

Aiming and framing with the OneStep 2

If you're having trouble with your Polaroid OneStep 2 viewfinder - like finding that your subject isn't as centered as you thought, or that the photo hasn't come out quite as it looked through the viewfinder, here's some guidelines on how to get the best results:

There are two main things to look out for when framing a photo with the OneStep 2: (i) holding the camera properly, and (ii) accounting for parallax (the difference between the position of an object as it appears to you, and as it appears through the camera's lens).

1. How to hold the OneStep 2

Make sure you are holding the camera so it is parallel to the floor, i.e. don't tilt it side-to-side or front-to-back.



Correct
Camera is level
Eye is 5 cm from viewfinder



Incorrect
Camera is tilted upwards
Eye is too close to viewfinder

An easy trick to ensure that you are holding the camera parallel to the ground is to start by holding it one foot away from your eye, then slowly draw it towards your eye, keeping the camera level...



The back of the camera body should rest on your cheek, with 2" (5 cm) between your eye and the viewfinder.

2. Accounting for Parallax

The OneStep 2 uses a traditional viewfinder located slightly above and to the right of the camera's lens. This means that what you see through the viewfinder is from a different perspective than what the lens is seeing. As a result, you'll need to adjust your aim to compose your shot correctly.

This is especially true when shooting subjects that are closer than 4 feet (1.2 meters) away, such as portraits. When taking a photo of something close-up, it's a good rule of thumb to adjust your aim slightly downwards and to the right. Again: line up your shot, and then adjust by aiming a little downwards and a little to the right.

Try this quick experiment at home:

This issue of perspective is commonly called "parallax", and can be easily recreated at home to help you better understand this concept. Start by holding out your index finger 2 inches (5 cm) away from your face. Close one eye at a time, and pay attention to your finger. You should notice your finger "shifting" position depending on which eye you're looking with, as each eye is in a slightly different position when looking at your finger. The same thing is happening with your camera's viewfinder and lens.

Double-exposures on the OneStep 2

Although not a built-in feature, per se, creating double exposures with the Polaroid Originals OneStep 2 is possible. It can be a bit addictive as well.

To create a double exposure on the OneStep 2, follow the steps below:

1. Take a picture by depressing the shutter button, and keep holding the shutter button down
2. While still holding the shutter button down, turn the camera OFF
3. You can now release the shutter button
4. Keep the camera OFF for 5 full seconds (1 Mississippi, 2 Mississippi, 3...)
5. Turn the camera back ON and take your second photo normally
6. The photo will now eject as usual with the photo having been exposed twice

A couple extra tips:

- Turn the exposure compensation switch to darken (negative)
 - The camera doesn't know that you're planning to take a double exposure and therefore will create an exposure to correctly expose the first scene. Doing this two times will therefore result in an over-exposed image. To help compensate, it is generally best to compensate to darken.
- Opening the film door works too
 - If counting out 5 Mississippi's is beginning to feel like ages - you can substitute the turning the camera OFF / ON (steps 2 - 4) with simply opening up the film door. Ensure you keep the shutter button depressed while opening the film door. Then, release the shutter button, close the film door, and you are ready to take your second exposure.

Troubleshooting the OneStep 2: 4 common mistakes

1. My OneStep 2 won't eject my photo/darkslide

- Make sure that your OneStep 2 camera is charged: The camera's flash charge LED will blink red if it doesn't have enough charge to operate. If this is the case, you should recharge your camera before using the camera again.
- Make sure you still have film in your camera: to check, slide the power switch off and on. The remaining film counter LEDs will indicate how many shots you have left in the film pack. If the LEDs flash rapidly when the camera turns on again, this means that there are no shots left in the film pack, or that no film pack is inserted.

2. The flash doesn't fire when I take a photo

- When taking photos make sure you aren't accidentally pressing the flash override button, located on the camera's back panel.

3. My photo turned out slightly too dark

- We strongly recommend that you always shoot with flash when shooting indoors, as well as outside at night-time, at dusk and on cloudy days with low light conditions. Make sure you are not shooting towards the sun; the OneStep 2 meters the average light level it sees.

