



### Coated Cyanotype Paper

#### Equipment:

- Flowers, objects, seeds, dried flowers, picture (printed on plain paper) etc
- Clip frame (old photo frame) or glass/ Perspex to flatten objects, trays
- Coated Cyanotype paper

#### Things to Consider:

1. **Objects** - choose a flat object (or objects you can flatten) with an interesting shaped silhouette, leaves work well or shapes can be cut from black card before going outside.
2. **Transparency**: Solid objects create a different effect to glass for example.
3. **Shape**: How about creating your own shapes out of materials to enhance the image...?
4. **Composition**: A key factor of any art work. Try to make it visually interesting. Think about where to lay the objects. Practice this before your exposures.

#### Instructions:

1. Take out a sheet of pre-coated Cyanotype paper and close away the pack. Lay your paper face down while you get ready with your objects.
2. When you're ready, place your paper coated side up and objects on top.
3. Get your plastic acrylic sheet (photo frame plastic) and put on the top of your objects. Squash it down – unless it is 3D objects just place them down.
4. You can then leave this out as long as you need to. This could be 50 minutes or for at least 20 minutes. (A cyanotype needs a lot of sun – if it is overcast you may need to leave it out all day. If you leave it out overnight and it rains this could add more reactions to the print.)
5. You can always check the print and see if you need to leave it for longer – carefully peel it up to check.
6. Take the paper inside quickly, without further exposing it to sunlight. Soak the paper in water for a few minutes, you will see the image should appear as blue and white.
7. Let it dry (somewhere dark if possible) and keep out of the light after in a box or covered in black paper. I would recommend scanning or at least taking a good, clear picture of your print. It may change and can completely disappear if let out in the light and will slowly change even in a light tight box. Re-wash to bring back the colour if this happens

You could experiment even further by using pictures as well as objects. Here are some of B. Lynch's images from the Art Department sketchbook challenge in 2020. She used a standard printer, plain A4 paper and printed the images out. You will need to invert your images and change to black and white; you may also need to flip if you have text too. On a sunny day, she left them out for 6-8 hours to gain a deep contrast. Then she stitched into the cyanotype postcards with comments her family. There are many different ways you can push the cyanotype and experiment with it. Try adding the following; watercolour, spices, bleach/sprays, lemon juice. Anything that could make the chemical react with it.

