

Photo Etch Procedure Check List

[] 1. Print your graphic on a transparency film

Before making the stencil, you need to print your graphic on a transparency film. We found that laser printer produces better result. Alternatively, your local print shop can also print the transparency film for you.

[] 2. Expose the top side of the photo plate

Turn on your fluorescent light and let it warm up for 10 minutes so that the light source is stable. Put the photo plate on a hard surface then put the transparency on the plate. After that, put a piece of glass on top.

Your fluorescent light should be 12 inches away from the plate, expose the plate under a fluorescent light for about 12 minutes.

[] 3. Expose the bottom side of the photo plate

Remove the transparency and flip the plate over, expose the bottom side of the plate for about 12 minutes.

[] 4. Remove the protective cover

After exposed both sides of the plate, you must remove the protective cover of the plate. Put a piece of tape on a corner and slowly peel off the protective cover. You have to do the same on the other side of the plate.

[] 5. Develop the photo plate

Notes: We recommend using Sodium Carbonate included with our plate for developing. You no longer need developer solution from MG Chemicals which is mentioned in our How-to Video.

All our plates and starter kit comes with Sodium Carbonate. Dissolve complete contents into 250ml warm water. Wait until solution is at room temperature. Use a soft brush to wash the plate for 1~2 minutes or until you clearly see the exposed metal. Wash the plate with clean water for 1~2 minutes.

Now, you should see that your graphic is being developed on the surface of the plate.

[] 6. Etch the photo plate

Put the plate a plastic tray with etching solution; move the tray up and down slowly. Depends on your graphics, it will take up to 60 minutes to fully etch the plate.

[] 7. Strip the photo plate

Use Acetone and a metal tray to wash away all remaining photo materials.

