

A Guide to Identifying Year of Manufacture for KODAK Motion Picture Films

Kodak

TECHNICAL DATA

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This brochure will help you determine the age of your film, and in some cases, where it was manufactured.

Whenever practical, KODAK Motion Picture Films include manufacturing dates, latent image printed, usually in the margin area outside of the perforations. The dating scheme has changed over time and is equipment dependent. Earlier products used symbols to identify the year of manufacture. When Kodak introduced machine-readable KEYCODE Technology on certain products, those products converted to two-digit alpha characters to indicate year of manufacture. Since 2001, most year-of-manufacture information is indicated with either two-digit (alpha or numeric) characters or four-digit numeric characters. There could be a few films, such as Super 8, that may be printed with symbols as late as 2005.

SYMBOLS FOR 16, 35, AND 65 MM FILMS

Symbols may either be open or solid. Other symbols on the edgeprint, not shown here, are not date related.

Film Manufactured in Canada

From 1925 to 1950, symbols repeated in 11-year intervals. After 1950, symbols for film manufactured in Canada matched the United States.

Year			Symbol
1925	1936	1947	●L
1926	1937	1948	●—
1927	1938	1949	●◐
1928	1939	1950	L●
1929	1940		—●
1930	1941		◐●
1931	1942		◆
1932	1943		◆●
1933	1944		◆—
1934	1945		◆L
1935	1946		◆◐

Film Manufactured in the United Kingdom

From 1917 to 1950, symbols repeated in 19-year intervals. After 1950, symbols for film manufactured in the U.K. matched the United States.

Year		Symbol
1917	1936	◐
1918	1937	L
1919	1938	—
1920	1939	◐◐
1921	1940	LL
1922	1941	—
1923	1942	◐L
1924	1943	—L
1925	1944	◐—
1926	1945	—◐
1927	1946	L—
1928	1947	L◐
1929	1948	+
1930	1949	+◐
1931	1950	+L
1932		+—
1933		◐+
1934		L+
1935		—+

Film Manufactured in the United States

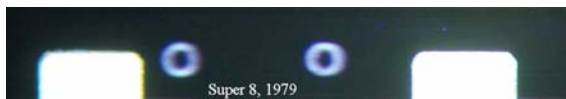
Year symbols were reused every 20 years (exception: 1968) until 1982, when a third symbol was added to allow unique date coding.

Year				Symbol
1916	1936	1956	1976	●
1917	1937	1957	1977	■
1918	1938	1958	1978	▲
1919	1939	1959	1979	●●
1920	1940	1960	1980	■■
1921	1941	1961	1981	▲▲
1922	1942	1962		●■
1923	1943	1963		●▲
1924	1944	1964		▲■
1925	1945	1965		■●
1926	1946	1966		▲●
1927	1947	1967		■▲
1928	1948			●●●
	1968			++
1929	1949	1969		+
1930	1950	1970		▲+
1931	1951	1971		●+
1932	1952	1972		■+
1933	1953	1973		+▲
1934	1954	1974		+●
1935	1955	1975		+■

Example: The image below shows film that was manufactured in the United States in either 1923, 1943, or 1963.



Note: Super 8 films were first produced in 1965, so the symbols would match the listings for the US.



Year	Symbol
1982	●■×
1983	×▲×
1984	▲■▲
1985	■●▲
1986	▲●▲
1987	■▲▲
1988	++▲
1989	×+▲
1990	▲+▲
1991	×+×
1992	■+▲
1993	+▲▲

Year	Symbol
1994	+●▲
1995	+■▲
1996	×●▲
1997	×■▲
1998	×▲▲
1999	●×▲
2000	■■▲
2001	▲▲●
2002	●■●
2003	●▲●
2004	▲■●
2005	■●●

16mm Film Manufactured in France and Germany*

From 1934 to 1939, 16mm films were manufactured in Vincennes, France and Kopenick, Germany. Dating can be further determined by the distance between the "M" in "FILM" to the first symbol. If the distance equals 1/16", the film was manufactured January to June. If the distance is 3/16", the film was manufactured from July to December.

Year	France	Germany
1934	◐◐◐	■ ■ ■
1935	◐ ◐ ◐	● ● ●
1936	■ ◐ ◐	■ ● ●
1937	◐ ◐ ■	● ● ■
1938	■ ■ ◐	■ ● ■
1939	◐ ■ ■	■ ■ ●

PLANT OF ORIGIN

If the film is identified with Plant of Origin dots, the location between characters and vertical placement indicates the manufacturing site.

Film Manufactured in the United States		
Rochester	K●ODAK	S●AFETY
Colorado	KOD ₁ AK	S ₁ AFETY
Film Manufactured in Canada		
Canada	KO DAK	SA FETY
Film Manufactured in the United Kingdom		
Limited	KOD●AK	SAF ETY
Film Manufactured in France		
Chalon	KODA●K	SAFE●TY

REGULAR 8 MM FILMS

After 1964, symbols are the same as 16mm films.

