

General Theory

Alchemy is the science of Life. All things live. Matter is made from microscopic ‘salts’ or crystals that form from the ‘waters of life’ or Niter. Since mineral ‘life’ is the oldest, it has absorbed the most of these life energies. It is difficult to get minerals to give up their energy, but they contain more energy so the effort is considered worth it. Toxic minerals and metals are considered to have the highest amounts of potential energy, which is why they are so dangerous to plant and/or animal life.

Alchemy is the science of raising vibrations to a point of purity and intensity that makes us Divine Beings.

In alchemy, the Meditative Process evolves through the five following steps:

- 1) Invocation of the Divine to aid in our Work.
- 2) Contemplation of the Work we are to undertake, visualizing it from beginning to perfect ending.
- 3) Preparation of ourselves as well as the materials we are working with.
- 4) Usage of the product and its end goal is to be considered at all times.
- 5) Dosage, or the amount of the completed product we are to ingest into ourselves to further the process of transmutation within our physical body and psyche is the completion of the cycle.

Meditation – Contemplation – Visualization of the Process and Goal – and Releasing of the image are critical to the alchemical process. Invocation of the Divine is the first step in the alchemical process. Begin each laboratory session with a period of prayer and meditation.

All things exist perfectly in the spiritual world. It is our Work to manifest them as equally perfect in the material world. In doing so, we achieve mastery of the material world, and our spiritual freedom.

Everything in nature is related to everything else, and through correspondences we can realize these relationships. The planetary energies, or invisible psychic forces of our solar system affect everything on Earth in some fashion. Through planetary hours we can discover the best time to make and consume an alchemical product for optimum results.

Most things are under one planetary influence. Antimony is under the influence of all seven ancient and major planets, which includes the Moon as a planet.

For this reason, as a metal that has all energies at its potential disposal, it is preferred for work in alchemy above many others.

Editors Note Concerning Laboratory Safety: It is important to learn about the chemicals you will be using and how they behave in reaction, before you begin any

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alchemical process with minerals or metals. There are Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) available on the Internet for most common chemicals. A list of Websites offering MSDSs is at <http://www.ilpi.com/msds#Internet> It is also recommended that you purchase or otherwise obtain access to copies of the *Merck Index* and *CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*. If purchased new, each of these books is expensive, but they can be acquired used for a fraction of their original cover price.

When performing any laboratory procedure that could potentially result in the release of toxic vapors or dust, always use splash-resistant safety goggles and an industrial grade, twin cartridge respirator.

Goggles and respirators are inexpensive insurance and can be purchased through your local hardware store or home improvement center. MSA Safety Works (<http://www.msasafetyworks.com>) makes an industrial grade respirator advertised as protecting against: paint, pesticides, organic vapors, lacquers, dust, fiberglass, ammonia, formaldehyde, muriatic acid, hydrogen sulfide (escape only), hydrogen chloride, hydrogen florid, methylamines, chlorine, chlorine dioxide, asbestos, lead fumes, hantavirus.

Finally, make sure you read the following Laboratory Safety Procedures outlines in *The Philosophers of Nature Spagyric Course*, Lesson 4. These lessons are available through Triad Publishing, and have been sent as a separate document.

Fixed and Unfixed tinctures of Antimony

The tinctures made during class were made with antimony fume, an impure antimony oxide that was retrieved from an industrial process. Since this may be difficult to get, students will have to process their own raw antimony sulfide, also known as stibnite. **PLEASE NOTE:** Antimony is toxic and should always be handled with gloves to limit exposure and skin absorption of its powder. When grinding it, if using percussion (such as a hammer) always wear a high quality industrial mask. One with a filter is preferred.

A small rock tumbler can also be used, but be sure to clean it thoroughly when done.

The finer you grind it, the easier it will be to ‘roast’ the ore at lower temperatures, thereby guaranteeing that it is properly purified prior to use. It must be calcined to a gray-white or white ash prior to further use.

