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**PRESTO BLACK® SSB**  
**Room Temperature Blackening Process for Stainless Steel**  
Operating Instructions

**PRODUCT DESCRIPTION**

PRESTO BLACK® SSB is a room temperature blackening solution for most stainless steel substrates. Supplied as a liquid, the SSB is a versatile solution that is used as a brush-on blackening solution.

As a brush-on, SSB is used as is and reacts quickly to produce a non-dimensional black finish in approximately 1 – 3 minutes. The finish can be sealed with a protective oil and is suitable for use on precision tooling or machine components. Or, using an abrasive pad, working in the solution and highlighting, a distressed or antiqued type of finish can be produced for decorative or architectural metal works.

**OPERATING CONDITIONS**

Brush-On	Use as received.
Equipment Construction	Abrasive pads (Scotchbrite – maroon or white) Tank: Polypropylene, PVC, or other acid-proof material. Racks, baskets, barrels: Polypro or PVC coated steel.
Ventilation	Not necessary. Minimal fumes produced.
Surface Prep	Because of the nature of stainless steel substrates, some kind of media blasting may be necessary in order to achieve consistent, uniform, adherent finish.

## **BLACKENING PROCEDURES**

In short, the surface must first be thoroughly cleaned of all oil and excess scale. The black finish is then applied, rinsed, dried and sealed with a topcoat appropriate to the end use of the article:

1. CLEAN the metal surface, using a solvent that does not leave a residue. Use alcohol, acetone, lacquer thinner or equivalent (Do not use mineral spirits or kerosene).
2. REMOVE OXIDES, if necessary, by bead blasting, or use other abrasive cleaning methods, such as buffing with Scotchbrite® abrasive pads or flapwheels. Most stainless steels have significantly improved adhesion with media blasting or sanding.
3. APPLY PRESTO BLACK® SSB solution to the metal surface by brush, swab or spray techniques (using a plastic pump sprayer). For best results, apply a thin film of solution on the surface, and then re-apply a few more times during the course of the reaction in order to “replenish” the supply of chemicals working on the metal. A light-duty flooding technique usually works best. For large surfaces, apply the SSB solution with a wide applicator or with a pump sprayer to facilitate wetting a larger area in a few seconds. Continue application until a uniform gray/black finish is achieved. DO NOT LET THE SSB SOLUTION DRY ON THE SURFACE, oxidation or corrosion can occur.
4. STOP THE REACTION by sponging the surface with water to remove blackening residues. Note: Flash rusting/oxidation can occur easily, at times. To avoid this, have a baking soda solution pre-mixed and ready to apply as a second rinse (mix 3 tablespoons per gallon of warm water) to neutralize the surface. This will inhibit the oxidation tendency.
5. Rinse again thoroughly with water if baking-soda rinse water mixture is used.
6. FORCE DRY the surface with compressed air and seal with appropriate topical treatment.

## **PACKAGING**

1, 5 and 55 gallon plastic, non-returnable containers. 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.