

## **Print Hints**

(in no particular order)

- Check focus at largest aperture and with white light on.
- Load your negative into the negative carrier outside the darkroom.
- Load negative emulsion side down.
- Make your test strips large enough to evaluate and with time increments distinct enough to see.
- Don't guess at the time when your test strip is all too light or all too dark. Make another test.
- Start with #2 contrast.
- Stopping down a lens means moving to a smaller aperture.
- Start with lens stopped-down one or two stops.
- More light gives you a darker print.
- Less light gives you a lighter print.
- Print for the highlights. Find the minimum time to get detail in the light areas.
- Don't print at times less than 10 seconds.
- If your time is really short you can double the time by stopping the lens down 1 stop.
- If your time is really long you can halve the time by opening the lens 1 stop.
- If the contrast is too high it means the dark areas are too dark and/or the light areas are too light.
- If the contrast is too high you can lower it by setting the contrast filtration on the enlarger to a smaller number.
- If you find that you're dodging and burning a whole bunch on a print you may want to lower the contrast instead... you'll see.
- If the contrast is too low (flat) it means the dark areas are too light and/or the light areas are too dark, or that the print generally looks gray and muddy.
- If the contrast is too low (flat) you can raise it by setting the contrast filtration on the enlarger to a higher number.
- As you dodge and burn count off the times in your head and record the times in your notebook. This will help greatly with the trial-and-error nature of dodging and burning.
- Keep track of the approximate height of your dodging and burning too.
- Don't change the time on the timer to your burn time. Going back and forth from your base exposure time to your burn time is a good way to get confused.
- Constant agitation is required at all trays, never leave a print unattended in a tray.
- Don't leave the focus light of your enlarger turned on when you walk away, unless you're exposing a print. Bulbs are expensive.
- Don't hover over the chemical trays. Breathing the fumes ain't no good for your brain.