VICO 222

Printing

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 Fixer. Dektol is the developer used for printing paper — do not confuse with D-76 used for film. Mix stock solutions of these chemicals following instructions on the packages. You should have 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) solution. A working solution of Dektol is mixed by diluting the stock solution 1:2 with water. Maintain the temperature of solutions close to 70° F. The stop bath solution is poured into the second tray (use 1/2 oz. per quart of water), and fixer is poured into the third. If you are using regular fixer (mixed from powder), do not dilute it further. If you are using Rapid Fixer, it must be diluted 1:1 from film strength. 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 2 minutes with regular (powdered) type fixers. Less time is required for Rapid Fixer.

4. **Wash** for 4 minutes in running water.

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 fade.