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MT7 Iron Blue Toner

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To ensure the widest palette of blue tones the toner working solution must be mixed immediately prior to use. It is recommended that distilled water is used. **Note that the solutions must be mixed in the sequence detailed below.**

The concentrates are:

Part 1 Toner 100ml

Part 2 Bleach 100ml

Part 3 Stabilizer 250ml

Part 4 Acid 100ml

Powder to make 20 litres of clearing solution (or to make 2L concentrate)

Ammonia Solution for pure blue tones (50ml)

Working Solution preparation:

Water	800ml (or more)
Part 1	10ml
Part 2	10ml
Part 3	10-25ml
Part 4	10ml

Parts 1, 2 and 4 must be used in the working solution. The use of Part 3 is optional, to prevent the accumulation of deposits on tray and prints.

Different papers cause differing blue tones. Warmtone papers produce bright blues while those with cold or neutral tone papers are much darker. Before toning the prints must be thoroughly washed as any fixer left on the paper will affect the appearance of tone in highlight areas.

Toning should be done in subdued lighting, 30-60 seconds should be enough as a rule. Use of greater amounts of Acid (Part 4) deepens the tone but at the same time highlights will also start to be toned. A characteristic of all blue toners is that with the progressive exhaustion of the toning bath the normal Berlin Blue tones are often accompanied by the rapid build up of unwanted Turnbull Blue. This colouring not only deposits itself on the surfaces of the tray but also colours the gelatine and paper fibres. The stabilizer (Part 3) attracts and binds this colouring making the gelatine more resistant. Therefore it is possible to tone even those papers without a protective coat without the need for prior hardening. After toning the print must be washed well but for not longer than 5 minutes, otherwise the Prussian Blue starts to react with the wash water with subsequent loss of intensity. And, when the yellow colouring due to the potassium ferricyanide finally disappears under the running water, the blue tones will have already been very much reduced. In the clearing bath this yellow disappears within 1 to 3 minutes with the tones approaching that of the dry, final print. If the final tone is too lurid, the print can be further treated by immersion in a weak alkali solution for a short time which will shift the tone towards violet-blue, with prolonged immersion to grey-blue – but too long and the toning will completely disappear, starting in the highlight areas. Borax, Sodium Carbonate or Ammonium can be used and the clearing bath is no longer needed. Add 3-10ml of a 20% Sodium Carbonate (or Borax) solution to 1 litre water or 1-5ml of a 10% solution of ammonia. Blue stains on measuring cylinders and trays can be removed with a few drops of alkali.