

<b>GENERAL PROCESSING—ALL FILMS</b>	
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<b><i>Why do I need yellow/safe lighting in my entire mask making process? Why can't I work under white light?</i></b>	Photo resist films are sensitive to ultra-violet light. Pre or post-exposure to UV will reduce the capabilities of the film. Yellow lighting contains reduced levels of ultra-violet and is recommended. You can use the film under regular fluorescent or incandescent light for short periods of time, but "safe" lighting will allow for extended work periods without concern of unintended film exposure.
<b><i>My artwork is black, why won't this film work?</i></b>	It is important that the black areas can block ultra-violet light. Toner that looks dense on vellum may actually be closer to translucent in its ability to block U.V. light. A simple test: Hold the artwork up to a light source (sunny window, lamp, etc.). If you can see any light through the black areas, the artwork is not dense enough. For an example of high density, hold a piece of black construction paper up to a light source. No light will bleed through. This is the density your artwork should provide. Different types of artwork media may provide better results. For a general comparison, artwork types are listed in order from highest density and resolution to lowest: Genuine Film, AccuArt™ Waterproof Inkjet Film, PFX Drafting Vellum, UVII Standard Vellum.
<b><i>What detail or resolution level can I achieve with photo resist?</i></b>	With the proper equipment (vacuum frame exposure, high-pressure washer) and film (3 mil), it is possible to achieve resolution of .003" (.123mm).
<b><i>How do I remove the carrier sheet when I'm ready to blast?</i></b>	Try to "flick" the corner with a fingernail or razor blade, then remove the carrier with a quick tugging motion. An alternative method is to try lifting a corner of the carrier with a piece of adhesive tape. If the carrier is difficult to remove, the film may not be completely dry.
<b><i>Why can't I get the carrier sheet off of the mask easily?</i></b>	If the film is a washout-style product, this is often caused by an incomplete drying process. Allow the film to dry longer to ease carrier removal  In the case of RapidMask™ this is caused by the strong adhesive nature of the mask material, and is not a defect. After applying RapidMask™ wait 1-2 minutes before trying to remove the carrier. To remove the carrier sheet, pull quickly with the carrier parallel to the substrate.
<b><i>How long should I expose my films?</i></b>	Please refer to the instruction guide included with your film for correct exposure times. If the artwork is of correct density, slightly longer exposure times shouldn't have a negative effect on the final mask.
<b><i>Why can't I use a blacklight from a novelty store to expose? Or sunlight? Or a tanning bed lamp?</i></b>	Photo resist films are sensitive to a particular wavelength of ultra-violet light (365 nm). Exposure units designed with this output will provide the most consistent results. Using alternative light sources may result in erratic exposure times, and possible failure of the production process.
<b><i>How do I avoid air bubbles in my adhesive when it dries?</i></b>	Try to "paint" the adhesive as smoothly as possible onto the substrate. Use of a foam brush is recommended. Avoid continuous brushing, as the adhesive dries quickly. Mix adhesive thoroughly before use. Be sure not to shake adhesive vigorously, as this will cause foaming and introduction of air bubbles.
<b><i>Are these products dangerous? Bad for my health? Will this process (and its debris) harm the environment?</i></b>	When used as directed, all of our products are environmentally safe. Please refer to product-specific Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all health and safety information.
<b><i>How should I prepare my glass for etching?</i></b>	Glass should be cleaned thoroughly with a commercial glass cleaner, such as <b>PhotoBrasive's Glass and Surface Cleaner</b> . Ammonia-based cleaners are not recommended, as they may not effectively remove oils or contaminants from the surface. They may also reduce the adhesion strength of the mask.
<b><i>How do I know when</i></b>	Washout films are usually ready to use when the emulsion has returned to its

<b><i>my film is dry or ready to use?</i></b>	original solid color (no "tiger stripes"). RapidMask™ is ready when the etch area of the mask has changed to a solid blue color; these blue areas will become brittle.
<b><i>How do I apply films to a round object?</i></b>	To make application easier, insure that the mask is cut as close to the image as possible. This will reduce the amount of "curve" the mask has to conform/adhere to. Cutting small slits around the perimeter of the image may also keep the film from buckling at the edges.