

*Why are SelectaColor, Pyrofoto and classic processes often called "room light" processes?*

Because unlike emulsions, they do not require a darkroom and can be handled under subdued room light. They include SelectaColor and other alternative processes. They are contact-printed under a full-size negative, using bright lamps or sunlight.

*SelectaColor and Pyrofoto are called "photo-resists". What exactly is a photo-resist and how does it differ from conventional print-making techniques like photographic emulsion?*

Photo-resist is basically a process where an image is exposed through a transparency, and after exposing, is "washed out," leaving behind just the exposed areas. It is used extensively in printing. Some photo-resists are washed out after exposure with special solvents and others, like SelectaColor, with plain water. The parts of the image that have been exposed to light are hardened, while the unexposed areas are water-soluble and disappear down the drain.

Pyrofoto allows not only printing but kiln-firing of photographic images onto ceramics and glass. Use it for decoration, practicality, even food service. No darkroom or special equipment is needed-- only a [halogen bulb](#) for exposure. Coat by brush or spray, expose through a [transparency](#). Develop with running water to reveal a colour photographic image that withstands firing temperatures. It is lead free and dishwasher safe.

By their nature, photo-resists are capable of a wide range of effects depending on what they are made of. In pigmented SelectaColor, the resist consists of finely dispersed pigments that are solid particles of colour and after wash-out make an extremely bright and durable image. By substituting ceramic stains for pigments in clear SelectaColor, images can be fired on glass and ceramics. By contrast, photographic emulsions form a continuous film that is visible in the exposed areas and transparent in the unexposed parts-- just as effective in printmaking but without the brilliant and lasting colours possible from pigments.

SelectaColor has many uses-- for print-making, pre-press proofing, templates, etc. SelectaColor can be handled under dim room light and requires no special precautions, but should be shielded from direct sunlight or bright fluorescents. Surface preparation is necessary on absorbent materials like paper, wood or bisqued ceramics, as the colour pigment may not wash out completely, leaving a faint colour fog. Pre-coat these materials with any water-resistant coating such as lacquer, acrylic, shellac, Krylon spray, etc. Also use this pre-coat on hard-to-stick surfaces like most metals. Ceramics and glass require no pre-coat

but should be chemically-cleaned by scrubbing with hot water and powdered laundry detergent.

Apply SelectaColor or Pyrophoto thinly with a soft cloth, sponge or brush, or flow it on and drain off the surplus. Dry thoroughly at room temperature with moving air, away from direct light. Exposure should be made within 24 hours after drying. Expose through a full-size [transparency](#) held in close contact with the sensitized surface.

Use a light source rich in actinic (blue) light such as a [250-watt halogen floodlight](#) available at lighting stores or from our website. Exposure time should be tested, but a good starting point is 3 to 6 minutes at a distance of 2 feet. Somewhat less effective are other high-wattage halogen floods having a dimpled lens, also mercury vapour lights, UV lamps, carbon arcs, sunlamps and direct sunlight. Do not use ordinary incandescent bulbs, they will not expose SelectaColor. Hint: During exposure, use a small brush dipped in water to periodically test a small area to see if it has hardened by exposure. After exposure is complete, wipe the surface gently with cool water and a wet paper towel or soft sponge, to remove the unexposed sensitizer. Do not rush this step, as it may take several minutes for the image to appear. When the first colour is dry, a second colour can be coated and the procedure repeated to make a multi-colour print.

**Safety & Cleanup:** SelectaColor contains ammonium dichromate (see MSDS). and is non-volatile but can cause contact-dermatitis. Avoid contact with the skin. Do not apply by spray without adequate mist protection. Remove hardened sensitizer with liquid household bleach (Clorox).