

PRINTING WITH SELECTACOLOR

SelectaColor photo-resist pigments have many uses including color print-making, quick color proofing, plaques, nameplates and patterns for cut-outs. Handle under dim room light, avoiding direct daylight. A safelight is not necessary, but for longer periods of time such as while the sensitizer is drying, near or total darkness is preferred.

Surface preparation: Glazed ceramics and glass should first be cleaned with hot water and powdered laundry detergent. Absorbent materials like paper or wood will develop more cleanly if first given a coat of lacquer or spray acrylic. Metals may need a pre-coat of glossy oil-based polyurethane varnish for good adhesion. Other hard-to-stick materials may require the same pre-coat or, to avoid a slight yellowing, an alkyd white house primer available at most paints stores.

Stir before use. Brush or flow on, and drain off any surplus. Any dried particles in the liquid can be filtered out. The coating should be no thicker than necessary, to allow light to penetrate through to the base. Also coat a few test strips to determine the best exposure. Dry thoroughly at room temperature with a fan or hair dryer.

Expose through a high-contrast transparency made by inkjet or photo-copier, held in contact by a glass plate. The transparency can be either negative or positive, depending on the desired effect. As an alternative, a solid object such as leaf, key, etc. can be used to make a "photogram."

Expose with a bright light source, such as a 250 watt halogen bulb or a 500 watt photoflood bulb, through a high-contrast transparency held in contact with the sensitizer by a glass plate. As an alternative, a solid object such as leaf, key, etc. can be laid on top of the sensitized surface to make a "photogram." Exposure times will vary with the choice of color; red or yellow SelectaColor takes approximately twice as long as white or blue; black about four times the blue exposure: 10 minutes vs. 40 minutes for black.

To develop, wipe or sponge very gently with cool tap water to gradually dissolve the unexposed areas. Do not rush this step, as it may take several minutes for the image to appear. When the image is fully developed, blot and dry. If desired, additional colors can be applied and the process repeated.

MAKING TRANSPARENCIES:

Full-size transparencies can be printed with an inkjet printer, laser printer or photocopier on 8½ x 11" transparency film, available at office supply stores or our website.

Start with any kind of original such as a photograph or book illustration. A high-contrast or "line" print will give the best results with SelectaColor. Note: Even if you are working from a color original or planning on printing in color, you will be using a black & white transparency. Use the "best" quality printer setting.

Or you can take the artwork to an office-supply store like Staples or Kinko's and order a transparency. (Transparencies can also be made on photographic film by traditional methods. See our FAQ.)

TROUBLESHOOTING:

If the unexposed areas do not dissolve, it generally indicates over-exposure or too long a storage period before processing. If the entire coated surface softens in water, it is because of under-exposure or too thick a coating preventing light from reaching the base.