



ST PAULS DARKROOMS

INDUCTION INFO

Welcome to the Darkrooms at St Pauls Learning Centre. We offer well-equipped, accessible and spacious darkrooms with facilities for developing and printing from film, suitable for beginners or advanced photographers. The darkroom can be booked on a sessional basis by individuals or groups 7 days a week during normal opening hours.

DARKROOM FACILITIES

- 4 black and white enlargers: 35mm, 120 to 4x5"
- 6 colour head enlargers; 35mm and 120
- Large black & white darkroom
- Black & white film processing / colour darkroom
- Durst Pronto colour print processor – bring your own chemistry
- Large UV light box for cyanotypes and alternative printing
- Free Wifi – password EPCguestConnect

DARKROOM MEMBERSHIP AND SESSIONAL HIRE

Membership Fees

£50 annual fee – online application and payment via

www.realphotographycompany.co.uk/membership

Membership entitles you to book the Darkrooms for a reduced sessional hire fee:

Sessional Hire – for each person per 3 hour session

Members - £12 per session Non-members - £20 per session

- Please pay for your darkroom sessions by card, preferably contactless.

OPENING TIMES

The Learning Centre operates a flexible booking system allowing you to book any 3-hour session within opening hours.

Monday to Thursday - 9am to 9pm

Friday – 9am to 5pm

Weekends - 10am to 5pm

Please leave the darkrooms 10 mins before the Learning Centre closes to allow staff to lock up

BOOKING A DARKROOM SESSION

Please book Darkroom Sessions in advance via Learning Centre Reception:

Tel. 0117 235 0400 or by email splcbookings@ethicalproperty.co.uk

You can check availability of the darkrooms online via St Pauls Learning Centre web site - <https://www.stpaulslc.co.uk/book-a-room> (Click the Spaces for Hire button on the top of the home page then scroll right down) but you have to make the actual booking by phone or email.

Please pay for your session on arrival at Reception, by card, preferably contactless. You will get the key to the darkroom on a heavy chain. Darkrooms are on the 2nd floor and there is a lift.

All sessions are 3 hours including setting up and clearing up time. Please allow time to clear up after your session and leave the Darkrooms clean and tidy for the next person, and ensure you leave the building 15 mins before closing time to allow staff time to lock up. There are no refunds / reductions if you are late and miss any of your session.

PLEASE NOTE:

Ready to use darkroom chemistry is provided for black and white processes. Please provide your own photographic paper.

COLOUR DARKROOM

Colour printing is available at the same hire fee, but please note colour darkroom users are expected to provide their own chemistry, and we will show you how to fill the printing machine. Please email stpaulsdarkrooms@gmail.com for more details.

UV PRINTING BED

If you would like to use the UV printing bed please request a separate induction which can be arranged at a time to suit you.

DARKROOM GUIDANCE NOTES

Once you are in the darkroom finishing area, you access room lights beside the film dryer on the right of the double doors as you face them. Switches for darkroom lights, safe lights and ventilation fans are located in the switch box on the left of the doors as you face them. Further ventilation fans are located in each Darkroom, with switches inside the Darkroom, and there are also free-standing fans you can move around where you want them.

Please use 'Darkroom in Use' and 'Darkroom Vacant' signs as necessary to show you are in the Darkrooms in case a member of staff enters the Darkroom. Please use a tray to take prints out to the finishing area for assessment in natural daylight to avoid dripping chemistry on the floor. Film developing and colour printing takes priority in the small darkroom, and lights are operated independently of the large darkroom. You can lock the doors to the finishing area while you are in the darkroom to prevent theft. Please take belongings, negatives and prints with you when you leave.

Medium / Large format printing lenses and neg holders are kept in the safe in the finishing area, this key is on the heavy chain together with a film cannister opening tool. If you use medium format equipment please return lenses and negative holders to the safe afterwards. Refer to enlarger spec. to see which enlargers you can set up for medium format.

After your session:

Please return chemistry to the bottles, wash trays, wipe down surfaces and equipment with antiviral or bleach spray and wash your hands. Use the mop to wipe up any chemistry spilled on the floor.

Please turn off all lights, fans, enlargers and taps, and put extra lenses, neg carriers or glass plates back in the safe. Close all doors as they are fire doors.

