

ZEBRA SALT PRINT KIT -USER MANUAL

1. Introduction

Thank you for purchasing this Salt Printing Kit by Zebra Dry Plates. This kit will make approximately fifty 8"x10" prints, producing a unique brown-colored image. For added archival quality, the image can be toned in platinum, palladium, or gold. Please read and understand these instructions completely before beginning and observe standard laboratory safety precautions when handling chemicals.

2. Kit Contents

- 100 ml Salt Print Sensitiser A (2% Sodium Chloride Solution)
- 100 ml Salt Print Sensitiser B (12% Silver Nitrate Solution)
- 250 g Sodium Thiosulfate Fixer
- 2x 3ml pipette

3. Safety and Handling Information

- Silver nitrate in your kit is not light-sensitive as long as it is kept separate. It can be handled under most room lighting conditions.
- Always wear plastic or latex gloves and use protective eyewear when handling Salted Paper and Silver Nitrate solutions.
- All photo solutions should be considered poisonous. Do not store them in a refrigerator used for food or drinks.

- Solutions are stable at room temperature with a shelf life of at least 5 years.

4. Preparing Your Workspace and Negative

- You will need a negative the same size as your final image, printed in direct contact with the coated paper, and exposed under intense UV light (e.g., 1000-watt metal halide bulb, ultraviolet fluorescent lights, or sunlight).
- Use a split-back contact printing frame, vacuum frame, or two sheets of plate glass to maintain proper registration and pressure between the negative and paper.
- Select a large table with a hard, smooth surface to coat your paper. Protect surfaces with newspaper or blotter paper.
- Use a dedicated brush or glass coating rod for applying the sensitizer and Silver Nitrate Solution

5. Coating and Drying

Using a Brush

1. Tape the upper corners of your paper to your coating table.
2. Mark the four corners of the negative on the paper with a pencil.
3. Shake both solutions well. Using droppers, count out equal amounts of Salt Print Sensitiser A & B into separate small cups.
4. Wet your brush with distilled water and blot it to remove excess.
5. Pour the Salt Print Sensitiser A onto the center of the image area and spread it with the brush using horizontal and vertical strokes.
6. Allow the paper to dry completely, using a hair dryer on LOW if desired.

7. Wash the brush thoroughly.
8. Apply the Salt Print Sensitiser B (12% Silver Nitrate Solution) over the first coating and allow it to dry in a dark room.

Using a Coating Rod

1. Pour the measured Salt Print Sensitiser A along one edge of your paper.
2. Use the coating rod to evenly spread the solution across the image area.
3. Let the paper dry completely, using a warm hair dryer on LOW if desired.
4. Wash the coating rod and dry it completely.
5. Apply the Salt Print Sensitiser B (12% Silver Nitrate Solution) over the first coating and allow it to dry in a dark room.

6. Exposure

- Place your negative inside the print frame, ensuring the image is not reversed when viewed through the glass.
- Place the dried Salted Paper face down in the frame, covering the negative. Lock the springs in place in a darkened room.
- Expose the frame under your UV light source or in direct sunlight.
- Inspect the image periodically during exposure, especially when using sunlight, to judge the proper exposure time.
- If the image appears flat and lacks contrast, add 1 drop of 2% Potassium Dichromate to the Salted Paper Sensitizer solution before coating.

7. Washing

- Place the exposed image in a tray of wash water, agitating every 20-30 seconds for 5-7 minutes.
- Wash longer if the white precipitate continues to float off the paper.

8. Fixing

- How to prepare the fixer?

Mix 80g of the powder HYPO in 300ml of warm water, mix until completely dissolved and top it up with water to make it 500ml of Hypo Fixer.

- Transfer the print to a tray with fixer solution, agitating periodically for 4-5 minutes.
- Over-fixing can bleach the image, while under-fixing affects archival permanence.

9. Final Wash and Drying

- Move the print to a wash tray with a slow, constant stream of water, washing for 20-30 minutes with periodic agitation.
- Hang the print to air dry or place it on a plastic window screen. Alternatively, dry on paper towels, ensuring the print does not stick.
- Flatten dried prints in a warm dry mount press, then mount and mat them on archival, acid-free board.

- If toning in gold or platinum, proceed directly to the toning process after the final wash without drying.

10. Contact Us

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

Unlock the creative potential of Salt Printing with the Zebra Salt Printing Kit, and let your artistic vision come to life!