Electron microscope

From work we've done with step wedges in the electron microscope emerge some reasonably plain facts that may be helpful in selecting photographic plates for electron microscopy. The wedges are made by successive gold-palladium shadowings of silver halide crystals with increasing obliquities, as pictured in the above electron micrograph.

The archaic-sounding Kodak Lantern Slide Plates still seem to be the best all-around bet for recording what the ultra-modern electron microscope reveals. They're inexpensive, they provide a wide range of sensitometric characteristics through choice of developer and development time, they're fine-grained, and we stock them in the usual sizes for the electron microscope. There are Kodak Lantern Slide Plates, Medium and Kodak Lantern Slide Plates, Contrast. We used to think that the latter gave slightly higher contrast in areas of low exposure, but we now must confess that whatever the differences between them to light exposure, to electron exposure they're pretty much alike. (The medium plate does have slightly finer grain.) The step-wedge project does, however, reveal some aces up our sleeve for the benefit of the electron micrographer with a special problem, viz.: Kodak Spectroscopic Plates, Type III-O are much faster and have a more uniform density gradient over the exposure range, but have coarser grain than Kodak Lantern Slide Plates.

Kodak Spectroscopic Plates, Type IV-O are about three times as fast to electron exposure as Kodak Lantern Slide Plates and only slightly more grainy. Kodak Spectroscopic Plates, Type V-O have a finer-grained but slower emulsion than Kodak Lantern Slide Plates.

Kodalith Ortho Plates, an all-or-none proposition we make principally for the photomechanical trades, should be resorted to by the electron micrographer only when in dire need of the highest attainable contrast.

Your Kodak Industrial Dealer handles all these plates. If you'd like a reprint of the paper that describes our step-wedge investigations, or if you need help in locating the right dealer, write Eastman Kodak Company, Industrial Photographic Sales Division, Rochester 4, N. Y.

The ant and the star

In the age of miracle drugs Fornic Acid, simplest of carboxylic acids, appears in the National Formulary. As Acidum Formicum, it presumably possesses some old-fashioned pharmaceutical virtues as a counter-irritant and astringent. We sell it as Eastman 139, but not for this purpose at all. Although many Eastman Organic Chemicals are used in clinical investigation, we doubt that there is any great amount of such investigation in progress on Fornic Acid. We suspect it is included in N.F. largely as a holdover from an older day when it was felt there must be medicinal value in a compound obtainable by so interesting a method as the distillation of ants.

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Whether or not Formic Acid is of immediate interest to you, you’ll find over 3500 other highly purified Eastman Organic Chemicals in our “List No. 38.” If you haven’t a copy, write to Distillation Products Industries, Eastman Organic Chemicals Department, Rochester 3, N. Y. (Division of Eastman Kodak Company)

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