

Photographic Process Controlled Vocabulary

About this Document

This is a practical list for the description of typical fine art and archival photograph collections. It is not a comprehensive list, nor is it entirely systematic. While it strives to use generic terms, it occasionally uses specific brand names. Many people will want to describe their photographs using very specific product names such as Cibachrome or Ektacolor print. However, in a museum or fine art collection being systematically cataloged such information is not always available. For database and information retrieval purposes it is useful to use a single generic term for a particular print technology such as Dye coupler print. When product names are available, they can be placed in a separate notes field related to the process name. This list will continue to evolve over time, and I look forward to receiving suggestions for changes or additions to this list. You are also free to use and modify this list in any way for your own purposes.

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The latest version of this list is available at:

<http://gawainweaver.com/processID>

Organization of Process List

1. **Process Category**

The numbered headings in bold are the names for the broadest categories of photographic print processes. They are also used as the fallback name when a more precise ID has not yet been made.

[Process Grouping]

Italic names in red with brackets indicate smaller divisions within the broader process categories. Process grouping names are not a part of the controlled vocabulary for process naming but simply a system of sorting the processes into more manageable groups. They may be useful in designing easy-to-read dropdown menus.

Fallback Process Name
Specific Process Name

Process names with indented names directly following are fallback names, i.e. the more generic form of a process name when more precise details are not known, such as inkjet print as the more generic form when it is not known whether it is a dye-based or pigment-based inkjet print.

Photographic Process Controlled Vocabulary

Print Processes	Specific Products	Synonyms NOT used or inaccurate
1. Monochrome Photographic Print		
<i>[non-silver metallic prints]</i>		
Cyanotype	ferroprussiate paper	blueprint
Diazotype		
Gum platinum print		gum over platinum print
Kallitype		
Platinum print	Platinotype	
Palladium print	Palladiotype	
Platinum-palladium print		
Vandyke print		brown print
<i>[silver prints]</i>		
Albumen silver print		albumen print
Ambrotype		
Collodion or gelatin silver chloride print		
Collodion silver chloride print		Collodion POP, glossy collodion
Daguerreotype		
Diffusion transfer print		Polaroid B+W print
Gelatin silver print		black and white print, bromide print
Gelatin silver chloride print	Kodak Solio	Gelatin POP
Matte collodion silver print		
Opalotype		
Orotone		Curtone, Goldtone
Pannotype		
Photostat		
Salt print		Salted paper print
Silver-platinum print	Satista	
Tintype		Ferrotypes, Melainotype

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<i>[pigment-based prints]</i>		
Bromoil print		
Bromoil transfer print		
Carbon print	Autotype, Chromotype	
Carbro print		
Gum bichromate print		gum print
2. Color Photographic Print		
<i>[dye-based prints]</i>		
Dye coupler print	Kodacolor, Ektacolor, Fujicolor	chromogenic print, c-print, lambda print
Dye destruction print	Cibachrome, Ilfochrome	silver dye bleach print
Dye diffusion transfer print	Polacolor	
Dye imbibition print	Kodak Dye Transfer	
Hess-Ives print		
Internal dye diffusion print	Polaroid SX-70 Land Film, Polaroid 600	
<i>[pigment-based prints]</i>		
Carbon print		
Four-color carbon print	Evercolor, Ataraxia	
Fresson print		
Gum bichromate print		
Tricolor carbon print		
Tricolor carbro print		
3. Digital Print		
<i>[inkjet prints]</i>		
Inkjet print		Archival pigment print, Giclee
Inkjet print, dye-based		
Inkjet print, pigment-based		
Inkjet print, UV-curable		
<i>[digital prints]</i>		
Direct thermal print		Fax
Direct thermal transfer print	Alps Micro Dry Print	D1T2

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Dye diffusion thermal transfer print		dye sublimation print, thermal print, D2T2
Electrophotographic print	Xerox	Photocopy, Laser print
Fuji Pictography print		
4. Photomechanical Print		
Chromolithograph		
Collotype	Albertype, Artotype	
Heliogravure		
Letterpress Halftone		
Offset Lithograph		
Photochrom	Phostint	
Photoengraving		
Photoetching		
Photogravure		
Photolithograph		
Rotogravure		Rotary Photogravure
Screen Print		
Woodburytype		
5. Negative or Transparency		
Paper negative		
Calotype		Talbotype
Waxed paper negative		
Glass plate negative		
Collodion wet plate negative		
Gelatin dry plate negative		
Glass plate transparency		
Additive color screen plate		
Collodion silver transparency		
Gelatin or collodion silver transparency		
Gelatin silver transparency		
Plastic-based negative		
Acetate color negative		
Acetate negative		

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Diacetate negative		
Diacetate color negative		
Nitrate negative		
Polyester color negative		
Polyester negative		
Triacetate color negative		
Triacetate negative		
Plastic-based transparency		
Acetate color transparency		
Acetate transparency		
Additive color screen transparency		
Diacetate color transparency		
Diacetate transparency		
Nitrate color transparency		
Nitrate transparency		
Polyester color transparency		
Polyester transparency		
Triacetate transparency		
Triacetate color transparency		
6. Hologram		
7. Alternative Process Print		
Ziatype		
Emulsion lift from Dye diffusion transfer print		Polaroid emulsion lift
Transfer from Dye diffusion transfer print		Polaroid transfer