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## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

### Finger Softening Kit Catalog No. FS200

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#### INTRODUCTION

Fingerprinting cadavers is necessary when the corpse is found without means of identification or clues to establish identify. The fingerprinting technique to be used depends upon the degree of decomposition of the body. In advanced stages of decomposition, it will be necessary to amputate the fingers and use a special softening technique.

SIRCHIE developed the chemicals used in this technique in cooperation with one of the nation's leading pathologists. This technique has been proven successful for obtaining prints within a 24 hour period after using the following procedures—even in the most severe cases of advanced decomposition.



## PRECAUTIONS

- Before using this kit, consult the appropriate Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) found on our website at [www.sirchie.com/support](http://www.sirchie.com/support).
- Upon amputation, it is important to place each finger in its own respective vial and to process each finger in its own vial.
- Wear protective latex gloves while performing this procedure.

## PROCEDURE

1. Remove each finger from the hand and place it in its respective container (i.e., right thumb in vial No.1, right index finger in vial No. 2, etc.).
2. Pour enough of No. FS002 Preparation Solution A into each vial so that the finger is completely covered. Replace the cap and allow the fingers to rest in the solution for one to two hours.
3. Remove the lid from each vial and empty Solution A out. (*Do not reuse!*) Wash each individual vial with the finger in it under running water for approximately 10 minutes. Empty all the water from each vial.
4. Fill each vial with No. FS003 Softening Solution B. Keep the fingers in the solution for approximately 30 minutes, and then empty the solution out of the vials.
5. Remove each finger individually from each vial and perform the following steps:
  - a. Using the scalpel furnished with the kit, make an incision along the sides and top of each finger staying as close to the nail as possible.
  - b. Continue dissecting with the scissors furnished, and carefully separate the skin pads from the bone.
6. Place each individual skin pad back in its respective vial. Fill the vials with No. FS004 Softening Solution C. Allow the skin pads to rest in Softening Solution C for approximately two hours.

7. While wearing rubber gloves, remove each individual skin pad from the softening solution, place the skin pad print side down on the filter paper furnished with the kit, and massage the backs for at least 2 minutes per pad.
8. Using the scissors furnished, gently trim away excess tissue from the backs of the skin pads.
9. After massaging, place the skin pads back into their respective vials with the softening solution. Allow them to rest in the solution for approximately eight to ten hours.
10. Empty Softening Solution C from each vial, and remove the skin pads to filter papers. Massage the backs of the skin, and release any bonded tissue carefully with the scissors.
11. If wrinkles still remain, proceed as follows: Using a piece of filter paper or paper toweling, grasp the left edge of the skin pad with your left hand so that your thumb is to the rear and the side of your left index finger is in the front. Grasp the right edge in the same manner with your right hand. Stretch the skin with a rolling action toward the rear using the side of your index finger. Hold taut for one minute.
12. If wrinkles still remain, gently cut the binding strings of the tissue in the back, being careful not to puncture the pads. Repeat Step 11.
13. Place the skin pad back into the vial. Fill the vials to cover the pads with Preparation Solution A. Allow to set in solution for 30 minutes to one hour.
14. Empty Preparation Solution A from the vials, and wash the skin pads with running water for approximately five minutes. Empty the water from the vials.
15. Pat the individual skin pads dry on filter paper.
16. Place your index finger on the skin pad, and roll fingerprints as usual.
17. After printing return the skin pad to its respective vial. Fill the vial with No. FS2005 Preservation Solution D, and cap for indefinite storage.

REPLACEMENT PRODUCTS:

- FS002 .....Finger Softening Solution A
- FS003 .....Finger Softening Solution B
- FS004 .....Finger Softening Solution C
- FS005 .....Finger Softening Solution D
- PPF600.....PRINTMATIC™ Thermoplastic Ink Pad
- PPF700.....PRINTMATIC™ Flawless Ink Pad
- PPF800.....PRINTMATIC™ Ceramic Ink Pad
- EZID300 .....PRINTMATIC™ Impeccable Ceramic Fingerprint Pad

*We recommend using the following fingerprint pads:*

- PPF600.....PRINTMATIC™ Thermoplastic Ink Pad
- PPF700.....PRINTMATIC™ Flawless Ink Pad
- PPF800.....PRINTMATIC™ Ceramic Ink Pad
- EZID300 .....PRINTMATIC™ Impeccable Ceramic Fingerprint Pad