

LITH TONING

Another type of 'toning' is achieved by using Lith Developer to 'redevelop' a print. The unique chemical makeup of Lith Developer will cause a color shift that depends on the brand of paper being used. This process will not work on neutral or cool tone papers. Only warm-tone papers that are approved for Lith Toning will actually change color.

SHORT BLEACH> RINSE> DILUTE LITH DEV> RINSE> SHORT DILUTE FIX> RINSE > FULL WASH
note: no selenium

Chemistry

- bleach dilution = normal to weak
- bleach time = short for highlights only, or medium for highs & midtones
- developer dilution = weak 1:19
- developer time = until the prints looks right, can be long
- fixer dilution = weak 1:19
- fixer time = 1 minute only!
- otherwise the new color will be stripped out
- papers = warm tone only
- preferably those recommended for Lith Printing
- color is determined by the brand of paper

The toning process starts with a short bleach step to remove the color from only the highlights. Then, a thorough rinse to remove all traces of bleach. It is also possible to bleach down into the midtones for a different look.

The process requires using a very dilute developer, 1:19. Snatch the print from the developer as soon as it gets to the desired color, which can take some time.

That is followed by a thorough rinse to remove all developer. Then a short 1 minute dunk in a very dilute fixer bath, also mixed 1:19, is used to fix the color change. This must be followed by a **full** archival wash.

Selenium toner can remove the color from a Lith Toned print so be careful. If you wish to tone the shadows in a print, Selenium may be used briefly, but only after a **full** archival wash.

initial research by DREW D. SARACCO