

# KODAK RELIABLE IMAGE TIP # 39

## DENSITOMETER CALIBRATION PROCEDURE

### Proper Use and Calibration of a Densitometer

- A densitometer should **NOT** be located in a darkroom.
- The densitometer should be turned on at the beginning of the day and **left on**.
- The aperture being used should be the appropriate size for the reduction ratio being measured. As a general practice, the largest aperture that can be used for a given image size provides the best average density of a document or density patch.
- The densitometer-reading surface should be cleaned once a day with a lint free cloth lightly dampened with water.
- Follow the preventative maintenance schedule provided by the manufacturer.
- Calibrate the densitometer at least once a day. The densitometer should be calibrated with a calibration density patch provided by the manufacturer. If this is not available, a check plaque such as the *Kodak* Transmission Densitometer Check Plaque (CATALOG No. 170-1986) can be used. The density strip provided by the *Kodak* Quality Assurance Laboratory is a correlation strip only. This strip is used to correlate the density reading of the densitometer to the densitometer in the *Kodak* Quality Assurance Lab.
- Check the zero of the densitometer before each reading. Variability in readings can result from operating the densitometer too hastily.
- Most densitometers require the densities to be read with the emulsion side up and in the center of the density patch being measured.

