

“You don’t take a photograph, you make it”- Ansel Adams

I am looking to turn the storage room in my basement into a darkroom so I could learn how to develop my own photography. This semester I couldn’t make it back to Charlottesville, so I had to drop all of my art classes, one of those classes being Introduction to Photography (for my studio art minor). I want to start exploring photography separate from the instant gratification of my iPhone’s perfect picture quality. I’ve been thinking a lot about rebuilding and overall patience because of the nature of our world’s chaos recently, and I wonder what it’s like to cultivate patience through photography. To make an image, nurture it, sit with it, and then visually deal with the results of your care and attention. What is it like to build something from the ground up all on your own? I have the space, but I need help with funding for the materials.

Materials:

- Fan: for ventilation*
- Cannon Film Camera: **\$150** at Robert’s Digital Lab
- Film **\$12** dollars per roll at Robert’s Digital Lab (2)
- Black tape and cardboard: to line door cracks
- Enlarger with lens (I will be making my own for about **\$10**)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nq9VdSxKkYQ> ←DIY enlarger
 - A sturdy cardboard box
 - Black card to make your camera obscura
 - A magnifying glass/lens
 - Tracing paper or similar
 - Tape and glue
 - A small light (preferably with a clip)
 - A clipboard
 - A sheet of glass
 - black tape
- Developer (**\$13**) https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/568019-REG/Ilford_1131778_Ilford_3_Film_Developer_for.html
- Fixer (**\$9**) https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1493204-REG/kodak_1058452_professional_kodafix_1qt_solution.html
- stop bath (water and white vinegar)
- 3 trays (**\$25**) https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/40356-REG/Paterson_PTP336_Plastic_Developing_Tray_Set.html
- 3 tongs (**\$7**) https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/762104-REG/Dot_Line_DL_0301_Print_Tongs_3_Pack.html
- Safelight (**\$17**) https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/15766-REG/Delta_35110_Brightlab_Universal_Red_Junior.html
- Funnel (**\$5**) https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/63609-REG/Yankee_YAF16_Funnel_16_oz.html
- Film clips (**\$17**) https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/123163-REG/Delta_58050_Stainless_Steel_Film_Clips.html
- Graduated Cylinder (**\$7**) https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/40134-REG/Paterson_PTP301_Plastic_Graduate_1_5oz_45ml.html

- Film tank and reels (\$34) [https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/886586-REG/Paterson Universal Tank with Two.html](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/886586-REG/Paterson_Universal_Tank_with_Two.html)
- Easel (\$15) [https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/4263-REG/Beseler 8521 8x10 Quick Easel.html](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/4263-REG/Beseler_8521_8x10_Quick_Easel.html)
- Timer (\$6)
- Grain magnifier (\$32) [https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/40219-REG/Paterson PTP643 Micro Focus Finder.html](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/40219-REG/Paterson_PTP643_Micro_Focus_Finder.html)
- Gloves
- Mask
- Photo paper (\$35) [https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1017773-REG/ilford 1171972 mgfb1k classc 8 x10 25.html](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1017773-REG/ilford_1171972_mgfb1k_classc_8_x10_25.html)
- Thermometer (\$12)
- Printing filters
- Printing frame
- Black sheet to separate half of storage room (\$10 dollars)

In total: \$428 (not including possible tax and shipping fee)

*Note than items without a price next to them have been purchased

Further Notes:

Since I am just beginning, I will only be exploring with black and white photography. I also will be using a homemade enlarger because I specifically want to connect with the idea of the “making” of photography, and I feel the experience of building this might help me connect with that idea more.

Space Idea:



(ignore the bins, they will not be there)

SCHEDULE:

Week 0: Setting up/Building enlarger, photography week (using up first roll of film, indoor space)

Week 1: All materials and chemicals arrive, completing film and setting up darkroom

Week 2: Test Round 1 of testing darkroom (note mistakes/ issues)

Week 3: Adjustments and tending to issues, adjusting methods

Week 4: New Week of shooting on second roll of film (if the indoor space exploration goes well, I will also explore light outdoors in some photos on this film)

Week 5: Round 2 of developing

Week 6: Pull exploration together