

Tech Tip #106 - *M Jet Film* *Materials Specifications*

The following specifications and recommendations for photographic materials are offered to help achieve optimum quality from the MacDermid liquid photopolymer platemaking system. There are some key differences reflected in the materials and/or procedures recommended here compared to silver film.

- 1) The base film will be slightly matte, smooth, and free of handling defects such as nicks and dings.
- 2) When density is measured on a transmission densitometer, be sure to use the UV setting. Black areas should measure >4.0 to avoid reduction in etch depth of mid-tones and shadows and broadened type. If measured using the Ortho, or visible setting, the film will read approximately 3.0. This is due to the fact that the black ink will allow for some visible light transmission, but it properly blocks UV light.
- 3) A right-reading image is required in the emulsion side of the negative.
- 4) A one-piece negative is recommended. Overlapping, stripping, and taping of multiple negatives may interfere with the capping blade, potentially tearing the cover film. If film is to be taped, the use of a silicone release tape (MacDermid part number P20409 or P20431) is highly recommended to prevent film damage.
- 5) A high-contrast negative is needed with the hardest possible dots, without fringes or halos. This is required to get good transmission of the ultraviolet light through the entire dot area into the depth of the plate. Frequent calibration review of the M Jet printer is recommended to ensure proper film printing.