

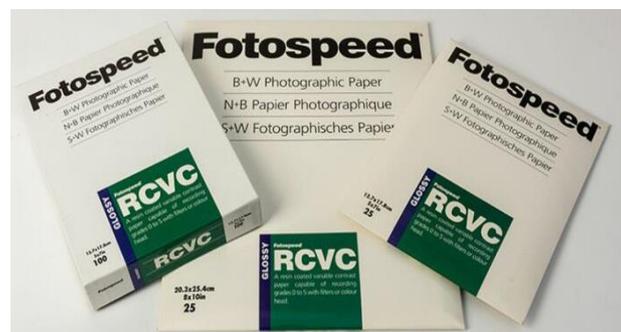
Light sensitive photographic paper

Many of the following techniques make use of light sensitive photographic paper which is paper used in traditional darkrooms, rather than the paper you put through a computer printer (which you can use for turmeric printing).

What is light sensitive photo paper?

This is waterproof paper with a gelatine surface (It isn't vegetarian) containing a suspension of silver salts. Inside the packet, the paper is kept in a light tight plastic bag.

When the paper is taken out of the packet into the light photons will hit the silver and cause it to darken. Originally people thought this was due to the temperature or air but Johann Schultz in 1717 discovered otherwise, worth a history lesson in itself!

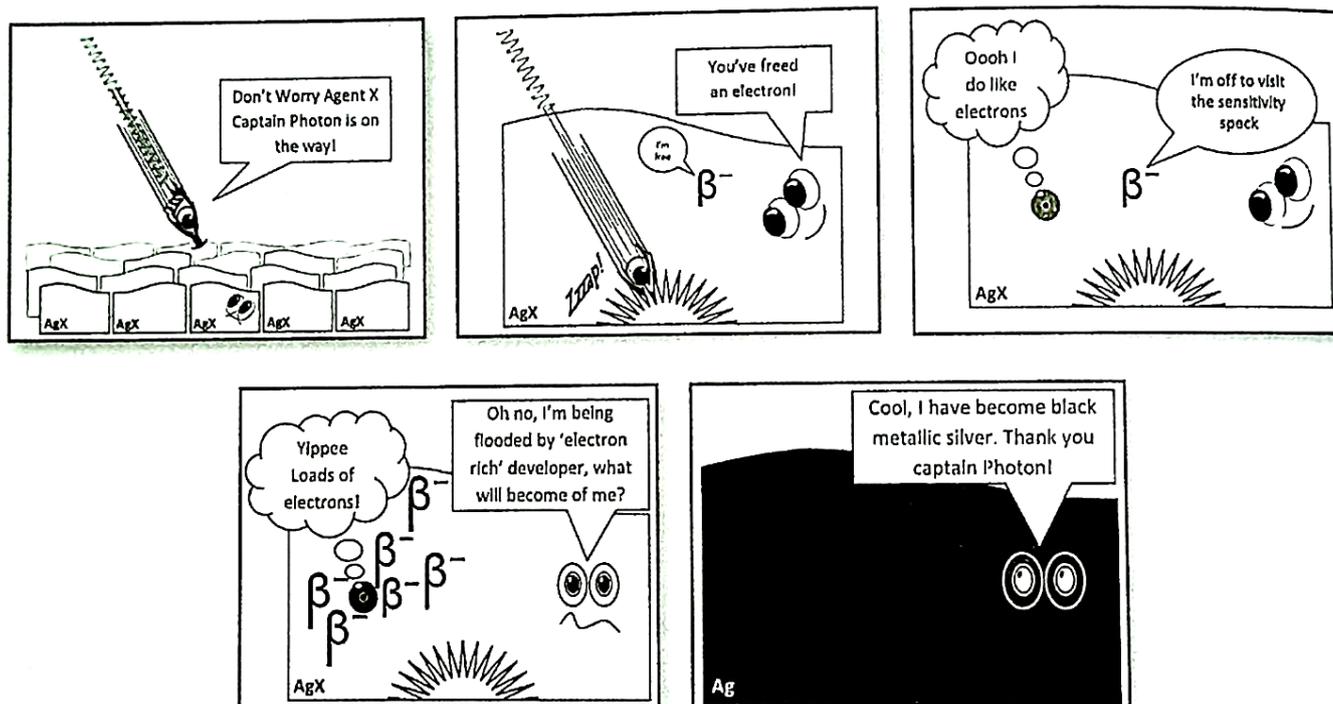


Photographic paper contains silver and is therefore quite expensive so before embarking on the following projects, buy a small packet by looking up '25 sheets of Resin Coated 5 x 7 light sensitive photographic paper' (around £15) and experiment yourself. This will also give you the chance of creating the solargraph camera, an essential project for every class.

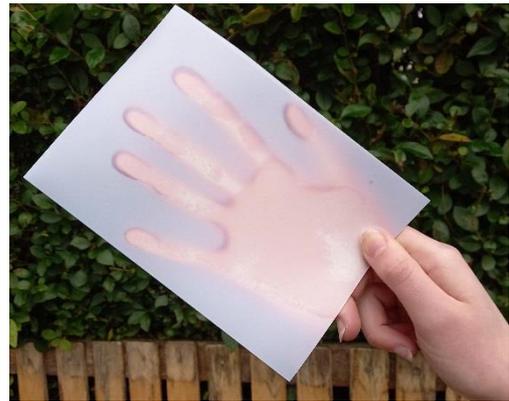
Before you spend any money though do a shout out to parents and fellow teachers to see if anyone has any spare. Even if it is old or has been exposed to light it will be fine to use for the following, non-darkroom, projects.

Silver goes dark? – What happens?

Here is a fantastic cartoon (by me!) fully explaining everything any class will ever need to know about the chemistry of photography!!



Silver takes a while to darken when exposed to light which is the technique used for the next four non-darkroom projects. When a chemical (called developer) is added, the paper will rapidly go black (See chemigrammes).



To start off, take a sheet of paper out (quickly returning the remaining paper to its light tight bag). Put your hands on either side of the paper and go outside in the daylight for 30 seconds.

Return indoors, take your hands away and there will be a negative shadow where your hands were. I usually take tell the student they are going to be a magician and get them to do this.

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