

# Silverprint



## Fomatone - Alive & Well

Since the demise of Forte in Hungary, the photographic materials made by Foma, the Czech Republic manufacturer have acquired a new significance, and they are now a front runner in a small select group of remaining manufacturers.

Recently there was a small scare that the Fomatone warm-tone chlorobromide paper was changing in its characteristics. One of the important properties of the paper has always been its high reactivity to 'lith' development, and it has been highly recommended by Tim Rudman, the acknowledged expert on the process. Shane Gilliver here spent quite a bit of time in the darkroom recently to check how it is currently operating.

The good news is that it is working as well as ever, and as so many good 'lithable' papers have gone, including Forte Polywarmtone and Oriental Seagull, Fomatone is a valuable resource in an area with little remaining material.

The developer used was the Fotospeed lith developer used at a 1 + 10 dilution (equivalent to Champion Novolith) and a high working temperature of about 30 degrees C. Shane found that a fully

formed image could be produced on the fibre-based paper in about 4 minutes, and on the RC version in only 2 minutes, both very short times for a lith print with good colour and a full tonal range.

The margins of the prints have been left in the frame to hopefully show the base colour. The fibre-based Fomatone (above left) has extra warmth introduced by added base pigment. This produces a markedly yellow base tint, and although useful for many subjects there is some discussion going on with the manufacturers, and a whiter, although still warm-based paper may be the outcome. The Fomatone on resin-coated base (above right) reacts more or less identically to the lith development, but has a significantly whiter base colour.

A lith developed Fomatone print is composed of finely divided silver particles that are highly reactive to toners, and one combination well worth exploring is finishing in a gold toner, as above right. What makes this especially unusual is that a controllable 'split' can be produced, the highlights changing first before the colour shift moves into the shadows.



[WWW.SILVERPRINT.CO.UK](http://WWW.SILVERPRINT.CO.UK)



Full details of everything we offer, now standing at about 500 web-pages, not to mention downloadable PDF's etc. Mail-order from the site, or come & visit us in Waterloo.

Silverprint Ltd  
12 Valentine Place, London  
SE1 8QH  
tel 020 7620 0844