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Download Article Download Article Polaroid 600 cameras are designed for ease of use, but they can be confusing until you get the hang of them. The process is simple: open the film pack, remove the foil, and load the film into the film compartment. Be very careful when handling 600 film. A rough touch can blur your photos! 1Store film in the refrigerator. Keep the film in a cool, dark place so that it does not warp and deteriorate. Most pack film will last at least one year after its expiration date if kept cool in the dark and that shelf life may extend for three years or more if you store your 600 film in the fridge. Take the film out of the fridge and let it warm up for about an hour before you load it into the camera.[1]Do not freeze the film! This may damage the film and will not lengthen its shelf life.If you are using old, questionably-stored film with a long-past expiration date, be aware that your photos may or may not come out. It doesn't hurt to try loading the film, even if you aren't sure! 2Ensure that you are using Polaroid 600 film. Check the film specs on the back of the box to make sure that you're using a compatible product. SX-70 Polaroid film will not work with a 600-series camera, nor will Image/Spectra film.[2]The Impossible Project is the only company currently manufacturing film for classic Polaroid cameras. Look for new 600 film under this brand. Advertisement 3Open the film pack. Remove the film cartridge from the box, and unwrap the sealed foil package. Hold the pack by the sides to avoid putting any pressure onto the film itself. Be careful not to touch the dark slide! Depending on what kind of film you're using and how it's packaged, this may require carefully tearing through several boxes and/or layers of foil.Putting pressure onto the film could ruin the photos before you even load the camera. Be gentle!The dark slide is the sheet that protects your film from premature exposure. 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Corey is the creator of Immersive Exposure, a virtual reality app designed to revolutionize photography education by providing immersive, interactive learning experiences. Through Immersive Exposure, Corey blends his expertise in photography with cutting-edge VR technologies. He holds a degree in Computer Information Sciences from Catawba College. This article has been viewed 169,032 times. Co-authors: 17 Updated: February 24, 2025 Views:169,032 Categories: Cameras PrintSend fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 169,032 times. The Polaroid 600 camera, a beloved icon of instant photography, brings a unique charm to capturing moments. Whether you're a seasoned photographer or a curious beginner, knowing how to load film properly is crucial for getting the best results. In this comprehensive guide, we'll delve into the intricacies of loading a Polaroid 600 camera, troubleshooting common issues, and enhancing your photography skills. Understanding the Polaroid 600 CameraThe Polaroid 600, released in the early 1980s, revolutionized instant photography. With its distinctive design and easy-to-use features, it quickly became a favorite for capturing spontaneous moments. The camera uses a specific type of film, which is essential to understand when loading your camera. Film Type: The Polaroid 600 uses 600 series film, which is still available today from various manufacturers. Camera Features: The 600 comes with a built-in flash, automatic exposure, and a simple viewfinder. Gathering SuppliesBefore you begin the loading process, its important to gather all necessary supplies: Polaroid 600 camera Polaroid 600 film pack Clean, dry workspace Soft cloth for cleaning (if necessary) Step-by-Step Guide to Loading FilmFollow these detailed steps to load your Polaroid 600 camera with film: Step 1: Open the CameraLocate the latch or button on the bottom of your camera and gently open the film compartment. This is where you'll place the film pack. Step 2: Remove the Film Pack from Its BoxCarefully take the film pack out of its box. Be cautious not to expose the film to bright light unnecessarily. Step 3: Identify the Film OrientationThe film pack has a specific orientation. Look for the side that has the metal contacts and the black strip. This side should face towards the back of the camera. Step 4: Insert the Film PackAlign the metal contacts of the film pack with the corresponding connectors inside the compartment. Gently push the film pack into the compartment until it clicks into place. Step 5: Close the CameraAfter ensuring that the film pack is securely in place, close the film compartment until it clicks shut. Make sure it is fully closed to avoid any light leaks. Step 6: Eject the Film CoverPress the shutter button to eject the film cover, which is a protective layer that will be automatically