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TF 1(877) 817- 4320

Jason Lane Dry Plates - www.pictoriographica.com
Bostick & Sullivan Recommended Developing Process

Gelatin dry plate photography dates from the 1870s when silver halide photographic emulsion was hand-poured onto glass plates and allowed to dry prior to use as a negative. The development of dry plate negatives made photography more convenient than the wet plate process of the Civil War era, which required the negative to be exposed and developed onsite. With dry plate photography, the need for a portable darkroom was eliminated, making photography more accessible and allowing more people to become amateur photographers. When Kodak started producing "modern" film by coating flexible celluloid in the late 1800s, the use of glass as a substrate was rendered obsolete. Dry plate photography faded out of common use by the late 1920s.

As a starting point, meter at ASA 2.

Be aware that this is a "normal" emulsion, and only responds to blue and UV.

These are hand-coated onto hand-cut glass. The glass edges are ground for safety but please handle carefully. Jason notches the edge of the plate very similar to how sheet film is notched, so you can orient by feel in complete darkness if you don't have a safelight or you just like hanging out in complete darkness.

Handle carefully during development. The emulsion is fragile while wet. It holds up well enough during the development process, but any agitation should be gentle.

You will need to acquire a plate holder (too thick for film holders). This will fit in the Chamonix holders.

Try them out and have fun! - *Dana Sullivan*

Visit the manufacturer's website here for more info on the plates:
<https://www.pictoriographica.com/technicals-and-tips.html>

To make a dry plate

You will need:

Large format camera

Dry plates corresponding to the camera size

Plate holder according to the camera size

3-4 appropriate size trays

Access to running water

A room with no windows and a safelight (headlamps that have the red light work great!)

Exposing:

To begin, open your dry plates under safelight only. Please be sure to read all the instructions on the box. With gloves, carefully take a plate out and load the plate emulsion side up into your plate holder under orange or red safelight. As it says on the box, the uncoated glass side will not be hazy. The hazy side should be towards the slide opening and the uncoated side should be facing the back of the plate holder.

A good ballpark exposing time to make dense negative for printing alternative processes is 2 secs at f/8 in bright sun, depending on where you are. If you have a meter, set the ASA to 2. Dry plates expose like wet plate but develop like film.

Once you've decided on your exposure (feel free to call us if you have a different lighting situation and would like advice) set your camera to the appropriate settings. Cover the lens. Load the loaded plate holder into the back of the camera. Remove the front slide. Take your picture. Put the slider back in, making sure it slides all the way in and take the plate holder out. You are now ready to develop. You can store your exposed plate in your plate holder or an appropriate dark box until you are ready to develop. When you are ready to develop or move the plate into a dark box, do so under safe light.

Developing:

We recommend using the D-19 Developer. It comes as a concentrate: Use undiluted for 4.5 minutes at 70* F, agitating every 30 seconds

D-19 high contrast black & white developer is well suited for glass plate development. It produces a dense, high contrast negative suitable for printing in alternative processes such as Platinum/Palladium and Albumen, as well as silver gelatin papers. 1 liter will develop about forty (40) 4"x5" negatives.

Water Stop:

After developing, rinse the plates with running water for 2 minutes.

Fix:

You want to use a non hardening fixer such as hypo or rapid fix. We recommend our Rapid Fix (60% Ammonium thiosulfate). Dilute 1:3 to make a working fix bath. Fix for 5-7 minutes. After fixing, your plate is no longer light sensitive.

Final Wash:

After fixing, do a final running water bath for 25 minutes.