

Mercury Instax Wide Motorized System: Operating Instructions

Shoot the wildly popular Instax format with full creative control and any lens your heart desires! Our Instax Wide Motorized system is available in two standalone camera configurations, as Graflok 45 back, and as a Graflok 23 back. These instructions apply to all versions.

Door latching: To unlatch the rear door, turn the latching knobs counter-clockwise and lift the door out. To lock the door in place, turn the latching knobs clockwise. If you have trouble getting the knobs to turn into the locking position, your screws may be too tight. Similarly, if the knobs aren't holding the door tightly to the back of the Instax body, their screws may be too loose. These screws can be adjusted with a phillips screwdriver.

Power: The ejection/developing mechanism requires three AAA batteries, which should be inserted as indicated in the battery compartment on the right side of the camera. Simply pull off the battery compartment cap to access the battery compartment. When storing the camera for extended periods, you should always remove the batteries from the compartment, to avoid the risk of corrosive leaking.

When not in active use, the square switch on top of the camera should be switched off (the "O"). When you have exposed a frame and are ready to eject/develop it, turn the square switch on (the "|").

Shooting: When shooting in bright daylight, it is important to leave the darkslide partially in the camera to avoid the possibility of side light leaks due to the extreme sensitivity of the film and the nature of the light blocking system. A line on the darkslide indicates when you have pulled the darkslide out far enough to expose your shot. If the line is missing or fades, you can easily re-draw it with a Sharpie marker. Alternately, you can replace the darkslide with light-proof tape along its opening in dim light. With this method you can simply shoot without a darkslide, provided you don't need to remove the back or change lenses.

Ejection/Processing: Press and hold the green button when you are ready to eject your photo (make sure your darkslide has been fully inserted first!). The green LED will light up and you will hear the internal gears and levers working. The photograph should emerge from the top of the camera. Continue to hold the button until just after you hear a "click" or "snap" in the mechanism. This occurs just after the photograph stops moving (i.e., has been fully ejected). If let go too early, you'll find that the mechanism is still grasping your photo, preventing you from removing it from the top of the camera. In this case, simply press the green button again very briefly to complete the ejection cycle and release your photo. If you hold the green button too long, the mechanism can begin to push the next photograph up, which will result in an image shift in your next photo (or a dark sliver where the ejection arm has begun to block the frame). With just a tiny bit of practice, however, you'll be able to get the timing perfect. There is a margin of error, and the mechanism has been timed to move slowly, making this easy.

Frame Counting: The Mercury Instax Motorized system does not include a built-in frame counter. Each kit is shipped with a small vinyl sticker with numbers from 1-10. This sticker may be placed anywhere on the back if desired, and any adhesive mark may be devised to keep track of the current frame count if the user desires.

White Dot in Photos: If strange white dots appear on your images, this is usually a sign of tiny fragments contaminating your rollers. Clean the rollers using a microfiber cloth moistened with lens cleaning solution or rubbing alcohol. Press the cloth against the exposed sections while running the ejection mechanism. Persistent problems can be solved by actually running a moistened microfiber cloth through the ejection mechanism. See the Mercury supplemental document on roller cleaning for more information.