TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Adhesive-Side Developers

Catalog Nos. ASD7D, ASD7L

INTRODUCTION

For developing latent prints on the adhesive side of tape, ASD7D and ASD7L are pre-mixed, thick liquids that are applied to the surface with a dauber applicator. They can be used to develop prints from masking, duct, clear, cellophane, brown packaging and nylon reinforced strapping tapes. Poor to excellent results are possible on cloth surgical tape—excellent fidelity, but low contrast.

Select ASD7D dark developer or ASD7L light developer for surface contrast. ***Note:*** *Do not use this material to process surfaces such as gummed labels with water-activated adhesives.*

CAUTIONS

- Before using this kit, consult the appropriate Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) found on our website at www.sirchie.com/support.
- Wear disposable latex gloves to avoid contaminating the surface to be tested.

100 HUNTER PLACE, YOUNGSVILLE, NC 27596 USA
Ph: (919) 554-2244, (800) 356-7311 • Fax: (919) 554-2266, (800) 899-8181 • Web: www.sirchie.com • Email: sirchieinfo@sirchie.com

- Use only with adequate ventilation—TRA20 contains Chloroform. Keep cap tightly closed when not in use. If adequate ventilation is not available, wear a respirator equipped with organic vapor cartridges.
- Vapors from TRA20 are extremely flammable. Do not use near sparks or open flame.
- Perform tests on non-evidential materials to gain familiarity with the processes.
- Some adhesives are so aggressive that normal development times result in completely filled-in backgrounds. Use the immersion method on tapes as recommended.

PROCEDURE

These developers are pre-mixed with an EZFLO solution which helps reduce the stickiness of the adhesive surface of tapes and labels. This dauber method of developing prints offers rapid development at the expense of the loss of fine control over the degree of development. This method offers predictable results with common classes of tapes and adhesives.

No. ASD7D is applied to the adhesive side of duct tape. The developed prints are shown below.

Use

1. Lay the tape out on a flat, non-absorbent surface.
2. Use tweezers to hold the tape in place. With the development dauber loaded, gently swab the solution over the surface to be processed in a smooth, continuous motion. Do not allow the dauber to become dry as friction between the applicator and the adhesive surface causes streaking and loss of contrast. Rotate the applicator 1/4 turn between strokes to best utilize the liquid carried by the dauber.
3. For maximum contrast with the background, leave the mixture on the surface for no more than 15 seconds. A good rule of thumb is

to look at your watch as you finish painting an area, and then allow 10 seconds before beginning to rinse. Rinse the developer from the tape with a gentle stream of running water or by agitating it in water-filled basin.

4. Photograph any useful prints after each development cycle. If prints are too light, repeat the development process.

ADHESIVE TAPE RELEASE AGENT

No. TRA20 Adhesive Tape Release Agent allows separation of the adhesive surfaces commonly found on tapes and labels without destroying latent fingerprints that may be present.

No. TRA20 allows separation of the adhesive surfaces without destroying latent prints that may be present.

Procedure for Using TRA20

1. Locate one end of the tape. If possible, use tweezers to grasp a piece of the tape near this end.
2. Apply one drop of release agent to the edge of the tape at the intersection. Tilt the tape to allow the release agent to flow along the full length of the intersection. Very slowly, and with only slight, even pressure, pull the tape apart.
3. Watch for development of ligatures (adhesive strands) between the two surfaces being separated. When these structures appear, apply additional release agent to avoid damaging the adhesive surface.
4. Apply one additional drop of release agent at one edge of the tape, allowing the drop to flow along the intersection and resume separation.
5. Repeat this procedure until the surfaces have been fully separated.
6. Allow sufficient time for the release agent to evaporate before attempting to recover any latent fingerprints.
7. Process the tape with Adhesive-Side Developer.

Special Notes

- Recently separated surfaces are very sticky. DO NOT TOUCH! DO NOT allow dust or other contaminants to come into contact with these surfaces. Rinsing in clean water will sometimes reduce tackiness. Store the separated tape in a protected environment until all traces of release have evaporated—overnight if possible—but for at least 15 minutes.
- Release agent disturbs the adhesive surface at the point where a drop is applied, and in a band where the drop flows across the tape. Latent prints subsequently developed will show a band of lighter development at these points. To lessen the prominence of these bands, allow release agent to evaporate overnight. Applying a drop near the edge of the tape causes lightening of the detail. If your experience shows that vital information more often occurs along the edge of the tape, change the point of application accordingly.
- Apply release agent ONE DROP at a time and only as needed.
- Apply release agent only where necessary. DO NOT apply release agent to adhesive surfaces that are not stuck together.
- DO NOT immerse tape in release agent.