



Reference Case

Labino® UV Compact Lamp – model H135



“It’s all about finding traces of potential evidence”

Swedish police officer Peter Ljungqvist, with Stockholm’s northern police district has used Labino’s UV lamp in his investigations over a period of two years.

“Nowadays thieves are more careful and there are fewer fingerprints”.

– I have worked with Labino’s UV lamp since the fall of 2006 in an attempt to find new ways of searching for traces. Nowadays thieves are more careful and there are fewer fingerprints. Because of that, DNA has become even more important. Blood, saliva, sweat and other bodily fluids become important substances to identify. Sweat and saliva fluoresce, even if they are somewhat transparent when illuminated with UV light. If sweat has come in contact with blood or fresh cells for example, the chance that it contains DNA increases.

“The lamp guides me towards DNA”

– The UV lamp gives me guidance to where there can be DNA. The advantage to using a UV lamp as a search tool is that it does not destroy DNA. If you use *Luminol* for example or another chemical substance known to develop bloodstains, it can limit the possibility of finding DNA. The challenge is to find traces without destroying them – that is my foremost goal.

– The UV lamp is a practical tool compared to a lot of other paraphernalia I use.

– Carbon powder is commonly used to identify and develop fingerprints. Carbon powder however can contaminate the trace and restrict the possibility to extract DNA from the fingerprint. If you use UV light and find fingerprints or handprints, you can secure DNA before you secure and lift the print by traditional means. This sort of judgment and decision is best made on-site. Fingerprints and handprints can contain traces of DNA.

“Local investigators can find more traces and prints than before”

– It’s all about finding traces and prints. To be able to do that one needs experience at interpreting a crime scene. The more you use a UV lamp the easier it is to interpret the results.

– Nowadays I use a Labino H135 UV lamp. This is a compact all-in-one model with integrated electronics. I chose this model because I almost always work indoors and have access to power. Labino’s UV lamp is rugged in design. Other brands that are smaller and more delicate end up breaking but a Labino lamp can tolerate almost anything.





”I work at a distance of 1-2 meters - sperm, blood and fiber are easiest to see.”

– Often, if it’s possible, I will darken the room or scene. You can use the UV lamp in daylight but it is much harder to discover traces. I usually work at a distance of about 1 to 2 meters from the area I am searching. Maximum two meters. When I find a potential trace I move in closer but not closer than 50 cm because then the area become over exposed.

– Blood, sperm and fiber are easiest to detect. Fiber is easy to find since most fibers fluoresce pretty strongly. The difficult part is to determine which ones should be used and secured as potential evidence. By using various forensic filters it’s possible to limit the selection of fibers that one sees.

– Saliva and sweat are difficult to identify since they are often transparent. One has to put things into perspective and determine if it is likely that saliva or sweat

would exist at that particular place. Such a place could be, for example, a door-frame, window-frame, or the inside of a window used during a break-and-enter. A perpetrator may for example, have tried to dry off sweat from his forehead with his hand, and then inadvertently have transferred the sweat to another object, like a window-frame, for example.

– We always keep the lamp in the car since it can be an important tool in the hunt to find traces at a crime scene.

Peter Ljungqvist
Local investigator

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(Note: This interview was originally conducted in Swedish. Information contained in this article has been translated into English. The editor has made every attempt to preserve the integrity of the original text and to translate the text as accurately as possible).

