CYANOTYPE PROCESS NOTES

PREPARATION *Video One*

- If you are using a cyanotype kit, refer to the instructions included. If you are working with dry chemicals then use the following instructions.
- Mix 25g Ferric Ammonium Citrate with 100ml water in a brown jar, then mix 10g Potassium Ferricyanide with 100ml water in another brown jar, ensure the lids are on tight.
- Mix until completely dissolved. For best results leave the chemicals to rest for 24 hours before using.

Clearly label your jars and keep them out of reach of children. Both chemicals are very low toxicity, however, do not combine the Potassium Ferricyanide with strong acids as it can release toxic gas. Use jars/utensils saved only for the cyanotype process and clean them well after use.

COATING PAPERS *Video One*

- Protect all surfaces, wear an apron and gloves as the solution will stain.
- In low light / night time mix equal parts of each solution in a jar. Only mix up a small amount as needed, as a little goes a long way. The chemicals will store indefinitely separately but will deteriorate once combined.
- Using a soft brush in a stroking motion, paint on the cyanotype solution horizontally over the paper and repeat vertically. Do not allow the solution to pool on the surface.
- Allow to dry in darkness until completely dry. The papers should dry to a yellow-green colour.

EXPOSING PHOTOGRAMS *Video Two*

- Exposing between 12-2pm is best for the strongest UV light, but when exposing photograms you may want to expose later for more interesting shadows.
- Quickly arrange your objects on top of your cyanotype paper. If your objects are small enough you can weigh them down with a piece of plastic or hold them in a frame.
- Expose until the exposed areas have turned from a yellow/green to blue and then to a silvery/bronze. The time this will take will depend on the weather and the time of year.
- Quickly remove the print from light by covering or flipping over and store away from light until ready to develop.

EXPOSING CONTACT PRINTS *Video Three*

- In low light, align your negative and coated paper in a clip frame ensuring the glass is forcing the negative and paper in full contact. Any gaps will lead to a fuzzy printed image.
- Expose your cyanotype to direct sunlight or a UV lamp. Between 12-2pm is best for the strongest light and minimal shadowing.
- Expose until the exposed areas have turned from a yellow/green to blue and then to a silver/bronze.
- Quickly remove the print from light by covering or flipping over and store away from light until ready to develop.

DEVELOPING *Video Two & Three*

- It is preferable to develop your cyanotypes straight away but they can be kept in a folder away from light to expose at a later time.
- Submerge the cyanotype in water or allow running water to pass over the image until all traces of yellow/green unexposed cyanotype solution have been removed.
- Do not rub any areas of the print as this will weaken the paper and damage image.
- Allow the print to dry in sunlight, the UV light will continue to darken the colour of the exposed areas.
- Once dry you can flatten the prints under heavy boards/books.

The cyanotype chemicals are very low toxicity but when developing or disposing of the solution ensure that they are diluted with **plenty** of water.

WHERE TO BUY

Handprinted.co.uk
Cyanotype Kit £22.95 (Use code SR5PC for a discount)
https://handprinted.co.uk/products/cyanotype-kit?_pos=1&_sid=15d23697b&_ss=r

Silverprint.co.uk
Cyanotype kits, chemicals and pre-prepared papers & fabrics, ranging from £7.00
https://silverprint.co.uk/search?q=cyanotype

Apcpure.com
Chemicals, bottles, measuring tools. For larger quantities. This is where I get my chemicals from.
https://apcpure.com

Ebay.co.uk
For small amounts, kits, new and second hand. A great place to find a bargain.
https://www.ebay.co.uk/

scarlettrebecca.co.uk