



<b>ATF-LS-LP20</b> <b>Sticky-Side Powder</b>	Published Online: <b>March 2018</b>
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**I. Scope:** The use of powder suspensions to develop impressions on the sticky side of tape has proven to be an effective alternative to the gentian violet technique. The use of powder suspensions to maximize contrast is the preferred technique on dark colored tapes lacking the availability of vacuum metal disposition. The consistent performance of powder suspensions on the adhesive side of tapes may, in the future, relegate the gentian violet technique to a secondary role when processing the adhesive side of tapes.

**II. References:**

Gray, M. Leanne. "Stick-side Powder Versus Gentian Violet: The Search for the Superior Method for Processing the Sticky-side of Adhesive Tape"; *Journal of Forensic Identification*, 1996, 46, 3, 268-272.  
Kimble, Gary W. "Powder Suspension Processing"; *Journal of Forensic Identification*, 1996, 46, 3, 273-280.

**III. Apparatus/Reagents:**

Preparation:

1. Combine Photo Flo 200 with tap water at a ratio of 1:1.
2. Add Sticky Side Powder to the solution and stir until the mixture is the consistency of a thick paste.

**IV. Safety Precautions:** This procedure involves the use of hazardous materials. This procedure does not purport to address all of the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this procedure to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use. Proper caution should be exercised and the use of personal protective equipment should be utilized to avoid exposure to dangerous chemicals. Consult the appropriate MSDS for each chemical prior to use.

**V. Procedures:**

1. Cover the item being processed in the working suspension. This can be done by immersion or using a soft paint brush.
2. Allow the suspension to remain on the item for approximately 10 seconds.
3. Rinse the evidence with a gently flow of cold tap water.
4. Record any developed impressions.

Note: This process may be repeated until optimum contrast is reached.

**VI. Quality Assurance/Quality Control:** Studies have shown that many powders can be used other than "Sticky Side Powder." This would allow for the selection of a powder that will give maximum contrast with the background of the item being processed. If using powders other than "Sticky Side Powder", test impressions (on a similar type of tape) should be performed as some tests have shown that not all powders work well with this type of application. Test prints should be placed on strips of tape and then processed with the working solution. If the prints are developed the solution is working properly. The results of the test shall be recorded in the appropriate reagent log book.