removed during the first shot. Troubleshooting Common IssuesEven when following instructions carefully, you may encounter issues. Here are some common problems and solutions: Film Not Ejecting: Ensure the film pack is seated correctly and that the camera is turned on. Blurry Images: Check if the lens is clean and free from obstructions. Ensure you are holding the camera steady while taking photos. Maintaining Your Polaroid 600To ensure your Polaroid 600 continues to function well, regular maintenance is key: Keep the lens clean with a soft cloth. Store the camera in a protective case when not in use. Avoid exposing the camera to extreme temperatures. Tips and Tricks for Better PhotosHere are some expert tips to enhance your Polaroid photography experience: Use natural light whenever possible for brighter, more vibrant photos. Experiment with different angles and compositions. Wait for the photo to develop before shaking it. Shaking can damage the image. Case Studies and Real-World ExamplesMany photographers have shared their experiences with the Polaroid 600. Heres a brief look at two notable case studies: Case Study 1: Wedding PhotographyA wedding photographer used the Polaroid 600 at a recent wedding, capturing candid moments that guests could take home instantly. The unique aesthetic appealed to the couple, making their wedding even more memorable. Case Study 2: Travel PhotographyDuring a trip to Europe, a travel blogger documented their journey with the Polaroid 600. The instant prints allowed them to create a tangible scrapbook of their experiences, connecting with locals and sharing their journey in real-time. FAQs How many photos can I take with a pack of Polaroid 600 film? Each pack typically contains 8 photos. Can I use other types of film in my Polaroid 600? It is recommended to use only 600 series film for optimal results. Why is my photo developing too dark? This can happen if you took the photo in low light conditions. Try using the camera in brighter settings. How long does it take for a Polaroid photo to develop? Photos generally take about 10-15 minutes to fully develop. What should I do if my camera is not working? Check the battery and ensure the film is loaded correctly. If issues persist, consult a professional. Do I need to shake a Polaroid photo to help it develop? No, shaking can actually damage the photo. Just let it develop naturally. Can I take selfies with a Polaroid 600? Yes! Just make sure to use a mirror or a friend to help frame the shot. Is the film expensive? Prices vary, but Polaroid film can be considered a bit pricey compared to digital photography. What are some creative uses for Polaroid photos? You can create a scrapbook, wall collage, or even use them in DIY projects. Where can I buy Polaroid 600 film? Film is available at photography stores, online retailers, and directly from the Polaroid website.Random Reads Download Article Download Article Polaroid 600 cameras are designed for ease of use, but they can be confusing until you get the hang of them. The process is simple: open the film pack, remove the foil, and load the film into the film compartment. Be very careful when handling 600 film. A rough touch can blur your photos! 1Store film in the refrigerator. Keep the film in a cool, dark place so that it does not warp and deteriorate. Most pack film will last at least one year after its expiration date if kept cool in the dark and that shelf life may extend for three years or more if you store your 600 film in the fridge. Take the film out of the fridge and let it warm up for about an hour before you load it into the camera.[1]Do not freeze the film! 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By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. Download Article Download Article Polaroid 600 cameras are designed for ease of use, but they can be confusing until you get the hang of them. The process is simple: open the film pack, remove the foil, and load the film into the film compartment. Be very careful when handling 600 film. A rough touch can blur your photos! 1Store film in the refrigerator. Keep the film in a cool, dark place so that it does not warp and deteriorate. Most pack film will last at least one year after its expiration date if kept cool in the dark and that shelf life may extend for three years or more if you store your 600 film in the fridge. Take the film out of the fridge and let it warm up for about an hour before you load it into the camera.[1]Do not freeze the film! 