

## Instant Isn't (for sharing)

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Cleaning the basement for a wave of much loved visitors recently, I ran across the Polaroid OneStep closeup camera my mom bought the year before she died. By that time, digital still cams were beginning to find their way into the lives of the hobbyists. As a late-model Polaroid instant, it takes 600 and compatible film, seems mostly sturdy, and has few options for tweaking.

I decided to pick up some instant film for the upcoming holiday-time parties. I ordered:

- 600 instant
- 779 instant (which is supposed to achieve better color reproduction)
- something else. It's a write-on film, and I ordered it because it has a matte finish.

The camera is on when the flash cover is open. It is powered by a battery inside of the film cartridges. The focus is adjusted by sliding a plastic macro lens in front of the lens and viewfinder, giving you macro (flower) and distant (tree). I think the flash is always on, but there is what looks to be an exposure adjustment that slides toward the white arrow or the black arrow. Guests and I ran through 20 shots of the standard 600 at a party hosted at the residence for people from high school.

The greatest things about the instant film are the tangible product after the photo, the anticipation of gradual development, and the nostalgia.

The biggest reason the instant film isn't cool presents itself when someone says, "you're gonna send those to us, right?" (\*correction, the actual least cool part is the battery waste from every cartridge).

...."Uh. Yeah". At least I get the satisfaction of chemical development here. Look for an update when I try out the other films.

clicky!

From AMH Friends in 2007