

# Acid Dyes

**ACID DYES** are a popular, non toxic and widely used range of wool dyes with bright, strong colours. They have good light and wash fastness and they're simple to use which makes them a great dye for textile artists, spinners and felters. They only need a few dyebath additions - Glauber Salt (to slow uptake of dye and assist in achieving even dyeings) and Acetic or Texacid to achieve a pH between 4.5 and 5.5. White Vinegar can be used instead of Acid.

Apart from dyeing any Protein Fibre (wool, alpaca, mohair, cashmere), most of these dyes work well on silk and nylon. All colours are intermixable so a large number of mixture shades can be achieved by mixing a handful of primaries. To achieve best results, we suggest you make sure you have enough room in the dyebath to comfortably cover the fibre and that you stir gently and often in the early stages of the dyeing to avoid unevenness. Using a Wetting Agent (Wetter OT) will help promote better and more even uptake and exhaustion of dye. Acid milling dyes are used in hot water.

## 100 gms FIBRE | YARN | FABRIC

### Dye - 1 tsp = approx. 5gms

- .5gm for pale shade
- 1 gms for medium shade
- 3 gms for strong shade
- 6 gms for BLACKS

### Texacid ECO Acetic Acid equivalent

- 2mls per litre of dyebath for pale shade
- 3mls per litre of dyebath for medium shade
- 4mls per litre of dyebath for strong shade
- 6mls per litre of dyebath for BLACK

### White Vinegar

You can use white vinegar instead of Texacid Use 3 times the above quantities. Vinegar is not as stable in boiling water as ACETIC ACID or TEXACID SB so you may need to add more to the dyebath as you go.

**Salt** if you add 2gms per litre of Glauber Salt to the dyebath you will get more even dyeings.

## EQUIPMENT



Pipettes



Scales



Gloves



Stirring Spoon



Dye Pot



Dust Mask



Measuring Spoons



Jug

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Start by dissolving the dye powder in hot water. Make sure there are no undissolved lumps.
- Make up a dyebath with warm water (the best pots for dyeing are stainless steel). If you're using Glauber Salt, dissolve this also in hot water and add to dyebath with the Acid or White Vinegar.
- Add the fibre to the dyebath. Stir gently to thoroughly saturate, move it to one side and add the dye solution.
- Slowly bring the dyebath to a gentle simmer, stirring regularly to promote even dyeing. The dye will gradually exhaust into the fibre over 30 – 60mins. Avoid extreme changes in temperature & excessive stirring – this will felt your fibre.
- When the dyebath is almost clear most of the dye has exhausted - allow the dyebath to cool before removing the fibre.
- Rinse thoroughly in warm, clean water. Wash in a neutral detergent or mild soap powder then rinse again in clean warm water.
- If the exhaustion process is very slow at any stage in the dyeing and you're using White Vinegar as your acid – you may need to add more to the dyebath.
- You can add more dye at any stage but always dissolve the dye first, cool the dyebath and move the fibre to one side before adding the extra dye solution.