number window (on the back of nearly every 120 camera) with opaque black tape so the film is not exposed through there.
2. Start the film by bending the leader over flat to put in a crease. Insert into the take-up spool and wind 4 turns. Close the camera and wind another 2 turns to get fresh film in place.
3. The film must be blindly advanced about 1-1/2 turn of the knob after each picture (for 6x6, more for 6x9 or other formats). If the knob can spring back, you may need to put a rubber band over the knob so it doesn't unwind itself between shots.
4. Most 120 cameras do not have a rewind knob. This means that once loaded, the film can be shot until the end of the film is reached and the advance knob stops. At this point, **you need to use a darkroom or changing bag to open the camera and manually rewind the film back into the canister** (the adapter makes a convenient rewind knob).
5. When you take or send the film in, you must request "process only" and "do not cut".

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