

Parodinal

June 14th, 2006

This is the Rodinal-like developer made from acetaminophen, aka paracetamol (generic for Tylenol).

Once made up, use it exactly like Agfa/A&O Rodinal. It'll keep for about three months, in my experience, possibly more if you open it less often or take steps to exclude air.

200 ml distilled water (up to 52 C/125 F helps stuff dissolve)

30 tablets @ 500 mg acetaminophen (crushed, don't worry about the tableting material)

50 g sodium sulfite (anhydrous)

20 g sodium hydroxide (anhydrous) (household lye, sold as drain opener)

Mix ingredients in order given. Likely they won't fully dissolve; mix thoroughly and continue. Exercise due caution handling the lye; it's very hazardous to the eyes and can burn skin. Solution will increase in temperature when adding the lye, but shouldn't get hot enough to boil (when I've done this, the solution temperature rose about 8° C).

Make up with cold water to 250 ml.

Mix thoroughly, then let stand for at least 72 hours before using; solution must show a pink or tan color (that's the paminophenol).

With age, solution will darken, but even when as dark as coffee, will continue to work, though eventually it will exhibit gradual weakening due to oxidation of the developing agent. If solution is decanted, be sure to carry over the crystals or precipitate from the bottom of the container. Stir before drawing off concentrate to make up working solution.

In other words, treat like Rodinal, except without the extreme shelf life (and at 1/10 the cost).

Used at 1:50 dilution, above is sufficient to develop about fifty rolls of 35 mm. If you have trouble buying lye locally (some localities treat it as a drug precursor because it's seemingly used in making meth), there are several Internet vendors of general chemicals or soap making supplies who can ship small quantities without excessive cost; you can also use a solution of known strength (replacing a like volume of water), which means you might be able to use some liquid drain cleaners (the cheaper ones are more likely to be nearly pure lye solutions). If you can only get 10% lye solution, it'll replace all the water; in that case, reverse the mixing order (start with the lye solution and add the sodium sulfite before the acetaminophen) to prevent rapid decomposition of the developing agent before the sulfite is dissolved.

