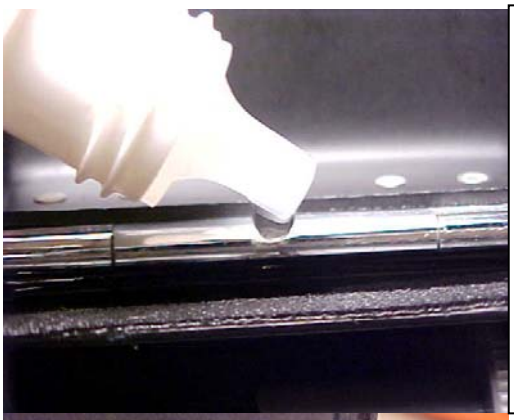
ProSeal Instructions for Minolta SRT Super & others similar

Please read these instructions completely before you start. Knowledge reinforces confidence, and like most jobs, this is better done right the first time. I think you'll find it rewarding and fun, and I've tried to keep things as easy and logical as possible. This is a fine SLR, and the job you're doing now is very important in repairing one of its most common problems. These instructions are being provided to you as a supplement to one of my light seal kits and may not contain a complete discussion of the basics.

Here are some things you may need: (1) a safe surface to work on—I like to use a piece of cardboard about 1.5' by 1.5', but you can work on fiberboard, newspaper or anything else handy--the important thing is to protect the surface beneath you. (2) Solvent--Naphtha (cigarette lighter fluid is the same thing) or Denatured Alcohol—not rubbing alcohol. (3) 2 or 3 paper towels. (4) some toothpicks or your bamboo tool—if you have access to a wooden cuticle stick, this is a handy tool. (5) a safety razor blade, hobby knife, or small scissors. (6) a small screwdriver (7) a pair of tweezers. This camera is easy and logical, so let's get started with the hinge seal:



I use a contact lens cleaner bottle to dispense my solvent, but you can also use the tip of a small screwdriver to pick some up and drop it. Mainly, I want to saturate the old seal, but not flood the area. Once the seal has become wet, let it sit about a minute to soften the old material. The original seal material used in this model Minolta was a fabric seal, and it was between 1/32" and 1/16" in thickness. I'm going to replace it with the 1/16" fabric seal found in your kit. The seal piece is about $\frac{1}{4}$" wide, and it sits on the other side of a molded ledge on the body of the camera.

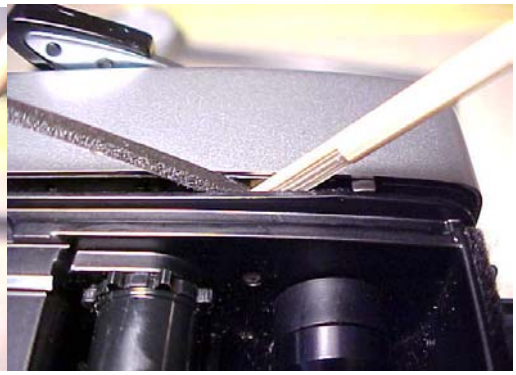
Use the large end of the little bamboo tool in your seal kit, or you may use the similar end of a cuticle stick or similar object. I avoid using screwdriver tips or anything metal, as this will cause scratching of the paint, and produce an unsightly condition. Once you've lifted a corner of the original seal, you may pick it up and pull it off with your fingers. After you remove the old seal, clean the area with a bit of paper towel soaked in solvent until all the old adhesive is removed.

Cut your new seal piece using a sharp new razor blade and straightedge or very good scissors to fit in the cleaned area. Be sure to protect the surface beneath you as you cut with a razor blade. Remove the backing paper (as shown later in these instructions). **Lick the adhesive side of the seal prior to installing it to temporarily de-activate the stickiness.** After a few minutes, you can press it down finally. If your seal piece is crooked, fear not. The next pictures are for you.

Far left—You can see a crooked seal piece…look at the line against the hinge. Apply solvent and let sit a minute or so. The adhesive will release, and the seal piece may be re-located. Let it dry and press it in place. Work carefully with fabric seal.

While you are working on the hinge seal, please check the small seal pieces in the lower edge trough of the film door. These can be seen in the picture where I am using the tool to start the removal of the hinge seal, above. Yours may still be okay…they often are. If you want to replace them, use the 1/32" fabric seal in your kit and cut to fit. The old ones are removed exactly like the hinge seal was.

Okay, now it is time to clean & replace the long thin film door seals. This will actually be fun for you…let's look:



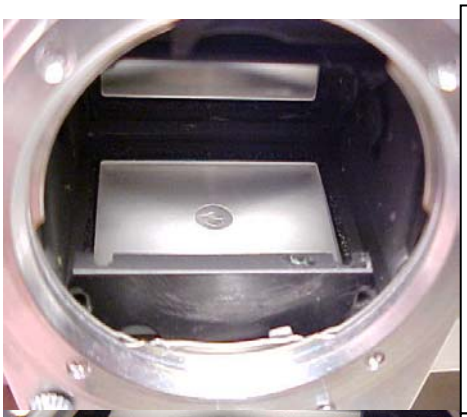
First, I push the thin end of the tool through the slot to dislodge any old loose material. Next, I put a small bit of paper towel in the slot and wet it with solvent…be careful not to put too much solvent in the slot. Start at the film frame counter reset lever (you can see it above), and work toward the latch end. You'll need to repeat this with several pieces of paper towel to get the slot nice and clean. Do the same thing for the small slot on the other side of the reset lever…always work away from the lever and do not push anything under or into the lever. When the slots at the top and bottom are cleaned well, install a "Seal Strip." Starting at the reset lever, gently push the strip into the slot (slick side facing up—there are two slick sides), and guide it in with the thin end of the tool, as shown. When you reach the end, trim to fit and tuck in. Repeat for the area on the other side of the film frame reset lever. I find it easier to start at the hinge end of the slot and work toward the frame reset lever. Below is a picture for you:

