27 October 2020

Hi Geoff,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the film backs and the fitting of the film backs for the Hy6. It is important that the users understand the care that we take in fitting these backs to the camera. Let me outline what we do when we fit the back:

We assemble the back in accordance to our drawings including all tolerances calculated for production. With every magazine we make a final control with a film from our photographer, which we develop. Then we can see the sharpness, the distances between the images. We also can see if there is any light coming inside the magazine. Only to give an idea, with film and 12 exposures we are doing:

1) checking picture sharpness at 1,5 m;
2) then we transport film to check for light leaks: the camera and magazine gets 1 minute very bright light; and then with the camera held against dark plate (to get a negative with a totally transparent frame where you can see if any light was coming in);
3) exposure of an object at 3mm distance, to check sharpness and film transport;
4) give light for 1 minute to the other side, bottom, top and backside as separate tests;
5) remaining exposures are taken out of the window to check infinity focus.

After developing we check the negative film on a light box and see the results. we will notice if something is wrong in the system at this point at the latest. We keep these films as reference in the company.

When we adjust and calibrate the AF (takes us about 45 minutes) we test the camera again and check the point of sharpness. We do 5 digital pics which we keep to have a start for the analysis if a camera has a problem. As my colleagues say, we do not need the serial number, as we know the "breathing" of a camera (they are our kids), and we are not producing an unknown number.

Please note that film (including the paper) has a certain thickness and has to be moved in a channel between 0.3mm and 0.7 mm. If the film is very cold (directly from refrigerator or from outside use in wintertime), it requires more space in order to be moved by the motor. If the channel is too small, it will be impossible for the motor to move or to move the frame the right distance. You will notice this when you get film overlapping of frames or possibly even when the motor stops after 5 or 6 frames. That is why now we use a bigger space in our production. It has to be both big as needed and small as possible, respecting all possible influences. Some will say the "quality" will get 10% better , if..... But it is important to see what kind of film they are using, as there are changes depending on if 25 ISO or 400 ISO. In the past an investigation from Dr. Müller, who was working for Leica and Zeiss years ago. He came to the conclusion there was not a system with filmbacks with better position of the film at the focal plan than ours.

Please also know that the screws setting the film plate height are not made for adjustments at home. The plates are set to allow a range of different film thicknesses.

If there is a problem, the owner can contact me and I arrange pickup by Fedex. We will make an analysis about the problem and if our fault, we pay also for the transport. If a problem of the customer (drop, handling mistake or perhaps misunderstanding the system), then the cost is the customers.

I have no problem to explain, check and solve problems. But I ask that a customer wait for the analysis prior to voicing such concerns broadly.

Have a nice day, keep healthy,

Hans