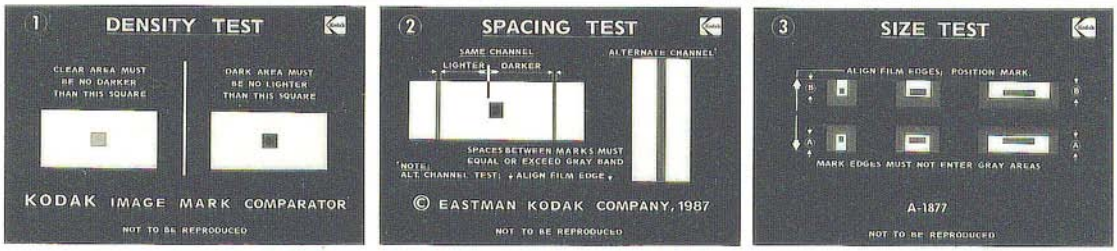
KODAK RELIABLE IMAGE TIP # 69

How to use the Kodak Image Mark Comparator Catalog # 832-8221



How to Use the KODAK Image Mark Comparator A-1877

INTRODUCTION

The KODAK Image Mark Comparator is a 35 mm filmstrip containing three different test frames that are used to check microfilm document image marks for proper density, spacing between marks, and correct size. The comparator is used to check document image marks on microfilm that is used in a KODAK IMT-50, IMT-100, IMT-200, IMT-250, or IMT-350 Microimage Terminal, or a KODAK IMAGELINK™ Digital Workstation.

The appropriate time to check for accuracy is at your microfilm inspection station immediately after processing a roll of microfilm. Image mark verification should become a standard procedure.

NOTE: Be sure you understand the pattern sequence for your film prior to inspection. It is important to know the image mark structure on the film so that you can conveniently check the specifications without any problem.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES

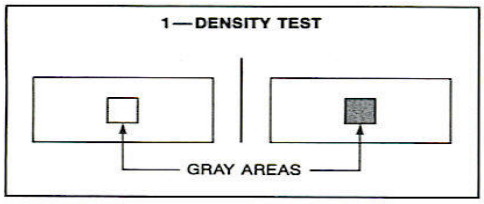
- A rewind stand with 16 mm reels.
- A fluorescent subsurface illuminator.
- A 7 to 10X eye loupe (contacting surface to be covered with nonscratching material, such as vinyl electrician's tape).
- White gloves.

OPERATING PROCEDURE

Tape the comparator onto the illuminator. The comparator should not be removed from the transparent sleeve. Inspect at least 10 inches at the beginning, middle, and end of each roll. Compare each image mark with all three test frames on the comparator. Camera and print films, negative, reversal-processed, or positive polarity can be examined.

DENSITY TEST — Frame No. 1

(Applicable for silver film only)

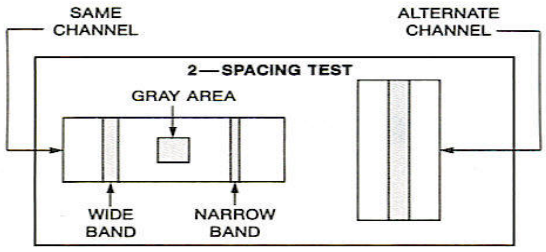


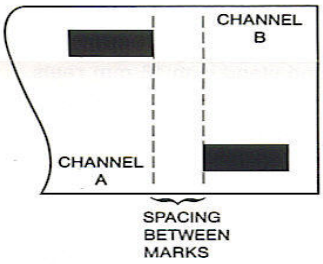
Using white gloves, place the film over the comparator so that the image mark channel is adjacent to, but not covering, the gray area (at the left). Use the eye loupe to verify that the clear area of the image mark channel is no darker than the gray area of the one at the left, and that the dark area of the image mark channel is no lighter than the gray area of the one at the right.

River City Data
212 N Smith Ave
St Paul, MN 55102

Phone"651-292-0929
Sales: info@rivercitydata.com
Web: www.rivercitydata.com

SPACING TEST—Frame No. 2





SECTION OF MICROFILM

Frame No. 2 establishes the minimum spacing restrictions between image marks in the same channel. The wide vertical gray band to the left of the gray area is used to check the space for all film types. The narrower vertical gray band to the right is used only for silver film.

With silver film, compare the density of the dark area of the film with the gray area. If the density is lighter, more space (wide band) is required between image marks. When density is darker and background density remains less than .35, less space (narrow band) is acceptable.

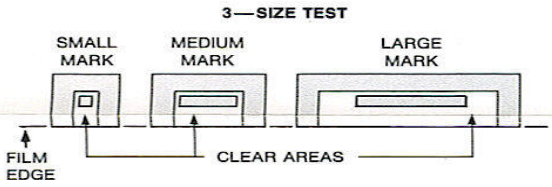
The facing edges of two adjacent image marks should just touch the sides of the gray band, or, ideally, be farther apart for correct spacing. when comparing reversal-processed or positive microfilm, use the eye loupe to look inside the clear area of the image mark.

In either case, if the gray band overlaps the adjacent image mark, spacing is not acceptable.

The alternate channel* (widest vertical bar at right) is used to check the space between the channel A image mark and the adjacent image mark in channel B with multilevel searches using both channels. Place the microfilm on the comparator as described, aligning the left edge of the channel A image mark with the right edge of the channel B image mark. The facing edges of the two image marks should touch the sides of the vertical gray band (alternate channel), or, ideally, be farther apart for correct spacing.

*Alternate channel image marking is possible on some manufacturer's microfilmers.

SIZE TEST—Frame No. 3



This frame illustrates both the minimum and maximum allowable sizes for each of the three different image mark sizes used in multilevel search. Each image mark (small, medium, or large) should film within its appropriate clear area (maximum size) and simultaneously cover the gray area (minimum size).

Position either film edge, channel B at the top or channel A at the bottom, along the appropriate edge guide.

Move the film until an image mark covers the appropriate window. The mark should cover the gray area within the center of the frame but must not overlap into the outside gray areas.*

If using only single-level image marks, any size is acceptable as long as it conforms to the limitations for the minimum size of the smallest mark, and the maximum size of the longest mark, and does not extend into the document.

*The image mark can extend into the document area as long as the mark does not overlap the document.

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