

## MEDIA SENSITIVITY TO TREATMENT SOLUTIONS USING BLOTTING PAPER

This media-sensitivity test gives an indication of whether the solvent of the chosen treatment solution is likely to cause the present media to dissolve. More procedures for pre-treatment tests regarding sensitivity to treatment solutions are extensively discussed in the *Paper Conservation Catalog*, Catherine I. Maynor ed., American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Book and Paper Group, 1994, Chapter 10, sub-chapter 10.4 Spot Tests, p. 60-68.

### Chemicals

- Solvent 1 (e.g. demineralised water)
- If required solvent 2 (e.g. Ethanol)

### Materials and equipment

- 2 small glass beakers with solvents
- filter or blotting paper
- scissors
- tweezers
- inert plastic sheet (e.g. Melinex<sup>®</sup> polyester film)
- timer

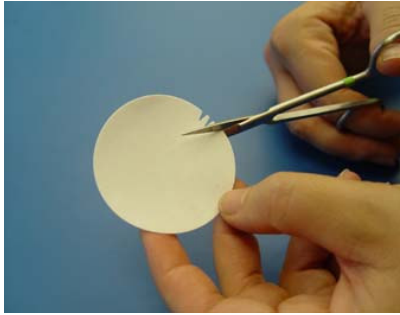


### Procedure

- Cutting and wetting of blotting paper
  - Cut small triangles of blotting paper (ca. 2x5 mm)
  - Dip the blotting paper into the solvent
  - Reduce excess solvent from the blotting paper by blotting it off on filter paper
- Application
  - Place object on a clean, inert support (e.g. Melinex<sup>®</sup> polyester film)
  - Choose a representative area within the present media
  - Place the damp blotting paper on the middle of an ink line
  - Cover it with a sheet of plastic (e.g. Melinex<sup>®</sup> polyester film)
  - Apply moderate pressure with a finger for some time (30 seconds or longer when required)
  - remove the plastic and the blotting paper
- Interpretation
  - Put the blotting paper onto a white support (e.g. filter paper)
  - Check the colour (if necessary use a microscope or a magnifier)
  - If the blotting paper is discoloured, a component of the media has dissolved and has caused the dye or pigment to diffuse into the blotting paper

Repeat for each solvent and each media present.

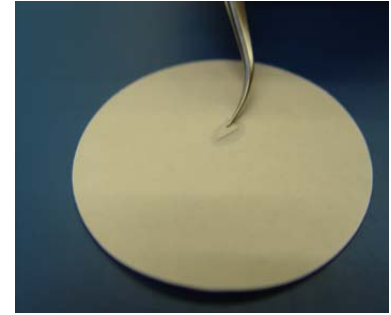
## MEDIA SENSITIVITY TO TREATMENT SOLUTIONS USING BLOTTING PAPER



Cut a small strip from filter paper, preferably a triangle



Dip the filter paper into one solvent, use tweezers



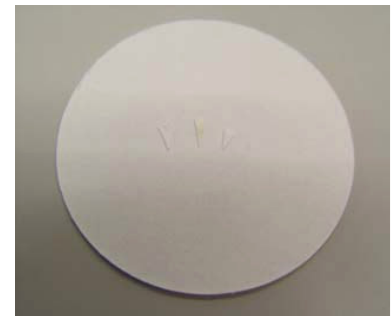
Remove excess of solvent by blotting on filter paper



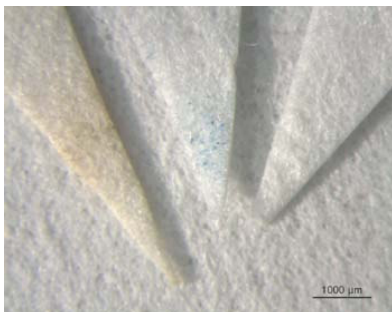
Place the indicator paper on the media, pay attention that one part covers the testing zone, the other part covers the blank paper



Cover with a piece of inert plastic foil, apply gentle pressure for 30s



Remove the filter paper from the object and place it on a white support (filter paper)



Check the filter paper under a microscope or magnifier. Migrated pigments / dyes can be easily detected