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# Sticky-side Powder

## TECHNICAL NOTES

### Background

Sticky-side Powder™ is used to process the sticky-side of adhesive tapes and labels for latent prints. As with any chemical process, we suggest that you experiment on non-evidence items to become familiar with this process before using it on evidence.

#### Excellent results

duct tape	masking tape	packing labels
adhesive bandages	plastic surgical tape	double-sided foam tape
paper-backed label	clear plastic tape	reinforced packing tape

#### Good to fair results

cloth surgical tape	frosted plastic tape
adhesive edge of 3M™ Post-it® notes	

#### Poor results

black electrical tape (due to poor contrast)  
some paper labels and tapes and labels with dried-out adhesives  
some contact papers or shelf papers

### Safety

As with all chemicals, always read the MSDS (material safety data sheet) to learn about the safe handling and health hazards of each chemical. A dust mask is recommended when measuring the powder to prevent inhalation of particles. Once mixed, the material should not be ingested.

### Mixing Instructions

#### Method One

- Place approximately equal amounts of water, Photo-Flo 200 and Sticky-side Powder™ into a small jar or beaker. It should be the consistency of thin paint. More liquid or

powder can be added to make the mixture thicker or thinner as the need dictates. Mix a total volume suitable for the application at hand

- Use a small brush or camelhair fingerprint brush to “paint” the liquid mixture onto the adhesive side of the tape or label. This method has also been found to work on the back side of some tapes
- Leave it on for 10 to 15 seconds and then rinse it off with water. The tape can be rinsed under running water, but the preferred method is to gently agitate it in a bowl of water.
- When most of the solution is rinsed off of the tape or label, examine it. Photograph any developed latent prints
- If the solution is left on too long, it becomes difficult to rinse off. The solution will adhere too strongly to some tapes and labels. The solution may be applied but it must be rinsed immediately. The other alternative is to use Method Two for these types of tapes and labels

### **Method Two**

- An alternative method for processing adhesive tapes and labels which are not suitable for the painting process, is a soaking process. Add some Sticky-side Powder™ to a bowl or tray of water. The rinse water left over from Method One can be saved and used for this method
- Agitate the bowl of water to stir up the Sticky-side Powder™ and submerge the tape pieces or labels with the sticky side up
- Allow the floating particles of Sticky-side Powder™ to settle on the tape. This process may take some time to develop the latent prints. The resulting prints may also be rather faint

### **Method Three**

- Another variation is to add some Sticky-side Powder™ to a bowl or tray of water which can be closed. The rinse water left over from Method One can be saved and used for this method
- Agitate or shake the container to stir up the Sticky-side Powder™ until a large head of foam appears
- Pass or draw the tape through the foam only
- Rinse the tape as usual

## **Kit Components**

We offer a kit which contains 50 grams of Sticky-side Powder™, 473 ml (one pint) of Photo-Flo, a camelhair brush, spoon, dropper bottle, mixing jar, and instructions, all in a handy kit box.

## **Photography**

Photography of latent prints developed with Sticky-side Powder™ should not pose any problems if the surface background is a light color. If the surface is a dark color but will

fluoresce, it may be beneficial to use fluorescence examination to enhance the photographic contrast.

### **Ordering Information**

Catalog No. 1-2722 ..... Sticky-side Powder™, 50 grams

Catalog No. 1-2727 ..... Photo-Flo, 16 oz.

Catalog No. 1-2723 ..... Sticky-side Powder Kit

Contents: Sticky-side Powder™, 50 grams

Photo-Flo, 473 ml (one pint)

Camelhair Brush

Dropper bottle

Spoon

Mixing jar

Instructions

Kit Box