

Fotospeed

CYANOTYPE PROCESSING

A step by step guide to creating classic blue Cyanotype prints.
Simple to create and fun for everyone in the family.



1

Coating your paper:



There are many ways to coat your paper. We have supplied coating rods but you could use a fresh Jay cloth, a rubber roller etc however I find the best way to coat the paper is to use a paint brush. There's no particular reason except I like the artistic strokes it gives me.

Remember the Cyanotype is UV sensitive so do this under red safe-light conditions or non UV lighting E.G. tungsten light (60W max)

Now allow the coating to completely dry and then apply second coat, again allowing the paper to completely dry. Make sure the drying of the coated paper is done in complete darkness. I usually put mine in a draw.

The drying time will vary from paper to paper and atmospheric conditions

Top Tip - I always like to coat a few sheets at a time and store them in a dark place ready for use. Remember they should be used within a couple of hours of coating.

2

Exposing your paper:



Now comes the fun part. The great thing about Cyanotype is you can be as creative as you wish. You can use flowers and leaves from around the garden or use a digital negative. Five sheets of Fotospeed Digital Contact Film were supplied in the kit, if you decide to try the digital negative route.

Once you have decided what you want to do take your sheet of coated paper lay the subject on top of the coated side. Then place the items into a Fotospeed contact frame, like I have in the picture above, or simply lay a sheet of glass over the top to keep everything in place. This ensures nothing moves and you get nice clean edges.

Top Tip - Use toughened glass to reduce the risk of breakage and injury.

3

When will it be ready:



This will vary depending on the strength of the sun. On a sunny day you are looking at an exposure time of around 8mins. However, you can stop the exposure whenever you like by removing it from direct sunlight. To develop the image place under gently running water for approx. 3 minutes.

Then transfer the print to the citric acid bath (Citric Acid supplied in the kit) for a further 2 minutes agitating constantly.

To make the bath find a tray, add 40g of Citric Acid crystals and 1litre of water. Mix until the crystals have dissolved.

Finally wash the print under gently running water for a further 6 minutes. Now simply leave the print to dry.

Top Tip: The longer you wash the print with water the fainter your final image will become as you in effect washing the Cyanotype away.

4

Drying time:



Over the next 24 hours as the print will dries the shadows will darken to a deep blue, the mid-tones to a lighter blue and the highlights will taken on the colour of the paper.

Full instructions are included in every kit and all elements of the kit can be purchased individually as needed. The kit itself contains the following items:

- 1) 50ml Cyanotype working solution**
- 2) Citric Acid crystals - 100g**
- 3) Two coating rods - 4" and 6"**
- 4) Syringe body**
- 5) Measuring cup**
- 6) One pair of surgical gloves**
- 7) Five sheets of Fabriano 5 paper - 8 x10"**
- 8) Five sheets of Fotospeed Digital Contact film - A4**

In addition to the above you may need:

- 1) Contact frame or sheet of toughened glass**
- 2) Safe light - Red or Orange**
- 3) Print trays for washing prints**