

## Clearing Methods for Platinum/Palladium Prints

Once the pt/pd print is developed, there are still light-sensitive iron compounds remaining in the paper. If we don't clear (remove) these, the print will gradually darken over time with exposure to light and the elements.

Most printers recommend a minimum of 5 minutes of clearing in three consecutive trays. Some heavier papers (Bergger Cot 320) might need longer times depending on your chemistry and local water supply. The clearing agent in the last tray should be crystal clear and should be replaced when it shows any color at all.

There are several popular clearing agents recommended:

**EDTA**

**PermaWash or Hypo Clearing Agent**

**Citric Acid**

**A Cocktail of EDTA and Sodium Sulfite**

Here are the plusses and minuses of the methods along with how to mix and use them:

### 1. EDTA

#### Plusses

- Non-Toxic
- Inexpensive (when purchased in bulk)
- Included with Bostick and Sullivan kits
- Very easy to dissolve with water

#### Minuses

- Won't clear with some water supplies and certain papers.
- Dust from powder when mixing (wear a mask)

#### How to Mix and Use

A heaping tablespoon per liter of water should do the trick.

## 2. PermaWash or Hypo Clearing Agent

### Plusses

PermaWash available in liquid form

Very good clearing of most papers

### Minuses

More expensive than mixing your own chemistry

Hypo Clearing Agent is powder only (Note: liquid alternatives also clear well)

### How to Mix and Use

For PermaWash, use 30oz. Per working Gallon.

Use Hypo Clear at the recommended working strength.

## 3. Citric Acid

### Plusses

Inexpensive and easy to mix

Clears well

### Minuses

Slightly corrosive to metallic surfaces

### How to Mix and Use

Six tablespoons with four liters of water.

## Mixture of EDTA and Sodium Sulfite

### Plusses

Inexpensive

Most users report good clearing

Low Toxicity

## Minuses

Two chemicals to buy and mix

EDTA is a powder (dust)

## How to Mix and Use

Use 1 tablespoon of EDTA and  $\frac{1}{2}$  tablespoon of Sodium Sulfite per liter of water.