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## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

### PRINTMATIC™ Postmortem Roller Systems Catalog Nos. PM283PIP, PM283PIPH

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#### THE PRINTMATIC™ ADVANTAGE

The PRINTMATIC™ Postmortem Roller gains its advantage over the traditional postmortem inking tool in the very fact that it is a roller. Since it is free to roll, there is no relative motion between the finger pad and the roller, and only contact pressure of the roller on the finger is required for inking. Rolling rather than the normal method—sliding the pad to paint the finger with ink—greatly reduces the probability of over-inking of the finger and potential ink smears. The PRINTMATIC™ advantage is in the ability for anyone to generate a thin, extremely even ink layer over the finger pad every time.

The postmortem pre-inked roller PM283PIP is specifically designed for recording fingerprints of the deceased. A thermoset plastic handle ensures operator control. The roller is supplied in a metal housing to protect the roller surface from dust and other environmental contaminants.



The horizontal version PM283PIPH is supplied with a protective tubular housing to prevent environmental contamination.

### **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).
- Do not clean the roller with a solvent-based cleaner as permanent damage may result.
- Do not use this roller with standard fingerprint ink as permanent damage will result.
- The roller's ink supply cannot be replenished. Order No. PM283PIPR replacement roller.

### **INKING AND TAKING IMPRESSIONS**

1. After forensic evidence has been gathered, remove any remaining loose debris from the fingers and, if the condition of the tissue allows, wash and thoroughly dry finger bulbs prior to inking. Some subjects may require special treatment to prepare the finger for inking: Rigor mortis may require the vigorous exercise of the joint or the use of finger straightening tools; deflated tissue may require the amputation and the use of tissue softener. Specialty kits that may be purchased separately are available for these situations. Refer to the instructions that accompany these kits for information on finger preparation.
2. Start by inking and printing the fingers on the right hand, then ink and print the fingers on the left hand and finally, take plain impressions of both hands. In this way, you start at the top of the card, where space is allotted to the right hand, and work your way down the card.
3. Each finger should be inked and printed individually (i.e. ink the thumb and immediately take impression, ink the forefinger, then immediately take impression, etc.). If all of the fingers are first inked and then printed, there is the chance that some ink may be transferred from a finger as it is curled out of the way prior to printing, thus causing that finger to print lightly when impression is taken.

4. The area of the finger to be inked and printed is the first joint; that is, the area between the tip and the first crease line. Use of the postmortem cardholder is highly recommended when taking impressions. Its curved surface allows prints approximating rolled impressions to be taken without physically attempting to roll the subject's fingers. Fingers should be inked from nail edge to nail edge. Then press firmly downward on the back of the finger, forcing the finger pad to conform to the contour of the postmortem cardholder.
5. It is advantageous, if possible, to place the cadaver on its back with arms outstretched over the head, palms up. This allows clear access to the finger pads and easier inking and printing. Remove the PM283PIP or PM283PIPH from its enclosure. Wipe the surface of the roller with a Finger Print Ink Remover Towelette or with a lint-free cloth to remove the majority of free ink on the roller surface. **CAUTION:** *Do not attempt to clean the roller with a solvent-based cleaner as permanent damage will result.*
6. Place yourself at best advantage to control the impression process. Often this is just in front of the subject's hands, facing down the length of the body. Grip the subject's right hand with your non-writing hand, gripping the digit to be inked and printed at the nail with your ring and little finger. This allows you to exert pressure during the impression-taking process. The subject's fingers not being inked or printed should be curled under towards the palm. Use your free hand to guide the postmortem cardholder to the digit to be printed and press the finger and cardholder together. Separate the finger from the cardholder carefully to avoid smearing.
7. Begin with the right thumb: Lightly ink the thumb from nail edge to nail edge.
8. Slowly and with even pressure, press the thumb downward, forcing the pad to conform to the contour of the postmortem cardholder. Lift the thumb carefully from the cardholder to avoid smearing.
9. Repeat steps 7 and 8 for each of the fingers, remembering to wipe the roller surface between inkings, and to position the card correctly within the cardholder window.

10. When you have finished with the right hand, remove the right hand record card and slide the left hand record card into the postmortem cardholder. Proceed as before to take impression from the left hand.
11. After the left hand is complete, adjust the record card in the cardholder so that the plain impression section shows. Press the right thumb straight down on the slab (no rolling) and then straight down (no rolling) over the appropriate space in the record card. Next, holding the four fingers of the right hand so as to keep them touching, press them straight down on the ink slab and then straight down over the record card. Skew the hand as necessary so that impressions of the pads of all four fingers can be made simultaneously and all appear within the appropriate box (do not press one finger at a time, as information concerning the relative lengths of the fingers will be lost). Repeat for the left hand.



*No. PM283PIP in use.*



*No. PM283PIPH in use.*

**No. PM283PIPR** ..... **Replacement Roller**