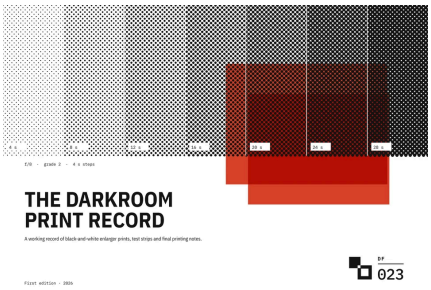
FORM GUIDE · DF.023 · THE DARKROOM PRINT RECORD

How to record a darkroom print so you can print it again

Record the setup, paper, filtration, exposure times and dry assessment for a black-and-white enlarger print. Use the final printing notes as the starting point for a later reprint.



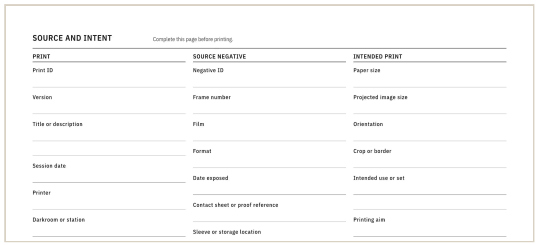
WHEN PEOPLE START

1. You have a drawer of test strips with nothing written on the back.
2. You have a new enlarger, a new paper or a different darkroom.
3. A print looked right in the tray and dried down too dark.
4. Someone wants another print of a negative you last printed two years ago.

YOUR FIRST PRINTING SESSION

One negative

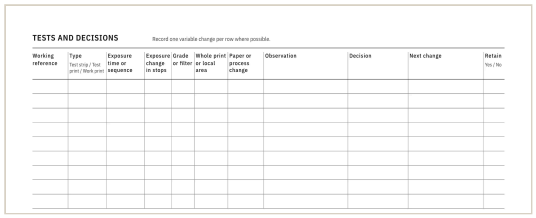
Use paper on the dry side of the darkroom. In The Darkroom Print Record, use Full Print Record 01: Source and intent on page 17, Tests and decisions on page 19 and After drying on page 22.



SOURCE AND INTENT

Complete this page before printing.

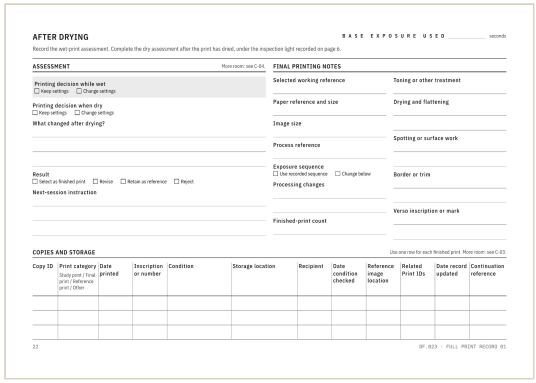
PRINT	SOURCE NEGATIVE	INTENDED PRINT
Print ID	Negative ID	Paper size
Version	Frame number	Projected image size
Title or description	Film	Orientation
	Format	Crop or border
Session date	Date exposed	Intended use or set
Printer	Contact sheet or proof reference	
Darkroom or station	Sleeve or storage location	Printing aim



TESTS AND DECISIONS

Record one variable change per row where possible.

Working reference	Type (Test strip / Test print / Work print)	Exposure time or sequence	Exposure change in steps	Grade or filter	Whole print or local area	Paper or process change	Observation	Decision	Next change	Retain (Yes / No)



AFTER DRYING

BASE EXPOSURE USED _____ seconds

Record the wet-print assessment. Complete the dry assessment after the print has dried, under the inspection light recorded on page 6.

ASSESSMENT

More room: see C-04.

Printing decision while wet
☐ Keep settings ☐ Change settings

Printing decision when dry
☐ Keep settings ☐ Change settings

What changed after drying?

Result
☐ Select as finished print ☐ Revise ☐ Retain as reference ☐ Reject

Next-session instruction

FINAL PRINTING NOTES

Selected working reference

Paper reference and size

Image size

Process reference

Exposure sequence
☐ Use recorded sequence ☐ Change below

Processing changes

Finished-print count

Toning or other treatment

Drying and flattening

Spotting or surface work

Border or trim

Verso inscription or mark

COPIES AND STORAGE

Use one row for each finished print. More room: see C-03.

Copy ID	Print category (Study print / Final print / Reference print / Other)	Date printed	Inscription or number	Condition	Storage location	Recipient	Date condition checked	Reference image location	Related Print IDs	Date record updated	Continuation reference

22

DF.023 · FULL PRINT RECORD 01

1 ☐ Choose one negative. Give it a Negative ID and give the print you intend to make a Print ID. Page 5 shows the pattern, such as LO-N-0047 and LO-P-0047.

