

# Some Photographic Equipment

## II. Film and Print Development

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This second installment of our series dealing with photographic materials found in the Oesper Collections focuses on items related to the development of film and prints (1). Figure 1 shows some of the various photographic developing agents in our collections. The oldest of these — gallic acid — was first introduced into photography by John Herschel in 1839; the most recent — Amidol or 2,4 diaminophenol — was first introduced as a photographic developer in 1892.

Figures 2 and 3 show developing tanks for individual film rolls. The oldest, shown in figure 2, is made of black Bakelite, whereas the inexpensive circa 1970 version shown in figure 3 is made of black plastic.



Figure 1. Containers of typical photographic developing agents spanning the period 1839-1892.

Finally, figure 4 shows a collection of circa 1915 equipment for exposing and developing positive prints, including wooden printing frames, Bakelite developing pans, and glass measuring cups. This equipment originally belonged to the author's paternal grandmother, who first became interested in photography in her early 20s.

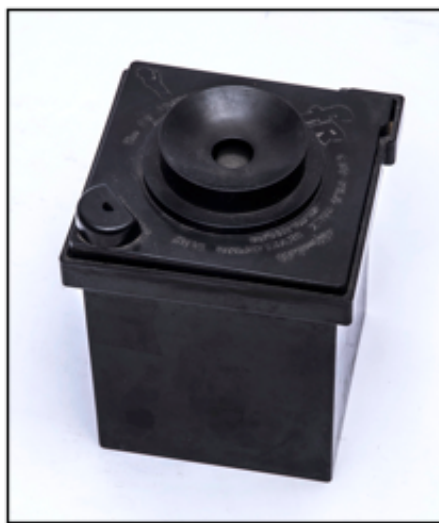


Figure 2. A circa 1940 Bakelite developing tank for individual rolls of film.



Figure 3. An inexpensive circa 1970 plastic developing tank for individual rolls of film.

### References and Notes

1. W. B. Jensen, "Some Photographic Equipment. I. Cameras," *Museum Notes*, July/August 2019.

SOME PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT: II. FILM AND PRINT DEVELOPMENT

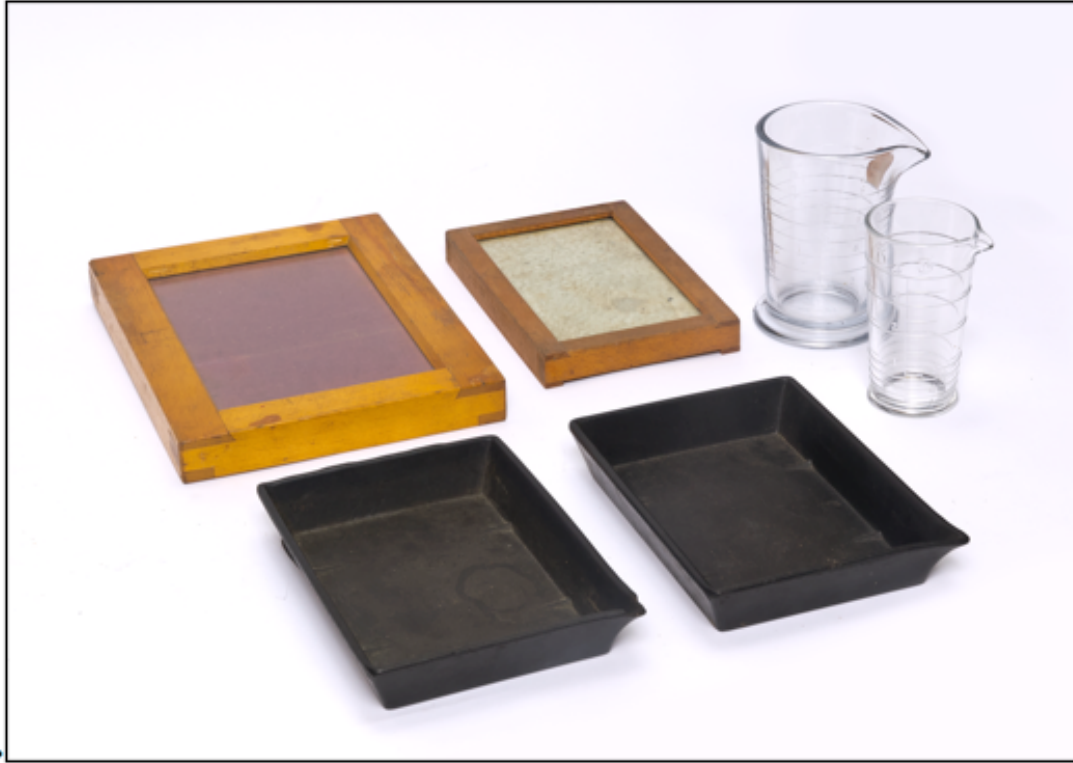


Figure 4. Circa 1915 wooden printing frames, Bakelite developing pans, and photographic measuring glasses – all of which belonged to the author’s paternal grandmother.

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