

MIXING CHEMISTRY IN THE DARKROOM

It is environmentally UNSAFE to leave photographic chemistry out all the time in addition to causing it to spoil faster. Therefore every time you work in the darkroom you will need to prepare the essential chemicals to begin with and then dispose of them once finished. Students who fail to return chemistry to the proper containers or clean up after themselves will be asked to withdraw from the course.

TAKE CARE NOT TO CONTAMINATE ANYTHING! Avoid splashing and ripping and be careful to keep each chemical's tongs in that particular tray. Don't set them on the table or even worse stick them in another tray!

Use an 11 x 14 tray for more than one person, otherwise 8 x 10 trays are sufficient.

TRAY 1 by the door: DEVELOPER. Use 100 ML of PRINT DEVELOPER to 900 ML of water. You may need to double or triple this formula depending on how large the tray you are using is. If it is a dark shade of brown, it is oxidized and therefore will cause your prints to have much lowered contrast. Mix a fresh tray every three hours. Also, if any weird streaking stains your print, chances are someone backpeddled the tongs from the stop bath tray into the developer and spoiled it. You will need to mix fresh. When finished, dump this down the drain.

TRAY 2 in the middle: STOP BATH. Use straight out of the container on the left of the sink with NO DILUTION. If it becomes purple, dump down the sink and get fresh. If the container by the sink is empty, you may use water in its place and just be careful to submerge your print as quickly and even as possible upon moving it here from the developer. If it is still yellow when you are finished printing, put back in the stop bath container.

TRAY 3 next to the sink: FIXER. Use straight out of the container to the right of the sink with NO DILUTION. Check it before you start and afterwards regularly since there are no visual clues to its use spoiling. A piece of UNPROCESSED film from the empty tank to the right of the film processing sink swished in it should become clear purple after thirty seconds. If not, fetch a container from under the print washing sink and pour the spent fixer in it. Put a note on it when you place it on the open shelves on the bottom side of the cupboards on that side of the room. When finished printing, put it back in the fixer container.

TRAY 4 sits on the edge of the sink: WATER.

TRAY 5 is the one you use to carry your print into the room to look at in the light and has NO WATER OR CHEMISTRY.

TRAY 6 is one filled with water that sits on the counter adjacent to the Film Processing area. This is where you keep your prints until your darkroom session is over. I recommend having your own so that way no one else can be blamed for damaging them by accident.

TRAY 7 is filled with the same FIXER REMOVER chemistry used at the Film Processing area in the container to the right. Chunks similar to algae may float in it; this is fine. Always return to fixer remover container.

TRAY 8 is the one you use to carry your prints to the print washer in.

CLEANING PROCEDURES:

While prints are washing, dump developer down darkroom sink. Return stop bath, fixer and fixer remover to proper containers. Empty Water trays. Rinse out all trays and wipe them with a sponge – do NOT use soap! Wipe with towel to dry and stack on shelves. Wipe off print holding countertop in classroom and sink area and darkroom table with sponge. Clean up near your enlarger by throwing out any trash and removing the filter from the condenser. Turn the timer OFF. Turn the safelights OFF.