

> 1 Choose your Film

Your Holga will accept all types and ASA speeds of medium format (120) film. For best results, we recommend using 400 speed film for sunlight, and 800 speed film for overcast days and indoors. Color negative, black & white, and slide film will all produce fantastic results with your Holga.

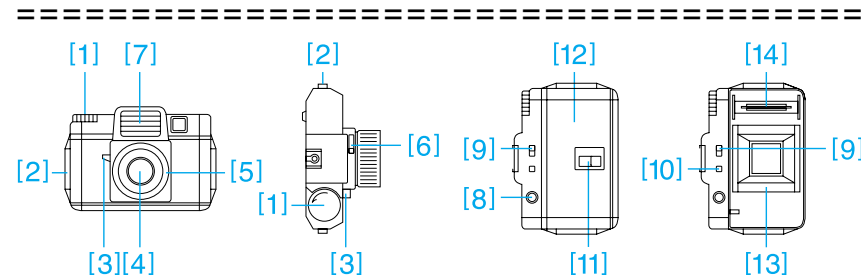
> 2 Choose your Format

Your Holga can produce two photo formats - 15 exposures of 6x4.5 cm or 12 exposures of 6x6 cm. The larger format will produce stronger "vignetting" (darkness & distortion around the edges). This is a famous characteristic of the Holga.

The smaller format will yield clearer and more evenly-colored images. Your Holga comes pre-set to the 6x4.5cm format.

To change to the larger format:

1. Slide the twin metal clips [2] on both sides downward. Lift the back plate [12] off.
2. Remove the 6x4.5cm mask [13]
3. Pick up the back plate [12], and gently move the format selection switch [11] from "16" to "12". This might require some GENTLE help with a screwdriver or pointed object, but be careful not to damage the red window!



> 3 Loading the batteries

The Holga Flash requires two "AA" batteries. Always use alkaline batteries - they last long and will not rot inside the camera. Load the batteries as follows:

Press down the metal side clips [2] and remove the back plate [12]. Then, remove the 6 x 4.5cm mask [13]. Insert your batteries into the battery compartment, in accordance with the "+" and "-" signs as shown. Place some strong tape onto the batteries' ends to make sure that they stay in place!

> 4 Loading your film

Medium format film is very sensitive to strong light. Always load your film in subdued light, and definitely out of bright sunlight! With the back plate [12] removed:

1. Insert a roll of 120 film into the left side of the camera. Pull the leader across the shutter area, and insert the tab end into the slot of the right side take-up spool [14]. Ensure that the black side of the film paper is facing towards the lens.





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2. Wind the take up spool [14] with the advance wheel [1] a few times and make sure that the film is properly advancing. It should transport smoothly and straight; not on an angle. See [Picture A](#) for correct film alignment.
 3. Replace the back plate [12] and lock it into place with the side clips [2]. Advance the film to the first exposure. Looking through the red window [11], you will see a series of dots move by as you are winding. This tells you that the first frame is coming up. Keep winding until #1 appears in the red window.

> **TIP** - A major concern with film loading is ensuring that the film transports straight across, and not at a slight angle. The Holga is somewhat notorious for loose connections between the film roll and take-up spool, allowing the film to move up and down. To take care of this, take a small, thin piece of cardboard (a flap from your film box will work) and jam it below the film spool after you have loaded it.

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> 5 Focus

Your Holga has four focus settings - indicated by the graphic icons on the lens barrel. Twist the barrel [5] and align the pointer (small horizontal line) with the appropriate distance icon. You can also set the distance in-between the icons for more precise focusing.

-  1 meter (3.25 feet)
-  2 meters (6.5 feet)
-  6 meters (20 feet)
-  10 meters (33 feet) to ∞

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> 6 Aperture

Two aperture settings are available for your Holga - Full Sun (F/11) and Cloudy (F/8). Select the appropriate setting by moving the small switch [6] above the lens [4] to show either the sun or the cloud icon. Setting the appropriate aperture for your light conditions will help to achieve the best exposure.

