

Acid Dyes

Handpainting & Printing

Acid Dyes are most commonly used in a dyebath but they can also be used to paint and print on Wool & Silk. This is done by dissolving the dye and making it up in a thickened paste or solution including a number of other auxiliaries. This is applied by hand with a brush or using a silk screen then steamed for fixation.

To achieve best results, dyes with good solubility need to be used in your print pastes and painting solutions. Dyes with poorer solubility result in weaker/paler colour yield.

The most consistently available range of Acid dyes which we recommend are Lanaset which have high solubility. Other Acid dyes can be used but their varying solubility may affect depth of shade achievable. Minimum solubility required is 30gms per litre. 30gms will give full strength colour. Avoid exceeding the maximum solubility figure – this can result in uneven dyeings.

EQUIPMENT



Scales



Gloves



Stirring Spoon



Mask



Measuring Spoons



Jug



Steamer

DYE	Solubility maximum gm/ltr
Lanaset Yellow 4G	40
Lanaset Yellow 2R	100
Lanaset Orange R	80
Lanaset Red 2B	30
Lanaset Red G	100
Lanaset Bordeaux B	100
Lanaset Violet B	100
Lanaset Blue 2R	100
Lanaset Blue 5G	100
Lanaset Green B	100
Lanaset Navy R	80
Lanaset Brown G	80
Lanaset Brown R	100
Lanaset Grey G	50
Lanaset Black B	50

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BASIC RECIPE FOR 1ltr PRINT PASTE

10 – 40gms Dye
 10 – 30gms Texacid SB or 30gms Ammonium Sulphate
 1ml Albegal Set [not necessary for other Acid Dyes]
 50gms Urea
 2ml Wetting Agent
 70gms Manutex F thickener
 Water to make up to 1kg

Weigh dye powder and dissolve in 400mls of boiling water. Weigh Manutex powder and mix with Methylated spirits to resemble wet sand. Make up the remaining chemicals in 400mls of warm water and add to Manutex, stirring rapidly to avoid lumps [this can be done with a high speed mixer]. Stir in dissolved dye powder and make up to 1ltr with more water. Allow this to sit until cool, add more water to make a thinner paste if preferred.

Once the dyes have been printed or hand painted, allow the fabric to dry. This will then need to be steamed for 30 – 40mins in an atmospheric steamer. Cool and wash in warm soapy water to remove any unfixed dye then rinse until water runs clear.