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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HAVING TROUBLE PRODUCING A GOOD MIRROR?

Some of the following tips may help you.

1. Keep your equipment clean.
2. Make sure the spray gun is balanced on both sides for equal volume delivery.
3. Watch shelf life on all chemicals.
4. Maintain proper quality of distilled or de-ionized water.
5. Use fresh sensitizer to eliminate poor adhesion and spotty deposits.
6. Too much silver spray results in a cloudy back and shiny front appearance.
7. Dark streaks running side-to-side may mean an overlapped spray pattern or spray being applied too close to the glass. The two spray streams should meet two inches from the glass surface.
8. Spots that appear randomly while silvering may be caused by contamination in the air line.
9. Spots in the same place after redo are usually dirt on the glass not removed during the polishing/cleaning of the glass.
10. Spots that appear after the mirror is finished (in a few days or weeks) could indicate either drying was not complete and water is trapped under the coating or pinholes in the paint film are exposing the silver to contamination.
11. Splotchy silver, cloudy on both sides, is caused by the gun being out of balance, dirt in the gun nozzle causing uneven flow, or using solution that is not fresh.

WHAT IS THE SHELF LIFE OF THE SILVERING MATERIALS?

When ordering silvering chemicals, be aware of their shelf life. Storage in a cool dark place prolongs shelf life. Refrigeration is recommended but not necessary. Store containers tightly capped. Shelf Life (from the date of manufacture): Silver Solution “A”: 1-2 years, Activator Solution “B”: 6-9 months, Reducer Solution “C”: 1-2 years, and Sensitizer Solution #93: 6-9 months.

The date of manufacture of the material can be ascertained from the lot number on the container. We assign a six digit number YYMMDD, with the first two digits representing the year, the next two digits representing the month and the last two digits the date of manufacture. For example if the lot number is 030302, then the material was manufactured on 2 March 2003.

WHAT DO I NEED TO GET STARTED?

Go to Instructions and click on “silver spraying” and/or “silver pouring” instructions. You will find answers there.