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# Printing on RC Paper

The following is an abbreviated description of the printing process for use with resin coated papers. Fiber based papers require a more time consuming procedure and are not covered here.

## Preparation

Chemicals required are Dektol, Stop Bath, and Ilford Rapid Fixer. Dektol is the developer used for printing paper — do not confuse with D-76 used for film. Mix a stock solution of Dektol following instructions on the package before meeting in the lab. You should have *film-strength* (6:24) fixer already mixed from the previous lab session.

Place four trays in the sink area for holding the chemicals and wash water. The first tray holds the developer (Dektol) diluted 1:2 with water. Maintain the temperature of solutions near 70° F.

The stop bath solution is poured into the second tray (use 1/2 oz. per quart of water), and straight *film-strength* fixer is poured into the third. A fourth tray contains running water for washing the prints.

## Processing

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

1. **Develop** for 1 minute in developer tray with *continuous agitation.* After time is up, lift with tongs and allow excess solution to drain back into tray.

2. **Stop bath** for 10-15 seconds with agitation. Lift and drain.

3. **Fix** for 1 minute with *continuous and vigorous agitation.*

4. **Wash** for 4 minutes in running water. Don't stack prints where fresh water can't get to them.

5. **Dry** on screens outside darkroom.

TIPS: Careful fixing and washing are essential for print permanence. Old, spent fixer or an insufficient wash guarantee that your print will color and fade. Also remember that it's good practice to separate the dry side of the darkroom from the wet side. Keep liquids out of the dry area!