Contact Printing

Procedure:

1. Turn the enlarger on and open the lens to its largest aperture.
2. Adjust the enlarger’s height as needed until the light is covering an area slightly larger than the size of your photo paper. You may need to estimate. You can’t take your photo paper out to check for size!
   * It is a good idea to focus the enlarger when you do this, so you’ll always be setting it as roughly the same height. The reason for this is that the amount of light reaching the paper decreases as the distance to the light source (the enlarger bulb) increases. You can focus the enlarger without putting a negative in it: simply adjust the focusing knob until the edges of the lighted area are crisp and clear.
3. Set the enlarger two stops down.
4. Turn off your enlarger’s light.
5. Center a sheet of photo paper on your work space, making sure it will line up with where your light hits your workspace.
6. Take your negatives out of their sleeves. Place the negatives over the photo paper.
7. Place glass over the negatives and your paper, to keep everything flat.
8. Expose your contact sheet. You may want to do a test strip with this contact sheet first to avoid wasting paper.

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