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KODAK 6031959

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1. INTRODUCTION

The KODAK 35mm Professional Portra 160 Color Film (Model 6031959) is a daylight-balanced color negative film designed for exceptional skin tones and natural color reproduction. It features a very fine grain structure, low contrast, and consistent results under various lighting conditions, making it suitable for portrait, fashion, and commercial photography.



Image 1.1: A single roll of KODAK 35mm Professional Portra 160 Color Film, showing the film canister and exposed film leader.

2. SETUP: LOADING THE FILM

This film is designed for 35mm cameras. Proper loading is crucial to prevent light leaks and ensure successful exposure.

1. **Prepare your camera:** Ensure your camera is turned off and the film compartment is clean and free of dust.
2. **Open the camera back:** Locate and open the camera's film compartment door.
3. **Insert the film canister:** Place the KODAK Portra 160 film canister into the film chamber on the left side of the camera.
4. **Pull out the film leader:** Gently pull the film leader across the camera back until it reaches the take-up spool on the right side.
5. **Attach the film leader:** Insert the tip of the film leader into a slot on the take-up spool. Ensure it is securely attached.
6. **Advance the film:** Slowly advance the film using the film advance lever or motor drive, ensuring the film perforations engage with the sprockets. The film should lie flat across the film gate.

7. **Close the camera back:** Once the film is properly loaded and taut, close the camera back firmly.
8. **Advance to the first frame:** Take one or two blank shots to advance the film past the exposed leader. The frame counter should indicate "1" or the first usable frame.

Note: Always load and unload film in subdued light to minimize the risk of light leaks.

3. OPERATING: EXPOSURE AND USAGE

KODAK Portra 160 is rated at ISO 160. This film is versatile and can be exposed from ISO 80 to ISO 320 with good results, though optimal performance is achieved at its rated speed.

- **ISO Setting:** Set your camera's ISO or ASA dial to 160.
- **Lighting Conditions:** This film is daylight-balanced, meaning it is optimized for natural light. It performs well in various daylight conditions, including bright sun, overcast skies, and mixed lighting.
- **Exposure Latitude:** Portra 160 offers wide exposure latitude, allowing for some over- or under-exposure while retaining detail in highlights and shadows. For best results, expose for the shadows and let the highlights fall where they may, especially in high-contrast scenes.
- **Metering:** Use your camera's built-in light meter or an external light meter to determine the correct exposure settings (aperture and shutter speed).
- **Portraits:** The film's ability to render natural skin tones makes it ideal for portraits. Consider using soft, diffused light for flattering results.
- **Number of Exposures:** Each roll provides 24 or 36 exposures, depending on the specific product variant. Monitor your camera's frame counter to avoid accidental double exposures or running out of film mid-shoot.

4. MAINTENANCE: STORAGE AND HANDLING

Proper storage and handling of photographic film are essential to maintain its quality and ensure optimal results.

- **Unexposed Film Storage:**
 - For short-term storage (up to 6 months), store film in its original sealed packaging in a cool, dry place (below 13°C / 55°F).
 - For long-term storage, refrigerate (below 10°C / 50°F) or freeze (below -18°C / 0°F) film in its original sealed packaging. Allow frozen film to warm up to room temperature for at least 2 hours before opening to prevent condensation.
- **Exposed Film Storage:** Process exposed film as soon as possible. If immediate processing is not possible, store exposed film in a cool, dry place, preferably refrigerated, for a short period.
- **Handling:** Handle film by the edges to avoid fingerprints or scratches. Avoid exposing film to direct sunlight or high temperatures for extended periods.
- **Expiration Date:** Always check the expiration date printed on the film packaging. While film can sometimes be used past its expiration date, quality may degrade.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING COMMON ISSUES

| Issue | Possible Cause | Solution |
|---|---|---|
| Blank or completely dark negatives | Film not loaded correctly, camera shutter malfunction, severe underexposure. | Ensure film is properly loaded and advancing. Check camera functionality. Verify exposure settings. |
| Overly dense or completely clear negatives | Severe overexposure, light leaks, film fogging. | Check camera light seals. Ensure proper exposure settings. Handle film in subdued light. |
| Color shifts or unnatural tones | Incorrect white balance during scanning/printing, expired film, improper storage. | Use fresh film. Store film correctly. Adjust color balance during post-processing. |
| Excessive grain | Underexposure, pushing film too far, improper development. | Expose film correctly. Avoid pushing film beyond recommended limits. Ensure proper development process. |
| Scratches or dust on negatives | Improper handling, dirty camera interior, dusty lab environment. | Handle film carefully by edges. Keep camera clean. Use a reputable lab for processing. |

6. SPECIFICATIONS

| Feature | Detail |
|---------------------------|---|
| Brand | KODAK |
| Model Name | 6031959 |
| Film Type | Color Negative Film |
| Film Format | 35mm (135) |
| ISO Equivalent | 160 |
| Exposures per Roll | 24 or 36 (variant dependent) |
| Process | C-41 |
| Key Features | Natural Skin Tones, Extremely Fine Grain, Low Contrast, Good Under Mixed Lighting, Kodak T-Grain Technology |
| Compatible Devices | Camera (35mm) |
| Lighting Type | Daylight |
| Item Weight | 30 Grams (per roll, approximate) |

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For specific warranty information regarding KODAK Professional Portra films, please refer to the official KODAK website or contact KODAK customer support directly. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase.

For technical assistance, questions about film processing, or other inquiries, please visit the **KODAK Professional website** or consult with a professional film lab.

