



Wet Plate Collodion

Instructions

1. The preparation of the plates

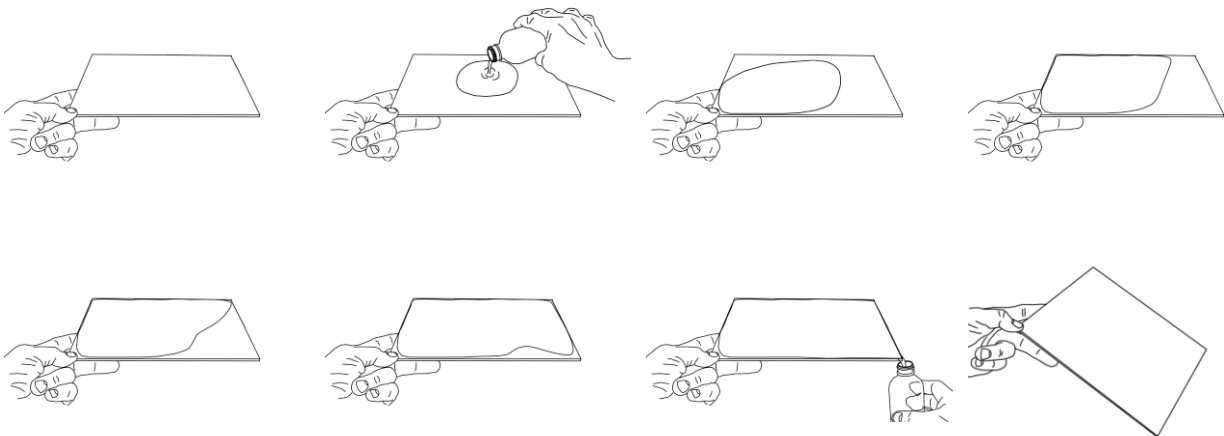
For the watering of the plates we can use different materials. The most often we use the glass (clear or dark) or asphalted plate. The glass which has 2 or 3 mm we cut with the diamant.

The cheaper variants of diamant don't have the possibility to clear up by itself, so before the next using we have to put it into the oil or turpentine. This makes the cut homogenous and the glass is possible to divide easily.

The glass should be clean, without any grease to allow the colodium layer to be well adhered to the plate

2. The watering of the plates:

We water the plates following these instructions:



For the watering we use iodinated solution of the colodium. There are many recipes available.

3. Sensitizing:

The sensitizing of the watered plates is made in 9% solution of the silver nitrate (Sensitizer). Before the using we filtrate the bath. The putting into the bath should be done by the dim light or by the red (eventually orange) light. We sensitize it for 4 min. The sensitized plate we take out only by the red/orange light. Well sensitized plate has milky veil after taking out.

4. Exposition:

The exposition of the sensitized plate is the routine. The supposed ISO is approximately 3-5. It's important to realize that the wet collodion process is blue-sensitive.

The exposition should be done as quickly as possible to avoid the collodion get dry. If that happened we can't develop it anymore. The time for the exposition is approximately 10min (since the moment we take it out from the sensitizer until developing)

5. Developing and stoping:

The exposed plate is developed by the watering of the developer (less developer, better)

The plate should be watered equally with the developer and the quickliest possible. We develop it for approximately 15 sec., but it doesn't have to be a rule. (for ExtraDry collodion: stop developing when first signs of image)

The developing can be stoped by watering the plate of the tap water. The plate is not light-sensitive anymore after the stoping, that's the reason why we can put it on the day light.

6. Fixing:

The time of the fixing is not strict (to clear image, usually about 2 min), because the sodium thiosulfate is not destructive for the image.

7. Washing out:

We wash it out in the flowing water approximately for 20min. Or the trays 4 X 5min.

8. Varnishing:

We put the varnish on the plate in the same way like the collodion. After the watering of the varnish we warm the plate above the flame until the moment that the ethanol is evaporated (there can happen also the ignition).