(Editors Note: Antimony releases sulfur and arsenic when calcined. Be sure to ‘roast’ it in an open area, and do not breath the fumes; Use a laboratory hood whenever possible.)

Making an Unfixed Tincture from Purified Antimony: (see “Cautions and Notes” below)

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- **Step One** - Using a soxhlet extractor: fill an extraction thimble with calcined antimony ore.
- **Step Two** - Place 300 ml of ethyl alcohol in the flask, then connect the extraction chamber or soxhlet body to the flask. It is advantageous to add non-reactive boiling beads to the flask to prevent bumping. **Editors Note:** You must use a drinkable alcohol such as “Everclear” or alcohol distilled from red wine. In no case should a denatured alcohol be used. While 180 proof or higher grain alcohol can be used, it is strongly urged that you process your own alcohol from red wine.
- **Step Three** – Check to see that the soxhlet’s stopcock, if present, is closed. Then pour an additional 100ml of alcohol over the ore and around the thimble to speed up the extraction process.
- **Step Four** - Place the flask of the assembled soxhlet on a heating mantle or lab heater and regulate the heat until the liquid comes to a LOW boil. After the alcohol has circulated several hours it will take on an increasingly dark red color. When the alcohol is no longer able to absorb an additional color, the extraction is complete.
- **Step Five** – Filter the red tincture using a fine (slow) filter paper that will retain as many solids as possible. Place the filtered tincture in the freezer of a refrigerator overnight. In addition, leave a clean, tightly capped empty bottle large enough to hold the tincture, and a funnel. The next day, pour the tincture slowly through as fine (slow) a filter paper as possible, leaving the apparatus in the closed freezer. When handling the bottles and funnel, avoid touching them with the fingers as this will warm them; the intent is to freeze any salts into the traces of water in the tincture, so do not thaw them. This entire cold-filtration process should be repeated a second time, and then the tincture is complete.

Making a Fixed Tincture from Purified Antimony:

- **Step One** - Using a soxhlet extractor: fill an extraction thimble with calcined antimony ore.
- **Step Two** - Place 300ml of glacial acetic acid in a flask. Then, connect to it the extraction chamber or soxhlet body. It is advantageous to add non-reactive boiling beads to the flask to prevent bumping.
- **Step Three** – Check to see that the soxhlet’s stopcock, if present, is closed. Then pour an additional 100ml of glacial acetic acid over the ore and around the thimble to speed up the extraction process. **Editors Note:** Acetic acid can be made by freezing apple cider vinegar or red wine vinegar, and concentrating the vinegar.

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- **Step Four** - Place the flask of the assembled soxhlet on a heating mantle or lab heater until the liquid comes to a LOW boil. After the acetic acid has circulated several hours it will take on an increasingly dark red color. When the acetic acid no longer is able to absorb an additional color, the extraction is complete.
- **Step Five** – The next step is to remove the acetic acid from the tincture, to recover a brown powder. If your Soxhlet has a stopcock, you can let the apparatus cool, remove the thimble from the extraction chamber, and put the condenser back on the apparatus. Turn the heat source back on, and slowly distill the acid back into the extraction chamber and drain it off via the stopcock periodically so that it does not siphon back into the flask. If your soxhlet does not have a stopcock, you can distill the acid in a conventional distillation apparatus, or merely evaporate the acetic acid out of doors over low heat. Avoid inhaling this the vapor or touching the liquid, as it is caustic and can burn the eyes, skin, and mucus membranes. Perform this outside or in a well-ventilated area. A fume hood to exhaust any fumes is always preferred.
- **Step Six** – Continue draining off the clear acid until the dark tincture in the bottom flask is thick and concentrated. Watch that it does not burn, or become too thick to pour out of the flask.
- **Step Seven** – Place the tincture from the flask into an open dish and evaporate off all of the remaining liquid on a hotplate. Check the liquid with pH paper as it evaporates adding some water to it to make sure that is it neutral, neither acidic nor basic.
- **Step Eight** – Continue until there is nothing left but a dry powder.
- **Step Nine** – Make a tincture from the powder using ethyl alcohol as the menstruum. For example, you can put the powder into an extraction thimble, and extract it using a total of 400 ml of ethyl alcohol, exactly as you would do to prepare an unfixed tincture of antimony.
- **Step Ten** – Filter the red tincture using a fine (slow) filter paper that will retain as many solids as possible. Place the filtered tincture in the freezer of a refrigerator overnight. In addition, leave a clean, tightly capped empty bottle large enough to hold the tincture, and a funnel. The next day, pour the tincture slowly through as fine (slow) a filter paper as possible, leaving the apparatus in the closed freezer. When handling the bottles and funnel, avoid touching them with the fingers as this will warm them; the intent is to freeze any salts into the traces of water in the tincture, so do not thaw them. This entire cold-filtration process should be repeated a second time, and then the tincture is complete.

