



SPUR Photochemie
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An Economical Developer For Artistic Expression: SPUR ACUROL-N – Acutance Developer

Looking back: newly launched at photokina 2012

The most well-known classic, highly dilutable developers used by photographers for expressing a breadth of visual artistic potential are Rodinal, Adonal, R09 and Kodak HC 110.

The disadvantages of those classic developers, such as e.g. sagging curves in the middle tones, far too steep highlights, increased grain and insufficient rendering of detail, inspired SPUR to conceive the innovative developer SPUR ACUROL-N, improving all advantages of classical developers while eliminating their disadvantages.

Advantages of SPUR ACUROL-N

- Very high dilutability from 1+50 to 1+200
- At a dilution of 1+50, 250 ml concentrate yield 50 film developments, which is equivalent to a cost of 38 ct per film development; at a dilution of 1+100, 250 ml concentrate yield 100 film developments, which is equivalent to a cost of 19 ct per film development
- High fineness of grain, maximum sharpness and extraordinary pictorial plasticity

Maximum Sharpness

In his experiments with ACUROL-N and diverse films, Ralf Sanger has achieved a spectacular result using highly diluted ACUROL-N (1+200) and Rollei Ortho 25 roll film. In a detail enlargement of a photo as large as 4.5x4.5 m, represented by a 100% monitor display, an unprecedented sharpness is attained in conjunction with an exceptional wealth of tonal values.

Extraordinary Pictorial Plasticity

At high dilutions, long developing times and reduced agitation, a distinct Eberhard effect provides for maximum sharpness of contours and maximum plasticity.

- Long shelf-life of the unopened developer (ca. 4 years)
- Maximum quality with every emulsion coupled with a well-balanced tone curve with consistent grey scale gradation in all areas
- As with classical developers, the individual look of the negative can be varied or changed dramatically depending on the choice of dilution and agitation.

The developing parameters indicated in the chart are given by reference, thus enabling very good results even for beginners. Experienced users may compile results in line with their individual artistic predilections by varying dilution, agitation, stand-developing or developing times in combination with their preferred films.

Please note that high resolution films (document copy films) are not suitable for the development in SPUR ACUROL-N. Apart from that, all normal types of films can be developed in ACUROL-N.

SPUR ACUROL As A Developing System

In order to transfer the plasticity of negatives developed in ACUROL-N onto positive prints, SPUR has conceived further products within the ACUROL Developing System, which are exactly matched.

SPUR ACUROL-P is a positive developer for photographic b/w papers for the first time enabling a one to one transfer onto paper of the expressive plasticity of negatives previously developed in ACUROL-N.

SPUR ACUROL-W is a warm toner additive that is exactly matched to the sculpting capacities of ACUROL-P paper developer. ACUROL-W is added to ACUROL-P to obtain b/w prints with a warm tone as desired.

Testimonials

Ralf Sanger (photographer) while considering with a tenfold magnifying glass a detail enlargement obtained using a dilution of 1+200 and boasting unprecedented sharpness:

"We must find a new designation of sharpness. This film supplies the greatest sharpness I've ever witnessed! The contrast of detail is gigantic! Eberhard sends its best – absolutely stunning! Grey shades look superb."

Lars-Goran Hedstrom (cinematographer):

"Both Adonal and Ilfotec DD-X produce pictures that are slightly more diffuse (not tack sharp) as pictures developed in ACUROL-N. The very high acutance of ACUROL-N should produce pictures that, to the eye, are perceived as grainier. But, to my surprise, this is not the case! Both Adonal and Ilfotec DD-X bring about a grainier impression. ACUROL-N is to the eye sharper with less pronounced grain. As noticed in the SPUR papers the fine grain and wide tonality is due to the fact that ACUROL-N is used very diluted and with reduced agitation."

"Wonderful micro contrast which creates a 3-dimensionality in my pictures. The grayscale in my Acurol-N developed black and white rolls are finely nuanced and have a better/longer tonality than developed in the other two developers. Though Adonal and Ilfotec DD-X are more universal in use and may be applied for pushing. But as my preferences are both sharpness with micro details as well as a wide tonality, I opt for ACUROL-N."

"ACUROL-N also is a very economical developer. Normally the dilution is very high, from 1+50 up to 1+200. Means that 250 ml will last for many rolls of film. As a matter of fact, ACUROL-N is the most economical developer I used to date. It certainly is a "State of the Art" developer."

Bruce Robbins (photo blogger):

"ACUROL-N, like Ilford FP4 when it debuted back in the late 1960s, should be marketed as, "The sharp one". ACUROL-N is a bit like Rodinal in that it can be diluted greatly and, with reduced agitation, produces enhanced edge effects. This Eberhard effect gives the edges some real bite and shows just how sharp 35mm negs can be."

"ACUROL-N isn't the best-known developer on the market but it deserves to be right up there with the best of them. It produces superbly sharp, clean negatives, nice robust tones, very controlled and crisp grain and prints well under the enlarger. ACUROL-N's data sheet has times for a long list of films at dilutions ranging from 1+25 to 1+100 and provides contraction/expansion times for zone system workers."

Erwin Puts (Leica Expert)

"Mr. Schain created a new range of chemicals that are claimed to deliver unique results. The first practical claim for the new high dilution ACUROL-N is the longevity. Acknowledging that the amount of films that one develops per month is dropping, the developer has an extended lifespan. The dilution is very high (generally between 1+50 and 1+100) which allows a very economical use and a very flexible use. In this sense the developer shares one characteristic with Rodinal: you can vary the dilution and use it for almost every film emulsion. Development times range from ten to thirty minutes (with exceptions on both extremes) and the longer development times demand the method of minimal movement. Especially this last characteristic is important because this method enhances the edge sharpness (Eberhard effect), increases visual plasticity and also enhance grain impression slightly. The nice point is of course that one can vary the parameters within reasonable limits with one developer for a range of films and contrast situations. Good news for Zone System workers."

"I used the developer with the evergreen film Ilford Delta 100 (still one of the best all-rounders for medium speed use), exposed for EI 80 and developed for thirty minutes with the Heiland TAS developer equipment (excellent for long duration and minimal movement). As a companion I used the new Adox Silvermax film. Camera is Leica MP-3, grey card is from Fotowand whose cards are of superior quality, exposure meter is Gossen Digisky. The results are excellent. One does not often see a density of $D_{max} = 0.06$ in Zone I at normal ISO-speed and development."

"The ACUROL-N developer is a major improvement for the darkroom workflow and should be a premium choice for anyone who is engaged in the silver-halide workflow, exclusively or in a mixed fashion, selecting the workflow that is best for the desired result. The data-sheet has all info for fine tuning the Zone System parameters."