

Polymer Plate Relief Steps

PRINTING TRANSPARENCY

1 Print your file on a piece of Pictorico ink jet transparency. You can purchase this from the photo area. This film has an excellent density to the blacks. It does require a longer exposure time because of the films base.

Or you can use regular laser printer transparency film which is much less dense and does not have near the amount of latitude in its emulsion.

2 Be careful when handling the film because the surface is very receptive to hand oils etc..

EXPOSURE:

1 The general exposure time for our plate maker is

For Relief Plates (plastic Backed)

- Pictorico ~ 220 units
- Laser Transparency ~ 60 units

For Intaglio Plates (Steel Backed)

- Pictorico ~ 60 units
- Laser Transparency ~ 15 units

***NOTE:

For the Intaglio process you need to do a second exposure to the aquatint screen

This extra exposure should be done with an aquatint screen made using laser printer transparency. This screen transparency should ~ 15 to 20 units

This will establish an overall tooth or grain on the plate that can hold the ink. This necessary for any large black areas in your image.

The order of exposure is not important. But they both must be done and they both are done separately.

Always remember emulsion to emulsion

DEVELOPING:

1 Remove the plastic cover sheet on the plate and wet the whole plate with water

2 Brush the plate continually with the soft brush dipping it in the water for fresh coverage. Develop for 45 seconds.

3 When the time is up dip the whole plate one more time in the water

4 Quickly pat the plate dry with fresh paper towels or news print.

5 After the water has been patted dry continue to dry the plate with a hair dryer for another 4-5 minutes.

HARDENING & FIXING

1 After it has been dried it still needs to be post exposed to the UV light to Harden. You can do this by placing it back in the platemaker or by setting the plate out in the sun. Letting the UV light harden the surface of the plate. Expose for at least 30 units of light .. or allowing to sit in the sun for 30 min. It is even better if the plate can rest over night.

DO NOT DEVELOP OR RUN WATER ON IT AGAIN!!!