

Tek Talk bw D76.doc

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Subject: Some Tech Talk Re: D76/ID11

With regard to D76/ID11 I use it both ways, full strength and diluted (although as a dilute high res, compensating developer, I usually prefer Rodinal). Most photographers don't know the difference between D76 straight and diluted.

Full strength it has 100 grams per liter (GPL) of Sod. Sulfite (80GPL or more is a silver solvent). In use this developer dissolves silver in proportion to density and redeposits it in INVERSE PROPORTION to density. The result is increased shadow detail and shadow contrast while retarding highlight blocking. This is pretty strong stuff for medium and high speed films. Also as a replenished developer it is the most stable developer which can be had. First, it dilutes the retarding by products of silver reduction (development). Second, the strong replenisher is balanced by the retarding by products of development creating unusual stability, a chemical which will give unchanged results even with small changes in temperature or agitation. Here at ACC, however, we usually reserve this for more advanced students who are less likely to pour it down the drain or worse. For beginning students we use "one shot" development, mostly (Rodinal 1:25, 1:50, occasionally 1:100).

When ID11/D76 is used as a "one shot", 1:1, the sulfite level is reduced to 50GPL, well below the silver solvency level and it now functions as a soft working, compensating, high resolution developer, and a very good one for most films. **DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES USE THE REPLENISHED DEVELOPER AS A DILUTED ONE SHOT DEVELOPER, IT WILL FAIL AND LEAVE YOU WITH UNPRINTABLE NEGATIVES (ASSUMING THAT YOU CAN SEE THEM AT ALL).**