

Frugal Photographer™

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Your source of unusual and hard-to-find photographic materials and supplies on the World Wide Web since September 1, 2001.

Re-spooling 127 film

If you salvage the spools and backing paper from outdated or processed rolls of 127 film, you can re-spool them quite easily.

For your convenience, Frugal Photographer offers pre-cut film of the correct width and length for reloading. The package includes

- ten 635mm x 46mm lengths of ISO 160 color print (standard C-41 process) film in a light-tight, sealed metal container
- ten sets of pre-printed, self-adhesive labels.

You must supply lengths of ½" to ¾" masking tape for taping the film end to the backing paper. You will need scissors and either a dark room or a dark-bag in which to handle the light-sensitive film.

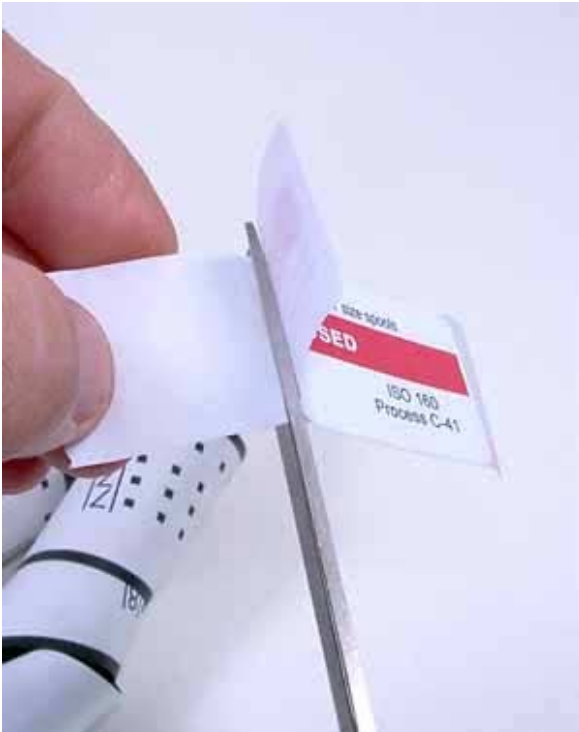
If you want to re-spool your own film, use unperforated film that is 46mm wide and cut it into strips that are about 24" in length.



Step 1 (This can be done in room light)

Set aside a pre-cut length of masking tape for use in step 4 (below). It should be about 45mm (1-3/4") long, or a little shorter. Put it where you can reach it in the dark.

Locate the tail end of your backing paper. The tail end is the end which is on the outside of the roll after the roll has been completely exposed. It should have the word "Exposed" or "EXP" printed on it.



Trim half of the liner off the "Exposed" label, leaving half of the label with the adhesive uncovered.

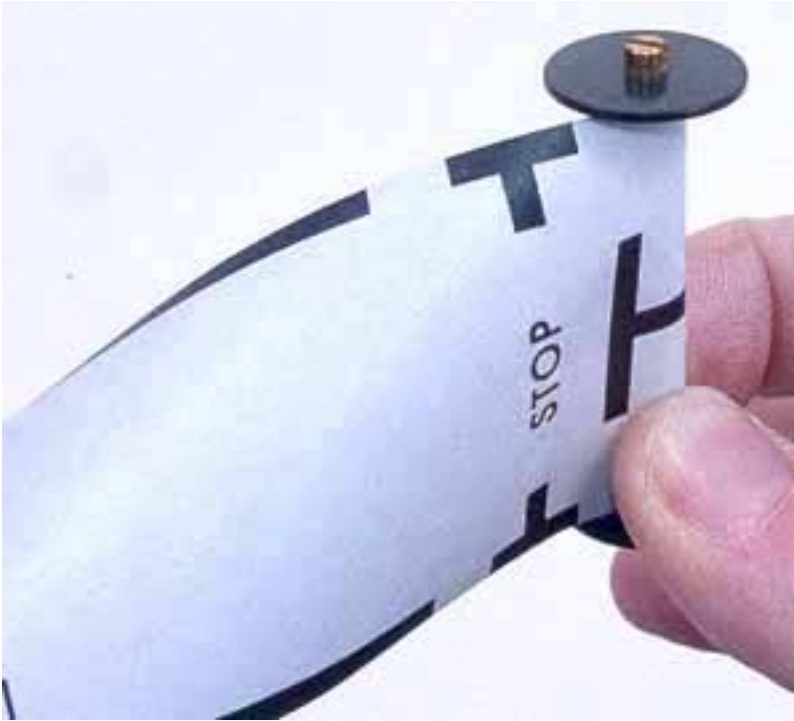
Insert the tail end of your salvaged backing paper into the spool's slot and begin winding.



