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**PRESTO PREP® P2 Surface Conditioner**  
Operating Instructions

**PRODUCT DESCRIPTION**

PRESTO PREP® P2 Surface Conditioner is a mild acid cleaner/activator for iron and steel parts. Supplied as a liquid concentrate, the product is diluted with water and used in an immersion tank to activate and precondition the steel surface prior to applying a PRESTO BLACK® room temperature black finish. It pre-conditions the steel surface without etching or causing hydrogen embrittlement, which makes it more receptive to the blackening reaction. PRESTO PREP® P2 Surface Conditioner contains no EPA regulated metals and generates no hazardous fumes.

**OPERATING CONDITIONS**

Bath Makeup	10% by volume in tap water.
Operating Temperature	120-130° F
Immersion Time	2-4 minutes.
Equipment construction	Tank: plastic or stainless steel. Immersion heaters: 304 stainless.

**PROCESS SEQUENCE**

PRESTO PREP Surface Conditioner is used as part of the following processes:

1. CLEAN in SAFE SCRUB® ST liquid alkaline cleaner (mixed at 20% by volume; operated at 150° F; 5-6 minute soak).
2. RINSE in clean tap water; 30 seconds.
3. ACTIVATE in PRESTO PREP® P2 solution (mixed at 10% by volume, operated at 120 – 130°F, 2-4 minute immersion).
4. RINSE in clean tap water; 30 seconds.
5. BLACKEN in PRESTO BLACK® solution at room temperature (1-3 minutes or until parts are a uniform gray/black color).
6. RINSE in clean tap water; 30 seconds.
7. SEAL in SHEATH® RB1 water-displacing oil, or DRI-TOUCH® PLUS IRP3 non-tacky rust preventive. Allow parts to drain and dry.

## **BATH MAINTENANCE**

The PRESTO PREP® P2 solution operates through a chemical interaction with the surface of the steel. The initial pH of a freshly mixed bath is approximately 4.0 when measured at room temperature. As parts are processed through the bath during normal operation, the concentration of the bath will decrease and the pH will rise. Because the PRESTO PREP® P2 solution is specially buffered, however, the chemical activity remains constant.

As a result, normal maintenance of the PRESTO PREP® P2 bath calls for monitoring of the pH only, with NO ADDITIONS OF FRESH CONCENTRATE. The pH should be measured at room temperature using a pH meter or narrow range pH paper (pH 4.0-7.0). When the pH of the bath rises to 5.0, the concentration will have fallen to a low level and the chemical activity stops. A pH of 5.0 or higher is an indication that the PRESTO PREP® P2 bath must be drained and mixed fresh.

## **PACKAGING**

1, 5 gallon pails and 55 gallon non-returnable drums. Store indoors in closed container.

***Before Using This Product – Please Read, Understand and Follow all the Precautions shown on the Product Label and on the Safety Data Sheet.***

**The Safety Data Sheet can be found on our website:**

**<https://www.birchwoodtechnologies.com/Downloads/Safety.html>**

**Use Appropriate Warning Labels on any Container used to Store or Apply this Product.**

**NOTE:** The information contained herein is provided in good faith and is believed to be correct as of the date below. However, Birchwood Laboratories LLC makes no representation as to the comprehensiveness or accuracy of the information. It is expected that individuals receiving the information will exercise their independent judgment in determining its appropriateness for a particular purpose. Accordingly, Birchwood Laboratories LLC will not be responsible for damages of any kind resulting from the use of or reliance upon such information.

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