2 ☐ Before you begin printing, fill in Source and intent: the negative, frame, paper size, printing aim and whether you are starting a new version, reprinting an existing version or continuing tests.

3 ☐ Give each test strip you retain a working reference, such as T01, and write it on the back in pencil.

4 ☐ Under the safelight, record one row per test strip: exposure time or sequence, grade or filter, what you saw, your decision and the next change.

5 ☐ After the print has dried, complete After drying: your decision while wet, your decision when dry and what changed after drying.

6 ☐ Write the final printing notes and a next-session instruction.

The next time you print that negative, the final printing notes give you your starting point.

Common questions

Won’t writing it down slow me down?

Fill in the Source and intent and Setup and materials pages before you begin printing. Under the safelight, the Tests and decisions page takes one row per test strip, with one variable change per row where possible.

What about wet hands?

Put the sheet on the dry side of the darkroom and write in pencil. Complete the After drying page later, once the print is dry, under the inspection light recorded on page 6.

Won’t I remember what I did?

One Print ID connects the negative, the tests, the final printing notes and every finished print. A reprint from the same notes uses the same Print ID and Version, with a new Copy ID for each finished print.

DUE FORM | UTILITIES

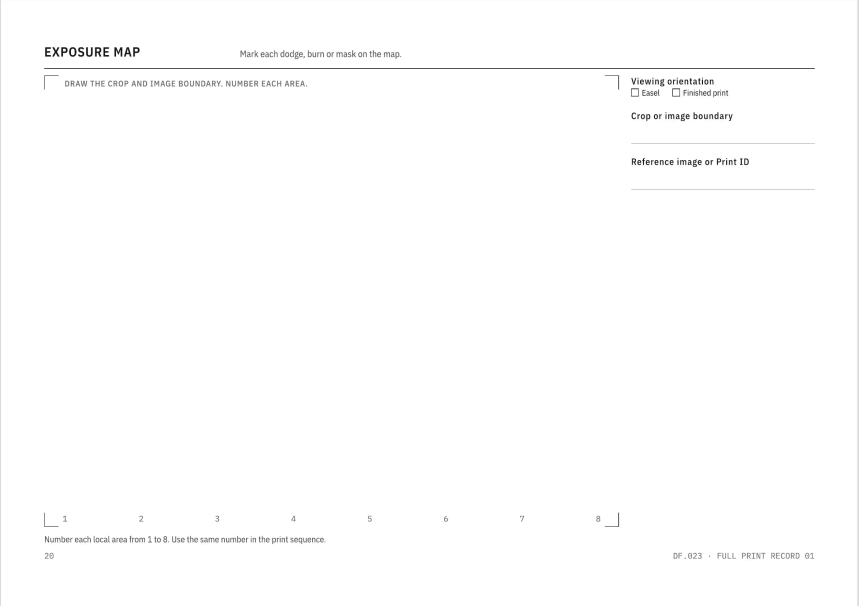
F-stop test-strip card

Enter a base exposure time and a stop interval. The card calculates the exposure times and the additional seconds for successive steps. A dodge and burn mode works out the time for any fraction of a stop. It prints as a free PDF.

dueformeditions.com/utilities/test-strip-calculator/

WHAT THE FULL EDITION ADDS

The Darkroom Print Record



EXPOSURE MAP

Mark each dodge, burn or mask on the map.

DRAW THE CROP AND IMAGE BOUNDARY. NUMBER EACH AREA.

Viewing orientation

☐ Easel ☐ Finished print

Crop or image boundary

Reference image or Print ID

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Number each local area from 1 to 8. Use the same number in the print sequence.

20

DF.023 · FULL PRINT RECORD 01

Five Full Print Records

Each has an exposure map for marking every dodge, burn and mask, and a print sequence that records each action in printing order.



PRINT INDEX A

Use one row for each Print ID and Version.

Print ID	Version	Title or description	Negative ID	First printing date	Printing method	Paper reference	Version status In progress / Current / Superseded / Retired	Finished-print count	Main storage location

DF.023

15

Indexes and reprints

Negative and print indexes, a reprint log, new print versions, a copy log, Printing Notes Cards, and storage, condition and movement records for finished prints.

Your darkroom setup

Darkroom details, equipment setup, shared stations, a paper stock register, a chemistry batch log, a standard printing process and a log of equipment and material changes.

Comparisons

Paper, process and equipment comparison pages, each testing one variable with the others left unchanged.

The edition prints on A4 landscape and comes as Print, Low-Ink, Fillable and Tablet PDFs. A Supporting Set adds Quick and Single Print Records, a Repeat Print Record Set, continuation and register libraries and identification slips, and a completed example shows a full record.

dueformeditions.com/editions/df-023-darkroom-print-record/