

PROCESSING SHEET POLYMER

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED

Exposure Unit - IDEAL System 1004; System 1200; System 2200
Sheet Polymer - Astron do not supply material of this type. Refer warning below.
Processed Negative - IDEAL AQ, RA or equivalent.

PROCEDURE

1. The process time and quality is greatly affected by the UV output of the tubes in the exposure machine. Please pre heat your exposure unit for at least 30 minutes before proceeding further.
2. Remove the protective cover from polymer sheet.
3. Expose the back of sheet (the polyester side) for 4 - 10 seconds. This will form the base thickness (or floor thickness) on which the image will be built.
4. Turn the polymer sheet over and place the negative over the polymer sheet so that the image is "wrong reading".
5. Cover the material with the suction matt of the exposure unit and ensure that all air is removed and that a good contact is made over the entire surface.
6. Expose sheet for 3 to 5 minutes. *Note: The strength of the characters will be poor if this stage is too short.*
7. Place sheet in the washout section of your exposure unit and wash for a minimum of 3 minutes. If washing by hand use a soft brush and brush in a circular motion until the unexposed material is completely removed.
8. Place the sheet in the drying drawer and dry the polymer for 5 to 10 minutes.
9. Place the sheet back into the exposure unit and expose for 3 to 5 minutes to completely harden the sheet.
10. The polymer sheet is now ready to be cut and mounted.

IMPORTANT WARNING

Water soluble sheet polymer is not recommended for use with any brand of "Self inking" stamp as the constant contact with ink will result in failure of the polymer.
Solvent soluble sheet polymer is not affected this way; however the environmental and health hazards related to the use and disposal of the toxic solvents required to process this material must be considered carefully and appropriate material handling procedures are imperative. Most exposure systems are not designed for use with solvent soluble sheet polymer - consider liquid polymer or Imagepac polymer sachets as an alternative.