MERCURY FILM SLITTER: 65MM TO 120

Mercury film slitters are relatively simple devices that enable you to slice one or two edges off of a length of film, "slitting" it down to a smaller width.

This slitter accepts 65mm motion picture film and slits it down to 120 width film.

You can use this slitter in the dark, to slit film before rolling and taping it to backing paper, to shoot in a camera, or you can use this slitter to slit already exposed and processed film, for easier sleeving, storage, transportation, etc.

CAUTION: This device contains two sharp razor blades, which are exposed whenever the top is removed. Never leave the top off (only momentarily remove it when inserting film), be extremely careful when using in the dark, and always keep away from children!

SLITTING OPTIONS

This slitter can be used in two ways. You can either slice off one side of the film only, or you can slice a smaller width off of both sides. We recommend slicing one side only, as this is much easier and produces a cleaner cut. Downsides are that it slightly de-centers your image area, and leaves a "sawtooth" pattern on one side that can in some cases make inserting into film sleeves more difficult:

Slicing a smaller but equal amount from both sides requires you to perfectly center the film in the dark, and usually produces a wavy cut.

Note: If you've slit 70mm film down to 120 before, you may be surprised how much harder it is to slice 65mm film in a centered orientation, given the very small amount being cut from each side. This is why we recommend the one-side option.

USING THE SLITTER

1. To load the film, remove the top from the slitter. (Caution: this will expose the razor blades; be extremely careful to keep your fingers away from the "interior" of the slitter when the top is removed!) Place the film along the slitter's channel, over-top the razor blade(s). Allow about 1 inch (25mm) to protrude beyond the slitter.

If cutting only one side of the film, rest one side against the inside edge of a razor blade, and allow it to overlap the other razor blade. If cutting both sides, manually center the film in the channel and allow it to overlap both razor blades.

2. Now, for each side of the film that is overlapping a razor blade, grasp *that edge* of the film on either side of the razor blade (giving it a wide berth), pulling it taught, and then push the taught film down over the top of the razor blade until the blade "pops" through the film (you should be able to feel and hear this).

3. Place the top, foam side down, back in place. It should sandwich the film between the top's foam underside and the backing paper at the bottom of the film channel.

4. Grasping the part of the film protruding from the film slitter with one hand, and pressing downward on the slitter's top with the other hand, slowly pull the film through the slitter. Once it is started, you can and should relieve some of the pressure on the slitter's top. The film needs to be held down toward the bottom of the razor blade(s), but doesn't need to be actively sandwiched after the initial pull.

5. Continue gently pulling the film until it has been fully slit.

6. Using a pair of scissors, cut off the initial edge of the film that protruded from the slitter during loading and thus isn't slit like the rest.

OPTIONAL ANCHORING

This slitter contains two inset screw holes to screw down on a wooden platform or table if you wish. To expose these, remove the backing paper. After screwing down, you can replace the backing paper.

Mercury Works
www.shoot70mm.com