When you leave the Darkrooms lock the main door, and use the back stairs to return down, and hand the keys back to Reception.

SETTING UP AND DISPOSING OF CHEMISTRY

For Printing

Developer, stop and fix for printing is made up and ready for use in concertina bottles next to the sink. If the bottles are empty and you need to make up fresh chemistry please follow mixing instructions on the small containers of which are kept under the bench by enlarger 5. Trays are under the sink, select the ones you need according to the size of your paper.

Exhausted Chemistry

- Developer goes dark brown when it is exhausted and needs to be replaced.
- Stop goes purple when exhausted,
- Fix will not clear a piece of undeveloped film within 3 mins.

Disposal

Only dispose of used chemistry if you are sure it is completely exhausted, otherwise return to bottles. (see above)

- **Exhausted Print Developer** (when dark brown) – dispose of in 20L containers

- **Print Fix** - dispose of in 20L containers
- **Print Stop** – down the sink as it is a non-hazardous substance (the same weak acid as vinegar)
- **Used Film Dev** – dispose of in 20L containers after developing your film
- **Don't dispose of film stop or fix**, put that back in the 5L containers after use.

You can dispose of dev and fix in the same containers. Please use funnels and jugs and mop up any spills. The containers are taken away and chemistry recycled for silver recovery.

For Film Processing

Ilfosol 3 or other suitable film developer is stored under the sink in the processing room - to use:

- **Dilute as per instructions (see chart on the door for handy quantities to make up) with water at 20°C**
- **24°C is also an option for Ilfosol 3**
- **Make up 300mls for each 35mm film or 500mls for each 120 film**
- **Follow instructions on the door to find the processing time for your film.**
- **Dispose of used film dev** in the large recycling containers under the bench.

Film stop and fix can be returned to their original bottles for use again. We check this chemistry regularly to ensure it remains fresh.

ENLARGER SPECIFICATION TABLE

<u>Enlarger 1 – Devere 507 Varicon B&W</u>	<u>Enlarger 2 – Devere 504 Cathomag</u>
Floor standing 35mm / med / large format	B&W only
Enlarger usually set up for large format.	Enlarger usually set up for medium format
Negative carriers: 35mm upwards to 4"x5" inches and glass	Negative carriers: 35mm upwards to 4"x5" inches and glass
Lenses available: 50mm, 80mm, 105mm, 150mm, 210mm	Other lenses available: 80mm, 105mm, 150mm, 210mm
Different condensers are fitted according to the lens used, see info inside condenser housing. Work surface can be let down to the floor for making extra large prints.	This enlarger uses below the lens filters which slide into a special attachment to hold them in place and are kept in a box next to the enlarger.

<p><u>Enlarger 3 – Rolleimat</u></p> <p>35mm film format, 50mm lens, B&W only</p> <p>Use gel filters in the built in drawer in the enlarger head for altering contrast in multigrade / variable contrast papers.</p>	<p><u>Enlarger 4 – Durst 370</u></p> <p>35mm film format, 50mm lens, B&W only</p> <p>Use gel filters in the built in drawer in the enlarger head for altering contrast in multigrade / variable contrast papers.</p>
<p><u>Enlarger 5 Kaiser VPC 9005</u></p> <p>35mm film format, 50mm EI Nikkor lens, B&W and colour.</p> <p>Use dial in yellow and magenta filters for altering contrast in multigrade / variable contrast papers, see table next to enlarger.</p>	<p><u>Enlarger 6 – LPL C6700</u></p> <p>35mm film format, 50mm lens, B&W and colour.</p> <p>Use dial in yellow and magenta filters for altering contrast in multigrade / variable contrast papers, see table next to enlarger.</p>
<p><u>Enlarger 7 – Durst M670</u></p> <p>35mm film format, 50mm lens, B&W and colour.</p> <p>Use dial in yellow and magenta filters for altering contrast in multigrade / variable contrast papers, see table next to enlarger.</p>	<p><u>Enlarger 8 – Devere 504</u></p> <p>35mm / med format, colour or B&W.</p> <p>Lenses available: 50mm, 80mm, 105mm</p> <p>Negative carriers: 35mm upwards to 4x5 inches and glass.</p> <p>Use dial in yellow and magenta filters for altering contrast papers, see table next to enlarger.</p> <p>This enlarger is set up for 35mm unless otherwise requested.</p>
<p><u>Enlarger 9 – Devere 504</u></p> <p>35mm / med format, colour or B&W.</p> <p>Lenses available: 50mm, 80mm, 105mm</p> <p>Negative carriers: 35mm upwards to 4x5 inches and glass. May have a home made 35mm neg carrier that can be swapped out.</p> <p>Use dial in yellow and magenta filters for altering contrast papers, see table next to enlarger.</p> <p>This enlarger is set up for 35mm unless otherwise requested.</p>	<p><u>Enlarger 10 – LPL 7700</u></p> <p>35mm film format, 50mm lens, B&W and colour.</p> <p>Use dial in yellow and magenta filters for altering contrast in multigrade / variable contrast papers, see table next to enlarger.</p>

