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Serving Pro Fotogs, Pro Labs, Schools & Hobbyists with Quality Photographic Bargains since the 1980's

(1 of 7) Keeping Qualities of this Bulk Film:

Aerographic Plus-X 9.5 inch width & Panatomic-X 5 inch width

This Great Film was Special Ordered with a Large Quantity of Silver, is Extremely Durable and Resistant to improper storage. Just keeping it cool below 70° F it will last 10 - 15 years or more. With normal Refrigeration 20 - 30 years or more. If Frozen your Grandchildren will be shooting it. (If you leave any)

(2 of 7) Our Proper Storage & Unconditional Guarantees:

As you probably know that in the last 25 or so years of sharing our finds with fellow Photographers, that we have Always Properly Cold or Frozen Stored all Heat sensitive materials.

On top of that we have Always had a No Hassle Unconditional Guarantee. Basically, if you don't want it for Any Reason, we don't want you to have it. You alone determine whether you are happy with it or not.

You get 100% Merchandise Credit for the returned item plus the Shipping cost. You can't lose. It's a Win-Win proposition for you. You may apply this credit to any item we have within 1 year.

(3 of 7) ESTAR vs Acetate:

Regular film base is acetate. This Film Base is the Superior ESTAR. It resists swelling or shrinking due to Humidity. It won't expand or contract either vertically or horizontally like acetate will.

It's thinner than acetate sheet film but is more rigid. It has less tendency to buckle. Therefore the entire Negative remains in focus.

(4 of 7) Developing:

Film exposure, developing & chemicals used will be virtually the same as for standard Kodak, Ilford, etc., equivalent roll films.

This was manufactured to roll film specifications not sheet film specs. So the best Exposure & Developing times will be closer to standard Plus-X (or Panatomic-X) roll film recommendations than for Sheet film. The variables are the type & size of tank used or if tray developed. A Developing Sheet will be included with your film.

The Film Base has a Roll Film Dye added to the base, so there will be more density than there usually is in sheet film. The bottom line is that these great films exhibit a great deal of detail in the shadow area & High-lights. More so than similar type sheet films.

(5 of 7) Cutting: (Do waste a short length & work in the daylight to get a feel for cutting.)

It's Not difficult to trim down for sheet or roll film use. But Preparation is very important! You will need:

- 1) A Clean work area.
- 2) Wear clean, thin cotton Lab gloves. (Either washable or throw away.)
- 3) Place a sheet of clean paper under the film & ontop the cutting board to prevent scratches.

It's best to place the film emulsion side up when cutting to prevent scratches to the emulsion.

- 4) Don't slide film around. Carefully collate & then place on the cutting board.

The following is just one of the many ways to trim this bulk film. Cutting it with a standard paper cutter works for making both sheet film or roll film.

(This is the one with a handle at one end of a blade & it pivots at the other end. I prefer this type.)

The other type is a Rotary type cutter, with a rolling cutting blade. Either will work to cut sheet film but The rotary cutter may be troublesome cutting roll film widths because of the length of film needed.

Roll Film: (Use your favorite roll film as a guide)

Length is not as important but width is fairly critical. Cut length needed. Can be rolled out on a table & Cut with scissors or knife. Set cutter to width needed. (2.45 inches for 120/220 Film) Then take 2 or 3 Swipes or so, depending on the size of your cutter. Be careful not to cut all the way down to the blade Stop. This will result in a tear. (120 film is 2.41 to 2.45 in wide x 31.7 - 33.4 long; paper backing 58 in L)

Sheet Film: (It's best to use the sheet film that works well in your holders as a guide)

Set your Paper guide to the widest trim (About 5 in for 4x5). Make a wooden/cardboard/etc., strip 1 inch wide for 4x5 sheets, 2 in for 8x10, etc. Tape this strip at top next to paper guide. Cut the 5 inch length first. Drop the strip (spacer) next to the paper guide, turn your film 90 degrees & cut the 4 in width. Please note: The Film Size refers to the holder size. 4x5 holder takes film that's about 1/16th in smaller.

Of course there are many other ways, such as setting up a hand crank type system with a slitter & cutting it to various widths all at once.

One Fotog has a homemade motorized setup. I think it's a 1/10 HP motor. He cuts 4 - 2.375 inch widths (120/220 size) at a time on the 9.5 inch wide Plus-X (The ANSI standard width is 2.41 - 2.45 inches. So His film is about 1/32 to 1/16 inch narrower. He claims it works ok.) Use the Paper width of your other Film. 120 film with a length of 32½ inches needs a Paper length of about 58 inches.

With the 5 inch wide Panatomic-X he also makes 1 slit for the 2.5 inch widths for 2 - 120, 220, 620, etc. He then uses a knife & cuts the length. (This is a little wider than ANSI standards but it works for him.)

There is also a business opportunity to sell all the old & new sizes to Fotogs who like to shoot old cameras or just want something special like this film.

(6 of 7) Perforations:

The 9-1/2 inch wide Plus-X is Un-Perfed. The 5 Inch wide Panatomic-X have perfs on both sides just like a 35mm roll. Each perf side uses about 3/16 inch or 3/8 inch total of both sides. $5" - 3/8" = 4 \frac{5}{8}$ inch without perfs.

You will notice I didn't say $4 \frac{5}{8}$ Usable, because with close to 25 years experience & hundreds of satisfied customers, we've found that you can use the whole width for 4x5 or 5x7 sheets. It can be fed into a holder with the perfs intact. However you must exercise a little patience until you get used to it. This is thinner & requires a gentle touch.

You will lose little or nothing in the image area, because the normal film holder takes about that much around the edges. This Estar base is quite different than normal film base. More "rigid", stiffer, flexible yet keeps flat, etc.

(7 of 7) Paper Backing for 120, etc. roll film:

For paper backing save your own, gather from other Fotogs, or (The easiest) go to or call any Pro Lab for the rolls & paper backing. Most are extremely happy to get rid of their "waste" for free.

For smaller than 2-1/4 inch wide (120/620 size) just trim to width needed. The numbers won't match up in the small red viewing window. That can be overcome by using a Sharpie Fine Point Permanent Marker to print the appropriate frame number on the backing.

More Tips:

Paper Backing: Thanks to Josh! "In the animation world, a specific kind of paper is used for light-sealing frames - EXETER paper. It is completely black and light-tite, matte on one side, glossy on the other, and is as thin as the usual film paper." Exeter Paper-Glossy Black 26" X Footage \$1.50 per ft. Cartoon Colour, USA Phone: 800-523-3665 or Fax: 310-838-8467. Email: sales@cartooncolour.com http://www.cartooncolour.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=302 They'll ship anywhere.

See in the Dark: Another tip: For those who get claustrophobic in a totally dark darkroom; One Photographer bought night vision type goggles & uses Infrared lighting. Said it work very well with all but Infrared film. He sees everything he is doing.

Have fun shooting & developing! Ed mrfoto1@comcast.net info@mrfoto1.com