

# Basic Rules of Resin Coated Paper Development for Darkroom

## Developing (90 seconds)

First, start your timer. Then, slide your print face up into the developer in one smooth motion, ensuring that the entire surface of the print is submerged. The print needs a constant supply of fresh developer, so agitate by gently rocking the developing tray. Some printers like to grab the print with tongs, flipping it over and over. This practice carries the risk of damaging the paper.

The important thing is to keep things moving, and to keep the print covered with developer. If the print is properly exposed, an image will appear on the face of the print after about 15 seconds. At first it will be very light, but it will grow steadily darker. Do not get excited and pull the print out when it "looks ready." Develop the print for one and 1/2 minutes, no matter what it looks like in the tray. Remember (and this is extremely important): you control the darkness or lightness of the print with the exposure time, not the development time. If your print is too dark, toss it and expose the next sheet of paper for a shorter time.

## Stopping Development (30 seconds)

Ten seconds before the ninety seconds of development are up, lift the print from the developer with the developer tongs. Let it drain for 10 seconds, and then place it gently in the stop bath. Agitate the print for 20 seconds.

## Fixing the Print (5 minutes)

Lift the print out with the stop bath tongs, let it drain for ten seconds, and then place it into the tray of fixer. Agitate the tray gently, in the same way you agitated while in the developer. Fixer removes the light sensitive silver from the print, making it safe to take out into the light. It usually takes about 5 minutes in standard fixer to fully remove the residual silver. Always check your specific brand of fixer for instructions. If you are making a final print, fix for the recommended number of minutes to ensure long-term durability. If you are working with a test strip, you need only fix the print for about 30 seconds. It will not be safe for long-term storage, but it will be safe for you to briefly examine the strip in daylight.

## Washing the Print (10 minutes)

Wash the print for at least 10 minutes under constantly running water. An archival print washer or a tray siphon washer are ideal, as they draw water from the bottom of the washer, where the chemicals accumulate. A regular processing tray can work too, if placed under running water. When using this method it is best to empty it several times during the wash, and shuffle the prints in the tray, to make sure the chemicals are completely removed. *To prevent damage to the emulsion, paper should not stay wet for more than 20 minutes.*

## Drying the Print

Squeegee your prints to remove water from the surface. You can then hang them by clips or leave to dry on a drying rack. You can also gently dry with a hair drier.