CHOOSING AN ENLARGER FOR YOUR SESSION

We have black & white and colour head enlargers – all are capable of black and white printing.

We usually set up a couple of enlargers for large / medium format printing with appropriate lenses and neg holders. Usually these will be the De Veres, no.s 1, 2 and 8, and are clearly labelled. Choose one of these if you are doing medium / large format printing.

The smallest / simplest enlargers are no.s 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 10, which are set up for 35mm only with 50mm lenses. All our enlargers have timers, of different degrees of simplicity of use, some also have transformers. Please switch enlargers off at the wall after use.

Contrast - If you prefer using colour gels for contrast control in B&W printing then use enlarger 1, 2, 3, or 4. Enlarger 2 uses below the lens filter gels which you slot into a special filter holder, the other B&W enlargers have filter drawers. If you like to dial in yellow and magenta, use colour head enlargers 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10, also suitable for variable contrast B&W printing. See tables next to these enlargers for contrast values.

Format - If you are printing from medium / large format negs please choose enlarger 1, 2, or 8 which we have set up for med / large format and labelled as such. You shouldn't need to change the lens on your enlarger, but you may require a different negative holder according to the size the camera gives you.

Negative holders are available for: 6x4.5, 6x6, 6x7, 6x9cms 5x4inches - if the size you require is not already in the enlarger they are stored in the small blue safe in the darkroom finishing area. Glass plates are also available. The key is on the big chain.

Making large prints - If you want to make extra large prints in any format, we recommend using one of the De Veres, as you can raise the enlarger head further. Enlarger 1 has a work surface that can be lowered, enabling a maximum print size. If you want us to show you how that works, please ask. Large size trays are available under the sink in the main darkroom.

FINISHING AREA

In the finishing area you will find a lightbox, film dryer, 2 x resin coated print dryers, lupe, scissors, etc.

Refreshments:

You can use the kettle, mugs, coffee and tea bags etc. from the Darkroom finishing area, but please wash up afterwards and bring your own milk. Feel free to bring your own refreshments and food if you wish, you can eat and drink in the finishing area. Please clear up after yourself and recycle where possible using the recycling container in the corridor. No food or drink to be taken into the darkrooms.

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

The Real Photography Company run socially distanced photography workshops and Evening Darkroom Sessions on developing film and printing from negatives to provide advice and guidance with any aspect of darkroom processing and printing. See our web site and social media for details:

www.realphotographycompany.co.uk

www.facebook.com/StPaulsDarkrooms/

www.facebook.com/RealPhotographyCompany

www.instagram.com/RealPhotographyCompany

or email us with any enquiries: stpaulsdarkrooms@gmail.com

HEALTH AND SAFETY

General information:

All general health and safety advice is posted up on the walls, throughout the Centre. There is a First Aid box in the finishing area. If you have an accident please alert a member of the Learning Centre staff and write details in the incident book at Reception. You can use vinyl or plastic gloves provided to protect your skin from chemistry.

In case of a fire, do not use the lift. Exit the building using the stairs nearest to you and make your way out as quickly as possible to the meeting point, which is the Green.

Thank you and we hope you enjoy using the darkrooms.

Induction Notes Updated by Ruth Jacobs 23/10/24

For further info and enquiries email stpaulsdarkrooms@gmail.com



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