Year	Symbol	Year	Symbol
1954	●●	1960	+▲
1955	▲▲	1961	■+
1956	●▲	1962	+
1957	▲●	1963	■
1958	■▲	1964	●●
1959	+●		

8 mm Films From 1932 to 1953*

	United States		United Kingdom	
	Jan to June	July to Dec	Jan to June	July to Dec
1932	●	●		
1933	■	▲	◐	L
1934	●●	■	-	◐◐
1935	▲▲	●■	LL	--
1936	●▲	▲■	◐L	-L
1937	▲●	■●	L◐	L-
1938	■▲	++	-◐	◐-
1939	+●	+■	+	++
1940	+▲	●+	+◐	+L
1941	■+	▲+	+◐	◐+

Date codes from 1942 to 1953 have been determined by cross-referencing ten film collections from the period and comparing them with symbol sequences from previous and subsequent decades. This data is not absolutely accurate, and is intended for guidance only.

1942	+ (uncertain) L- (possible)	1948	+ (probable) ++ (possible) ◐- (possible) ■▲ (possible)
1943	◐ (possible)	1949	+◐ (probable) +■ (possible) +● (possible)
1944	■ (uncertain)	1950	+L (probable) ●+ (possible)
1945	-- (uncertain) +- (possible)	1951	■+ (probable) ▲+ (possible)
1946	◐+ (possible) ◐L (possible) ▲■ (possible)	1952	+ (probable)
1947	L- (probable) ▲● (probable) ■● (probable)	1953	■ (probable)

KODAK KEYCODE NUMBERS

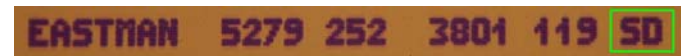
Starting in 1989, films printed with KODAK KEYCODE Numbers contained two-digit alpha identifiers. These identifiers are printed at the end of the manufacturer's information message (which starts with EASTMAN), indicates the year of manufacture.

Year	Symbol
1989	DE
1990	LE
1991	EA
1992	AS
1993	ST
1994	TM
1995	MN
1996	NK
1997	KD
1998	DF
1999	FL
2000	SD
2001	TF
2002	ML

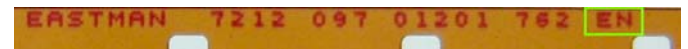
Year	Symbol
2003	NE
2004	KA
2005	DS
2006	FT
2007	LM
2008	EN
2009	AK
2010	TK
2011	MD
2012	NF
2013	KL
2014	DE
2015	FA
2016	LS

Examples:

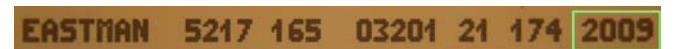
1) 35 mm example, SD = 2000.



2) 16 mm example, EN = 2008.



3) In 2003, most 35 mm films printed with KODAK KEYCODE Numbers were improved and changed to an actual 4-digit numeric year.

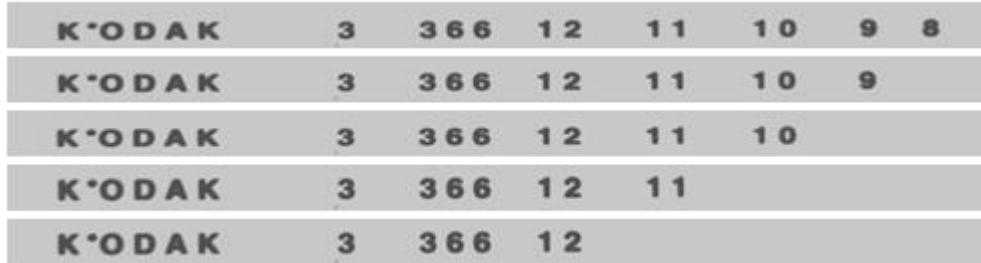


Note: 16 mm and 65 mm films printed with KEYCODE Numbers will always have the 2-digit alpha identifier, only 35 mm films were converted to a 4-digit numeric year. Some 35 mm film were manufactured in both formats through the years.

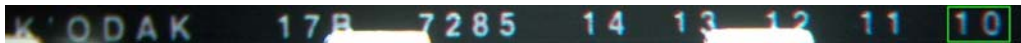
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OTHER YEAR IDENTIFICATION FORMATS

Starting in 2008, Kodak began using a multi-year stencil system on some films. The example below shows KODAK Fine Grain Duplicating Positive Film 5366 with a stencil for 2008 through 2012. The last (lowest) number indicates the year of manufacture. Not all films with this dating format will contain the same year sequences; all films should be dated by the last digits showing.



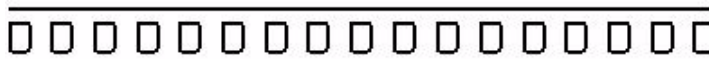
This example (below) shows Super 8 KODAK EKTACHROME 100D Color Reversal Film 7285 with the multi-year stencil format, with a manufacturing date of 2010.



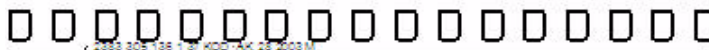
This second example (below) shows KODAK VISION Color Print Film 3383 with the multi-year stencil format, with a manufacturing date of 2011.



The illustration below shows how 35 mm color print films are now dated with 4-digit year codes.



Eastman Color Print



12383 305.136 1 37 KODAK 28(2003) M

Year of Manufacture

NOTICE: The information provided above was prepared using certain data available to Kodak; provided, however, Kodak makes no representation or warranty regarding the accuracy of such information.

* Source: East Anglian Film Archive, www.eafa.org.uk.

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