

ADDENDUM TO FIXER CHOICES: Here is yet another choice for a fixer for those who don't want to mess with Cyanide. It is simply off the shelf Ilford Rapid Fixer. Acclaimed collodion artist Kerik Kouklis seems to be the one who introduced the wet-plate world to this adaptation of an old black and white film and paper fixer stand-by for many art photographers. My tests seem to indicate that of the non-cyanide fixers, this is the best choice. At its standard dilution, it fixes almost as fast as Cyanide and gives a slightly warmer grey tone than any other non-cyanide fixer. But still not the beautiful coffee and cream tones Potassium Cyanide so ably gives. Ilford Rapid Fixer is of course way easier to buy and find than Cyanide which is a huge plus for the beginner wet-plate photographer. But in the long run, it's going to be a lot more expensive than Cyanide. As just a little portion of Potassium Cyanide goes a really, really long way. Also, only Cyanide fixer can be useful those times you may need to reduce an image slightly and up the contrast a bit by simply leaving it in the fixing solution longer. Ilford or any of the other non-cyanide fixers are of no use that way. And, of course, Ilford, just like the other non-cyanides, will require a lot longer plate rinsing time. But, as the old saying goes, "to each their own," said the old geezer who kissed the cow. Here's the comparison. Choose your cow:

Ilford Rapid Fixer



Potassium Cyanide Fixer

