Processing Fiber Based Papers

Preparation:

Chemicals required are Dektol, Stop Bath, Ilford Rapid Fixer, and Perma Wash. You should also have at least four trays. Set the trays out in order of use, with the first filled with Dektol diluted 1:2 with water, the second filled with Stop Bath at the proper dilution, the third with fixer. Use Ilford Rapid fixer *film strength* (6:24). The fourth tray is filled with water to hold the prints from the working session. Maintain the temperature of solutions around 70 deg. F. The Perma Wash isn't used until after the printing session.

Procedure:

After exposing the photographic paper, process according to the following steps:

1. Develop for 2-3 minutes with continuous agitation. After time is up, lift from tray with tongs and allow excess solution to drain back into the tray.
2. Immerse in stop bath for 15-30 seconds with continuous agitation. Lift and drain.
3. Fix for 1 minute for most papers in fresh *film-strength* Rapid Fixer.
4. Rinse off excess fixer and place in fourth tray containing water. This water should be changed regularly to prevent high fixer concentrations.
5. After the printing session, throw away the developer and stop bath, keep the fixer if still good (assume the capacity is 24 sheets of 8x10 per quart), and thoroughly rinse the empty trays.
6. Mix up Perma Wash working solution according to the bottle (3 oz. per gallon, or about one capful per quart of water), and pour it into one of the empty trays. Fill another tray with running fresh water to hold the Perma Washed prints.
7. Taking the prints from the water holding bath, immerse them in the Perma Wash solution for 2-4 minutes with continuous agitation. If you are treating more than one print at a time, interleave them throughout the treatment so they receive fresh water.
8. After treatment, place the prints into the tray with running water, and interleave continuously for 5-15 minutes. This provides an adequate wash for reasonable print longevity. Longer times, up to an hour, may be used to maximize print life.
9. Gently remove excess water, and dry on screens.