



Making a contact negative for printing on CYANOTYPE

Fabric is very affordable from this online store: www.blueprintsonfabric.com/

1. Select images and text and arrange them in a Photoshop or MS Word document (use a Table for segments of text and image). Images ONLY need to be INVERTED in Adobe Photoshop or MS Picture INVERT reverses the lights and darks of the image so that it is a negative that will print as a positive on cyanotype fabric. All Text should read regularly – the ONLY thing that needs to be changed/inverted for printing is the image reversal.

<p style="text-align: center;">LEGACY</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">of EDUCATION</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LEGACY</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">of EDUCATION</p>
<p>Image and text in Photoshop – you can also do this on a Word.document</p>	<p>INVERT just the image so that it prints as a positive. THIS one is ready to print as a contact negative.</p>

2. Print text with INVERTED image on regular TRANSPARENCY sheet. You now have a CONTACT NEGATIVE that will print as a positive on light sensitive material

3. Tape the transparency to the BOTTOM/underside of a Plexiglas sheet. You can purchase a Plexiglas acrylic sheet for contact printing from NASCO Art: 12"x12".1/8" thick for about \$7/with shipping www.enasco.com/product/3300129 - online order number for Plexiglas sheets.

Taping the transparency to the underside is very important – it needs to be in direct contact with the fabric or paper. The Plexiglas holds it securely and allows light to pass through.

4. On a sunny day – take your students outside and place the FABRIC on a hard surface (sidewalk or driveway), set the Plexiglas on top of the fabric centering it for edges that you might want to sew or tack up on display. Do this very quickly – the fabric is light sensitive and starts “printing” as soon as light hits it – so the faster you get the fabric down with the Plexiglas on top – the better. I would do this with 3-5 students at a time and have other students watch the process. Expose to sun about 5 minutes.

5. Wash the fabric in cold water for 5 minutes and then rock in a bleach bath (1 cap of bleach to 3 gallons water) for another 5 minutes. Rinse and set on grass in the sun to dry.

There is a wonderful gallery of student projects on the Blueprints on Fabric website:

www.blueprintsonfabric.com/gallery.php

It can give you lots of ideas – THAT is where I revised my ideas for both the banner and the quilt. Finished cyanotype prints look like this:



If you have questions you can email me at mwixsom@pausd.org or wixword@sbcglobal.net

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