- When shooting toward sunlight, the excessive light may cause the camera to over-compensate when exposing the image, creating an image that is too dark to expose your subject properly. Move the lighten/darken switch on the right side of the lens barrel to the plus/lighten position for a brighter image.

4. My photo turned out blurry or fuzzy

- When shooting, make sure to hold the camera steady, especially in low light conditions, and make sure you have a strong light source to illuminate your shot. We strongly recommend that you always shoot with flash when shooting indoors, as well as outside at night-time, at dusk and on cloudy days with low light conditions. You can also use a tripod to give your camera a stable base.
- - Make sure you are not too close to your subject when taking photos. In order to avoid blurry or out-of-focus photos, you should shoot from at least 60cm (2ft) away from your subject.

What film to use with the Polaroid Originals OneStep 2

The OneStep 2 works with all Polaroid Originals [i-Type](#) and [600 type](#) film packs. We recommend using i-Type film as it is optimized for use with the OneStep 2.

i-Type cameras



Polaroid i-Type



Impossible i-Type



Impossible Instant Lab

You can also use 600 film with i-Type cameras



Unboxing the Polaroid Originals OneStep 2

Included in the box:

- OneStep 2 camera (of course)
- User manual (8 languages)
- Polaroid Originals sticker (if you're lucky)
- Camera strap
- USB charging cable

Learn how to take your first photo with the OneStep 2, [here](#). You can also learn some tips and tricks on aiming and framing with the OneStep 2, [here](#).

And remember: Polaroids, like flowers, need a lot of light.

How to take your first photo with the Polaroid OneStep 2

1. Turn the camera on/off

To turn the camera on, slide the power switch into the ON position (down). The flash charging LED on the back panel will start blinking to charge the flash, and the remaining film counter on the top of the camera will light up to indicate that the camera is switched on. To turn the camera off again, return the power switch to the OFF position.

2. Load the film

Slide the film door latch to open the film door. Push the film cassette all the way in, with the film's darkslide facing up.

Note: Please check individual film packaging for development time, handling and storage details.

3. Close film door

When you close the film door, the darkslide will eject from the camera automatically, underneath the film shield. The plastic film shield is designed to protect images from light as they develop — it should not be removed. Take the darkslide out from under the film shield and let the film shield roll back up. If the darkslide has not ejected, remove the film pack and re-insert it, making sure it is pushed all the way to the back of the camera.

4. Set the Flash & Lighten/Darken

Flash: The camera flash will trigger by default when you shoot with the OneStep 2. To shoot with out the flash, press and hold the flash override button on the back panel as you press the shutter button.

Warning: Shooting without flash will reduce camera performance and picture quality in most lighting situations except brightly-lit, sunny environments. We recommend always shooting with flash.

Lighten/Darken: Use the lighten/darken switch on the right side of the lens barrel to adjust the exposure of your shot. To get a brighter photo, move the lighten/darken switch right to the plus/lighten position. For a darker photo, move the lighten/darken switch left to the minus/darken position. These two settings correspond to different Exposure Values (EV). The camera's Exposure Values are $+1/2$ EV (when you move the switch to plus/lighten) and $-1/2$ EV (when you move the switch to minus/darken).

5. Using the viewfinder:

The OneStep 2 uses a traditional view finder located on the right side of the lens barrel. The viewfinder is most accurate when you align your right eye with the space behind the viewfinder, resting your cheek on the slope of the camera body.

Note: Remember that the viewfinder sits slightly above and to the right of the camera's lens — above and to the left from your perspective when shooting — so you will need to adjust your aim to compose your shot correctly when shooting at distances of 1.2 meters or less. Learn more about aiming and framing with the OneStep 2 in [this article](#).

6. Compose your photo:

To avoid a blurry photo, make sure you are at least 60cm (2 feet) away from your subject when you take the picture. For the best results, always try to shoot with your light source behind you.

