

Negative Types & Formats

35mm Film

In 1889, Thomas Edison was experimenting with motion pictures and needed long rolls of film, 35 millimeters wide, with holes perforated on the edges so the footage could be driven by sprocket wheels. He contacted George Eastman and Kodak initially produced the film on a limited basis. Soon, 35mm film became the standard format for motion pictures. A few years later, small still cameras were manufactured to use this format. In 1934, cartridges were introduced for daylight loading and given the designation of 135. This innovation caused 35mm to become the most popular format of all time and still popular today.

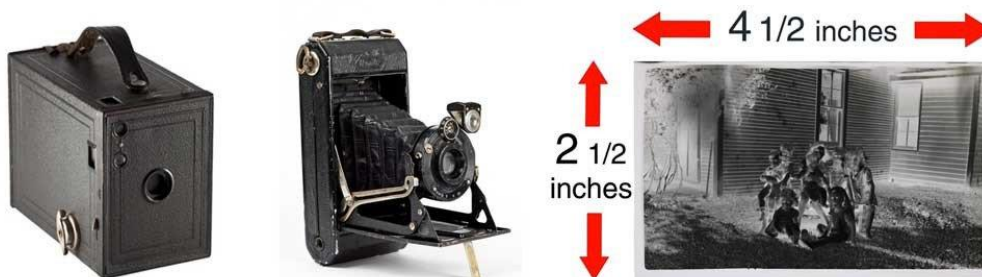
35mm Film



116 & 616 Film

The 116 format dates back to 1899 and was used in early Kodak box and folding cameras. The negatives were big—at 2.5 x 4.5 inches, six frames on a roll. In 1932, Kodak introduced 616 film. This has a slightly slimmer spool to fit more compact cameras. Both films were discontinued in 1984.

616 116 Roll Film



127 Film

46mm wide, this format was smaller than 120 film. It was introduced in 1912 along with the "Vest Pocket Kodak" folding camera, smaller than most 35mm cameras of today. Depending on the camera, the image would be a square or rectangular negative. 127 film gained in popularity through the 1940's and 1950's with the introduction of inexpensive Brownie cameras and continued in wide use until the introduction of the 126 cartridge cameras in the 1960's. Kodak stopped producing 127 film in 1995.

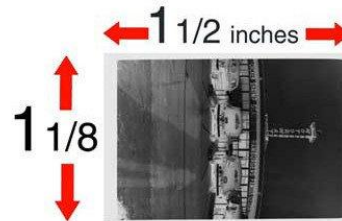
127 Film



828 Film

Introduced in 1935, this was unperforated 35mm film, wound on a spool with a paper backing. It was used with Kodak's Bantam and Pony series, marketed as inexpensive snapshot cameras.

828
Film



120 Roll Film

120 film was introduced by Eastman Kodak in 1901 for the inexpensive Brownie Box cameras. Initially marketed to consumers for snapshots, it later became the preferred format for professionals. At $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide, the negatives are larger than 35mm, delivering higher resolution and sharpness.

620 Roll Film

This is essentially 120 film on a smaller spool for smaller consumer cameras. Introduced by Kodak in 1932 and discontinued in 1995.

620
120
Film



120 Professional Film

120 film--also known as medium format--is still a popular format for professionals. After World War 2, high quality film stocks were produced strictly for pro photographers, widely used for portraits, wedding and commercial photography.

120
Pro
Film



126 or Instamatic Film

In 1963 Kodak introduced Instamatic cameras that used a plastic cartridge for easy drop-in film loading. The cameras were typically “point and shoot” and simple to use. The image measured 26mm square. Film was available for prints and slides, both color and black & white. The 126 format became popular and brought color photography to the mass consumer market.



Kodak Disc Film

Kodak introduced Disc Film in 1982. The Disc film did not prove hugely successful, mainly because the image on the negative is only 10 mm by 8 mm, leading to generally unacceptable grain and poor definition. The film was officially discontinued by the last manufacturer, Kodak, on December 31, 1999, though the cameras had disappeared from the market long before then.