Cautions and Notes Regarding the Above Processes:

- **Check all fittings!** Food grade silicone grease is used on all points where glass comes in contact with glass. This keeps the pieces from ‘freezing’ together, as well as sealing the apparatus together. Hoses for water to the condenser must be secured (for example with fine wire) prior to heating.
- **Cool water must be maintained at all times to avoid an overheating of the apparatus and possible explosion.** Alcohol is highly flammable; acetic acid is will burn the skin as a liquid, and can burn the mucus membranes, eyes, and lining of the lungs as a vapor if inhaled. If the flow of cooling water ceases, the liquid, alcohol or acetic acid, will be vaporized, filling the room with flammable and toxic vapors.
- **Never leave your distillation equipment running without supervision.** Turn it off at night or when leaving the house, to avoid hazardous fumes, explosion or fire.
- **Prevent blocking of the siphon tube if using a Soxhlet.** Jack prefers to place a small non-reactive object, such as a piece of glass or ceramic, under the thimble, to raise it slightly. In addition to preventing blockage of the siphon tube, it allows a slightly faster flow of liquid.
- **Go slow. The process is simple.** Check and double check so that safety comes first in all of your alchemical operations.

Editors Note: It was not stated, but Antimony corresponds to the second hour of Saturn on Saturday, according to the doctrine of correspondences and planetary hours. This might be the best time to start the work, or even on the First Hour of Saturn (sunrise) so as to collect, or catch all of the planetary vibrations in their descending order on Saturday. **See:** *Fundamentals of Esotericism*, Lesson 6, Figure 1.

Gold Tincture using “Tartarized” Alcohol as a Menstruum:

Obtain some tartar from red wine. This is the mineral substance that forms on the inside of oak or wooden casks when wine is being aged.

- **Step One** – Calcine crude tartar (the fumes are noxious, use plenty of ventilation, or better, do the work outdoors). Once the smoke has ceased entirely, cool the matter, grind it as finely as possible, and stir the calcined tartar into a quantity of boiling pure water.
- **Step Two** – Filter the water.

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- **Step Three** – Place the filtered liquid in a kiln for 20 minutes to drive off the water. (It is acceptable to reduce the liquid by evaporation before placing in the kiln). The resulting matter should be bluish-white.
- **Step Four** – Crush this tartar salt and extract it with ethyl alcohol.
- **Step Five** – Pour tincture over gold leaf (22 or 24 carat). It should extract a yellowish tincture from the gold leaf.

See: “Tincture of Tartar” by Anthony M. House and Ken Miller, *The Stone*, Issue 5, 1992; and “Tincture Tartari”, *The Stone*, Issue 7, 1993; for additional information.

Melissa Ens:

The process for creating the Melissa Ens was not mentioned, but some of its effects were.

For more information on the Ens see: See: www.hermetic.com/stavish/

Also see: “Creating the Seven Planetary Ens” by Nicholas and Pernelle, *The Stone*, Issue 11, 1994.

