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## KODAK Portra 400

# Kodak 120 Portra 400 Film Instruction Manual

This manual provides essential information for the proper use and handling of Kodak 120 Portra 400 Film.

## 1. INTRODUCTION TO KODAK PORTRA 400 FILM

Kodak Portra 400 is a high-speed color negative film, renowned for its exceptionally fine grain and natural color reproduction. It is designed to deliver outstanding skin tones and consistent results across various lighting conditions, making it suitable for portrait, fashion, nature, travel, and outdoor photography.





Figure 1: A single roll of Kodak Portra 400 120 film. The film is wrapped in its protective paper backing, clearly showing the 'Kodak Professional 120' and 'PORTRA 400' branding. The black plastic spool ends are visible at the top and bottom.

## 2. FILM LOADING AND SETUP (120 FORMAT)

Loading 120 format film requires careful handling to prevent light leaks. Always load and unload film in subdued light, or ideally, in a changing bag or darkroom.

1. **Open Camera Back:** Open the back of your medium format camera according to its specific instructions.
2. **Insert New Film:** Place the new roll of Kodak Portra 400 film into the supply spool chamber. Ensure the film is oriented correctly, with the paper backing facing outwards.
3. **Attach to Take-up Spool:** Pull the leader of the paper backing across to the take-up spool. Insert the leader into the slot of the empty take-up spool.
4. **Advance Film:** Wind the take-up spool slowly until the film leader is securely attached and the paper backing is taut. Close the camera back.

5. **Advance to First Frame:** Continue winding the film advance knob until the number '1' appears in the red window or frame counter, indicating the first frame is ready for exposure.

Refer to your camera's specific instruction manual for detailed loading procedures, as mechanisms can vary between models.

### 3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS AND EXPOSURE

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Kodak Portra 400 is rated at ISO 400. This film offers significant exposure latitude, allowing for flexibility in various lighting conditions.

- **Standard Exposure:** For most situations, expose the film at its box speed of ISO 400. Use a light meter to determine the correct aperture and shutter speed settings for your scene.
- **Exposure Latitude:** Portra 400 is known for its ability to handle overexposure well, often retaining highlight detail even when overexposed by 1-2 stops. Underexposure should generally be avoided if possible, but the film can still yield usable results with slight underexposure.
- **Push/Pull Processing:** This film can be push-processed (exposed at a higher ISO and developed for longer) or pull-processed (exposed at a lower ISO and developed for shorter) to adjust contrast and density. Consult your film lab for their recommendations and capabilities regarding push/pull processing. Common push processing for Portra 400 includes pushing to ISO 800 or ISO 1600.
- **Color Characteristics:** Portra 400 delivers natural, vibrant colors with excellent skin tone reproduction. It is particularly well-suited for capturing subtle nuances in portraits and maintaining a pleasing aesthetic in diverse environments.

### 4. STORAGE AND HANDLING

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Proper storage and handling are crucial for maintaining film quality and achieving optimal results.

- **Unexposed Film:** Store unexposed film in its original sealed packaging in a cool, dry place. For extended storage, refrigeration (below 13°C / 55°F) or freezing (below -18°C / 0°F) is recommended. Allow refrigerated or frozen film to warm up to room temperature for at least 1-2 hours before use to prevent condensation.
- **Exposed Film:** Process exposed film as soon as possible. If immediate processing is not feasible, store exposed film in a cool, dry place, preferably refrigerated, for a short period.
- **Avoid X-rays:** Airport security X-ray machines can damage film, especially high-speed films like Portra 400. Always request a hand inspection for your film when traveling.
- **Light Sensitivity:** Film is light-sensitive. Always handle film in subdued light or complete darkness when loading or unloading from the camera.

### 5. TROUBLESHOOTING COMMON FILM ISSUES

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While Portra 400 is a reliable film, issues can arise from improper handling or camera malfunction. Here are some common problems and potential causes:

Issue	Possible Cause	Solution/Prevention
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Issue	Possible Cause	Solution/Prevention
<b>Blank or Underexposed Images</b>	Incorrect exposure settings (too dark), film not advancing, shutter malfunction.	Verify light meter readings, ensure film is properly loaded and advancing, check camera shutter function.
<b>Overexposed Images</b>	Incorrect exposure settings (too bright), light leaks in camera.	Use appropriate aperture/shutter speed, inspect camera for light leaks (especially seals).
<b>Light Leaks (streaks, fogging)</b>	Improper film loading/unloading, faulty camera light seals, opening camera back prematurely.	Load/unload in darkness, replace worn camera light seals, ensure camera back is securely closed.
<b>Color Shifts/Unusual Tones</b>	Expired film, improper storage, X-ray exposure, incorrect processing.	Use fresh film, store properly, request hand inspection at airports, use reputable lab.

## 6. PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

- **Brand:** KODAK
- **Model Name:** Portra 400
- **Item Model Number:** 2094
- **Film Color:** Color
- **Film Format Type:** 120
- **Exposures per Roll:** 8 (standard for 6x9 format, varies by camera format)
- **ISO Speed:** 400
- **Product Dimensions:** 0.7 x 3 x 4.8 inches (packaging)
- **Item Weight:** 0.634 ounces
- **Date First Available:** March 22, 2011

## 7. WARRANTY INFORMATION

Kodak products are manufactured to high standards. For specific warranty details regarding Kodak Portra 400 film, please refer to the packaging or visit the official Kodak website. General warranty typically covers manufacturing defects. Damage due to improper handling, storage, or processing is usually not covered.

## 8. CUSTOMER SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical support, or inquiries about Kodak Portra 400 film, please contact Kodak customer service through their official website or the contact information provided on the product packaging.

You can visit the official KODAK Store for more information: [KODAK Store on Amazon](#)

