

# Intaglio Editions

## Premium Plate Handling and Printing Instructions

**PRINTMAKERS – STOP, and read these important instructions before printing. These are not your “regular” polymer intaglio plates. Please read before printing!**

Intaglio Editions plate edges are sharp! Please sand before using. Unlike traditional plates made from zinc, copper or other types of polymer which you may be used to working with, Intaglio Editions custom plates are made to hold a finer dot, and are therefore, more fragile (they scratch more easily). Our custom, fine-grained aquatint screen and process have been designed to provide maximum tone and extremely fine-grained prints for dozens of iterations, when used properly.



**Our clients have been able to achieve 90/100 distinct greyscale tones** with Intaglio Editions Premium custom plates using our instructions below. Intaglio Editions also offers polymer photogravure training videos about how to print our plates for optimal results. They are available free at <http://intaglioeditions.com/gravure>

**As with all photogravure printing, you will need to use the correct paper, prepared properly, using pressure that is considerably greater than normal** to achieve the full richness and continuous tone they are capable of producing.

Prints from Intaglio Editions Premium plates should look more like photographs and less like a xerox copy when printed by **calendaring the paper** ahead of time, and using **high pressure on the press**. Our plates are good for several dozen prints or more before nuances begin to fall off – particularly in the highlights.

### Recommended Materials

For best results when proofing (and printing), Intaglio Editions recommends using **Charbonnel Carbon Black** ink and *Hahnemühle Copperplate* or *Magnani Revere Silk* paper. **Avoid heavily sized papers** such as Rives BFK, as it interferes with the continuous tone, adding a white haze to the print's lushness and luster.

Please remember that these and all polymer plates are, of course, **water-soluble**. Do not get them wet! The thin layer of oil based ink you use to wipe the plate is generally enough to protect it, however do use prudence. Never spray water directly on the plate. Soaked paper should be damp, not glistening wet.

## Plate Cleanup & Recycling

**Standard printmaking solvents may deteriorate your Intaglio Editions plate during cleanup!** The recommended cleanup method for our plates is to put the plate on clean newsprint and spray it with **SOYsolv® II** (available from fine art printmaking suppliers). This soy-based solvent is very gentle on the plate's fine, plastic, nylon-polymer matrix.

Rub the solvent carefully into the plate with gloved hands to break down the ink, and then sop it up with clean newsprint, rubbing gently ensuring the entire plate is clean.

Repeat twice, until most of the ink has been removed from the plate. Avoid over-cleaning the plate. Once lightly clean, run through the press onto four layers of clean newsprint. Flip and shuffle the newsprint so both the plate and the blanket remain clean and run through a second time. Finally, lightly sprinkle with clean mineral spirits, rub it into the plate with a clean, gloved hand, blot with clean newsprint, and run it back through press onto four layers of clean newsprint again. Wrap the plate in clean newsprint, seal it in plastic, and store it horizontally in a cool dry place. Our steel-backed plates may be recycled anywhere that accepts scrap steel metal.

See Part 7, our plate cleanup procedure online video here:

<http://intaglioeditions.com/gravure/polymer-photo-gravure-printing-07.php>

Thank you for choosing Intaglio Editions plates. We look forward to serving you.

