

# One + One = Infinity

A simplified approach to Intaglio color printing

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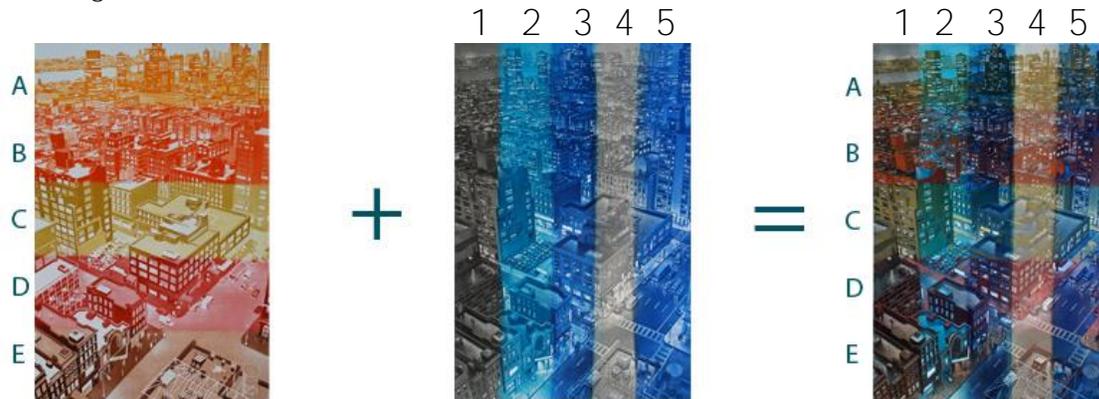
Full color intaglio printing is generally approached as CMYK, requiring the use of four plates to achieve a full color image. However, through the use of “à la poupée” inking we can create a full palette from just two plates by assigning one plate for warm colors and one for cool colors.

## Plate Preparation

To develop the image, I start with a hard ground drawing on my key (cool) plate and transfer the line to a second plate. I then aquatint the image anticipating a warm/cool approach. I make sure I etch the plates differently, allowing the warm to dominate in some areas and cool in others. Once the plates are completed, I begin color proofing. Rather than inking each plate with a single color I ink each plate in stripes of colors -- the result being 25 color combinations in one proofing.

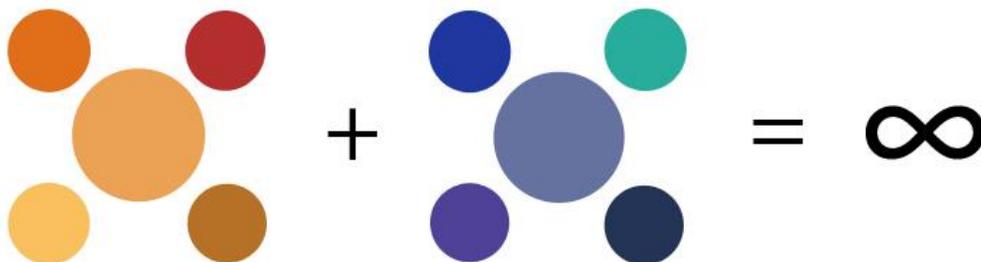
## The Color Grid Print-Printing

## 25 Color Trial Proofs in One



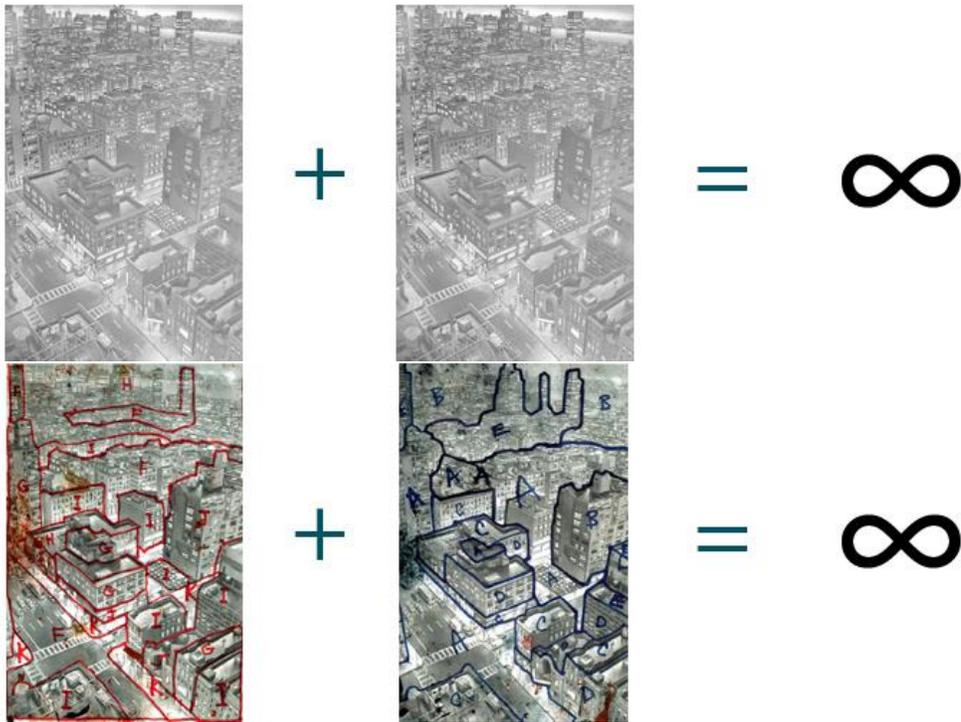
From this grid proof, I try to pick one combination that works well. I will use these two colors as my base colors for the next proof. In this case I chose the two colors in the large circles below.

## The Color Palette



These became my “base” or central colors. I then mix variants on each of these base colors to stretch the hue, density and intensity range. Once the palette is prepared, I apply these colors to different areas of the plate, looking for a pleasing solution to the puzzle.

## The Inking Diagram



In applying the colors, I prefer to work with overlays of complementary colors (bBlue over on top of orange, gGreen over on top of red etc.) to achieve the effect of simultaneous contrast. After a couple proofs I am usually close to a solution. I keep track of the proofing with diagrams as above. The image is reversed to reference the inking of the plates rather than the final printed image.

## The Solution (B.A.T.)



While the intaglio colors provide a relatively complete palette; after the plates are wiped, I often add highlights by relief rolling day-glo colors onto the warm plate through a Duralar stencil. These color highlights tend to be for illuminated light sources like taillights and glowing windows.

Once a solution is found, the editing process begins. I print wet onto wet, inking both plates and then printing them one after the other. Total time for inking and printing **the two, 24x36" plates** is approximately an hour or slightly longer.