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Wharepuke Print Studio – Acrylic Resist Emulsion Instructions

The resist works on copper and aluminium, steel and zinc. For copper plates one coat is sufficient, for aluminium and zinc two coats are recommended.

Plate Preparation

1. File edges and corners of plate to ensure they don't cut the press blankets. This also helps the acrylic resist to flow over and coat the edges, makes wiping easier and gives a good plate mark to the print.
2. Lightly sand or polish plate surface with fine (220 grit) carborundum or wet and dry sandpaper. De- Grease with soy sauce/whiting powder. Rinse and dry.
3. Apply Acrylic Resist with 'flow coating' technique. Pour the resist over the plate and stand the plate upright on newspaper to drain off excess – step the plate back a few times to avoid build up along the bottom edge.

Leave to dry – drying times will vary depending on the room temperature but 15 – 20 mins should be enough. Plates can be dried in a drying cupboard or with a hairdryer when touch dry. This also produces a stronger surface as heat makes co-polymers bond.

(For aluminium and zinc etching apply two coats making sure the first is **completely dry** before adding the 2nd.)

4. Draw image through resist – surface may be painted with poster paint to allow easier viewing of image if desired. Remove the paint before etching.

5. Back plate with packing tape

6. Etch –

Copper in Edinburgh Etch or Ferric Chloride.

Aluminium and zinc in copper sulphate/table salt solution.

7. Remove tape. Strip ground in soda ash solution (5-6 tablespoons per litre of water. ***Don't leave aluminium too long in soda ash as this will continue to etch the plate.***)

Excess glue from tape can be removed by soaking the plate in Simple Green eco cleaner.