



Retro Original Alkaline Fixer

Acid fixers can cause bleaching and can make washing and removal of the fixer difficult to impossible, the user of an alkaline fixer obviates these problems and is the best one to use when fixer-free prints and negatives are needed for archival preservation and for most toning processes. Alkaline fixers are also required for some ALT processes.

MIXING

1 Check pack volume (1 litre or 5 litre) and dissolve the contents of the 2 packs in about three-quarters of the final volume of cold water. Never mix in water warmer than blood heat.

2 Add further cold water to make the final volume. The volume marked on the pack does not need to be accurate.

3 Label.

STORAGE

- 1 KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN.
- 2 NEVER RE-USE A FOOD CONTAINER.
- 3 The best stock bottle is glass but old washing-up liquid bottles have distinctive shapes.
- 4 Unused fixer will keep indefinitely in a cool place out of direct sunlight.
- 5 Part-used fixer may deposit a light sludge. Filter out or decant before re-use.
- 6 Discard fixer when it discolours, deposits a heavy sludge or takes more than twice fresh clearing times.

FIXING

Use whatever technique is familiar to you. Otherwise follow the recommended method.

FILMS

- 1 Most slow films clear in about 30 seconds and are fully fixed in a minute.
- 2 Faster films of ISO 200 or over need double these times.
- 3 Modern emulsions, such as T-Max, need 4-fold fixing times.
- 4 Fix for 5 minutes where there is any doubt.
- 5 Extend the fixing 3-4 times towards exhaustion.
- 6 This is judged by testing clearing times with a small piece of scrap leader.
- 7 Fixing time is twice the time taken to clear.

PRINTS

- 1 The fixer can be diluted 1 + 2 for printing papers.
- 2 Fix for 2 min or longer.
- 3 This dilution is best for prints for toning.

CAPACITY (TWIN BATH)

Capacity is greatly improved by the Twin bath technique.

Capacity is greatly improved with a stop after development.

FILMS

- 1 This is best judged by testing as above.
- 2 Normally 8 x 36 exp 35mm or 120 films per 500ml.

PAPERS

- 1 12 A4 papers per 500 ml full strength fixer
- 2 Process only 4 A4 / 500 ml of the 1 + 2 dilution.

RECOMMENDED FIXING METHOD

FILM STOPPING

- 1 Stopping after development reduces reticulation risk.
- 2 Use any 1% acid stop bath.
- 3 Agitate well for at least 30 sec.
- 4 Remove the developing tank lid and inspect the film.
- 5 This unconventional step allows selecting individual frames for special treatment by reversal, toning &c.
- 6 The film can now be washed well, dried and stored in a cool dark place until convenient to continue.
- 7 Otherwise, proceed as follows for normal fixing :-

FILM FIXING

- 1 Divide fixer into two batches.
- 2 For the first film use the first batch only and wash the film straightaway.
- 3 After this, use the first batch only as a first film treatment taking the indicated times.
- 4 Then, use the second batch as though it were fresh fixer for the minimum times and then wash.
- 5 This is the so-called twin bath fixing technique. Fixer capacity is increased by up to 50 %
- 6 Replace each batch in sequence.
The second batch becomes the first &c.
- 7 Rapid washing is then possible :

FILM WASHING

- 1 Agitate the film rapidly for about 20 seconds.
That is easiest with the tank lid removed.
- 2 Repeat at least 3 times more.
For archival storage, give at least 5 washes.
- 3 Add a drop of detergent to the last wash.
- 4 Use pure water now in hard water areas.
- 5 Hypo clearing or eliminators are rarely necessary.
- 6 Finally, hold up the film and pour the final wash down it.

PAPER FIXING

- 1 Use diluted fixer whenever possible.
- 2 Never allow prints to stagnate, or to overlie.
It gives uneven permanence or toning.
- 3 Use the twin bath fixing method.
- 4 Wash very well, avoiding rucking.
As step 2, never allow to stagnate or overlap

DRYING

- 1 Dry films and prints normally, preferably naturally at room temperature.
- 2 Take care with papers not to rumple.
- 3 Water marks normally appear on the backs (non-emulsion side) of films.
- 4 These can be removed by carefully applying a "Cotton Bud".

DISPOSAL

A sense of proportion is needed in respecting the environment. This kit is not an industrial product and will only be used occasionally. Dispose by flushing down a sink with plenty of wash water. The ingredients are all biodegradable and amount in total to less sewage load than the material you, as an individual, excrete and flush down the toilet each day !
Dispose of empty vessels responsibly - re-use if possible.

NOW READ THESE CAUTIONS

All chemicals are toxic if abused.
Never eat, drink or smoke whilst using chemicals and avoid contact with the eyes.
Immediate first aid for accidental eye contact or ingestion is to give plenty of water.
SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION for :

Ammonium thiosulphate.

Sluice everything down well afterwards.