

Mixing 1% Formic Acid Ink For Sizing Tests (“#2 Ink)

From a Naphthol Green B Dye Pak and a 2% Formic Acid Pak

AMOUNT:

The amount of ink to mix is up to the user. 10ml (10cc) of ink is needed for each sizing test. A batch of 1% Formic Acid ink will last for 6 weeks if it is kept sealed and cool, such as at comfortable room temperature, or in an air conditioned room, or refrigerated (not frozen). Note: Let the ink return to sizing test laboratory room temperature before using it for sizing tests. Ink temperature has an effect on sizing tests times. Sizing test results will be false if the ink was just been removed from refrigeration and is still cold. Six (6) weeks after the ink is mixed, the remainder should be disposed of and not be used for sizing tests. For example, if 20 sizing tests will be done each week, enough ink for 120 sizing tests can be mixed and used for the next 6 weeks. That would be 120 tests, 1200ml of ink (1.2 liters). The amount needed should be increased to allow for a few extra tests and for the inaccuracy of the dispenser – perhaps mix 1400ml of ink. That will require 700ml of dye and 700ml of 2% formic acid. Smaller amounts can be mixed more often if that fits the containers better. For example, mixing about 140ml of ink each week would fit in smaller containers, and the ink will always be fresh. 120ml of ink is enough for 10 sizing tests and a small amount of ink left over.

SOURCE PAKS:

Use the following two paks from The Aderhold Firm Inc.:

TAF NGB1 Naphthol Green B Dye Solution Pak

TAF 2FA 2% Formic Acid Solution Pak

PROCEDURE:

After determining the volume of ink to mix, measure out half of that volume of solution from the TAF NGB1 dye pak into a suitable measuring container, such as a graduated cylinder. Pour that measured amount of dye solution into a suitable mixed ink storage container (such as a Nalgene bottle with sealing cap). Rinse the measuring container and shake out excess water. The remaining water must be a tiny fraction of the total ink volume being mixed. Or use another measuring container for the 2% formic acid solution. Put exactly the same volume as was measured out of dye pack solution of 2% formic acid solution from the TAF 2FA pak into a measuring container. Pour this into the mixed ink storage container which already has the dye solution in it (this step dilutes the 2% formic acid to 1% in the final ink). Cap the storage container and shake it to mix the ink thoroughly. The ink is ready to use. Rinse out the measuring container(s) and store so it will stay clean. Pour some or all of the mixed ink into a clean dispenser bottle which measures out 10m; (10cc) for each sizing test. At the end of the day, or conclusion of sizing tests, remove the tube and measuring cup assembly from the dispenser and pour the ink remaining in the dispenser bottle back into the storage container. Cap the storage container and store it in a cool place (room temperature or lower). Rinse out the dispenser bottle and its measuring cup assembly with water.