

## The Bathroom 35mm Developing Kit Shopping List

A shopping list for those wanting to develop Black and White 35mm Film at home. The list covers everything required, and where possible provides cheaper alternatives that you may already have in your home. As the title suggests, we assume you have access to running water – don't develop in your kitchen sink, you don't want chemicals anywhere near where you prepare food. Costs are examples only, you can pay much more for everything on the list, and probably much less with some searching. Alternative cost total includes items with no alternatives.

Item	New/Used Cost	Alternative	Alternative Cost	Notes
Developing tank	£20			You'll be able to find lots of different types on auction sites. Ensure you are getting something that won't leak, and that includes a 'reel' inside to load the film onto. Paterson System 4 tanks are ubiquitous, and because all the parts are interchangeable, are a good investment.
Developer	£9			There are loads of different developers which range in price from around £8. Some are liquid and require very little preparation, some are powder and require mixing before use. Different developers will give your pictures a different look, some will accent grain or create more contrast, some will be finer etc. I did try developing film in beer and vitamin C. It was not cheaper than developer, and it didn't work very well.
Fixer	£8			As with developer, there are loads of different fixers at a range of prices. Unlike developer, they all pretty much do exactly the same thing.
Gloves	£1			Photographic chemistry can be harmful (not to mention smelly) - gloves are essential. Ensure they fit well.
Opaque, air tight bottles	£10			You could conceivably use glass bottles with a good cap, but because photographic chemicals degrade a lot of things, it is best to get bottles specifically for this purpose. The 'squishy' ones, that you can compress are also best to get as much air out of the bottle before capping as possible.
Changing Bag	£25	A darkroom, or a dark room	£0	A changing bag is essential if you don't have access to a darkroom. It allows you to load your film into your developing tank without exposing the film. The alternative is to shut yourself in a cupboard in the dark to do this - you'll have to make sure that absolutely no light enters though before you begin.
Stop Bath	£5.5	Water	£0	The stop bath 'stops' the developer from developing, and makes sure it is neutralised before the film goes in the fixer. It is less reliable, but you can use

				running water for this stage of development. I personally have never used stop bath for 35mm development.
Graduated Beakers	£20	Pyrex measuring jug	£2.5	I have no idea why graduated beakers are so expensive, but any glass measuring jug works just as well – as with everything else, once you use it for this use, don't use it for anything else, especially not food use.
Wetting agent	£8	Water	£0	Wetting agent (often called photo-flo, after the Kodak product) helps the film to dry cleanly. You don't have to use it, but it is much more difficult to get very clean negatives without. You only use a tiny amount for each film, so a bottle will last basically forever.
Hanging Clips	£6	Pegs	£1	I am not really sure why these exist, and cost so much money, when pegs, which do essentially the same job also exist, and cost significantly less money
Photographic Squeegee	£6	Do not use a squeegee	£0	There is a lot of controversy around squeegees - some say they are great for getting excess water off the film, others say they are a recipe for scratched negatives. If you do want to use one, there isn't any alternative to a proper photographic squeegee.
Stirrer	£3.5	A spoon	£0.50	Ensure that anything you use for film development is never used for food use again (goes for measuring jugs too)
35mm Cassette opening tool	£9	Adjustable wrench	£3	My camera has a nice feature where it leaves a small amount of film outside of the canister so it can be removed for development. If your camera reels the whole lot back inside the canister, you'll need to get in there somehow. You can get a fancy tool to lever off the end of the canister, but I have found that an adjustable wrench does the job just as well.
Thermometer	£10	Lab Thermometer	£5	A thermometer is a thermometer, it can be useful if you have one you know is accurate to check against, but those sold for scientific use are cheaper than those sold for photographic use, despite being the same.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£141</b>		<b>£56.50</b>	