LOMO INFO

New to film?
We can help!

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF FILM?

The standard film *formats* are:

35mm film - (used in cameras like the LC-A+ and Fisheye), this is the most readily accessible film on the market, with it even being available at your local supermarket. Individual rolls of 35mm film are enclosed in single-spooled light-tight metal canisters. This allows cameras to be loaded even in broad daylight, as they are not as delicate as their 120 counterparts!

120 medium format film - (used in cameras like the Diana F+ and Holga), which is a little harder to find - you might have to rely on dedicated photo labs like ourselves to supply it. 120 films come wrapped around a plastic spool, and yields 12 or 16 images, depending on which camera and film masks you use. You must be extra careful when removing your film from your camera, if the paper is too loose around your film you are sure to acquire light leaks, or worse - film exposure!

The standard film *types* are :

Colour negative film - Color negative film uses C-41 chemicals for processing, and you get negatives from it when processed normally. Color negative film is very much "what you see is what you get" when it comes to coloration. It yields true-to-life colors and contrast, which is why portrait and wedding photographers prefer it.

Colour positive film - Also called "slide," or "transparency" film, it uses E-6 chemicals for processing. You get a positive image or "slides" from it when processed normally. When mounted, these are exactly like the slides that you'd put in a slide projector! Due to it's small exposure compensation, it is much less forgiving of poorly exposed photos, which in turn makes it the preferred film of landscape and still life photographers,

Black & white film - which is hand processed in both a developer, a stop bath and then finally a fixer.
Indeed, beautiful black and white photography doesn't attract with its play of colors. Here close attention to composition, lighting, perspective and the context it is shot in are important.

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PHOTO IMAGING

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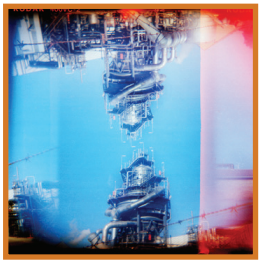
WHAT IS CROSS-PROCESSING?

When you use the C-41 chemicals (for your negative film) on your slide film, that's called cross processing which yields the saturated, vivid colors and contrast that makes Lomographic images famous. Each slide film has different characteristics when cross-processed. Some films go red, others go blue, and some just get brighter with more contrast. Don't expect to get the same results every time – there is nothing definite about the colors, they're all mostly a surprise!

Also remember that everything depends on how you process your film. The chemicals, the machine calibrations and the developing process (the order, the temperature, etc.) are responsible for what you get towards the end. When you have your film processed, you get different results from different labs because they do not always use the same chemicals and calibrations.



WHY DID MY FILM COME BACK WITHOUT ANY IMAGES?

If your film came back clear(under-exposed) or black(over-exposed):

Always remember that your Lomography cameras love the light! If you're using a slower speed film (ISO 100 or 200), you must go out in bright sun to get images on your film. For most of the cameras (SuperSampler, Fisheye, Actionsampler, Diana F+, etc), it's recommended to use an ISO 400 film to make sure you get an image on your film, rain or shine.

If you know you were shooting an appropriate speed film in the right lighting conditions, check on your shutter. If the shutter on your camera doesn't open, your film can't get exposed to light, and therefore can't make an image! Simply open the back of your camera (without film in it, of course), cock the camera's shutter (if necessary), and look through the lens plane while you click the shutter button. You should see a brief circle of light appear and disappear right before your eyes.

If you know you're shooting the right speed film in the right lighting conditions and your shutter is working fine, your film may not be advancing within the camera. To make sure your film is advancing within the camera when the back door is closed, simply locate the rewind crank on your camera and watch it as you turn the advance wheel. The rewind crank should spin as you advance the film.

* Information taken from www.lomography.com.au

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