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Produced by Polaroid Corporation, this film was designed for use in Polaroid 600 series cameras. It allowed photographers to take pictures and have them developed within minutes, offering a unique and immediate way to capture memories. While digital photography has largely replaced instant film, Polaroid 600 film retains a nostalgic and artistic appeal for those who appreciate its retro charm and tangible results.What Does Polaroid 600 Film Mean?Polaroid 600 film is a specific type of instant film produced by Polaroid Corporation for use in Polaroid 600 series cameras. This film allowed photographers to capture and develop images within minutes, providing an instant and tangible result. 600 denotes the camera series designed to work with this film. Polaroid 600 film was widely used in the 1980s and 1990s, offering a unique way to create instant photographs before the digital age. Today, it holds nostalgic and artistic value for those who appreciate its retro and hands-on approach to photography.How to Take Photos with Polaroid 600 Film?Taking photos with Polaroid 600 film involves a straightforward process, but properly handling the film and camera is important to achieve the best results. Heres a step-by-step guideLoad the FilmOpen the cameras film door and load a pack of Polaroid 600 film into the chamber. Ensure the film is placed correctly, following the instructions provided with the film pack.Power OnTurn on the camera by pressing the power button or sliding the power switch, depending on your camera model. Wait a moment for the camera to initialize.Compose the ShotLook through the cameras viewfinder or use the LCD screen to compose your shot. Pay attention to framing, focus, and composition like any other camera.Set the flash (if needed)Many Polaroid 600 cameras have a built-in flash. Consider using the flash if youre shooting in low light or indoors. Some cameras have manual flash control, while others have automatic flash that activates when needed.Adjust the Exposure Control (if available)Some Polaroid 600 cameras offer exposure control settings. Adjust these settings based on the lighting conditions and your creative preferences.Press the Shutter ButtonPress the shutter button to capture the photo. The camera will eject a blank film sheet and then pull it back into the camera.Wait for DevelopmentAfter taking the shot, be patient. Polaroid film takes a few minutes to develop. Keep the photo shielded from direct sunlight during this time, as excessive light exposure can affect the image.Peel Apart the ImageOnce the development time has passed (usually a few minutes), gently peel apart the photo from the film. Hold it by the edges to avoid smudging the image.Protect the ImageThe image is sensitive to light, so shield it from direct sunlight as it develops. It may take up to 30 minutes for the image to fully stabilize.Enjoy Your Instant PhotoYour Polaroid 600 photo is now ready! Youll have a physical, one-of-a-kind instant print in your hands.How To Insert A Film Tutorial: How To Use A Polaroid 600 CameraDoes Polaroid 600 Need Ink?No, Polaroid 600 film does not require ink. Polaroid instant film uses a chemical process to develop and create the image on the film sheet. When you take a photo with a Polaroid 600 camera, the film contains all the necessary chemicals and layers to create the final image. After you take a shot, the cameras internal rollers spread a developing chemical over the film, which then reacts to create the photograph. This chemical reaction doesnt involve using ink or any external supplies; everything needed for the image is contained within the film.How Long Does Polaroid 600 Film Last?The longevity of Polaroid 600 film depends on several factors, including how its stored and the conditions its exposed to. When properly stored in a cool, dry place and protected from extreme temperatures, humidity, and light, Polaroid 600 film can last for several years. However, its important to note that the films chemical components will degrade over time, and the quality of the images may deteriorate. The color and contrast may change, and the photos may develop a vintage or aged look. The exact shelf life can vary from film pack to film pack. To maximize the lifespan of your Polaroid 600 film, store it in a cool, dark place, away from direct sunlight and temperature extremes. If you have old film packs, testing a few shots to see how the images turn out before using the film for important or irreplaceable moments is a good idea.Does Polaroid 600 Film Have a Battery?Yes, Polaroid 600 film packs include a built-in battery that powers the cameras motor and flash (if the camera has one). This battery is essential for properly operating the Polaroid camera, as it drives the film ejection, development, and other mechanical functions.Loading a new pack of Polaroid 600 film into the camera contains the film sheets and the necessary battery to operate the camera. The battery lasts for the entire film pack, typically allowing you to take multiple shots. Once youve used all the film in the pack, discard it, as the battery cannot be replaced or reused.How Many Pictures Does a Polaroid 600 Film Take?A standard