

## PROCESSING LIQUID POLYMER

### EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED

Exposure Unit - Instastamp Machine  
Polymer Resin - Ideal i40  
Cover Film, Substrate, Damming Tape  
Wash out solution - iLW and booster.  
Post expose solution - iPX ( parts L & P)  
Processed Negative - Ideal AQ, RA, or equivalent.

### PROCEDURE

1. Place the processed negative onto the bottom glass plate ensuring that the negative is right-reading.
2. Wet the glass around the negative using a cotton bud or Q-tip about 1 centimetre from the edge of the negative.
3. Cut a piece of cover film large enough to cover the negative and the wet area.
4. Gently smooth any creases or air pockets that occur by hand. A dry, unused paint roller is excellent to achieve the desired effect.
5. Construct a frame around the image area using the damming tape keeping at least 5 mm outside the image area. It is necessary to leave a small gap in each corner to allow excess polymer to escape.
6. Pour the polymer resin into the framed image area. About 75% of the framed area needs to be filled. Air bubbles will rise to the surface where they can be easily punctured with a pin or toothpick or with an air tool.
7. The substrate should be large enough to cover the dammed area with at least 10 mm overhang. To place the substrate on the polymer hold each end of the sheet and allow the centre to hang down in a U shape. Lower the substrate onto the polymer and slowly lower each end. If it is necessary to adjust the position DO NOT lift the substrate but slide it into place.
8. Place a spacer bar at each end of the lower glass then place the upper glass over the substrate being careful to align the top glass with the lower glass.
9. Fit the clamps to either end of the assembly and slowly tighten the screws firmly.
10. Pause for about one minute to allow the polymer to flow over the entire area.
11. First exposure to the ultraviolet lights is the back exposure. This exposure will designate how much character depth will be on the finished product. 15 - 25 seconds is the recommended time. Turn the glasses upside down, place them back on the glass rests and activate the timer.

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12. Once the back exposure is complete, turn the clamped glasses over and expose the front for 3 minutes.
13. Remove the top glass and lift the polymer plate off the negative. Peel the cover film off the polymer. It is now ready to place in warm water together with liquid washout (iLW) and booster in the correct concentration and wash out the characters with a brush, or alternatively, use a mechanical washout machine.
14. After the plate is washed free of all unexposed resin, rinse with tap water and submerge in a posting solution (iLW parts L & P) and expose to UV light for a minimum of 10 minutes. This time is important as under posting can effect the durability of the die and the ability to properly transfer inks for a clear sharp impression.
15. Hand dry the plate with a paper towel, then further dry the plate using warm air no greater than 35 degrees centigrade.

## **Concentrations**

### **Wash out Solution**

25cc of iLW plus 7cc of booster to 1litre water

### **Post Expose Chemistry**

2 teaspoons (10cc) of each iPXC-L and iPXC-P to 1litre of water.

We recommend that you pre mix the iPXC-P in a small container of warm water to help dissolve the powder. Then add the iPXC-L directly to the post expose bath.

There is no need to agitate or mix the iPXC-L

**Wash out temperature**      35 °C