Attach the sticky end of the "Exposed" label to the end of the backing paper, and fold the other end over so it rolls up neatly as you roll the backing paper onto the spool. You will use this to seal the roll after it has been exposed and removed from the camera.

Now begin winding the backing paper tightly onto the spool.

Step 2



Wind the backing paper onto the spool until you reach the STOP mark.

When you've reached this point, it is time to insert the film.

Turn off the lights.

Step 3 (This must be done in total darkness)



Locate the film's emulsion side (the film curls naturally emulsion-side in).

Insert one end of the film into the roll, and commence winding the film and backing paper together, with the film's emulsion side facing in.

Be sure to maintain enough tension that you get a tightly-wound roll.

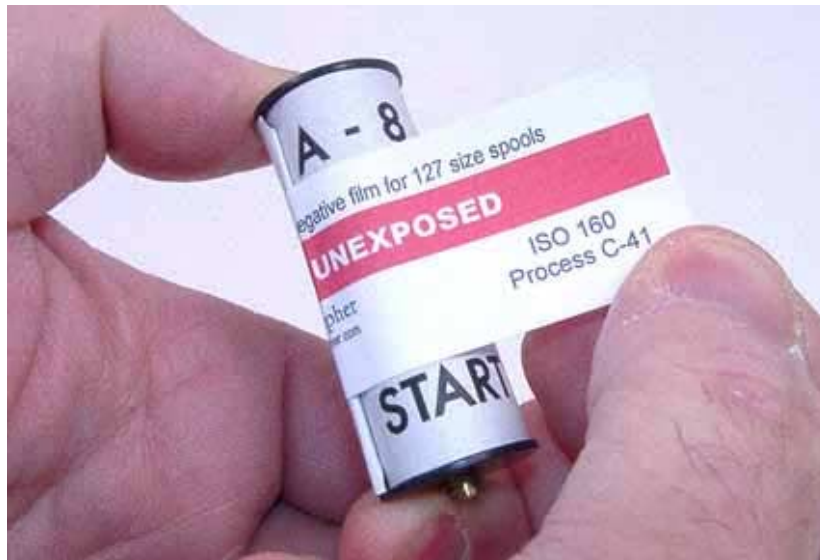
(For clarity, the photo shows the film being held with a thumb against the emulsion. This is risky. You should ensure you do not get fingerprints or scratches on the emulsion of the film.)

Step 4 (this must be done in total darkness)

Continue rolling. When you reach the end of the film, tape it to the backing paper. Then finish rolling up the roll.



Step 5 (this can be done in room light)



Seal the roll with the “Unexposed” label.

Roll films are susceptible to edge fogging and should be transported and stored in light-tight containers. Always handle film and load your camera in shade or subdued light.

Store all film in dry, dark, and cool conditions. Prolonged warmth and humidity are the enemies of photographic film. We recommend you store film in a sealed plastic

container, or a sealed plastic bag, in a refrigerator or freezer.

Refrigeration extends the shelf life of film for years. Freezing extends it for as much as a decade.

Exposed film undergoes chemical changes and should be processed promptly after exposure.