

these benefits will amount to. At the same machine speed (linear film advance speed) and assuming equal immersion time per tank (or rack), it can be seen that a Blix-2 process takes less than half the time needed for the ECP-1 process. (Blix-2 is the simplified version of the ECP-2 process for high processing temperature up from 30°C or 86°F.)

From what we have discussed here it should not be concluded that the blix process is the only possible route in shortening the processing time. We believe, however, that it is an important step forward. Another step in the same direction which might be explored is the suppression of the pre-bath and backing removal prior to color development. On the other hand, the antihalation carbon-black layer has been so successful, particularly through its anti-static properties which become even more significant at higher printing speeds, that laboratories will be most reluctant to forego its advantages in exchange for an increased processing speed.

Conclusions

Economics and severe competition are compelling the laboratories to make their operations as efficient as is technically feasible. Their resourcefulness, combined with the ingenuity of equipment manufacturers and with innovations and recommendations from the rawstock manufacturers, will contribute to this modernization. But it must be emphasized that optimum improvement can only be reached by the combined efforts of all the concerned, users and manufacturers. A number of suggestions and proposals have been discussed in this paper and put forward for further study and consideration by the parties involved.

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