

ART VAN GO

PROCION FIBRE-REACTIVE DYES

PROCION DYES: Fibre-reactive dyes for natural fabrics . In powder form. Particularly effective on cellulose based fibres (eg cotton, linen, viscose); they may be lighter and less predictable on wool and silk. Bright, clean, permanent colours. Colours are intermixable, or one colour can be dyed over another.

Procion dyes are considered non-toxic when used properly, *though the use of a face mask and rubber gloves is highly recommended* to avoid the inhalation of powder and the prolonged contact with dye solution.

PROCION AUXILLIARIES

UREA - hygroscopic agent to keep moisture in the fibres which is necessary for the setting process. Not necessary for bucket-dye method.

CALGON - neutralises the metallic salts of tap-water. Particularly necessary in hard water areas, though worth using everywhere to increase the dye uptake. Available easily and cheaply from the supermarket.

SODA ASH, WASHING SODA or **BICARB** - causes a chemical reaction in the presence of heat and moisture to fix the dye. Washing soda and bicarb are available from the supermarket.

METATEX, METAPEX or **SYNTHRAPOL**- detergent which prevents colour contamination during the rinse process by consolidating the remaining dye so that it will not set into other areas while rinsing. Also can be used to scour the fabric prior to dyeing instead of standard detergents.

MANUTEX or **SODIUM ALGINATE** - a thickening agent to convert Procions into a paste for direct painting, screen- or block-printing. In powder form.

NO FLOW - the equivalent of 'size' that is found in paper. Apply to fabric to make it behave like paper.

The recipes shown below are produced with simplicity in mind rather than critical measurements for colour matching. Keep records of quantities and proportions if colours have to be reproduced.

BASIC RECIPE FOR BUCKET-DYEING based on 100gms dry-weight of fabric

Work on the basis of up to 5gms (roughly one teaspoon) of dye powder for strong colour on 100gms dry fabric. Some colours may require less or more dye powder. Use proportionally less powder for lighter shades.

Weigh dry fabric and then wash to remove fabric dressing, dirt or grease.

Fill a container with enough *hot* water to comfortably cover the fabric and allow for movement through stirring eg 3 litres of water in a 5 litre bucket. In hard water areas add 2gms Calgon and stir to dissolve.

For every 100gms fabric add about 80gms ordinary salt & allow to dissolve. Dissolve the dye powder in a small amount of warm water and add to the dye bath

When both completely dissolved, add wet fabric and stir for 20mins.

In separate container dissolve 56gms soda ash (or 150gms washing soda) for every 3 litres of water in dye bath.

When completely dissolved add to the dyebath one-third at a time at 5 min intervals, stirring as you add it. **DO NOT POUR DIRECTLY ONTO FABRIC.**

Continue stirring every 5-10mins over the next 50mins for strong colours. Reduce this time if you require lighter shades.

Remove from dyebath and rinse in cold water until clear. Finally wash in hot water with detergent or Synthrapol. Rinse and dry.

FOR DYEING IN A WASHING MACHINE, PLEASE ASK FOR LEAFLET

BASIC RECIPES FOR PAINTING DIRECTLY ONTO THE FABRIC

In advance, make up a 1litre bottle of Chemical Water, and a 1litre bottle of Washing Soda Water (recipes below). These can be kept more or less indefinitely, ready for when you need them for making up small quantities of dye for painting.

CHEMICAL WATER RECIPE

Dissolve 36tsps (about 180-200gms) UREA, and 1tsp CALGON in 1Litre warm water.

SODA ASH / WASHING SODA SOLUTION

Dissolve 20gms Soda Ash **or** 200gms Washing Soda in 1Litre very hot water.

TO MAKE UP DYE FOR PAINTING DIRECTLY AS A FREE FLOWING COLOUR

NB. Although the elements will keep indefinitely if stored separately, once brought together they will only be viable for a few hours. Only make up as much as needed each time.

Dissolve a small amount of powder in a palette (about a quarter of a teaspoon - although this can vary depending on strength of colour desired, and application) with a little warm water.

Add the CHEMICAL WATER and SODAASH / WASHING SODA SOLUTION to the palette in roughly equal proportions. This then makes your 'ink' to paint onto your fabric.

Lay the fabric onto a plastic sheet and paint as desired with one or several colours. Colours will run and flood into each other more on a wet surface than a dry surface.

When painting is complete, wrap the fabric up in the plastic and leave for at least 4 hours – overnight or 24 hours (basically as long as patience will allow) - somewhere that is not stone cold. The UREA and the plastic sheet keeps it damp and the longer it remains damp the better the dye uptake.

When ready, unwrap and then rinse as for dye-bath.

To obtain even more striking colours, try soaking the fabric in the soda ash / washing soda solution before painting instead of adding it to the dye.

Heat can be applied to speed up the curing/fixing period. Let fabric air dry. Iron on hot setting for 10mins or tumble dry for 1hr. Alternatively, heat in a reliable warm oven.

TO MAKE UP AS A THICK PAINT OR PASTE FOR PRINTING OR PAINTING.

Sprinkle 9tsps MANUTEX powder or 4.5tsps SODIUM ALGINATE powder over the 1Litre Chemical Water. Whisk until smooth. Let stand for one hour then stir. Leave in fridge overnight. Once made up the thickened chemical water will keep for one month if stored in a cool, dark place. Add to the dye powder in the palette with the SODAASH / WASHING SODA WATER as for the above recipe.

TO USE DYE AS A CONTROLLABLE INK or WATERCOLOUR

Make up dye without thickener.

Fabric in its natural state will behave more like blotting paper than watercolour paper. To make it behave more like watercolour paper, first treat the area of fabric you want to paint with NO FLOW by brushing it on. Leave to dry. Apply free-flowing dye as before.

In either case, treat the completed fabric as for *FREE FLOWING COLOUR* to fix the colour.

Experiment with mixing and blending colours. Dye and over-dye fabric. Use brushes, sponges or foam brushes to apply colour. Drop colour onto fabric using nozzle-bottles, pipettes and syringes. Paint or drop over tied or wax-resisted fabric. Use print-blocks with thickened dye. Use discharge agents to remove colour.