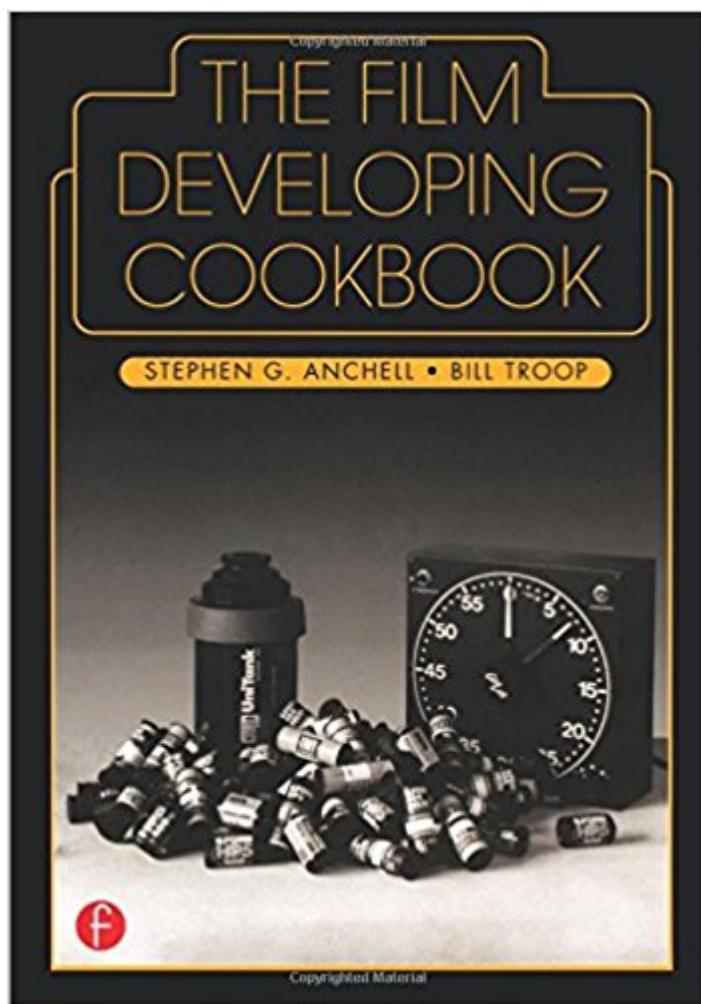


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# The Film Developing Cookbook (Darkroom Cookbook, Vol. 2)



## Synopsis

The Film Developing Cookbook is an up-to-date manual for photographic film development techniques. This book concentrates on films, their characteristics, and the developers each requires for maximum control of the resulting image. The Film Developing Cookbook specifically addresses the difficult subject of T-grain film development. It includes rarely found information on film development and the nature of film developers. This book will help photographers acquire a working knowledge of photographic chemistry that is relevant to black and white film developing and serve as a reference and refresher for photographers at all stages of their skill. This companion to The Darkroom Cookbook will help photographers become familiar with different developer formulas for achieving a wide range of pictorial effects, and teach them how to mix and use photographic solutions from scratch—even to create new ones. Many of the developing formulas and archival fixing solutions contained in The Film Developing Cookbook have never before been presented. The authors take bold and controversial stances on many widely accepted film developing dogmas. They tackle many of the widely accepted "myths" of film development. They reject the trend toward 'scientific evaluation' of films and developers in favor of the photographer developing a personal aesthetic without relying exclusively on densitometry or H&D curves. Topics covered in this manual include: Films, Developer ingredients, Types of developers, Formulas, Speed increasing, Mixing and storing stock solutions, Stop baths, fixers, and washing, Safety, Chemical and equipment suppliers, Recommended development time for hundreds of films and developers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This elegant, user-friendly book clearly provides the photo-chemical information necessary for the photographer to be in control of his or her black and white film developing. I cannot praise the writing and design of The Film Developing Cookbook highly enough." - Journal of the Print World"...this is a very important publication for every fan of the darkroom. You'll learn huge amounts of stuff about photographic processes."[www.photocrack.com](http://www.photocrack.com)

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Now that digital cameras have taken over and people have quickly become accustomed to the mediocrity of snapshots film developing has been discarded by most and is quickly becoming a lost art. This book is a good reference book for those purists (like myself) who revere the "real way" of doing photography.

Great reference manual. Well laid out knowledge on the subject. Easy reference access to subject you want to find. Very informative. Well worth the investment.

This book is exactly as the title describes. I had just finished up a photography class and we did both film and digital. We learned how to develop film and make our own prints, but I did not know there were many options and variables. It makes me appreciate the trouble the authors went through to gather all the information, as well as all the struggles to make photography what it is today.

Here is the long and the short of it: This is a wonderful book. I have looked at dozens of photography books, and what seems like hundreds of magazines, and I am positive that none of them contain the wealth of information that Steve Anchell (in collaboration with Bill Troop) puts in this book (or in Steve's other books for that matter). If you are interested in making the most of your

black and white photography, you need to know what your film is composed of, what it reacts to, and how to achieve the effects that you want to get out of it. You don't have to be a darkroom guru to use it, you don't need a lot of equipment, and you don't need an elaborate setup. I think anyone will improve his or her results after reading and using this book. I have always believed that the magic in black and white takes place in the darkroom, and even if you don't have a darkroom, your control of the film development process will make you a better photographer. This is a great way to get it right.

This book is what the name suggests - a book of recipes for photographic chemicals. I personally won't be mixing my own developers in the near future, but found the book helpful in choosing my own film and developer from those commercially available. The margin notes are full of informative tidbits (such as the suggestion that tabular grain films only benefit the profit margin of the manufacturers.) The bulk of the book discusses developers, but also includes a chapter on other chemicals, such as stop and fixer. I will, in fact, probably try using the alkaline fixer in the near future. A background in chemistry would be helpful, but not necessary, but without it, you may glaze over a bit in places. My biggest criticism with this book is its complete lack of figures. A photo demonstrating grain and acutance like Adams includes in "The Negative" would be helpful, as well as density curves indicating the effects of different developers. Because of this omission, I would recommend that someone read "The Negative" before reading this book to fill in the gaps.

Anyone who is developing black and white knows that there are a lot of conflicting opinions out there. Kodak wants you to agitate the film a certain way, Ilford says to do it another way. Which developer do I use, and why? This book gives very logical and satisfactory answers to these questions. It allowed me to figure out how I was going to standardize my technique for the films that I am going to use. Don't be misled by the title. This book does go into details of the effects of metol, phenidone, etc., but it is not a cookbook in the sense that you will come out designing your own developer. It does contain many recipes for developers, for those who mix their own. But, my aim was to figure out what the characteristics are of the developer that I am using, and how to maximize it. The book really excels in this area. I've run through about 75 feet of Tech Pan film trying out how to develop it using Xtol. Following Ansel Adams' advice in his book "The Negative" turned out to be a mistake, in this case. I was making my negatives way too dense. Anschell and Troop explained why this is, in their chapter on "Document Films". This covers Tech Pan, amongst other similar films. After having read through the book, I revised my working temperature, diluted Xtol to 1+5, changed my agitation style, changed from an acid stop bath to water, and got the fantastic

results that I had sought for so long! It's also worked for other offbeat films like Kodak 5302 Positive release film for the B&W slide fans like myself (using Polymax 1+2). If you REALLY want to know what you're doing, and want to save tons of time and money from wasteful trial and error, get this wonderful book. It's really improved my results!

Great book

very neatly written and explained.the only downside is that it is outdated in terms of new emulsions. Waiting for the next edition.

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