Colloidal Silver:

- **Step One** – Take a 9-volt battery and connect it to two small pieces of pure silver.
- **Step Two** – Place the silver pieces, one on the positive charge, the second on the negative battery charge, into a glass of distilled water.
- **Step Three** – Leave there for twenty minutes.
- **Step Four** – Remove the silver pieces and check for a suspension with a small laser pointer. If a line appears in the water, then it is done.

Pure silver, such as native silver, jeweler’s silver, can be used, .999 silver coins can be shaved to obtain the silver as well.

Take as needed or occasionally as a tonic. Over-consumption may cause silver toxicity if taken in large doses over an extended period of time.

Glass of Antimony:

- **Step One** – A mixture of 2 parts antimony oxide to 1 part of borax is melted in a crucible. The molten mixture is poured on to a heated copper plate. Watch for

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splashing and spilling; wear gloves, a hat and goggles when working with a crucible furnace.

- **Step Two** – Grind to a powder. Be careful to avoid breathing the dust, which is toxic.
- **Step Three** – Wash under running water to remove any free borax. Be careful not to lose your antimony. One could extract in a Soxhlet using pure water instead, and stop the extraction when the moist glass shows neutral to pH paper.
- **Step Four** – Using drinkable ethyl alcohol, make a tincture from the antimony glass.
- **Step Five** – Freeze and filter the tincture to remove the remaining antimony salts. Refer to instructions on cold-filtering tinctures in “Cautions and Notes” above.

See: “Oil of Antimony” by Hans Nintzel, *The Stone*, Issue 27, 1998.

Radionics Machine:

The creation of a simple radionics device was described as follows:

- **Step One** – Take a small cardboard or wooden box or even shallow tray and place a large piece of copper plate on the inside bottom. Ideally, the plate should cover the entire bottom.
- **Step Two** – Place a wooden dowel or rod with a piece of copper plate on the end of one side of the box or tray.
- **Step Three** – Wrap the dowel in copper wire and solder the ends of the wire to the copper plate inside the box and to the small plate on the end of the dowel.
- **Step Four** – Place the object you wish to ‘send’ inside the box on the plate.
- **Step Five** – Place a photograph of the person or thing you wish to ‘receive’ the quality or energy to in front of the dowel; or place the box where it can be pointing at the person or thing undisturbed.
- **Step Six** – A cover can be made for this box but is not essential.

Urine tincture:

The process for making a urine tincture was not discussed, however the necessity of a prolonged period of physical purification and restricted diet prior to its creation was

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stressed. See The Philosophers of Nature Alchemy Course materials for more information.

St. Germain’s Tea for Longevity:

Recipe: several versions of this recipe exist and are all in agreement save one ingredient.

Fuller (p. 270)

Two Parts Senna Pods

One Part Elder Flowers

One Part Fennel

Stir for 24 Hours in spirit of wine, and then brew as a tea.

However, according to another source (Graves) Manna is needed to complete the recipe:

Senna -- 2 grams

Manna -- 15 grams

Anise -- 1 gram

Fennel flowers – 4 grams

Elder flowers -- 4 grams

Note: manna is not soluble in alcohol; this is referred to as a ‘tea’ rather than as an ‘elixir’ or ‘tincture’, therefore it was likely brewed as a tea. – (Russ House).

For more information see: “An Interview with Orval Graves” by Russ House, *The Stone*, Issue 18, January - February 1996 and Jean Overton Fuller’s biography on St. Germain, for more information on this herbal tea.

Suggested Reading:

Ophiel: *Art and Practice of Creative Visualization*

Frater Albertus: *The Alchemist’s Handbook*

Jean Overton-Fuller: *Comte de St. Germain: Last Scion of the House of Rackozny*

Basil Valentine: *The Triumphal Chariot of Antimony*

Dr. Mary Lynne: *Galaxy of Scents* (Kessinger Publishing; www.kessingerpub.com) This book outlines a method of making pure essential oils by fermentation based upon a method mentioned in Exodus: 30:34.

Dr. Richard Gerber: *Vibrational Medicine*

Michael Talbot: *The Holographic Universe*

R. Ian McCallum: *Antimony in Medical History*