Does the film have black Edges?

YES

CRI
Colour Reversal Intermediate

NO

Could be camera negative, duplicate negative or internegative

A camera negative will have joins at scene changes (cut negative) or will not have joins at every scene and there will not be printed in joins; you will often see flash frames or camera stops

Definition
In this aid an internegative is a colour negative made from a colour print or a colour reversal master.
A duplicate negative is made from a colour interpositive

Colour Negative

For further identification of colour negative films

Go to Page 32

© Brian Pritchard 2013
www.brianpritchard.com
Does the film have an overall orange colour? 

- **YES** 
  - Go to Page 26

- **NO**
  - Does it have black edges? 
    - **NO** 
      - Go to Page 27
    - **YES**
      - Colour Reversal

To identify sound tracks go to Page 15

Go to Page 7

For further identification of colour reversal films

© Brian Pritchard 2013  
www.brianpritchard.com
Does the film have a soundtrack?

- **YES**: Film is a combined colour reversal print → Go to Page 35
- **NO**: Is there more than 1 roll for each reel?
  - **NO**: Colour reversal master or Silent print → Go to Page 29
  - **YES**: A & B roll Masters → Go to Page 28

To identify soundtracks go to Page 15
Does the film have black Edges?

YES

B/W Reversal

NO

Are the edges coloured?

YES

Tinted B/W or Blue Base TV Positive

Check the base of the film and see if there are moulded lines, if so then this is Kodacolor Lenticular film. It should have the edge print 'Kodacolor'.

To identify sound tracks go to Page 15
Some print stocks might not have edge print; check winding of film, prints usually are A winding

Return to Start
Single perforated can be A or B winding

Perforations can be long or short pitch. Camera material is usually short pitch (0.2994 inches), print stock usually long pitch (0.3000 inches)

Check for other perforation formats

16mm can be single or double perforated
16mm Single Perforated Films

Films are HEAD out

The image will read correctly through the emulsion

The image will read correctly through the base

A Winding

B Winding

Is the film perforated on both sides?

© Brian Pritchard 2013

www.brianpritchard.com
Does the image read correctly through the base?

**YES**

Camera Geometry

**NO**

Print Geometry

Film shot in a camera will always read through the base, contact prints from a camera original will read through the emulsion. Reductions from 35mm could be either
A camera negative will have joins at scene changes (cut negative) or if it is an uncut negative will not have joins at every scene and there will not be printed in joins; you will often see flash frames or camera stops.

**Definition**
In this aid an internegative is a negative made from a print or a reversal master. A duplicate negative is made from a duplicating positive.
A duplicating positive will be of lower contrast than a B/W Positive, it will often be warmer tone, denser and will have edge numbers in black. If it is Kodak/Eastman stock the edge numbers will begin 'D'.

To identify sound tracks go to Page 15
Sound tracks can be magnetic or optical. Optical can be further divided into variable area or variable density. There are many different types of both kinds of optical track.

Is the track magnetic?

- YES
  - Magnetic tracks are usually brown
  - Go to Page 16

- NO
  - Go to Page 20
Does the film have an image

NO

YES

Note balance stripe, it assists a good wind

Striped B/W Negative, Used in sound camera

Striped positive

Fully coated Magnetic film, Single and double perforated

It is also possible that you have a piece of unprocessed film, perhaps used as leader. A drop of water will show if it is film rather than magnetic film. The water will have no effect on magnetic film.

For further information on stripes go to Page 30
Double 8mm perforations were most commonly in the 1:4 format; that is on each edge.

So that pre-striped film could be sound recorded in one pass and additionally, to reduction print two copies in one run, stocks were available in the 1:3 format where the perforations were on one edge and in the centre of the film. See sample below.

Perforation in the '3' position
16mm re-perforated 9.5mm, raw stock

16mm with centre perforations

Double Standard 8mm Colour Negative

Double Super 8mm B/W Print

Check for other double 8mm perforation formats: Go to page 17
Is the soundtrack and the edge printing Black and White?

- Yes: Technicolor
- No: Check edge print

Most film stocks will have a manufacturer’s name on the edge of the film.

Eastman Color, Agfacolor, Gevacolor, Fujicolor, Ferrania, 3M usually have a deep blue soundtrack.

Orwo and Sovcolor usually have a brown sound track.
Is the track variable area?

- YES
  - Variable area
  - Variable area consists of one or more lines of varying width
- NO
  - Variable density
  - This is a twin bilateral sound track with centre septum noise reduction, the black line in the middle of the tracks.

