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## **Instructions for MaxPyro© Developer**

By Gordon Hutchings

MaxPyro is a concentrated and highly active pyrogallol developer designed to achieve the following results.

1. Full ISO speed
2. Straight line gamma curve
3. Minimal general fog and fog stain
4. Controlled image stain
5. Full contrast potential for platinum and other alternative systems
6. Rapid development
7. All processing methods including stainless steel hangers and JOBO©

While this developer was created primarily for high speed film, it is an excellent developer for all film, and has proven to be highly effective for zone system "Plus and Minus" film development.

MaxPyro is also effective for platinum printing. The image stain to general stain ratio is very high owing to the minimum base fog/stain. This results in a single negative that can be easily printed with silver or platinum paper.

Film development is straight forward and responds very well to all methods of development including film stack in tray, stainless hangers and JOBO machines. The formula is in two stock solutions and normal dilution is 50ml of each per liter of total solution. Because the activity of the new formula is much greater than PMK, more care is required in exposure, measuring of chemicals and time of development. If you routinely over-expose just to be on the safe side and are a little sloppy in measuring out chemicals, or add a little bit too much "B" stock, you will be greeted with a very dense negative.

This high activity can of course be used to your advantage. Adding more "B" stock to the developer will shorten development time, or if developed for the same time, add greatly to the contrast. About 25-50% added "B" stock is all it can stand. (Doubling the "B" stock will result in a blitzed negative). Contrast can also be adjusted by the usual time and temperature method.

Here are some common quantities of developer solution.

Total Solution	500 cc	700 cc	1000cc	1500cc	1 gallon
A and B Stock (each)	25 cc	35cc	50cc	75cc	190cc

**Development Times (at 70 °F)**

Fast Speed Film (ISO 320-400)	7 Minutes
Medium Speed Film (ISO 100-125)	6 Minutes
Slow Speed Film (ISO 25-50)	5 Minutes

Film	EI	Place		

There are of course slight deviations for each film. Kodak T-Max 400 responds rapidly and may need a minute less development time. Efke 100 may need a minute more. Each photographer must, as always, conduct your own tests to fine-tune the processing parameters. Remember that pyro developers thrive on active, frequent and random agitation technique (see [The Book of Pyro](#), chapter on procedures).

For plus and minus gamma development, classic press-camera era adjustments work fine:

- For *plus* contrast, reduce exposure by ½ stop and add 40% or 50% to development time.
- For *minus* contrast, add one stop exposure and reduce development time by 30%.

Prints from MaxPyro negatives have a strong muscular look and deep three dimensional feel. Printing with these negatives is the same as other pyro negatives. If you are new to pyro negatives you will notice that a normal printing pyro negative looks a little thin and lacking in contrast. See [The Book of Pyro](#) for full details on various aspects of pyro use, development and user safety.

As with PMK, the “A” stock solution will darken in a few days to its equilibrium point. Because MaxPyro has much more pyrogallol in solution than PMK it will darken to a deep orange-amber color. Do not be alarmed, this is what it is supposed to do. If you purchase a just-made set of stock chemicals, the “A” solution may be clear. Let it age a few days, it is more stable and potent at its equilibrium state.

**SAFETY:**

As with other pyro developers, pyrogallol is highly toxic and must be used with caution. Do not put your hands into the developer without rubber or plastic gloves. Keep pyro and all chemicals away from children. For a full discussion of toxicity and safe procedures, see the appendix section in [The Book of Pyro](#).

Good luck with this new developer. I hope you like it as much as I do.