

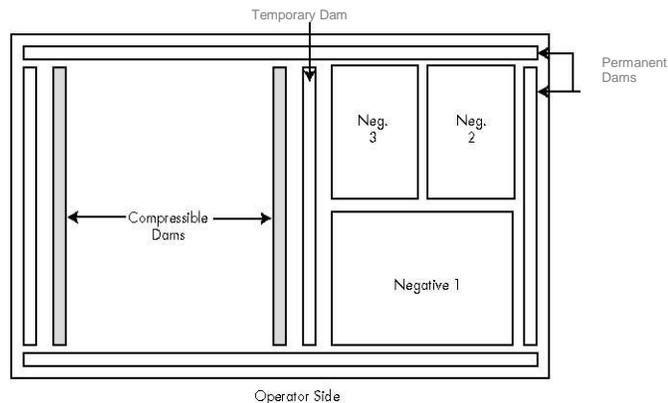
Tech Tip 111

Partial Plate Procedures for Bucket Units

Occasionally there are not enough negatives to fully cover the lower glass of the exposure unit. In order to conserve resin, a partial plate can be made. Below is a procedure for making partial casts using the MacDermid Liquid Photopolymer Platemaking System. This bulletin is written specifically for use with 2228, 3040, and 3048 exposure units with bottom-opening buckets.

PROCEDURE

- 1) Partial plates are made using the right (from operator side) end of the lower glass. The negatives should be positioned from right to left, filling the glass from front (operator side) to back. The full-sized plate dams should remain in place.
- 2) Once the negatives are positioned, a temporary dam (see the figure below) is placed from front to back two (2) inches to the left of the negatives. The thickness of the dam should be the same thickness used for normal full-sized plates. The two dams made of compressible material, with the thickness slightly less than the total plate thickness, are then placed to the left of the temporary dam and to the right of the permanent dam as shown below.



- 3) Pull the cover film over the lower glass and turn on the vacuum to pull down the cover film seal the entire area.
- 4) Move the carriage to the left as you would for a full-sized plate. Insert a full substrate and, without opening the bucket, move the carriage to the right until the doctor blade is positioned approximately one (1) inch to the left of the temporary dam.

- 5) Cast the plate normally.
- 6) Lower the upper frame and activate the exposure cycle using top vacuum as normal.

Note: The compressible dam material is used to support the substrate to ensure contact with the upper frame vacuum grooves so that adequate upper vacuum can be drawn in the areas where no resin has been dispensed.

