

How to make your own photopolymer plates

Directions for using your photopolymer plate kit. Cutting plates, exposing, washing, drying and post-exposing.

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What else do I need to expose & develop my photopolymer plates?

- TIMER OR STOPWATCH
 - ACCESS TO QUALITY INK JET PRINTER
 - SOFT NYLON BRUSH (SOFT NAIL BRUSHES WORK WELL)
 - ACCESS TO WATER - SINK OR BASIN (I USE A PLASTIC DISHPAN)
 - HAIR DRYER
 - METAL SHEARS
- and YOUR ARTWORK

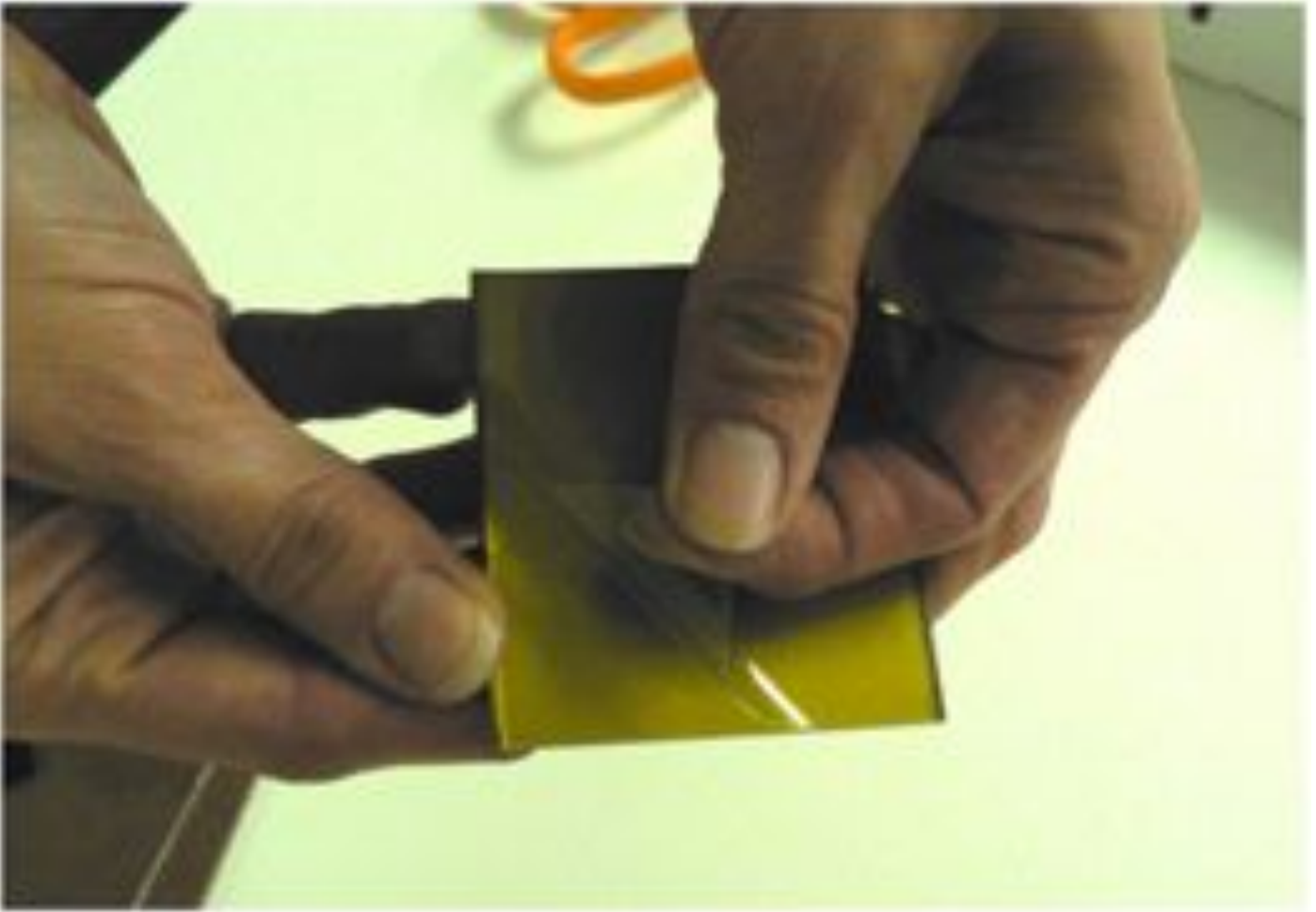
Determining what size plate to use

Your plate size is determined by your artwork. Plates can be scored on the back, or use permanent marker. Mark cut-lines using a straight edge.

How to cut my plate to size

Use metal shears to cut the plate to the size you want. The maximum size you can develop at one time in this kit is 5x7. I recommend starting with small plate sizes. Consider what you will be using the plate for. Remember, jewelry is small scale. A 2"x2" texture plate would be large enough for most jewelry work

What about that plastic covering the photopolymer plate?



Remove the protective plastic UV covering before proceeding.

How do I assemble my exposure frame kit?



Place your photonegative transparency ink side down on top of your photopolymer plate. Sandwich it between the frame back and acrylic top. Clamp each side securely.

How long do I expose my photopolymer for?

1. Set your timer. For the metal backed plates in the kit, the appropriate time will be as follows:
 - a. High contrast black & white art: expose for 15 minutes.
 - b. For more detail and/or greyscale: expose for 3 hours
2. Expose for the proper time (turn uv light and timer on)
3. Turn uv light and timer off.
4. Remove clips and artwork. Store your transparency for future use. It's a good idea to have it on hand in case your plate becomes damaged.

How do I wash my photopolymer plate after it's exposed?



Use a sink or a dishpan of water and a soft brush. Wear gloves if you have sensitive skin.

- Hold the plate under the water with one hand and brush with the other
- The unexposed polymers wash away (consistency of honey)
- Brush left, right, up, down
- Continue brushing until plate feels clean. The metal will be 'squeaky' clean
- Take care not to brush away small details.

How should the plate be dried?

Using a hairdryer, drive the water off of the plate. Think 'car wash'. When it's dry, check the plate carefully under a light (not uv). If there are areas that are not washed out entirely, repeat wash-out and drying steps.