pack of Polaroid 600 film typically contains eight exposures or photos. This means you can take eight instant photos with one pack of film. Its important to keep track of the number of exposures youve used, as once youve taken eight photos, youll need to replace the film pack in your Polaroid camera.Why is Polaroid Film So Expensive?Polaroid film can be relatively expensive for several reasons:Production CostsThe production of instant film involves complex chemical processes and specialized materials. Producing film that is reliable and of high quality can be costly.Limited AvailabilityPolaroid discontinued instant film production in the mid-2000s, creating a scarcity of new, original film stock. As a result, the film that is still available today is often considered a limited and niche product, which can drive up prices.Niche MarketThe demand for Polaroid film is driven by a niche market of enthusiasts, artists, and collectors who appreciate instant photographys unique and tangible qualities. This limited demand can lead to higher prices.R&D CostsCompanies that have taken up the task of reviving instant film production, such as The Impossible Project (now known as Polaroid Originals), have had to invest in research and development to recreate the chemistry and technology of instant film, which can be expensive.Packaging and MarketingPackaging and marketing Polaroid film as a specialty product can also add to its overall cost.Import Duties and TaxesDepending on your location, import duties and taxes can significantly increase the price of Polaroid film.While Polaroid film may be more expensive than traditional digital or 35mm film, many photographers and artists are willing to pay the premium for its unique and immediate results and nostalgic and creative appeal.Do Polaroid Pictures Last?Polaroid pictures can have a reasonably long lifespan when properly stored and protected. However, their longevity is not indefinite, and several factors can affect how long Polaroid photos last:Storage ConditionsThe way you store Polaroid pictures is crucial. Keeping them in a cool, dry, and dark environment, away from direct sunlight, heat, and humidity, can help prolong their lifespan.Chemical DegradationOver time, the chemicals within the instant film may degrade, leading to changes in color, contrast, and overall image quality. This degradation process can give the photos a vintage or aged appearance.Physical DamagePolaroid pictures are susceptible to physical damage, such as creases, tears, or bending, affecting their lifespan and appearance.HandlingHandling Polaroid photos carefully and avoiding excessively touching the image surface can help preserve them.ProtectionPlacing Polaroid photos in sleeves or frames or storing them in photo albums designed for protection can shield them from environmental factors.DisplayIf you choose to display your Polaroid photos, consider using UV-filtering glass or acrylic in frames to protect them from fading due to UV light exposure.How to Put the Film into a Vintage Polaroid 600 Camera?To load film into a vintage Polaroid 600 camera, follow these general steps:Open the CameraLocate and release the film door latch to open the cameras film compartment.Check the Film CompatibilityEnsure you have the correct type of Polaroid 600 film pack compatible with your camera model. Check the film packs expiration date to ensure its still usable.Insert the Film PackInsert the film pack into the cameras film compartment, aligning it with the designated markers or guides inside the camera. Ensure the films dark slide (a black protective sheet) faces outward.Close the Film DoorGently close it until it clicks securely. Be careful not to press too hard, as it can damage the film pack.Power On the CameraTurn on the camera by sliding the power switch or pressing the power button. The camera is now ready to take photos.Take a Test ShotAfter loading the film, its good practice to take a test shot by pressing the shutter button to eject the first dark slide. This ensures that the film is advancing correctly.Start Taking PhotosYou can take photos once the test shot is ejected. Compose your shot, adjust camera settings (if available), and press the shutter button to take a picture. The film will eject, and the development process will begin.Wait for DevelopmentAfter taking a photo, the film fully develops. The development time varies depending on the film type, temperature, and other factors.Retrieve and Protect Your PhotoOnce the image is fully developed (usually a few minutes), gently peel apart the photo from the film and protect it from direct sunlight as it stabilizes.Instant Film Friday! #5: How to put film into a vintage Polaroid 600 Camera!How to Open and Close a Polaroid 600 Camera?Opening the Polaroid 600 CameraLocate the Latch: On most Polaroid 600 cameras, youll find a latch or catch mechanism on