

BONNY'S FOOL-PROOF INDIGO DYEING TUTORIAL

This tutorial is for a small Indigo Vat, perfect for beginners, experimentation and small projects.

What you need:

- 15gm Synthetic Indigo
- 150gm Soda Ash
- 75gm Hydros
- Boiling water
- 2 x Small containers; cup, bowl or jar
- Bucket
- Tongs or long spoon
- String and/or pegs
- Gloves

How to:

1. Get all your items together and prepare a work space
2. Get your dye babies ready, in the dressing method you prefer; binding with cord, clipping or clamps.
3. Measure out 15gms of Indigo into a small container and dissolve with boiling water.
4. Fill a 10 litre bucket with around 7 litres of hot water from the tap and add 150gms Soda Ash (Sodium Carbonate)
5. Take your second container and scoop out some of the Soda Ash water and mix it into the indigo solution in your first container and give it a good stir.
6. Put the indigo and soda ash water back into the bucket and sprinkle the surface with 75gm of Hydros and stir well. Over the next few minutes watch as the top of the vat changes colour and starts to produce a 'flower' (the bubbles at the top).
7. Test the colour with a spare piece of paper or fabric, the solution should be yellowy green and clear.
8. Put your dye babies into the dye bath, make sure they are completely submerged and wander off and neglect for around 15 minutes. Have a cup of tea, you deserve it.
9. Pull your dye babies out of the vat, they will look green, so wait around ten minutes for them to turn blue, then dismantle their dressings, pull off cord and/or pegs.
10. Give them a good rinse and let dry.
11. Enjoy & repeat.

With a little care, Indigo Vats can last indefinitely. If the colour starts to loose it's vibrancy, add more Hydros. Cover your vat with a sturdy lid.