

Split-Back Printing Frames.

One quickly discovers that when contact printing a negative onto printing-out paper its not at all easy to follow the progress of the image formation without moving the negative or paper. The Victorians solved this by devising the split back printing frame which, as the name suggests, has a hinged back which allows the user to inspect the image without deregistering the negative.

As Printing-Out Paper fell out of favour due to the emergence of the forerunners of today's printing papers so the need for these frames also diminished. These frames are still made today but tend to be very expensive and are mainly intended for those working in alternative processes, but original frames from the POP era can still be found in auctions, car boot sales and at photographic dealers specialising in old cameras and equipment.

For those not familiar with the operation of these frames, the following pictorial sequence may help



Place negative in frame emulsion side up



Place POP on top of the negative



Replace the hinged back



Expose outdoors in day or sunlight



Check progress by....



lifting the hinged flap to peek at the paper

We usually have a selection of frames in stock, please check the webshop or call.