

## 300 PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS

### 301 INTRODUCTION

All Metalphoto and Metalphoto Plus plates are light-sensitive, photographic products and must be processed in a darkroom with suitable safelights, temperature controls and ventilation. In addition, each product must be stored and handled so as to preserve the integrity of its original fog-free packaging.

### 310 DARKROOM REQUIREMENTS

#### 311 SAFELIGHTS

Equip the darkroom with safelights normally used with black and white photographic paper, such as OA, OC, No. 1, and No. 1A Ruby, available from your local graphic arts and film supplier.

For a brighter level of illumination, we suggest the use of General Electric F4OGO gold fluorescent tube lamps. As a general rule do not use more than two 40 watt tubes per approximately 300 cubic feet of room space. Place lamps at least six feet from your work area and cover the ends of each lamp with black electrical tape to prevent white light emission. (Fig. 311.1)

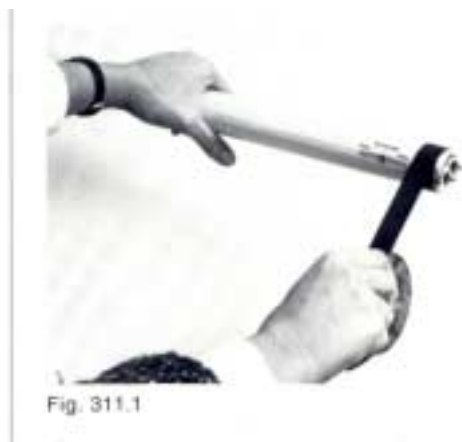


Fig. 311.1

Exceeding the guidelines of proper safelight conditions, as outlined in the preceding paragraph, can cause fogged plates.

To determine if the darkroom has “safe” lighting conditions, perform the following test. With the safelights on, remove a fresh, unexposed plate from a pouch and cut off a portion for testing. Place this piece on the vacuum frame with the good, sensitive side facing up, and place several coins on the surface. After 5 minutes, remove the coins and Zip® process the plate. If the outline of the coins is visible on the processed plate, the safelight conditions are not good enough to avoid pre-exposing plates prior to processing.

#### 312 TEMPERATURE

The temperature of the darkroom should be maintained between 68° and 72°F (20-22°C). Lower temperatures retard the response of the plates to the development process and produce weak images. Higher temperatures are likely to produce fog.

#### 313 VENTILATION

Normal ventilation is sufficient for the darkroom. However, if the sealing bath is located in the darkroom, we recommend that a ventilating exhaust fan be installed to reduce heat build-up and excessive humidity. Both of these conditions can damage unexposed plates.

### 320 PLATE HANDLING AND STORAGE

Metalphoto, Metalphoto Plus, PolyColor and UltraColor plates are shipped in sealed, black plastic, photographically inert and light-tight pouches. When opening these pouches, make sure the darkroom is illuminated by proper safelights. However, even proper safelight conditions can produce fog if unexposed plates are left uncovered for more than 5 minutes.

#### 321 HOW TO OPEN METALPHOTO AND METALPHOTO PLUS POUCHES

To open Metalphoto and Metalphoto Plus pouches, there are two methods recommended that protect against inadvertent exposure of the contents.

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**METHOD 1** - Place the pouch, labels face down, on a flat surface. Cut through the pouch along the heat-sealed flat bead. Remove a plate and fold the cut end of the pouch back over the surface and seal with either transparent cellophane tape or black electrical tape. (Fig. 321.1)

**Method 2** - Place the pouch, labels face down, on a flat surface. Locate the edge of the plates. Just beyond this point, carefully cut through only the top layer of the pouch. Remove a plate and fold the end back over the surface and seal with either transparent cellophane tape or black electrical tape. (Fig. 321.2)

When you open a pouch you will note that the top plate and all but the bottom plate are packaged so that the “good” photosensitive surface faces in away from the pouch. It is a good practice to follow this procedure when replacing unexposed plates in an opened pouch.

### 322 HOW TO OPEN ULTRACOLOR AND POLYCOLOR POUCHES

Use either of the methods described in Section 321.

When you open a pouch you will note that UltraColor and PolyColor plates are packaged face to face in pairs. The first plate has its guaranteed side down, facing away from you. The second plate has its guaranteed side up and so on.

Remove the first plate and turn the second plate over so its guaranteed surface faces away from the pouch surface. Always make sure that the remaining top plate faces in. Fold the end of the pouch back over the bag and seal with transparent cellophane tape or black electrical tape.

### 323 RESEALING OPENED POUCHES

Always reseal opened pouches with transpar-

METHOD 1



Fig. 321.1

METHOD 2



Fig. 321.2

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ent cellophane tape such as Scotch® Magic Tape, or black plastic electrical tape. NEVER use masking tape as its adhesive will fog the plates even through the black plastic bags. (Fig. 323.1)

### 324 STORAGE

Always store unexposed plates in their original, black plastic pouches, inside their original carton. Never use cardboard boxes, such as those for packaging photographic paper or film as they can create fog.

Store cartons of unexposed plates in the coolest and driest part of the darkroom, away from heat sources such as sealing tanks, hot water pipes, heat registers, etc.

### 325 CLEANLINESS

Conscientious attention to regular house-keeping is essential to maintain consistent, high quality output of the various Metalphoto products. Dust, fingerprints and chemical contamination are the enemies of quality. Vacuum and damp mop the floor area around the exposure station on a regular basis. Check the vacuum contact cover, the exposure plane and the film for dust and fingerprints each time before making an exposure.



Fig. 323.1