Becquerel Daguerreotype Exposure Guidelines

Your Results Will Vary

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I have found these times to be a good starting point in exposures for Becquerel Daguerreotypes. I have based these calculations on a spot-meter reading of an EV-5 subject such as a grey card. You can, of course, use the zone system to figure out where your exposure should be.

Because daguerreotypes are orthochromatic (insensitive to the red spectrum), you'll need to add additional time for reddish subjects. A red barn or an American fire engine, for example might receive an additional 2-3 stops to expose correctly.

TO MAKE SUBJECT LIGHTER: ADD MORE TIME

The quality of polish, Iodine sensitization color, etc. can increase or decrease exposure times. A high degree of polish can increase exposure time by two stops. Experiment!

TO MAKE SUBJECT DARKER: REDUCE TIME

	EV	f/2.8	f/4	f/5.6	f/6.3
ZONE V	11.33	2.5	5.0	10.0	13.3
		EXPOSURE IN MINUTES			
	EV FOR ZONE V	F/2.8	F/4	F/5.6	F/6.3
LIGHTER	0.00	6809.6	13619.2	27238.4	**36227.1**
	0.33	5120.0	10240.0	20480.0	**27238.4**
	0.67	4249.6	8499.2	16998.4	**22607.9**
	1.00	3404.8	6809.6	13619.2	**18113.5**
	1.33	2560.0	5120.0	10240.0	**13619.2**
	1.67	2124.8	4249.6	8499.2	**11303.9**
	2.00	1702.4	3404.8	6809.6	**9056.8**
	2.33	1280.0	2560.0	5120.0	**6809.6**
	2.67	1062.4	2124.8	4249.6	**5652.0**
	3.00	851.2	1702.4	3404.8	**4528.4**
	3.33	640.0	1280.0	2560.0	**3404.8**
	3.67	531.2	1062.4	2124.8	**2826.0**
	4.00	425.6	851.2	1702.4	**2264.2**
	4.33	320.0	640.0	1280.0	**1702.4**
	4.67	265.6	531.2	1062.4	**1413.0**
	5.00	212.8	425.6	851.2	**1132.1**
	5.33	160.0	320.0	640.0	**851.2**
	5.67	132.8	265.6	531.2	**706.5**
	6.00	106.4	212.8	425.6	**566.0**
	6.33	80.0	160.0	320.0	**425.6**
	6.67	66.4	132.8	265.6	**353.2**
	7.00	53.2	106.4	212.8	**283.0**
	7.33	40.0	80.0	160.0	**212.8**
	7.67	33.2	66.4	132.8	**176.6**
	8.00	26.6	53.2	106.4	**141.5**
	8.33	20.0	40.0	80.0	**106.4**
	8.67	16.6	33.2	66.4	**88.3**
	9.00	13.3	26.6	53.2	**70.8**
	9.33	10.0	20.0	40.0	**53.2**
	9.67	8.3	16.6	33.2	**44.2**
	10.00	6.7	13.3	26.6	**35.4**
DARKER	10.33	5.0	10.0	20.0	**26.6**
	10.67	4.2	8.3	16.6	**22.1**
	11.00	3.3	6.7	13.3	**17.7**
	11.33	2.5	5.0	10.0	**13.3**
	11.67	1.9	3.8	7.5	**10.0**
	12.00	1.7	3.3	6.7	**8.8**
	12.33	1.3	2.5	5.0	**6.7**
	12.67	0.9	1.9	3.8	**5.0**
	13.00	0.8	1.7	3.3	**4.4**
	13.33	0.6	1.3	2.5	**3.3**
	13.67	0.47	0.94	1.88	**2.50**
	14.00	0.42	0.83	1.66	**2.21**
	14.33	0.31	0.63	1.25	**1.66**
	14.67	0.23	0.47	0.94	**1.25**
	15.00	0.21	0.42	0.83	**1.11**
	15.33	0.16	0.31	0.63	**0.83**
	15.67	0.12	0.23	0.47	**0.63**
	16.00	0.10	0.21	0.42	**0.55**
	16.33	0.08	0.16	0.31	**0.42**
	16.67	0.06	0.12	0.23	**0.31**
	17.00	0.05	0.10	0.21	**0.28**
	17.33	0.04	0.08	0.16	**0.21**
	17.67	0.03	0.06	0.12	**0.16**
	18.00	0.03	0.05	0.10	**0.14**
	18.33	0.02	0.04	0.08	**0.10**
	18.67	0.01	0.03	0.06	**0.08**
	19.00	0.01	0.03	0.05	**0.07**
	19.33	0.01	0.02	0.04	**0.05**
	19.67	0.01	0.01	0.03	**0.04**
	20.00	0.01	0.01	0.03	**0.03**