

MERCURY POLAROID 600 FILM BACK INSTRUCTIONS

Film Types

This back accepts vintage Polaroid 600 film as well as the new Polaroid 600 film, in color or black and white. Because it utilizes its internal battery and not the battery in the film pack, this back is compatible both with normal and i-type film. I-Type film packs lack a battery and are thus less expensive to purchase (and more ecologically sound to use).

Charging

You will need to charge the back's internal battery before use, and recharge it frequently. Use the included USB adapter to supply the proper charging power, plugging it into the top of the back. The red LED will illuminate to indicate that the back is charging.

The red LED was designed to turn off when the back is fully charged, but this circuitry isn't very sensitive and doesn't always function properly. Some backs have an LED that will flash after charging, and some remain on indefinitely. In any case, it takes about 90 minutes to fully charge the battery.

This back, due to its internal circuitry, has a high self-discharge rate. This means that if it sits unused, it's battery will drain quickly-- on the order of a day or two. This is not indicative of a failing battery. Just remember to charge just before use.

If you find that you need to recharge more frequently than you wish, you can keep your back fully charged at all times by adding a small USB battery bank and keeping it plugged in, either in your gear bag or even on your camera (if you mount a battery bank to its side with velcro, etc.).

Mounting and Focusing

This back mounts on any Graflok / Standard / International 45 mount camera. This includes most, but not all, 4x5 cameras.

It places the film plane 40mm farther back than normal. This means that you will need to compensate by removing 40mm in front of the film plane. On a bellows camera, simply move your front standard 40mm back/shorter. On a Mercury camera, remove 40mm of front spacing. Rigid cameras of other types may not be able to accomplish this.

To focus using ground glass, you can either use your standard ground glass to compose and focus while your front standard is in its usual position, and then move it 40mm back when you mount your Polaroid back, or you can utilize our matching ground glass back (sold separately) and always keep your front standard 40mm back. Just use our ground glass back to focus and compose, then swap it for the Polaroid back to expose.

Shooting and Developing

Be sure to open the darkslide when you are ready to expose a photo, and then promptly close it again! The darkslide opens by pulling it *downward*.

After you have exposed your photo, press and hold the Eject button on the top of the back until it whirs to life! It should then eject your photo. The shield that covers your photo should be carefully rolled back over the photo and allowed to snap back into the back.

Try to keep your newly developed photo out of bright, direct sunlight while it develops (the full process generally requires about 30 minutes).

Troubleshooting

- If you find that only the first couple of photos from a pack eject, and no more actually come out when you press Eject, you have a “sticky film pack,” a common problem. This video should help you solve it: <https://vimeo.com/20920591>
- If nothing happens when you press and hold Eject, your battery is likely dead. It must be recharged often. Also note that sometimes a charging session doesn't complete all the way and you need to unplug and replug the charger to initiate another session.
- If the back struggles to eject the initial cardboard darkslide from a film pack, your battery may not be fully charged. Sometimes the mechanism just needs a little help: pull the cardboard through the top of the back. It should work fine for the ordinary photos.
- If you aren't getting an image on your exposed photos, you may have forgotten to open the darkslide on the bottom of the back before exposing. Photos can also take a long time to develop.