

Processing Guidelines

MAPPdeco plates are processed in standard tap water. Washout effluent may be directly discharged to the municipal sewage system.

The following processing guidelines have been developed using **MAPP** laboratory equipment. Your times may vary. Optimum times should be established using a test negative and should be repeated on a regular basis.

Exposure:	2-5 minutes on any standard cold lamp exposure unit. Also compatible with point light exposure units. <i>(Exposure units with 366 nm bulbs are preferred; negatives exposed with 350 nm lights may require additional exposure time.)</i>
Washout:	Wash plates in water until all unexposed photopolymer is removed down to the base metal, approximately 2-5 minutes at 80°F (27°C).
Drying Time:	5-10 minutes at 164°-176°F (74°-80°C)
Post Exposure:	2-5 minutes
Recommended Inks:	Standard letterpress (oil-based) and UV inks. Not compatible with water-based inks.
Mounting on press:	MAPPdeco S6 plates will adhere to a magnetic cylinder with no pre-curl; S9 plates may require pre-curling, usually at the lead and trail edges only. Plates which have not been pre-curved will return to their flat format when removed from the cylinder and can be stored flat.
Cleaning:	Plates may be cleaned with any standard letterpress plate cleaning solution. Do not clean plates with water.
Handling Instructions:	Raw photopolymer plates are UV light sensitive and should be stored in black plastic bags, in a dry place, at standard room temperature (68°-72°F or 20°-22°C). Windows and room lights in the plate-making and storage areas should be covered with yellow UV-protective film.

STEP -BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

Negative Film:	Use either standard matte or non-matte film with a density of 4.0 in the black areas and 0.05 in the transparent areas.
MAPPdeco:	Place an unexposed MAPPdeco plate (image side up) on the vacuum platen in the exposure frame. Apply the negative, emulsion side down, to the plate surface and cover with the vacuum sheet. Use a roller or squeegee to ensure that no wrinkles or air pockets remain between the vacuum sheet, negative and plate.
Exposure:	Expose the MAPPdeco plate through the negative (2-5 minutes), preferably using 366 nm lights. Check light bulbs frequently to ensure maximum power.
Washout:	Move the exposed plate to the washout section of your processor. MAPPdeco can be washed out in any standard brush or plush washout system using fresh tap water. (Approximately 3 minutes at 80°F or 27°C.) The washing process removes all of the unexposed polymer down to the base metal leaving only the image. Remove excess water by blowing with an air hose or blotting with a towel.
Drying:	Dry immediately following the washout process. The drying process is required to remove all excess water from the plate as excess water can be absorbed into the photopolymer and can cause the image to swell. The washed out plate is placed in a hot air dryer. Typical drying time is 7 minutes at 170°F (76°C).
Post Cure:	The finished plate is placed in an exposure unit for 2-5 minutes to cure the photopolymer. No vacuum is needed during this step and the plate is now ready for mounting on your printing press.

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