the side or bottom of the camera.Release the Latch: Gently slide or press the latch to release it. This action should unlock the cameras film door.Open the Film Door: The door should easily swing open with the latch released. Be careful not to force it; it may damage the door or the film inside.Closing the Polaroid 600 CameraAlign the Film Door: Ensure the film door is aligned properly with the camera body.Close the Film Door: Gently push the door until it clicks securely. Make sure its closed firmly, but avoid using excessive force.Lock the Latch: Once the film door is closed, slide or press the latch back into place to lock the door. This secures the film inside the camera.Polaroid 600 How To Camera GuidePolaroid OneStep CloseUp 600 Instant Camera Tutorial | Forward Film Camera and Vintage ChannelPolaroid 600 vs SX-70 Color Film ShowdownThe showdown between Polaroid 600 and SX-70 color film comes down to your camera type and preference for image quality and aesthetics.Polaroid 600 film is designed for use in Polaroid 600 series cameras, known for their simplicity and ease of use. The film produces vibrant and saturated colors, making it well-suited for casual instant photography. However, it may not offer the same artistic control and nuanced results as the SX-70 film.SX-70 color film, on the other hand, is designed for use in vintage SX-70 cameras, which enthusiasts and artists prize for their manual focus and creative potential. The film produces softer, dreamy images with a distinctly vintage look. Its favored by those who appreciate its artistic and nostalgic qualities.Ultimately, the choice between the two films depends on your camera and the style of photography you prefer. Polaroid 600 film is great for straightforward instant photos, while SX-70 film allows for more creative and artistic expression, albeit with a vintage aesthetic.Polaroid 600 vs SX-70 Color Film Showdown Which is the right film for you?How Much Does Polaroid 600 Cost?The cost of Polaroid 600 film packs can vary depending on the brand, type of film, and where you purchase it. A pack of eight exposures of Polaroid 600 film typically ranged from \$15 to \$25. However, prices can fluctuate, and costs may vary based on location and availability.Its a good idea to check with reputable camera supply stores, photography retailers, or online marketplaces for the most up-to-date pricing information. Remember that Polaroid film is considered a specialty product, and its cost may be higher than standard 35mm film or digital photography.How to Get the Most of Polaroid Film?To get the most out of your Polaroid 600 instant camera and film, consider these tips:PracticeFamiliarize yourself with the cameras controls and settings. Take some test shots to understand how different factors, such as lighting and distance, affect the results.Check the FilmEnsure your Polaroid 600 film has not expired and has been stored properly to maintain its quality.Use Good LightingInstant film thrives in well-lit conditions. Shoot in natural light or well-lit environments for the best results.Compose CarefullyRespond to composition, framing, and subject placement to capture the best possible image.FocusIf your camera allows manual focus, use it to achieve sharp, well-focused shots.Consider the FlashUse the cameras built-in flash or an external flash attachment to ensure proper exposure in low-light conditions.ExperimentInstant photography is known for its unpredictability and unique results. Dont be afraid to experiment with exposure, color, and creative techniques to achieve different effects.Protect the PhotosOnce your photo has developed, shield it from direct sunlight while stabilizing. Store your instant photos in a photo album or protective sleeves to prevent damage.Mind the TemperatureExtreme temperatures can affect development and image quality. Avoid exposing the film to very hot or very cold conditions.Clean the RollersOver time, the rollers in the camera can accumulate residue from the film. Periodically clean them to ensure even development.Read the ManualConsult the camera for specific instructions and recommendations, as different Polaroid 600 camera models may have unique features and settings.Enjoy the ProcessPart of the charm of Polaroid 600 photography is the tactile and immediate nature of the medium. Embrace the unexpected and appreciate each unique photo.VideosPolaroid Film Types Explained Understanding the differences between i-Type, 600, SX-70, Go, & 810Polaroid Originals 600 Color Film ReviewPolaroid i-Type VS 600 Film Download Article Download Article Polaroid 600 cameras are designed for ease of use, but they can be confusing until you get the hang of them. The process is simple: open the film pack, remove the foil, and load the film into the film compartment. Be very careful when handling 600 film. A rough touch can blur your photos! 