

Okay here is the wet process I used to make powdered Nitrocellulose from smokeless powder without making a puck and filing. This is my revision of the original wet process procedure by Dave Caldwell.

Gary Burt

1. Weigh out 1 or more grams of Smokeless Powder of your choice. I wouldn't use any more than 3-4 grams.
2. Measure out 20ml of Acetone per gram of powder used for the batch.
3. Put powder and acetone in a beaker of your choice, just make sure that 300ml of water can be added to the beaker you choose. Turn on heat and stirring on your hotplate stirring device. Get it between 40-50C. More than that the Acetone starts to boil.
4. Keep stirring with a glass stirring rod along with the stirrer on your hotplate and break up the clumps. This will be a clumpy sticky mess at first. Add more acetone when and if required to fully break down the powder into a syrup like liquid.
5. Once all the smokeless powder is reduced to a smooth syrup like liquid, you can add 20ml of alcohol per gram powder used in the batch. I used plain old denatured alcohol.
6. Stir until it looks mixed well. Doesn't take long. Take off from heat and put the 300ml distilled water onto the hotplate. Heat it to 30C-40C. The water needs to be warmer than the powder syrup mix, not hot, just warmer than the powder syrup mix. If it is not warmer, the powder syrup will clump up and be stringy.
7. Remove water from hotplate and turn the heat off. When the hotplate cools somewhat place the powder syrup liquid back onto the hotplate and start the stirrer.
8. Using an eyedropper or something similar, dribble your warm water into the beaker with the powder syrup liquid. Go slowly and keep adding water while stirring until the powder syrup gets cloudy. At this point you can take your beaker with the warm water and dribble the water into the syrup liquid slowly until all the water is emptied into it. After adding all of the 300ml of warm water let it stir and break up the product well.
9. Pour into your coffee filter with funnel on another beaker. It will strain fairly quickly. Let it set until the liquid has drained. At this point the product will be moist but not dripping through the funnel/coffee filter anymore.
10. Place the filter with the nitrocellulose product somewhere to dry out some. I use my food dehydrator that is used for drying brass after cleaning to speed the drying time.
11. When it has dried some, break up the clumps and chop it with something suitable. I use a wooden tongue depressor on its side.

12. Continue to chop the product up several times into small particles while it is still drying. I find that chopping the product up while still somewhat moist helps getting the particle size reduced greatly.
13. When it is chopped up well and fully dried, I place the product into my mortar and grind it into a flour like powder with the pestle. This grinds very easily. Then store your very fine NC powder for use. I don't find it a need to sift this since it is so fine already. It should look like something similar to the picture below.

