# **DARKROOM CHEAT SHEET**

## **SAFETY NOTES**

- Make noise when you enter/exit the curtained doorways (ie: whistle, "coming through", etc).
- Never transport chemicals in and out of the darkroom in trays. Always pour into jugs.
- Gloves and masks are available in the box under the coat rack. Aprons are hanging behind the door in the film changing room.
- For major chemical spills, a spill kit is located under the coat rack.

# **Chemical storage rules:**

- Always write your **NAME** and **DATE** on any chemicals stored in the darkroom.
- If using bottles to store mixed chemistry, always write the NAME OF THE CHEMICAL on the bottle. Do
  not reuse beverage bottles or food containers to store chemistry.

# **FILM DEVELOPMENT**

- Check Massive Dev Chart for development times. (<u>digitaltruth.com/devchart</u> or ios/android app).
- 2. Determine mixing total for your tank (Paterson tanks are marked on the bottom).
- 3. Mix chemistry based on dilution ratios found on each chemical's bottle label.
- 4. Follow these steps:

### **DEVELOPER**

**Time**: see Massive Dev Chart or product label. Note: accurate water temp is critical; 20°C is standard.

**Agitate:** Agitate constantly for first 30 seconds. Then, agitate for 10 seconds every 1 minute.

**Disposal:** Pour down drain followed by equal parts

tap water.

## STOP BATH

Time: 1 min

**Agitation:** Agitate constantly for first 30 sec **Disposal:** Pour into disposal unit next to sink.

# **FIXER**

Time: 5 min

**Agitation:** Agitate constantly for first 30 sec. Then,

agitate for 10 seconds every 1 minute.

**Disposal:** Pour into disposal unit next to sink.

#### **WASH**

**Time:** Use the water-saving ILFORD archival washing method:

- 1. Fill the tank with water at the processing temperature. Invert 5 times, drain.
- 2. Fill, invert 10 times, drain.
- 3. Fill, invert 20 times, drain.

#### PHOTO FLO

**Dilute:** 2.5mL to 500mL water ( $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  capful into

full tank of water).

Time: Dip reel into tank for 30 sec.

#### DRY

Hang in film drying cabinet, close door, set timer for

20 mi

# **B&W PRINTING**

## 1. Mix chemistry:

See product labels for dilution instructions. Use water at 20°C / 68°F.

**Developer** (Ilford Multigrade - 1:9) Stop Bath (Kodak Indicator Stop Bath - 1:63) Fixer (Ilford Rapid Fixer - 1:9)

## 2. Adjust enlarger:

- a. Check lens length, condenser position, and contrast filter. Usually start printing with a 2.5 filter.
- b. Load negative into carrier.
- c. Open lens aperture to widest setting.
- d. Raise or lower enlarger head to enlarge your image to desired size. Always unlock/lock the locking knob before turning crank.
- e. Adjust focus using bellows lever, then knob. Use a grain enlarger to focus your image.
- f. Adjust easel blades.

# 3. Make a test strip:

a. Place a strip of photo paper on your easel, ideally choosing an area in your

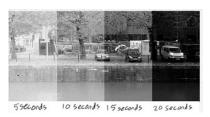


image that shows highlights, mid tones and

- shadows.
- b. Set lens to desired aperture (we recommend f/11 to start).
- c. Make a series of four exposures at set time intervals, ie: for f/11 try 5 second intervals. Start by exposing the entire strip for the minimum exposure (ie: 5 sec). Then, cover 3/4 of the strip with a piece of matboard, and expose again, then repeat at ½ and ¼. (4 exposures in total).
- 4. Develop the test strip (follow development instructions below).
- 5. Use the test printing process to determine your final print exposure.
- 6. Refine with another test strip or develop a final print.

## PAPER DEVELOPMENT

Agitate (gently rock) the trays throughout each bath. Let prints drip off thoroughly before moving to the next chemical.

## **DEVELOPER**

RC: 1 min

Fibre: 1.5 - 2 min

STOP BATH

RC and Fibre: 30 seconds

**FIXER** RC: 1 min. Fibre: 1.5 min

#### **WASH**

**RC:** 5 min minimum in tray of running water. Fibre: 60 min minimum. Use archival print washers. Can also use Hypoclear to half wash times.

## ALTERNATIVE PROCESS GUIDELINES

- 1. Note the process you are doing and sink space in your booking.
- 2. Use trays marked "Alt Process", in the large tray under the teaching darkroom sink.
- 3. If using any chemicals other than those used in traditional B/W printing, consult with Darren about using and storing them. Provide MSDS for the safety binder.