

DARKROOM PRINTING

Contact Sheet:

- Raise fine focus bellows to make sure light is large enough to cover glass.
- Place negatives (shiny side up) on paper (emulsion side down) and cover with glass.
- Expose f/8 for 10 seconds. (other combinations: f/11 for 10 sec., f/8 for 5 sec.). Use #2 filter.

RC (resin-coated) Paper:

- Developer: 2 minutes (constant agitation). Drain.
- Stop Bath: 30 seconds (constant agitation). Drain.
- Fixer: 4 minutes (constant agitation). Drain.
- Fixer Remover: (60 seconds). Drain.
- Wash: 2-10 mins.

To Enlarge (Test Strip & Final Print):

- Place negative into carrier shiny side up (emulsion down).
- Lens open to brightest/maximum aperture (lowest number).
- Size image on easel (no cropping). Have white paper in easel to make it easier to see image.
- Focus. (Use grain focuser.)
- Insert #2 filter.
- Turn down lens until bright area of negative looks *gray*.
- Turn off light and place test strip on easel.
- Set timer for 2, 3, or 5 seconds.
- Cover all but an inch of test strip and expose.
- Repeat across test strip (4 to 5 exposures).
- Develop test strip (see above).
- In white light, evaluate test strip to choose time. (Read from light end).
- Decide on which contrast filter is needed (the higher the #, the greater the contrast).
- Make another test strip.
- Select good exposure and set timer.
- Place paper into easel.
- Expose and process.

Burning/Dodging:

- If an area in your print is too dark, you can 'dodge' (block light) during exposure.
- If an area in your print is too light, you can 'burn in' (expose area again). *Remove filter when burning in.*

TROUBLESHOOTING PRINTS

The test strip is too dark.

Cut back the exposure. Either close down the lens—try f/16 instead of f/11—or shorten the amount of exposure time—use 2-second increments instead of 3.

The test strip is too light.

Increase the exposure. Open up the lens—say to f/8 instead of f/11—or extend the exposure time—perhaps using 5-second increments instead of 3.

The print is too bright in both shadows and highlights.

This has to do with the print exposure. Too little exposure leaves shadows and highlights too light. Increase the exposure time (eg. if too bright at a 10-second exposure, try 12-sec.)

The print is too dark in both shadows and highlights.

Too much exposure creates overly dark shadows and highlights. Decrease the exposure time (eg. instead of 10 seconds, try 7 seconds.)