Loading Film on a ThermoFlex

Applies to

☑ ThermoFlex Wide

Background

PCI film is sold in rolls of 127cm & 132cm (50 & 52 inches). To load a piece of film measuring 200cm along the drum, you must cut a piece from the roll 200cm (80") long – this will give you a sheet of film 200cm x 127cm (or 200cm x 132cm). Since the film is on a roll, it has a natural curve when you unfold it. Because the 200cm side must be attached to the leading and trailing edge of the drum, it is challenging to load the film because the film's curl does not follow the shape of the drum.

Steps

To load film on the drum:

1. Cut a 200cm (80") piece and leave it on a table for a while. The natural curve will attenuate, thus making it easier to load later on.
2. When loading the film, wrap it around the drum without taping it - it must be more or less 2mm (3/32") from the registration strip.
3. Tape the trailing edge first, then (wearing cotton gloves) push the air bubbles out as you spin the drum using the foot pedals. Once the film is flat on the drum (no air bubbles), tape the leading edge and then tape the sides.

Note: When taping PCI film, do not use standard CREO tape because it expands when you place it and then retracts to form bubbles on the surface of the film creating focus problems. Use a non-stretchable tape to prevent the formation of bubbles.

4. An alternative to steps 2 and 3 is to use a big cardboard tube about 200cm (80") long. Tape the leading edge of the film to the drum, lay the tube between the flash cover and the load table and load the film. The tube will put a bit of pressure on the film during loading and help the film to stick on the drum. Since PCI film is less sensitive to scratches than Volcano, the cardboard tube does not damage the black layer. Wearing cotton gloves, push the remaining air bubbles out and tape the trailing edge and sides of the media.

Notes

- Cut PCI film ahead of time and lay it on a table to lessen the natural curve of the film.
- Use non-stretchable tape when taping film to the drum.

Technical contact

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