See, I told you this would be fun. This camera is starting to look just like new again, and the pictures it takes will reflect the good job you're doing! Since I've had your seal material made from foams and fabrics that will stand the test of time, you'll be able to enjoy your camera without worry of light leaks for many years.

<u>Don't forget to clean the edges of the film door with some solvent on a bit of paper towel</u>. You don't want any old foam residue ruining your new seals.

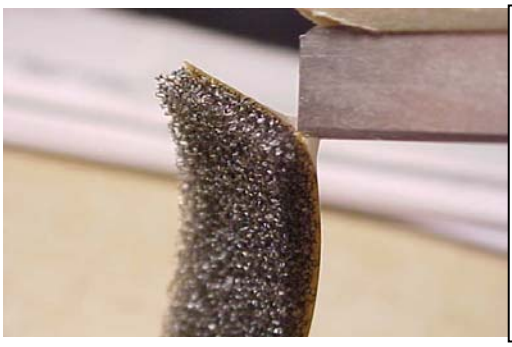
~~THE MIRROR DAMPER~~

Before we start, an **Important Note**: Do not use solvent in the mirror damper area or anywhere your focus screen, with one exception. That exception is this: If your mirror has gotten old foam residue on the front edge of it, here is how to clean that…Holding the camera in a normal, upright position, moisten the tip of a Q-Tip with solvent and gently clean the residue off of your mirror, using very little pressure at all. For years, I have told people to use no more pressure than you would use if you were touching your bare eyeball with your finger. After the solvent is removed, if you want to clean your mirror, here is how I would do it…Cover the tips of a new, unused Q-Tip with lint free cloth (old cotton T-shirt fabric is perfect). Use pieces about 1.5 inches square, and tape the edges to the shaft of the Q-Tip. Wet one end with Windex and leave the other dry. Using very little pressure, swab with the wet end and dry with the dry one. Again, do not get anything on your focus screen!!! No old seal material, no solvent, nothing. These are devilish difficult to clean, and you can cause a real mess with clumsiness.

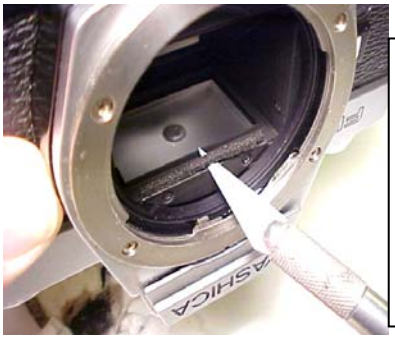


Now, look in there…where your mirror damper is…you'll see a floating damper mechanism. This is a good thing. A nice design by Minolta. You want to use a sharp X-Acto knife to pick up the edge of the old foam and pull it off the damper mechanism. Usually, you can get it started and then pick up a corner with your tweezers, pulling it gently up and away. Sometimes it isn't as easy, but usually the old seal will cooperate if you are patient. Think of yourself as an archaeologist, working on a delicate and important artifact. Take your time. All cleaned up, it should look like the picture to your left.

When the old foam is removed, cut a piece of 1.5mm self-adhesive foam to fit the damper mechanism. It is about 1/8" wide. Remove the backing paper, lick the adhesive side and using tweezers, guide the piece in carefully before pressing it down. You might need to hold the camera between your knees and use both hands. Sometimes I will use my tweezers and a toothpick to get the seal piece just where I want it. Remember, you can not use solvent in this area, so you want the pad aligned right the first time. To press into place, lift the mirror up to the pad and press against it.



The best way to remove backing paper is to catch an edge of it using the tip of a razor or hobby knife. All the seal materials I sell have been made using the strongest adhesive available. I know the tendency is to want to pick off the backing paper with a fingernail. This may work on inferior seal products, but on mine this will only prove to be frustrating and damaging to the seal material. The image to your left shows the proper way.



On this Yashica, you can see how I use an X-Acto knife to remove old damper material. I have seen people try to place paper and other items in this area to try to protect the focus screen, but I **do not** suggest doing this. It is too easy to trap a bit of old foam underneath a piece of paper and smear it on your focus screen. A false sense of security can become a liability quickly. Just work carefully and slowly.

Okay, all work on your Minolta is completed. Your film door will normally feel tighter and more secure than before. New seal material has a way of bringing back the new camera feel again. If you need more seal material or want to refer a friend, please contact me at: jgood21967@aol.com, Jon_Goodman@yahoo.com or mail me at:

Jon Goodman
9153 Loma Vista
Dallas, TX 75243

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