

TROUBLE SHOOTING:

Lack of detail in image -

The exposure time was too long or contact between the plate and transparency was not tight enough.

Polymer layer is cracking or lifting off -

The plate has been exposed to too much heat.

At exposure - raise the UV light away or let it cool before using again.

When drying after washing - Keep an eye on the plate if it is in strong sunlight.

Old plates are curling -

Re-wet and let dry again in the sun.



User Guide

PHOTOPOLYMER

PLATE MAKING KIT



New

Fine Silver Magazine

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Photopolymer sheets are made of 3 layers, a plastic backing sheet, a polymer that cures, or becomes solid, when exposed to UV light and a cover film which is removed before exposure.

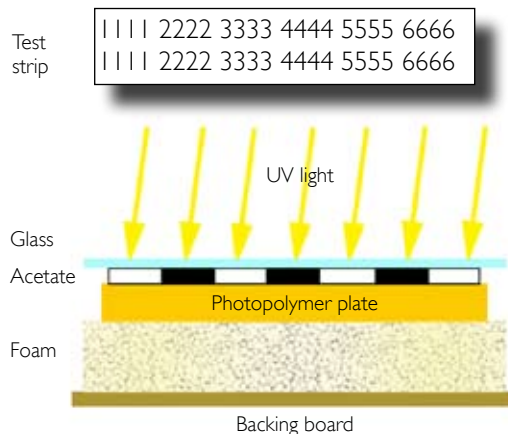
You can use a copyright free design, your own design or your own logo - to quickly and easily produce a lasting texture mat for imprinting Precious Metal Clay.

Select your text, design, drawing or very high contrast black and white photo. Enlarge or reduce in size with a photocopier or computer scanner. Print on to clear acetate sheet (transparency film) using a toner type printer, or purchase special acetate sheets for ink jet printers. It is possible to draw your design onto the film with a permanent marker but the lines do need to be good solid blacks. Trim your design to size.

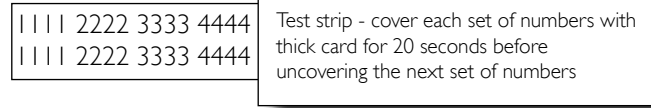
The plate now needs to be exposed to a UV light source. Sunlight is not easily controlled and the strength of the UV light can change between plates exposures. It is advisable to do a test strip if using sunlight.

UV Fluorescent tubes are the best exposure light. You can make your own exposure box by buying lights from any good electrical store, or use a nail UV unit available from Department stores. We would still recommend that with each new pack of Photopolymer purchased you do a test strip as processing methods can alter exposure times.

The test strip can be your image or you can make a numbered strip to keep track of your exposure times more easily. Cut a strip for your test in a darkened room and keep it away from any sunlight. Place the Photopolymer plate material on the foam and remove the thin clear plastic layer from the Photopolymer plate.

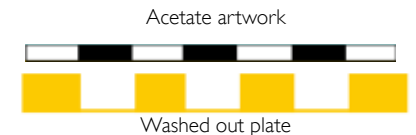


Place the Acetate with image onto the Photopolymer plate. Place the glass on top. Cover the plate with some heavy card leaving the number 1's exposed, set the timer and expose the Photopolymer for 20 seconds. Turn the light off after this time and move the strip to expose the number 2's, reset the timer for another 20 seconds. Repeat this process for the entire length of your sheet. The last number exposed will then have had 20 seconds, the next 40 seconds and so on.



These timings are as a guide only. If using natural sunlight you may need to do further timings of to find the best exposure. The longer you expose the plate the less detail you will achieve so expose for the least amount of time possible.

During the exposure process the black areas of the artwork block out the UV light and the plate underneath will remain soft, the clear areas will let the light through and will harden the plate below.



Once exposed, scrub the Photopolymer plate with the scrub provided in a bowl of water. Scrub until the plate is as deep as desired. Pat dry. Expose the Photopolymer plate to sunshine for 5 minutes to dry and set.

Once you have your exposure time cut your plate to fit your design and expose the whole piece for the desired length of time. Scrub and dry as above. Your plate is now ready to use!

