

MAKING and USING a HOMEMADE PRINTING FRAME

A commercial split-back Printing Frame is expensive, but a simple one can be made for a very low price.

Commercial Contact Print Frames

Contact Print Frames from Photographer's Formulary (also available from B&H Photo)

8X10"	\$59.95	11X14"	\$70.95
16X20"	\$92.95	20X24"	\$109.95

<http://stores.photoformulary.com/-strse-246/CONTACT-PRINT-FRAME/Detail.bok>

Contact Print Frames from Bostick & Sullivan are about twice this price,

8X10"	\$154.99	11X14"	\$169.99
16X20"	\$204.99	20X24"	\$267.99

<http://www.bostick-sullivan.com/cart/home.php?cat=38>

Constructing a Printing Frame design

determine the size of the paper you will be printing onto
6 sheets from a 22 X 30 " sheet yields 10 x 11" pieces
good for 4 x 6" images
4 sheets from a 22 X 30 " sheet yields 11 x 15" pieces
good for 6 x 9" images

design the printing frame to be about 1 inch bigger all around

e.g. 12 x 13" for 10 x 11" paper

note: 12 x 14 is a semi-standard size

e.g. 13 x 17" for 11 x 15" paper

note: 14 x 17 is a semi-standard size

materials

1 piece - window glass

e.g. 12 x 14" or 14 x 17"

don't use glass with a anti-UV coating! e.g. good picture frame glass

1 piece - foam core 1/2" thick

e.g. 12 x 14" or 14 x 17"

8 -10 large binder clips

construction

cut the foam core to match the size of the glass

cut the foam core about 1/3 of the way down

e.g. 3 " down from the end

resulting in a square piece and a small rectangular piece

tape these 2 pieces of foam core together

using framers tape

sand the edges of the glass so it is safe to handle

Using a Printing Frame

place the foam core on a table, taped edge down

place the coated receiver paper on the foam core, sensitizer facing up

place the digital negative down onto the sensitized paper, face down (ink-side down)

place the glass over top

clip the glass to the foam core, 3 - 4 clips on each side (maybe an extra clip on each end)

expose the paper to ultraviolet light

Print Examination

remove binder clips on the short side

pull the paper back to check the exposure

re-clip the printing frame if more exposure is needed

Processing the cyanotype print as normal . . .

MAKING CYANOTYPES at HOME

It is very easy to do the entire Cyanotype process at home. No photo chemicals are required except for the sensitizer. Print can be processed in a sink, although a couple of trays would be easier.

print Digital Negatives _____ on any good quality inkjet printer
Permanent pigment ink is better than dye inks, however

coat the receiver paper _____ with sensitizer in any room without sunlight
preferably at night
with a diffused 40-watt bulb across the room as the only illumination

dry the paper _____ and let it cure overnight, 12 – 24 hours

sandwich the negative _____ against receiver paper coated with sensitizer
use a Printing Frame, or just a piece of window glass
People have been known to tape the negative and paper to a window
with a good stiff backing board behind it all

expose the paper _____ to direct sunlight
place the paper so the surface is perpendicular to the sun's rays
Exposure will be considerably longer than in the darkroom.
On a bright sunny day exposure can be as little as 10 minutes but on a
bright but cloudy winter day it can be 30 minutes or longer.
Experimentation will be necessary because the weather affects the
strength of the sun so much that exposures can change throughout the
day.

develop the cyanotype _____ in running water and then wash completely. That's it.

All the other chemicals for contrast control, oxidation, and toning can be purchased at the grocery store and can be used safely at home.