

Litho Plate Etch

- 1) Dust with talc (french chalk)
- 2) Remove excess and very lightly smooth with rag or cotton
- 3) Etch 20 parts Gum Arabic
 1 part Phosphoric Acid (stronger image=more acid, weaker image=less acid)
 - a) Brush on thinly and evenly with cotton pad or wide, soft brush
 - b) Keep wet for 2 minutes
 - c) Wipe off excess
 - d) Dry with cotton pad (buff tight)

Wash etch off with water and coat plate with gum arabic. Smooth to thin film with cotton pad.

- 4) Wash out image with Mineral Spirits and a soft rag (remove all crayon/tusche)
- 5) Add small amount Asphaltum to Mineral Spirits and wipe plate with solution (very thinly), buff with soft cloth, and let dry (use hand-fan)
- 6) 1st Inking – Use greasy ink (roll ink out thin and even on ink-slab glass)
- 7) Sponge plate with thin film of water
- 8) Roll ink onto plate
- 9) Re-ink roller
- 10) Sponge plate
- 11) Roll ink onto plate (repeat until plate image is fully inked)
- 12) When image is fully inked...Second Etch
 Use Gum Arabic/Phosphoric Acid solution
- 13) Dust plate with talc, use soft cloth with no pressure
- 14) Brush etch evenly and let sit for 3 to 4 minutes (keep it wet)
- 15) Remove the etch with water
- 16) Re-gum the plate and let dry
- 17) Wash out old ink with Mineral Spirits and Asphaltum solution
- 18) Clean Gum Arabic off plate with lots of water and sponge
- 19) Use clean sponge to dampen plate
- 20) Ink plate with stiff ink (repeat steps 7 through 11)
- 21) Lightly dampen and blot paper thoroughly
- 22) Print plate