

Darkroom & Film Photography Basics

Film Photography and Darkroom techniques have many steps with this cool, awesome, handout, you will learn at least the basics and may be able to recreate it yourself. (Granted you have all the materials etc...)

This first part of the film photography process is shooting and developing the photos. Depending on what type of camera you're using to shoot your film, the process may be different.

Developing your film (negatives)

Once you shoot your film you need to develop it. There are many steps with several chemicals.

Step one: Go into a pitch black room with your developing tub and your shot film canister.

Step two: In darkness, take the film and start loading it into the film reel. I would recommend practicing beforehand or having an expert with you to help.

Step 3: Once you have loaded your film onto the reel and put it in the tub, close it and exit the room.

Step 4: Note what film you've used and take the developer's temperature, this will determine how long the first step will take.

Step 5: Start to develop your film.

FILM PROCESSING CHART ARISTA PREMIUM 1:9					
CLASS FILM	68 F	70 F	72 F	75 F	
Arista EDU Ultra 100 iso	7	6:30	5:45	5	
Arista EDU Ultra 400 iso	8	7:15	6:30	5:30	
STORE-BOUGHT FILMS					
KODAK T-MAX 100	7	6:30	5:45	5	
KODAK T-MAX 400	8	7:15	5:45	5	
KODAK PLUS X	5:30	5	4:30	3:30	
KODAK TRI-X	6	5:30	5	4:30	
ILFORD FP4	5.5	5	4:30	3:30	
ILFORD HP5	7	6:30	5:45	5	

FILM PROCESSING STEPS AND TIMES Remember that quality depends on good work habits!			
STEP	TIME	DIRECTIONS	NOTES
1. DEVELOPER	CHECK THE TEMPERATURE, THEN SEE CHART FOR TIMES	AGITATE FOR THE FIRST 30 SECONDS, THEN 5 SECONDS EVERY 30 SECONDS	DISCARD DOWN THE DRAIN DO NOT SAVE
2. STOP BATH	30 SECONDS	AGITATE ENTIRE TIME	PUT BACK IN STOP BATH CONTAINER. SHOULD BE A BRIGHT YELLOW COLOR
3. FIXER	5 MINUTES	AGITATE ENTIRE TIME	POUR IN BUCKET UNDER THE SINK
4. RINSE	3-5 TIMES	FILL AND DUMP TANK WITH WATER	
5. HYPO CLEAR	1 MINUTE	NO AGITATION	POUR BACK INTO CONTAINER
6. WASH	5 MINUTES	FILL AND DUMP WITH FRESH WATER ENTIRE TIME	
7. PHOTO-FLO	1 MINUTE	AGITATE ENTIRE TIME, DO NOT RINSE	POUR BACK INTO CONTAINER
8. DRY	15 MINUTES	HANG IN DRYING CABINET	DO NOT BLOW DRY!
9. CLEAN		RINSE OUT YOUR TANK AND REELS AND DRY THE BEST YOU CAN. PUT THEM BACK IN CABINET	

Making your prints in the darkroom

Now that you have your developed film (negatives) you can now make prints with an enlarger in the darkroom.

- Step one: Gather all your materials (photo paper & negatives) and go to the dark room.
- Step two: Set up your station at the enlarger and make sure only the red lights are on.
- Step three: Make a contact sheet by stacking your negatives over a sheet of photo paper with glass on top, making sure to expose them to light in 3 second increments.
- Step four: Develop your photo paper by placing it in the developer, agitate until it has darkened to your liking (or crisp contrast).
- Step five: Then place in the stop bath for 30 seconds.
- Step six: Move to fixer and leave it for 5 minutes.
- Step seven: After it has sat in the fixer for 5 minutes, rinse it and take it out of the dark room and put it to dry.

Now that you've made a contact sheet, you can make your prints.

- Step one: Take your negatives out of their sleeves and put it in the frame and put it in the enlarger.
- Step two: Adjust the focus knob until it's to your liking.
- Step three: Look at your contact sheet to see how long you need to expose it for.
- Step four: Expose your paper and develop your photo paper with the previous steps.