To compare negative and positive tracks.

© Brian Pritchard 2013
www.brianpritchard.com
Can sometimes be confused with a variable density track

16mm variable area multihump

16mm variable area twin unilateral

16mm variable area double twin bilateral

16mm Photophone

16mm variable area single bilateral

© Brian Pritchard 2013
www.brianpritchard.com
Date Coding on Films.

Not all film manufacturers provide date codes on their films. Eastman/Kodak provide the most comprehensive information in their edge print. Over the years the style of date code has changed. There are a number of web sites that provide information on their date codes.

Fuji date their film with the last two numbers of the year of Manufacture and two letters signifying the quarter of the year JM = January to March, AJ = April to June.

Pathe had their own system until they were taken over by Eastman whence they used the Eastman codes. Their dates cover 1921 – 1927 and start at 16 and 17 for 1921, 18 and 19 for 1922 and so on.

DuPont used one or two letters but information is only known for the years between 1956 and 1974.

Orwo use a letter for the month, A= January, B =February and so on. I was missed out. The last number of the year was used. 6 could be 1966 or 76 and so on.
A typical scene change in a tele-recording; note the mixed frame and traces of Lines. Also the edges to the frame.

You should be able to see the line structure under a magnifier.
A camera negative will have joins at scene changes (cut negative) or if it is an uncut negative will not have joins at every scene and there will not be printed in joins; you will often see flash frames or camera stops.

Look for information in the edge print; edge or footage numbers are black in the original negative, they will be white when printed through to the duplicate positive and when the duplicate negative is made there will (or should) be two sets of black numbers and one of white. The original numbers will be black, the duplicate positive white and the duplicate negative black.

This will also apply to the stock manufacturers edge printing.

A join or splice is very obvious to the sight and feel.
Is it a negative?

- YES: Colour Negative
- NO: Colour Interpositive

© Brian Pritchard 2013
www.brianpritchard.com
Is the picture a negative?

YES: Unmasked Negative

NO: Go to Page 22

Prior to the introduction of Eastman colour negative colour negatives did not have the orange mask. Both Agfa and Gevaert made Unmasked negatives.
There could be two or more rolls with alternate scenes joined to black spacing.

Outgoing scene joined to black spacing.

Black spacing joined to incoming scene.

Colour Reversal A & B Rolls.
There are a number of colour reversal print systems, Fujichrome, Anscochrome, Gevachrome and Agfachrome for example. Check for edge printing; most film stocks will have a manufacturer's name on the edge of the film. Check the winding of the film, camera film will be B winding, prints usually A winding.

A reseau is a series of red, green and blue lines printed on the base of the film.
There are two kinds of stripe; Pre-striped film stock had a stripe in tape form which was cemented to a groove in the film stock. Post striped stock was often striped with a paste stripe. Paste stripe should NEVER be cleaned with solvents such as Perklone which will remove the stripe and contaminate the cleaning machine.

You can test the stripe with a small quantity of solvent on the stripe in the leader.
Is there a sound track on the Film? NO

The film is probably just spacing

Sound negatives are usually on blue or grey base

NO

Is the unexposed area clear? NO

Sound Negative

YES

Is the unexposed area clear? YES

Sound Positive

To identify positive and negative tracks

Go to Page 33
Is there more than 1 roll for each reel?

**NO**

Check to see if there are joins that would confirm an original negative. If there are printed-in joins it could be a duplicate negative or an internegative. Look for stock numbers and edge print as confirmation.

**YES**

A & B roll Negatives

Go to Page 28

It is possible that there are more than 2 rolls for each reel. These would be C, D or E rolls and so on.
In a variable area sound negative the modulations are white, in a variable area sound positive the modulations are black.

Variable density tracks are more difficult to identify as the track area appears similar. Positive tracks have black edges.
Dufaycolor was manufactured with red, green and blue lines printed in ink on the base of the film. The film had to be exposed in the camera through the base of the film, this means that original Dufaycolor from the camera would be A winding and read correctly through the base.

The red lines were printed at 90 degrees to the alternate blue and green lines creating the mosaic.
There are a number of colour reversal print systems, Fujichrome, Anscochrome, Gevachrome and Agfachrome for example. Check for edge printing; most film stocks will have a manufacturer's name on the edge of the film.

A reseau is a series of red, green and blue lines printed on the base of the film.