7. Take the photo:

Press the shutter button all the way in to take the photo. The photo will be ejected from the slot at the front of the camera as soon as you let go of the shutter button. It will be shielded from the light by the film shield, and will be held in place until you are ready to remove it.

8. Remove and shield the photo

Remove the photo from beneath the film shield and let the film shield roll back into the camera. Place the photo face down to continue shielding it from light as it develops.

How much film is left in your OneStep 2

How much film is left in the pack

There are 8 orange LED lights on top of the camera. When the OneStep 2 is switched on and not in sleep mode, the LEDs will constantly display the film count. The number of LEDs which light up corresponds to the number of shots left in the film pack. For example: If 6 LEDs light up, that means there are 6 shots left in the film pack. If you have used up all 8 shots in the film pack, or if there is no film pack inserted in the camera, then the LEDs will blink rapidly when you turn the camera on.

Charge the camera

Important

The OneStep 2 will not be fully charged upon purchase — it should be fully charged before first use. To charge the camera, plug the USB charging cable into the Micro-USB slot on the camera's back panel, and the other end of the cable into a charger, such as a smartphone adapter or your computer's USB slot. The red flash charge LED will turn off when the battery is fully charged. A full charge usually takes about 2 hours through a wall socket with a smartphone adapter, or up to 4 hours through a computer's USB slot. A fully-charged OneStep 2 camera will have enough power to shoot 15-20 packs of film, depending on usage. Remember to turn your camera off after every use to conserve battery life.

How much battery you have left

The camera has 3 battery states, indicated by the camera's flash charge LED light:

1. Battery charged: Enough charge for at least 2 packs of film. The flash LED will blink green whilst charging between shots, and will be solid green when ready to shoot.
2. Battery low: Enough charge for about 1 pack of film. The flash LED will blink orange whilst charging between shots, and will be solid orange when ready to shoot.
3. Battery empty: No charge remaining. The flash LED will blink red, and the camera will cease to operate until it is recharged. A fully-charged OneStep 2 camera will have enough power to shoot 15-20 packs of film, depending on usage. To check the camera's charge at any time, switch the camera off, then switch it back on whilst holding down the self-timer button. The 8 film counter LEDs on top of the camera will light up, indicating how much battery remains. For example: If 6 LEDs light up, that means the camera has 6/8 (75%) charge remaining. Once you release the self-timer button, the LEDs will return to displaying the number of shots remaining in your film pack.

Power supply

Charge the OneStep 2 before use to ensure it has enough power for the duration of your shoot. The flash charge LED will be solid red whilst the camera is plugged in and charging, and will turn off once the camera is fully charged.

How to use your Polaroid OneStep 2 self timer feature

Using the self-timer

The OneStep 2 has a self-timer function allowing you to place yourself in your photos or create perfectly-timed photographs. To use the self-timer:

- press the self-timer button on the left of the lens barrel. The self-timer button will light up to solid orange, indicating that the self-timer is activated.
- once you have framed your photo, press the shutter button. The self-timer uses an 8-second interval between pressing the shutter button and taking the photograph.
- once triggered, the self-timer's orange LED will blink to indicate the self-timer countdown. In bright or sunny environments, the camera flash will also count down with short, low-power flashes.

Note: When using the self-timer to shoot, the flash will trigger automatically. To make self-timed photos without flash, activate the self-timer, then press and hold the flash override button as you press the shutter button.

How to clean the rollers on the Polaroid OneStep 2

Sometimes excess developer paste from photos may build up on the camera's rollers, affecting the camera's performance and causing photos to show unwanted imperfections. The OneStep 2 has a built-in roller cleaning mode to help with this issue.

Take a peek at the video below or just follow the step by step instructions.

To clean the rollers of your OneStep 2 just follow these steps:

1. Turn the camera off.
2. Open the film door.
3. Hold the flash override button and press the shutter button.

4. The camera is now in roller cleaning mode.
5. Using a damp cloth or cotton swab, gently clean the rollers.
6. Press shutter button to incrementally advance roller positions.
7. Once both rollers are clean on all sides, close the film door.
8. Rollers will automatically return to their correct position.