

Amido Black Methanol

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Amido Black Methanol

1 INTRODUCTION/SCOPE

- A. Amido Black (methanol base) is used by FBI Laboratory Friction Ridge Discipline personnel to develop latent prints and enhance visible prints that have been deposited in blood.
- B. The process can be used on all surfaces but is primarily used on non-porous items.

2 STANDARDS AND CONTROLS

See *Processing Overview* ([FRD-300](#)).

3 LIMITATIONS

- A. The background of porous items may become stained during the process and obscure information.
- B. Process may damage painted surfaces.
- C. Process cannot be used on wet blood.

4 EQUIPMENT

- Distilled water
- Naphthol Blue Black (dye content $\geq 85\%$)
- Glacial Acetic Acid
- Methanol

5 PROCEDURE

5.1 Solution Preparation

Personnel will prepare the solutions as follows. Alternative amounts of the final working solution may be prepared, provided the same ratio of chemicals mixed is retained.

5.1.1 Developer solution

- A. Combine:
 - Naphthol Blue Black - 2 g
 - Glacial Acetic Acid - 100 mL
 - Methanol - 900 mL
- B. Stir until Naphthol Blue Black dissolves (approximately 30 minutes).

5.1.2 Rinse solution

- A. Combine:
 - Glacial Acetic Acid - 100 mL
 - Methanol - 900 mL

5.2 Application

- A. Ensure that blood is dry prior to application.
- B. Personnel will complete the following steps in order:
 - 1. Apply developer solution to item by spraying, submersion, painting, or squirting.
 - i. Application can also be accomplished by the tissue method which involves wetting a durable tissue material and applying the material directly to the surface or by applying through a durable tissue material onto the surface.
 - 2. Leave developer solution on item for 30 to 60 seconds.
 - 3. Apply rinse solution.
 - 4. Rinse with water.
 - 5. Allow item to dry.
- C. The developer solution may be reapplied as needed by repeating steps 1 through 4 until no further development is seen with a final rinse of water.
 - 1. Personnel will be cautious of overdevelopment and destruction of background.
- D. Capture appropriate friction ridge details as applicable (digitally or photographically).

5.3 Storage

Developer and rinse solutions must be stored in glass bottles.

5.4 Shelf Life

Developer and rinse solutions have indefinite shelf lives provided the reagent checks are satisfactory.

6 SAFETY

See [FBI Laboratory Safety Manual](#) for appropriate information.

7 REVISION HISTORY

Revision	Issued	Changes
02	07/15/2021	Replace Latent Print Units with Friction Ridge Discipline. Minor wording changes. Change tissue to durable tissue material. Changed “specimen” to “item”. Streamline equipment list. Re-organization and re-numbering of sections. Section 1, added last sentence. Added limitation in Section 2. Section 4.1 broken into separate sections – Section 4.1.1 and Section 4.1.2 and added alternate amounts allowance. Section 4.2 broken out into Section 4.2 and Section 4.3. Section 4.3 #1, added further clarification on process. Section 5, added Preamble reference.
03	08/17/2022	Reformatted Section 3 – Added limitation on wet blood Section 5.2 – Removed guidance on superglue fuming Section 5.2 – Defined method