



DON'T BE KEPT IN THE DARK

Take a fresh look at your darkroom



A darkroom can be a wonderful outlet for creativity. Sadly many darkrooms suffer from shortcomings of various kinds. Hopefully some of the following suggestions will prove beneficial to you.

Ventilation

Fresh air is essential, so it is important to change the air frequently. Exhaust fans help, but it is best to filter air coming into darkroom. I have traditionally used fans to inject clean filtered air into my darkroom and placed my drying racks over air inlet. This avoids dirty air entering under doors, etc.

Safelight

It is essential to have enough safe light to allow for darkroom to function efficiently. Do avoid having excessive light fogging prints. Safelights can also make focusing difficult. A DL Super Digital II Timer has optional safelight OFF for EASY FOCUSING. A Photax/Paterson Red safelight is safe when used at correct distance from paper and has switch on cord for easy focusing. For safelight over developing dishes DL 10 1552924 is best. This takes a 25X20 cm filter and provides good light for assessing prints being developed.

Loading Films

Total darkness is required for loading of films. If your darkroom "leaks light", use a Dark Change Bag 152509 for safe loading of films.

Washing Films

Archival washing is easy and fast with Jobo Cascade (903350) archival washing is possible in just 5 minutes.

Film Drying

Countless films have been ruined by dust and drying marks. A metal drying cabinet (164833) is the best solution. If your budget does not allow for that, Jobo has a great film dryer for 16X 135/36 exp films. This employs a plastic drying sleeve and filtered cool, warm or hot air is circulated inside the film sleeve. Hangs on wall and is best placed in a corner "away from traffic!" I have used one for many years with excellent results!

Paper Washing

Efficient washing is essential for, speed, convenience and maximum print life. Paterson make a range of print washers. Standard 162590 for prints to 24x30 cm and Major 162280 for prints to 30x40 cm. These washers keep prints separated for archival washing.

Paper Drying

Prints look better when a print dryer such as DevAppa 3200 (162583) is used. This type of dryer removes excess water and gently dries several prints (RC Paper) per minute. Paterson or Mirasol Rapid Print Drying Racks may also be used for drying prints economically and neatly. A brief immersion in Agepon will greatly reduce drying time and water marks on prints.

Spots and Marks

Some prints may have dust marks. These can easily be eliminated with a B&W Retouch Pens 162537 for Neutral Black or 162536 for Warm Black. Many other print finishing aids are available. See page Madsens Catalogue. A Web Catalogue is available at: www.madsens.com.au

Common Sense

By thinking "before doing" many problems may be avoided. A "Lightproof" box or drawer is great for storing photographic paper. An old desk makes a good darkroom table with drawers for storage. Unplug your enlarger at the end of each printing session and cover enlarger with a pillow slip to keep it clean and dust free. Antistatic cloths helps avoid dust on negatives and clean dry air and light prevents fungi on lenses.

Good Luck

I have spent countless happy hours in my darkroom and I sincerely hope that you will derive great enjoyment and satisfaction from your darkroom.

Jens Madsen



www.darkroomshop.com.au

