

### **The Myth of the cotton ball filter:**

Some 19<sup>th</sup> century manuals do prescribe filtering various chemicals used in wet-plate through cotton balls stuffed into the neck of a glass funnel. This has really gotten popular in recent times for reasons that have little to do with practicality, and a lot to do with what looks hip and alchemy. It is totally unnecessary in the face of far simpler, easier, and less messy options. Laboratory grade filter paper or just cheap and easily purchased grocery store white coffee filters doubled up work as well, if not better. Filtering varnish through a cotton ball stuffed in the neck of a funnel can be wretchedly slow, and you risk the chance of stray fibers winding up in the varnish and showing up on your most favorite plate's surface. Also, you will be left with a goopy mess to get out of and off of the funnel. Cleanup will require a lot of expensive alcohol, as well. Keep your cotton balls handy for other applications - but not for filtering.