COPPER

Ferric is the only acid to be used for Copper etching. The Ferric acid is located in the Vertical Tanks. As with all acids, etching times vary with use and strength. It is recommended to do a test strip to figure out etching times. Make sure to use gloves and goggles when using etching baths.

TO USE FERRIC AS AN ETCHANT:

1. Coat the back of your plate in the method you prefer.
2. Create a “tail” out of tape by extending a strip of tape from the back of the plate. Reinforce the “tail” with a “T” cross strip for strength.
3. Use the “tail” to hang the plate suspended in the acid by using clothes pin to pin the tail to the edge of the vertical tank. (Depending on the size of your plate, two tails might be needed for strength and stability.)
4. Etch to the desired time.
5. Carefully lift plate out of the bath, use a drip tray to transfer to the water bath. Dip plate in the water bath to rinse.
6. Take plate to sink and do final wash down.
7. Make sure to clean up any spills or drips with sponge and water.

ALL SILVER METALS [ZINC, ALUMINUM, STEEL ETC.]

Copper Sulfate is the only acid to be used for silver metal etching. The Copper Sulfate is located in the horizontal etching bath. As with all acids, etching times vary with use and strength. It is recommended to do a test strip to figure out etching times. Make sure to use gloves and goggles when using etching baths.

TO USE COPPER SULFATE AS AN ETCHANT:

1. Coat the back of your plate in the method you prefer.
2. Place plate face up in the bath. (Take care not to splash.)
3. Etch to the desired time.
4. Carefully lift plate out of the bath using the spatula, use a drip tray to transfer to the water bath. Dip plate in the water bath to rinse.
5. Take plate to sink and do final wash down.
6. Make sure to clean up any spills or drips with sponge and water.

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