

ZEBRA CLASSIC CYANOTYPE KIT - USER MANUAL

1. Introduction

Welcome to the world of cyanotype printing with Zebra Classic Cyanotype Solution. This comprehensive manual will guide you through the steps to prepare and use your solution to create unique and artistic prints.

2. Kit Contents

- 2 x 100ml glass bottles with Component A & B in powder form
- 2 x 3ml pipette

3. Required Materials

- Distilled water at room temperature
- Measuring cup
- Darkroom or subdued lighting area
- Cyanotype suitable paper or fabric
- UV light source (sunlight or UV lamp)
- Tray or bucket for washing
- Hydrogen peroxide (optional for immediate color development)

4. Instructions

Step 1: Preparing the Solutions

1. **Prepare Solution A:** To dissolve component A, fill the bottle $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way with distilled or filtered water, secure the cap tightly, and shake vigorously, then fill it up to the point where the neck starts to straighten out from the wider body of the flask to make the final 100ml of the solution.
- 2.
3. **Prepare Solution B:** To dissolve component B, fill the bottle $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way with distilled or filtered water, secure the cap tightly, and shake vigorously, then fill it up to the point where the neck starts to straighten out from the wider body of the flask to make the final 100ml of the solution.

Step 2: Mixing the Working Solution

- In a subdued lighting environment, mix equal parts of Solution A and Solution B in a separate container to prepare the required amount of sensitiser. Use this mixture within 2-4 hours for best results.

Step 3: Coating the Substrate

- Evenly apply the cyanotype solution to your chosen paper or fabric using a brush or sponge. For denser prints on paper, apply a second coating after the first layer has air-dried.
- Allow the coated substrate to air dry completely in a dark, dry place.
- As a guide, 160ml of working solution can coat 50+ A5 size sheets of paper. The exact number of prints will vary depending on whether you coat only part of the paper or apply two layers for a darker blue effect.
- When using fabric, expect to use more solution due to its more absorbent nature.

Step 4: Exposing

- Expose the sensitized material to UV light for 1 to 30 minutes, depending on the light's intensity and the desired depth of the print.
- Place objects or negatives on the material during exposure to create your images.

Step 5: Washing and Developing

- Rinse the exposed print in a tray of cool water for at least 5 minutes or until the water runs clear, avoiding soap.
- For immediate blue color development, immerse the print briefly in a diluted hydrogen peroxide solution, then rinse thoroughly.

Step 6: Drying

- Hang the print to air dry on a clean line or lay it flat on newsprint or blotting paper. Without the use of peroxide, the print will develop its final blue tone over approximately 24 hours.

5. Tips and Maintenance

- **Water Quality:** Use distilled water at room temperature for preparing solutions to avoid impurities that might affect the chemical reaction.
- **Storage:** Keep the prepared solutions sealed and stored in a cool, dry place. Mixed working solution should be used within a few hours.
- **Handling:** Ensure hands and materials are dry to prevent water spots and uneven development.
- **Ironing:** If using fabric, iron before sensitizing to remove creases with a dry iron.
- **Shelf Life:** Once mixed with water and stored in separate bottles, these chemicals typically have a shelf life of 1-2 years if kept in a cool, dark place. However, I have occasionally used a batch of these chemicals four years after mixing, and they were still effective.

6. Troubleshooting

- **Blurry Prints:** Ensure negatives or objects are in direct contact with the sensitized surface using a heavy glass or acrylic sheet.
- **Over-Exposure:** Reduce exposure time if prints are too dark.
- **Under-Exposure:** Increase exposure time or verify the light source's intensity if prints are too light.

7. Contact Us

For assistance or to share feedback, please contact us on: zebradryplates@gmail.com

Explore the artistic potential of cyanotype printing with Zebra Classic Cyanotype Solution, and let your creativity flourish!