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EcoTank Quick Start Instructions

NOTE: The manual supplied is for the Protec ECOMAX and can be used as a reference for part numbers as the EcoTank is made from the ECOMAX. However, the EcoTank and ECOMAX operate differently. Use these Quick Start Instructions and refer to the ECOMAX manual as directed.

- 1) Arrange the EcoTank on a level surface (counter or stand) and make sure the EcoTank itself is level by adjusting the height of the legs accordingly. If you purchased an EcoTank that is equipped for water supply hook-up, make sure the legs are extended all the way out so that the water supply hose has room to connect under the EcoTank. See Section 3 on page 12 in the manual.
- 2) Unwrap the light-tight feed tray cover that is wrapped in bubble wrap and hook it onto the processor cover at the end with the metal feed tray. See the drawing on the bottom of page 16 in the manual.
- 3) Add the exit tray metal fingers into the holes in the plastic on the opposite end of the metal feed tray. See the drawing on the bottom of page 17 and the second paragraph in Section 3 on page 12 in the manual.
- 4) Attach drain lines as needed to all 6 drain lines of the EcoTank. Use the clear tubing for the water lines, the red tubing for the developer, and the blue tubing for the fixer. Refer to the diagram on page 14 of the manual, but disregard the 2 replenishment lines on the far right as the EcoTank does not have these.
- 5) Route the drain lines into a drain or container. If you are using a No Plumbing Kit, follow the hook-up diagram and instructions provided with the No Plumbing Kit. If you are using a Water Solenoid Valve connected to a fresh water supply, make sure the water drain line is in a floor or wall drain with the end of the drain line above the level of the fluid in the drain. Pay special attention to the warnings on page 14 in the manual.
- 6) Manually fill the EcoTank with 0.6 gallons of Premixed Developer (in the red section) and Fixer (in the blue section), and 0.5 gallons of Water (in the white/black section), preferably distilled although tap will work. If you have removed the roller racks, you may wish to fill part of the way, install the roller racks, and then fill the rest of the way to the top of the overflow drains inside each of the fluid sections. To aid filling when the roller racks are in place, use the supplied funnel, rinsing the funnel thoroughly between uses of each fluid.
- 7) Make sure that the tabs locking the roller rack drive shafts down are turned so that they are over the roller rack drive shafts thereby locking them into position. See items 36, 37, & 38 shown on page 39 of the manual.
- 8) Plug the EcoTank into a 110V outlet.
- 9) Make sure both covers are securely in place and turn the EcoTank power switch to the ON position. The processor should come to life with a noise that is very audible.
- 10) Raise the feed tray cover and insert an old developed film. Make sure the film exits onto the exit tray metal fingers on the opposite end.
- 11) You are now ready to develop a fresh film.
- 12) With the EcoTank turned ON, lift the feed tray cover and insert a film to develop. The feed tray cover is light-tight, so once the film is in far enough, the light-tight film feed tray cover can be closed and the darkroom exited or the light turned on.
- 13) Please wait until the film is completely inside the EcoTank prior to feeding a subsequent film.
- 14) When all films are processed and have exited the processor onto the exit tray metal fingers, the EcoTank can be turned OFF and remain idle until the next film to be processed.

WARNING: Do not leave the EcoTank turned ON after you are done processing your x-ray film. Doing so will overheat and evaporate your chemicals due to the dryer heater. In addition, extended operation of the dryer heater could result in warped plastic parts in the wash/dryer rack. Always turn your EcoTank to the OFF position after processing films.

EcoTank Quick Start Instructions (con.)

The EcoTank does have a developer heater set to normal room temperature. If the darkroom has been cool, below normal room temperature for an extended period of time prior to the EcoTank's use, it is highly likely that the developer is also cool, below the required temperature to properly develop the image. Please allow the EcoTank about a 5 minute warm-up time before running a film in the case of a cool darkroom and fluids.

For maximum image quality, drain & refill the processor with all new fluids weekly. You may find that fixer life will be longer than developer. Feel free to extend the use of your fixer beyond the recommended 1 week period as long as your films are not coming out sticky and tacky. You may be able to extend that period of time beyond 1 week for both developer and fixer changes, but that will depend upon film volume processed and the quality of the chemicals used.

We recommend cleaning the EcoTank every 4-8 weeks, again depending on how often the processor is used. We recommend a good radiographic spray cleaner like Clear Image that will do about 50% of the cleaning of the developer rack and rollers for you. Very hot water works well to clean the fixer and the wash/dryer racks. Use a sponge or soft bristle brush to clean the rollers.

If film processing is very sporadic, it is recommended that the EcoTank be drained, rinsed with water, and stored empty between uses. The drained chemical fluids can be kept in tightly capped containers to preserve freshness between uses.

By following these recommendations, you will find the EcoTank to be the world's most economical and ecological x-ray film processor.