1Store film in the refrigerator. Keep the film in a cool, dark place so that it does not warp and deteriorate. Most pack film will last at least one year after its expiration date if kept cool in the dark and that shelf life may extend for three years or more if you store your 600 film in the fridge. Take the film out of the fridge and let it warm up for about an hour before you load it into the camera.[1]Do not freeze the film! This may damage the film and will not lengthen its shelf life.If you are using old, questionably-stored film with a long-past expiration date, be aware that your photos may or may not come out. It doesn't hurt to try loading the film, even if you aren't sure! 2Ensure that you are using Polaroid 600 film. Check the film specs on the back of the box to make sure that you're using a compatible product. SX-70 Polaroid film will not work with a 600-series camera, nor will Image/Spectra film.[2]The Impossible Project is the only company currently manufacturing film for classic Polaroid cameras. Look for new 600 film under this brand. Advertisement 3Open the film pack. Remove the film cartridge from the box, and unwrap the sealed foil package. Hold the pack by the sides to avoid putting any pressure onto the film itself. Be careful not to touch the dark slide! Depending on what kind of film you're using and how it's packaged, this may require carefully tearing through several boxes and/or layers of foil.Putting pressure onto the film could ruin the photos before you even load the camera. Be gentle!The dark slide is the sheet that protects your film from premature exposure. It is the side of the film cartridge that does not feature metal contacts. Advertisement 1Open the camera's film compartment. Pull the switch on the side of the camera, below the red shutter button. This tab should pop open the bottom front flap of the device. Look for a slot where you can insert and remove film.2Remove existing film. If you are using a classic Polaroid, then there may already be a cartridge of film loaded into the camera. If you care about preserving any photographs on the film, then remove the cartridge in a darkroom (or a pitch-black space) and immediately store it in a box or bag where it will not receive any exposure to UV light. If you don't care about the film, then you can simply pop out the old cartridge and throw it away.3Load the new film cartridge into the camera. Hold it by the sides. Then, slide the film into the film compartment. The cartridge should slide in easily, and then pop securely into place. The metal contacts should be facing down, the dark slide should be facing up, and tab should be facing out of the camera slot toward you.4Close the camera. Once the film is properly inserted, shut the film compartment to complete the loading process. The dark slide should automatically eject from the front of the camera. Once the dark slide has emerged, you are ready to begin shooting!Do not force it shut! If you need to use force to close the compartment, then the cartridge isn't all the way in yet. Unnecessary force can damage your camera.Consider saving the dark slide. Use it to cover your pictures for several minutes when they come out of the camera to avoid damaging UV exposure.[3]5Photograph! Press the red shutter button to take a picture with your Polaroid 600 camera. If you are using a OneStep instant camera: when the photos come out, make sure to immediately turn them face-down or place them inside a pitch-black container. If you are using any other Polaroid 600 device, make sure to pop out the film cartridge while you're in a darkroom or a pitch-black space in order to keep the pictures safe from harmful UV exposure. Advertisement Add New Question Question How do I change the batteries on a Polaroid 600 camera? The battery is in the film pack itself, so when you load a new pack of film, you load a new battery. Question I put the film in correctly and when I go to capture an image a red light come on. Does that mean my film cartridge is bad? No, it means the flash is charging. Wait for the light to go off and then take the picture. Question Why do I always get a gray blob on the bottom of my pictures? It's most likely caused by bad or expired film, but there could also be something wrong with your camera. See more answers Ask a Question Advertisement Thanks Thanks Thanks Show More Tips Advertisement Thanks for reading our article! If youd like to learn more about film photography, check out our in-depth interview with Corey Reese. Co-authored by: Photographer, VR Developer & Digital Marketing Expert This article was co-authored by Corey Reese. Corey Reese is a Photographer and VR developer based in Atlanta, Georgia. He has over 18 years of photography experience across various industries, including fashion, fitness, and entertainment. 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