

## Book Review

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### Developing—Technique of the Negative, by C. I. Jacobson

Published (1948) by the Focal Press, Inc., 381 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y. 309 pages + xiv pages + 10-page index. 52 illustrations.  $5\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Price, \$3.50.

This book describes in detail the process of converting an exposed photographic film into a negative. It makes no attempt to explain the why or wherefore of the processes involved. A knowledge of a certain minimum amount of physics and chemistry would be required were this included. Instead, word descriptions and "practical illustrations" are used throughout, to make the subject matter understandable to the reader. As a result, one obtains a rather oversimplified picture of the developer technique, but the picture serves very well to an operator whose knowledge of science is limited. The more mature reader with a knowledge of chemistry, can also read the book with profit, for he would obtain a bird's-eye view of the entire field, one that can serve as an introduction for a later and more detailed study.

The book describes the composition of the developer solution, the methods of formulating it, and the properties of the ingredients involved. It contains a somewhat extended discussion of the differences between the many concoctions that are now in common use as developers, grouping them into three general classes. This is a useful generalization as it enables the technician to choose a specific solution for a specific purpose.

While the discussion of the developing solutions forms the most important part of the book, it also contains sections on the aftertreatment of the negative. Not the least interesting of the extraneous matter is a chapter dealing with dark-rooms and darkroom equipment. Apartment-house dwellers will be especially interested in the section which describes how a lavatory can be converted into a darkroom.

Several errors were noted, but these appear to be not too important. The most glaring of these appears on page 207. There it is noted that Kodak's D-76 and Ansco's A-17 are compounded with sodium carbonate as the energizer. These developers use borax. However, on page 153 the correct formula is given for D-76.

The binding and the paper appear to be of good quality, a noteworthy event these days of inferior quality. The book will stand considerable thumbing, and it is the type of book that asks for such treatment.

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