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> 7 Shooting

First, there are two very important notes for Holga shooting:

1. Take off the lens cap! It's easy to forget, but "capped" Holga photos are completely black and generally not cool.
2. The advance wheel [1] of the Holga is not automatic. You can click the shutter button and expose the same photo frame as many times as you want. This is wonderful if you want to take multiple exposures (more on that later), but not so nice if you intend to only take a single exposure. Remember this!

To take a photograph, simply press the shutter lever [3] on the right side of the lens. This will cause the shutter to open and expose the film one time. To advance the film, turn the advance wheel [1] until the film counter window reads the next number.

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> 8 Multiple Exposures

One of the most beloved features of the Holga. As the advance wheel is not controlled, it's easy to take as many exposures as you like on one single frame. Each click of the shutter lever will yield one additional exposure.

Multiple exposures can be used to “copy and paste” subjects across your images, to super-impose subjects on top of one another, to juggle two different environments, to tell photographic stories, and much more!

If you are holding the camera steady, you can use multiple-exposures in low-light or night-time settings to build up the light exposure on your film. The more steady the camera (a tripod is best), the more clear your photo will be. Each additional shutter click brings in more natural ambient light.

> 9 Using the Flash

Slide the flash switch [9] to “on” and you should hear the signature whining sound of the flash charging. Next, set the aperture knob [6] to the cloud icon. When the ready light [10] is lit, the flash is fully charged and ready to use. It will automatically discharge with each click of the shutter lever [3].

The flash [7] should then take between 10 and 15 seconds to fully recharge. When it takes much longer - it’s time for new batteries!

The Holga flash is generally effective from about 0.8m (2.5 feet) to 2m (6.5 feet). Use it to:

- > Illuminate subjects in low-light or night-time conditions.
- > Highlight subjects in the daytime (get close to your subject to yield the effect!)
- > Create unique Multi-exposure compositions. Using the same frame, take one or more exposures with the flash, and one or more without. The result is an excellent juggling of lit and un-lit subjects.

> 10 Unloading

As with loading, always unload your film in low or subdued light! After shooting your last frame, keep turning the advance wheel [1] until the film is completely wound around the take-up spool. Slide down the side clips [2], remove the back plate [12], and remove the film. Using your tongue, lick the glue on the edge of the film leader and wrap it tightly around, securing it in place. Finally, take the empty spool on the left side and move it to the right side, preparing the Holga for re-loading later. Develop your film at a professional photo lab.

> 11 Taping

Every Holga is truly an individual. Some Holgas may leak a lot of light - feeding streams of overexposure onto your photos. Some may barely leak at all. For many Holga fanatics, the light leak is one of the best features of the Holga, giving each photo a special signature look. If you want to reduce the light-leak effect, use opaque tape as follows:

1. Film counter window [11] - the main offender for light leaks. To seal this, apply some tape around the edges. Then, take a small 4cm (1.5 inch) strip and fold it onto itself. Tape this piece to the top of the counter window, and use it as a flap, with a small piece of tape at the bottom to secure it. Lift up the flap to advance to the next frame, making sure to keep the exposed window out of direct light. See [Picture B](#) for illustration.
2. Back seam - run tape along the back seam to seal the body. See [Picture C](#) for illustration.
3. Metal side clips [2] - cover them with tape to prevent the back from accidentally opening. See [Picture D](#) for illustration.

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> Holga Modifications

Your Holga's simplicity allows for exciting mechanical modifications that you can do yourself. Come to know and love all of your Holga's inner workings. To get you started, here are three easy modifications.

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> I'm Still Standing Modification [Holga Tripod Mount](#)

To create a tripod mount, all you need is the correct-sized metal nut. Bring your tripod to your local hardware store and determine the right size nut. Also, pick up some super glue. Glue the nut to the bottom of your Holga and voila! - it is now tripod-compatible. Warning : when mounting the camera, do not screw it too tightly, or the bolt will go right into the bottom of your Holga! See [Picture E](#) for illustration.

