The Beers Formula

The is a unique (and caustic) development formula to "print the highlights and develop the shadow areas"

Ansel Adams was a big believer of this method- I think Milton used this to better control the shadow areas without losing highlights on difficult negatives.

Here is a link (pdf file) to an extensive brochure on the use of the Beers' Formula: http://www.photoformulary.com/uploads/02-0120.pdf

Below are some details about Dr. Beers Developer from the book *Photographic Possibilities* by Robert Hirsch

Dr. Beers Variable-Contrast Developer

Dr. Roland Beers variable-contrast developer is a classic two-stock solution paper developer. Stock solution A contains Metol (a soft developer) and stock solution B contains hydroquinone (a contrast developer). Varying the proportions of the stock solutions A and B allows one to alter contrast by between 1/2 and 1½ grades, depending on the paper. The resulting prints typically have good blacks and neutral tones with excellent tonal separation. Stock solutions A and B are mixed at the time of use in varying proportions to yield a progressive range of contrasts, as listed in Table 7.1. Dr. Beers has a developing range of 1½–5 minutes at 68°F (20°C). The low-number solutions can be diluted even further with water for extremely soft effects.

Dr. Beers Variable-Contrast Formula

***Dr.** Beers **stock so**lution A*

Water (125°F/52°C)	**24 oz (750 ml)**
Metol	**120 grains (8 g)**
Sodium sulfite (desiccated)	**350 grains (23 g)**
Sodium carbonate (desiccated)*	**300 grains (20 g)**
Potassium bromide	**16 grains (1.1 g)**

Cold water to make 32 oz (1 liter)

*Dr. Beers **stock solut**ion B*

Water (125°F/52°C)	**24 oz (750 ml)**
Hydroquinone	**120 grains (8 g)**
Sodium sulfite (desiccated)	**350 grains (23 g)**
Sodium carbonate (desiccated)*	**400 grains (27 g)**
Potassium bromide	**32 grains (2.2 g)**

Cold water to make 32 oz (1 liter)

***The original Dr. Beers used potassium carbonate. Sodium carbonate may be substituted, as it is less expensive and more widely available, and should not produce any observable differences.**

Table 7.1 Dr. Beers Variable-Contrast Developer Dilutions

	Contrast							
	Low			***Normal***			***High***	
	Sol. 1	**Sol. 2**	Sol. 3	**Sol. 4**	**Sol. 5**	**Sol. 6**	**Sol. 7**	**Sol. 8**
Parts of A	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
Parts of B	**0**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**14**	**15**
Parts of water	**8**	**8**	**8**	**8**	**8**	**8**	**0**	**0**

Sol. = solution.