

Color Printing Expert Group:
Chromogenic, Cibachrome, Dye Transfer

A **C-print or chromogenic print** is made on photographic paper that has three silver emulsion layers sensitized to the primary additive colors of light (red, blue and green). During the developing process, dye couplers bond with the exposed and developed silver halides to produce complementary subtractive color dyes (cyan, yellow and magenta). The silver is bleached away, leaving a full-color positive image.

A **Cibachrome print** (a silver dye bleach print) is made on paper containing three emulsion layers, each sensitized to one of the primary additive colors of light (red, blue and green), and each containing a full density of the complementary subtractive color dye (cyan, yellow and magenta). During development, the silver and the unnecessary dyes are selectively bleached away, leaving a final positive print. The process is used for making prints from color transparencies and is noted for its stability, image clarity, and color saturation.

A **dye transfer print** (or dye imbibition print) is a color print made of dyes transferred from three gelatin matrices onto a sheet of paper coated with gelatin. To make a dye imbibition print, three separation negatives are made of the three primary additive colors (red, blue and green). From these negatives, gelatin matrices are created that are capable of absorbing and releasing dyes of the primary subtractive colors (yellow, cyan, magenta). When placed in exact registration on the paper, the transferred dyes create a full-color image.