

to diffusion which can be eliminated from Cp by means of the coupling reaction with the oxidized form of the primary aromatic amine developing agent; TIME represents a timing group which releases FA, after it has been eliminated from Cp, by means of a coupling reaction; n has a value of 0 or 1; and FA represents a fogging agent or development accelerator which acts upon the silver halide grains during development and forms fogging nuclei at which development can begin, in which FA does not need to be eliminated from Cp or TIME after the coupling reaction.

4. Direct positive photographic materials as claimed in claim (1), in which the said FR compound is a compound which can be represented by the general formula [3] below,

General Formula [3]:



wherein RED represents a compound residual group which can undergo an oxidation-reduction reaction with the oxidized form of the primary aromatic amine developing agent; TIME represents a timing group which releases FA, after it has been eliminated from RED, by means of a coupling reaction; n has a value of 0 or 1; and FA represents a fogging agent or development accelerator which acts upon the silver halide grains during development and forms fogging nuclei at which development can begin.

5. Direct positive photographic materials as claimed in any of claims (2) to (4), in which the said FA has a group which acts reductively upon the silver halide grains during development and forms fogging nuclei.

6. Direct positive photographic materials as claimed in any of claims (2) to (4), in which the said FA has a group which acts on the silver halide grains during development and forms silver sulfide nuclei.

7. A method of forming direct positive images comprising that in a method for the formation of direct positive images in which a direct positive photographic photosensitive material comprising at least one layer of non-pre-fogged internal latent image forming silver halide emulsion on a support is processed, after image exposure, in a surface developer, wherein at least one type of FR compound which releases fogging agent or development accelerator or precursors thereof is included in the said photographic material, and that the said photosensitive material is subjected to a fogging process and to a development process during and/or after the said fogging process.

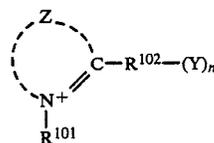
8. A method of forming direct positive images as claimed in claim (7), in which said fogging process is carried out using light fogging.

9. A method of forming direct positive images as claimed in claim (7), in which the said fogging process is carried out by the presence of a nucleating agent.

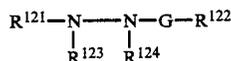
10. A method of forming direct positive images as claimed in claim (7), in which the said development process is carried out at pH 11.5 or below.

11. A method of forming direct positive images as claimed in claim (7), in which the said development process is carried out using a primary aromatic amine developing agent.

12. The direct positive photographic material claimed in claim 1 wherein the nucleating agent is represented by the general formula [N-I]



wherein Z represents a non-metallic atomic group required to form a 5 or 6 membered substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic ring; R¹⁰¹ is a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic group; R is a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group; wherein at least one of the groups represented by R¹⁰¹, R¹⁰² and Z contains an alkynyl group, acyl group, hydrazine group or a hydrazone group or R¹⁰¹ and R¹⁰² form a 6 membered ring, and a dihydropyridinium skeleton is formed; and R¹⁰¹ to R¹⁰² and Z may be substituted with at least one X¹-(L¹)_m group, wherein X is a group for promoting adsorption on silver halide, L¹ is a divalent linking group, and m is 0 or 1; Y is a counter ion to balance electrical charge and n is 0 or 1; and/or general formula [N-II]



wherein R¹²¹ represents an aliphatic group, aromatic group or a heterocyclic group; R¹²² represents a hydrogen atom, alkyl group, aralkyl group, aryl group, alkoxy group, aryloxy group or amino group; G represents a carbonyl group, sulfonyl group, sulfoxy group, phosphoryl group or iminomethylene group (NH=C<); and R¹²³ and R¹²⁴ both represent hydrogen atoms or one represents a hydrogen atom and the other represent an alkylsulfonyl group, arylsulfonyl group or an acyl group; and a hydrazine structure (>N-N=C<) may be provided in a form which contains G, R¹²³, R¹²⁴ and the hydrazine nitrogen; and said R¹²¹, R¹²², R¹²³, R¹²⁴ and G may be substituted with substituent groups.

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