

Cyanotypes

Example cyanotype sensitizer set: <https://www.dickblick.com/products/jacquard-cyanotype/>

If you buy pre-sensitized paper ([example](#)), skip to step #3.

Exposure Instructions

1: Follow the mixing instructions on the label for the Cyanotype mix you purchased. It will probably say something like “mix the chemicals together...wait for a period of time...coat your paper/fabric/etc. as evenly as you can...wait 24 hours until dry (it is important that it is dry).”

**NOTE: You may need to be aggressive in getting the chemical into your paper/fabric/etc. because it is prone to washing out.*

**NOTE: Wear gloves and an apron to prevent staining yourself.*

2: Keep your fabric in a “UV safe” space while it dries. Sunlight and certain lamp light both have UV. DaPaul AMD room 201 is pretty UV free since there are UV-blocking coatings on the windows and the lights. You can also transfer your items to 201 in a black trash bag.

**NOTE: You can also expose in the sun instead of using a UV exposure unit.*

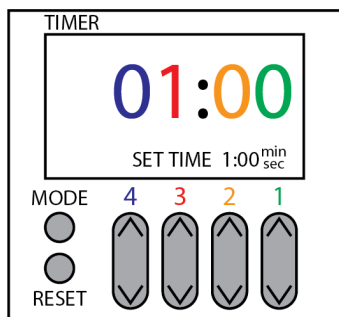
3: Go to room 201 and find the green UV exposure unit (Ryonet X-Vector).



4: Plug it in if it is unplugged.

5: Open the handles on each side.

6: Find the timer on the lower right-hand corner of the machine. Set the timer to 20 minutes.



The buttons correspond to the alignment of the digits, so 20 min = 2, 0, 0, 0

In other words, going left to right:

Press button #4 up or down until it reads "2"

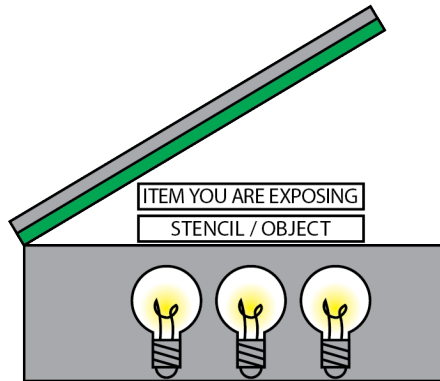
Press button #3 up or down until it reads "0"

Press button #2 up or down until it reads "0"

Press button #1 up or down until it reads "0"

**NOTE: You will see that the "set" time is 20 min. That will stay consistent. The larger number on the screen will count down as the machine exposes.*

7: Lay your stencil or object creating the image on the glass of the exposure unit.



8: Put your chemical-covered item (paper, fabric, etc.) on top.

9: Close the top of the exposure unit and lock down the handles.

7: You will see three buttons next to the timer. Vacuum if needed.



To vacuum: press the "VACUUM" button and let it run until the rubber blanket on top is very tight around your objects. Press the "VACUUM" button again to stop the vacuum.

**NOTE: If you vacuum out the air the edges of the stencil/design will be more crisp, and if not they will be more ephemeral and blurry.*

9: Press the "EXPOSE" button. Wait 20 minutes and it will turn off automatically.

10: Take the cyanotype out of the exposure unit.

11: Wash the cyanotype according to the directions that came with the cyanotype mix.

**NOTE: the instructions will probably say something like "wash out with water until you can see the white fabric/paper."*

**NOTE: for a deeper blue, fill a container with a few inches of water mixed with roughly 2 tablespoons of hydrogen peroxide. Swirl your cyanotype around a few times then let dry.*

Ta-Da!