

Bromoil with Fotospeed

Instructions

What exactly is the Bromoil process?

The Bromoil process replaces the silver image in a bromide print with oil-based printers' ink of any colour (or colours) you choose. Traditionally, bromoil prints are produced in either black or brown. The initial image is produced through the conventional B&W printing process (standard negatives exposed onto photosensitive bromoil paper using an enlarger), however the paper used must NOT be supercoated. The paper supplied in this kit is unsupercoated and provides a perfect receiver for the inks. The image is then bleached, dried, resoaked, and finally ink is forced onto the emulsion to 'redevelop' the image. Inks cling only to areas on which the paper previously displayed the silver image. After one last drying, a bromoil print has been produced. This print is then archivally stable.

Additional Items needed:

- An old (or new) flexible knife
- Solvent for cleaning ink off brushes and tile (white spirit or barbeque lighting fluid work well)
- A sheet of reasonably thick glass or plastic (4mm), larger than your sheet of paper. This will be used to support the paper during inking.

Before you begin:

Choose your negative - an ideal image for bromoiling has low contrast, with a good tonal range and prominent highlights. Landscapes and architectural subjects tend to work well in Bromoil.

Producing a Bromoil Print:

EXPOSING THE IMAGE

1. Under red safe-light, expose your image onto the Bromoil paper provided in this kit, using a normal enlarger. Your print should be *almost* overexposed, as light images will not easily accept ink.
2. Develop the print as usual using your preferred development, then place in stop bath for 20sec. Rinse briefly.
3. Fix using a non-hardening fixer (diluted 1+4) for 60sec. The FX20 concentrate provided is unhardened.

Lights may now be turned on and left on for the duration of the process.

4. Wash the print for 30min in running water.

BLEACHING THE PRINT

Prints may be bleached (tanned) immediately after washing, or they may be dried and bleached at a later stage.

5. *If the print is dry, soak it in water for 40min and lightly drain before proceeding.*

Prepare the bleach / tanning solution by combining part 1, 2 and, 3 with water, in the quantities indicated on the table below.

BLEACH/TANNING - DILUTION TABLE

To Make :-	250mls	500mls	750mls	1Ltr	2Ltrs	3Ltrs	4Ltrs
Water	235ml	470ml	705ml	940ml	1880ml	2820ml	3760ml
Part 1	5ml	10ml	15ml	20ml	40ml	60ml	80ml
Part 2	5ml	10ml	15ml	20ml	40ml	60ml	80ml
Part 3	5ml	10ml	15ml	20ml	40ml	60ml	80ml

6. Place the wet print in the bleach solution, noting the time, and the image will begin to slowly lighten. At the point when the deepest shadows show only a light greenish-yellow tone, verify the time and now *leave the print immersed in the bleach for this length of time again*. The bleaching process will often take about 10 minutes in total. If it requires more than 20 minutes it is likely that your bleach has been overused, and we recommend that you mix a fresh solution. 750ml of the bleach solution will

usually perform well for about eight 8x10in prints.

If shadow areas fail to bleach or show a red tone, the print was probably fixed insufficiently or not washed thoroughly before bleaching.

7. Wash the print for 10min in running water. *Incomplete washing can lead to slight hardening action when the print goes into the final fixing bath, so ensure that this step is correctly carried out.*
8. Fix the print in FRESH FX20 diluted 1+9 for 5 minutes.
9. Wash the print for 20min in running water.
10. Dry the image THOROUGHLY. This may seem unnecessary, but is in fact of ultimate importance. It is during this drying period that the paper creates an imprinted 'memory' of your image, it is this which permits it to accept the ink in the correct areas during the next stages.

The bleached print is known as the MATRIX.

INKING THE MATRIX

Using gloves will protect your hands from the difficult to clean bromoil inks.

11. Soak the matrix in clean water at about 20°C (68°F) for 40mins, ensuring that the surface of the print remains beneath the water for the duration.
12. Remove the soaked matrix from the water and place it on kitchen towel or blotting paper, dabbing gently to remove excess water. Lie the matrix *emulsion side up* on a piece of glass larger than the sheet, and dab again with absorbent paper to remove any remaining water.
13. Apply a pea-sized quantity of ink to the tile provided, and using a flexible knife spread this out as thinly as possible across the entire width of the tile. As over inking the matrix will give poor results, return any excess ink to the jar.
14. Ink the roller by rolling it across the tile, ensuring that all areas of the sponge are coated evenly with ink.
15. Apply the ink to the damp matrix by rolling the roller straight across the entire image. Ensure that no drops of water fall onto the print at this point, as this will unwantedly remove the ink. *Do not over-apply the ink; it is normal that your image is not yet clear.*
16. Continue the rolling motion across the image without reloading the roller with ink. After a minute or so, the ink should begin to pull up from highlight areas whilst clinging to shadow zones. Continue rolling until the image is to your satisfaction, however keep rolling to a minimum as over-rolling dries out the print and paper texture will become more and more apparent. At this point you may use the *uninked* bromoil brush to remove excess ink from highlight areas. To do this, use a gentle dab and drag motion across the chosen areas. In order to darken shadow areas, use the same method with an *inked* brush.
17. Clean the borders of your image by wiping these still damp areas with a moist sponge or cloth.
18. Leave the print to dry naturally.

Your bromoil print is now permanent and a unique work of art!

Don't give up!

The bromoil process is not an exact science and will never produce two identical prints. Perfecting the procedure may take a little while but persevere, as the practised technique will produce a marvelous image. Inking the matrix is a matter of technique, so try using different brushes and inking methods until you find the approach best suited to you. The problems and solutions listed below should help you to avoid any inconveniences that might be encountered. Good luck!

Problems and Solutions:

<i>PROBLEM</i>	<i>POSSIBLE REASONS</i>
Image is completely white; ink does not stick to the paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contrast is too high• Exposure time is too short• Paper is too wet during ink application• Paper has not been completely dried after bleaching and fixing

Image is grey and unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bleach is old • Contrast is too high • Exposure time is too short • Improper developer or fix has been substituted for the correct products • Paper has not been completely dried after bleaching and fixing • Inking method has not been mastered
Image shows only black and white, no midtones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contrast is too high • Image has been over-wiped at the end of inking
Image shows only midtones; black is greyed and white is dulled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bleach is old • Improper developer or fix has been substituted for the correct products
Shadow areas do not bleach, or show a red tone during bleaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print has been improperly fixed or rinsed before bleaching
Paper texture is too prominent in inked image	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inking the matrix took too long, to the point that the paper dried out before inking was completed.

For further reading regarding the bromoil process, please refer to *The Bromoil Circle*.

Bromoil: in Brief

It is important that you read all enclosed instructions carefully during your first few attempts at creating a bromoil image. However, those who have developed an understanding of the bromoil process and prefer to refer to a concise, reduced set of instructions, the list below may be helpful.

1. **Expose Image**
2. **Develop:** as usual
3. **Stop:** 20sec
4. **Fix:** FX20, 1+4, 60sec
5. **Rinse:** 30min
6. **Mix bleach** (soak print for 40min if dry)
7. **Bleach print**
8. **Rinse:** 10min
9. **Fix:** Fresh FX20, 1+9, 5min
10. **Rinse:** 20min
11. **Dry thoroughly**
12. **Soak Matrix:** 40min, 20°C (68°F)
13. **Blot dry**
14. **Apply Ink**
15. **Clean up borders**
16. **Leave to dry:** 2-3 days

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