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> New Attitude Modification [The 35mm Holga](#)

You can convert your Holga to a striking full-format 35mm camera. Place your 35mm film roll in the center of the left side of the camera, like you would with the medium format film. The film roll should have the pointed side down. Use a piece of soft foam on top and on bottom to fix the film roll in position. It should be tight! Pull out the leader and attach it around the take-up roll. Now, using two long strips of foam, cover the entire take-up roll and film roll from top to bottom, creating pressure against the back plate. Now, the difficult part is knowing what exposure the film is advanced to. To estimate, use the "34-click" rule. Advance your film 34 "clicks" of the advance wheel to get to the approximate first exposure. After taking a shot, advance another 34 to the next exposure. The resulting film will be fully exposed, with the image covering the entire surface of the 35mm film - including the side perforations! See [Picture F](#) for illustration.

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> All Night Long Modification [The Long-Exposure Holga](#)

Warning, this will permanently alter your Holga. The "All Night Long" model will allow you to take unlimited-time exposures at night, producing beautiful photos with streaming, natural light. First, take a look inside your camera. Right in front of the lens is a small, curved spring. This spring controls the shutter, closing it when you release the shutter lever. Using a wire cutter or scissors, cut the spring. Put the lens cap on and load the film. Mount your camera on a tripod, and use the lens cap as your "shutter." Remove the cap, opening the "shutter," and allow the film to expose for 1 to 5 minutes. Replace the cap to close the "shutter," and advance the film. Use an old Holga for this modification. See [Picture G](#) for illustration.

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> Caring for your Holga

- > Replace the lens cap after each use. If the lens becomes dusty or dirty, gently clean it with an air blower or lint-free soft cloth
- > Do not expose the camera to extended strong sunlight, high temperatures, high humidity, or chemical gases. Avoid contact with any organic solvents.
- > Be gentle with the side clips when attaching or removing the back cover. Avoid bending them out of shape.
- > When the camera is not in use for an extended period of time, remove the battery and store in a dry place.

NOTE - your Holga is extremely low-tech, and will eventually wear out. It is designed for simplicity - not longevity. Proper care will extend its lifespan, but it is not likely to survive long enough to be passed on to your grandchildren. Big deal! Old and worn-out Holgas provide the best base for exciting and permanent modifications.

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> Notes & Warranty

Warning: Choking Hazard! This camera contains small parts. Not suitable for children under 3 years of age. Children under 8 years of age should use this item only under adult supervision. The Lomographic Society International proudly stands behind the quality of this product. If you experience any difficulties with your Holga, please immediately contact us at lomocustomerservice@lomography.com for prompt assistance. Your Holga also includes a 12 month limited warranty from the date of purchase (the warranty period may differ depending on your local regulations). This guarantees against all manufacturer defects. Damage caused by misuse, incorrect handling, or abuse of the product is not covered. To claim your warranty, contact the relevant Lomographic office for your region as listed below. Items under warranty will be repaired or replaced at the discretion of the Lomographic Society International. Retain or sales slip or invoice for proof of purchase!

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> The Lomographic Society International

It is with fond admiration that we, the Lomographic Society International, present this compelling Holga package. To give due credit, we are neither the inventors nor original creative users of this amazing instrument. We merely serve as the messengers of this low-tech Holga movement, delivering this "Starter Kit" to your doorstep and pointing your nose in the direction of this incredible cult phenomenon. //// But who are we? The Lomographic Society International is a globally active organization dedicated to the "Shot From the Hip," our form of spontaneous snapshot photography. Our team of idea-laden amigos are now designing and distributing our cameras (Lomo LC-A, ActionSampler, SuperSampler, Pop 9, etc) and other goodies (fashion, books, printed stuff) to all channels. Lomographic Items are all practical, sensual, friendly, inexpensive, sexy, unpolitical, a tad intellectual and available world-wide. //// The most all-embracing framework for Lomography, however, is present in our "LomographicWorldArchive." Thousands of Lomographers are pasting away to make this never-ending Lomographic undertaking the most comprehensive snapshot archive of all time with all of the craziest sights and moments of our world! //// Where is this archive? In the stacked shoe-boxes of Lomographers, on their chairs and tables, on the walls of Lomographic apartments, in Lomographic albums, books and exhibitions, in the global Lomographic embassies, in the Lomographic Society's GHQ in Vienna and, in the ultimate concentration, online in the LomographicWorldArchive as part of the Lomographic world-wide information switchboard at www.lomography.com. And, in fact, the archive is growing - hopefully soon with your contributions too! Join the lomographers, and send us as many of your images as possible!