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How to care for your 21-step Stouffer Wedge



21-step Stouffer Wedge and packet.



21-step Stouffer Wedge on Miraclon DS94 photopolymer plate, about to be placed in a UV exposure unit with florescent lamps, and vacuum with diffusion film.

Caring for your 21-step Stouffer Wedge

1. Keep the Stouffer Wedge safe, in its envelope. It's very easy to lose!
2. Handle the Stouffer Wedge with clean fingers, touching it only as necessary.
3. Do not bend or crease the Stouffer Wedge.
4. The Stouffer Wedge has a shiny side and a matte side. Place the matte side facing towards your photopolymer plate surface when exposing the plate. It is printed so that the numbers are right side up when you place the matte side on your plate surface.
5. Use a strip of photopolymer plate slightly bigger than your Stouffer Wedge. Use only flat plate, with no bends or creases in it.
6. If you are using imagesetter film (not inkjet or laser printed film) there will be a Stouffer Wedge reading that is recommended for the type of photopolymer plate you are using. Your commercial plate supplier can assist with this. (An art supply shop will not know.)
7. If your Stouffer Wedge does get dirty, wipe it with a soft cloth and water if the dirt is water soluble. Try isopropyl alcohol or methylated spirits if the damp cloth does not remove the dirt.
8. If you are careful with your Stouffer Wedge you should have many years service from it. After use, store it safely as soon as possible back in its envelope. If you work in a communal studio, write your name on the Stouffer Wedge envelope. A Stouffer Wedge does not usually get damaged, but it is very easy to lose.