

Some photographers use a two-bath fixing method when processing prints. This technique can extend the capacity of your fixer and promote archival print quality.

Two-bath fixing is almost always used with fiber-based papers, which unlike RC papers do not have a plastic coating, so require a more thorough treatment in fixer (and other developing chemicals). Because RC papers fix more quickly and easily than fiber-based, a one-bath fixer is usually adequate.

Set up two trays of fresh fixer rather than one. Soak your print in the first bath for half the fixing time and in the second bath for the remainder of the time. Then you put the print in the holding bath until you're ready for a wash.

The first fixer does the most work, so it exhausts more rapidly than the second fixer. When it is exhausted, make the second fixer the first, and mix a new second fixer solution. This guarantees that the paper always soaks in fresh solution.

You can use either standard or rapid fixers with two-bath fixing. However, standard is recommended, as rapid fixers work so fast that you risk overfixing the prints.