

KODAK RELIABLE IMAGE TIP # 26

Can I use rubber bands to retain film on the reel?

Putting rubber bands around microfilm is not recommended. Especially if the rubber bands are not sulfur free and, they usually are not. They leave a permanent mark on the outer layers at the beginning of the roll and ultimately will migrate further into the roll. See ANSI/AIIM Standard below:

ANSI/AIIM MS23-1998

6.3.1.11 Rubber bands

“Sulfur is added to crude rubber to provide rubber bands with elasticity and long life. Sulfur readily reacts with silver microimages to form silver sulfide. Most rubber bands, even those made from “low-sulfur” rubber, will react negatively with silver microfilm and should not be used to retain film on the reel”

The only way to deal with microfilm that has been attacked by things such as sulfide, acid effects, redox, vinegar syndrome, etc, is silver duplication. This will ensure the new film will be of archival quality and also end the contamination effect. Brown toning, molecular sieves and proper storage will further increase the archivability of the silver film.

