

TEXTILE PRINTING WITH PLANT COLOURS

Indicative shade card and instructions for inks preparation (steps detailed next page).
Quantities given for 100 g of printing ink.

Indicative shade	Solution ①	Aquatex C medium	Solution ②	Notes
	15 g Solution at 10 % of weld natural dye.	84 g	1 g Solution at 10% of alum mordant	
	15 g Solution at 10 % of coreopsis natural dye.	84 g	1 g Solution at 10% of alum mordant	
	15 g Solution at 10 % of madder natural dye.	82,5 g	2,5 g Solution at 10% of alum mordant	Allow colour to develop for 30 min after adding solution ②
	12,5 g Solution at 10 % of red madder natural dye.	85 g	2,5 g Solution at 10% of alum mordant	Allow colour to develop for 1-7 days after adding solution ②
	10 g Solution at 3 % of cochineal natural dye	87,5 g	2,5 g Solution at 10% of alum mordant	
	10 g Solution at 10 % of chlorophyllin green dye.	90 g	-	
	4 g Woad natural indigo in powder	93 g	-	+ 3 g thinner
	3 g Charcoal plant pigment in powder	93 g	-	+ 4 g thinner
	14,5 g Solution at 10 % of cutch natural dye.	85 g	0,5 g Solution at 10% of iron mordant	Allow colour to develop for 1-7 days after adding solution ②

NB : Colors may slightly differ from their original shade, on screen or after printing.

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Instructions for inks preparation.

From dye extracts (+ mordants) :

- 1- Prepare a solution ① at about 10 % of dye extract in mild water (distilled water is better);
- 2- Weigh the indicated quantity of Aquatex C medium;
- 3- Add the indicated weight of solution ① to the Aquatex C medium and homogenize;
- 4- Prepare a solution ② at about 10 % of mordant in mild water (distilled water is better);
- 5- Add the indicated weight of solution ② to the paste and homogenize;
- 6- Allow the colour to develop for the indicated time if needed;
- 7- For very good wash fastnesses, add 2% of fixative to the paste (3 % with the white opaque printing medium) –
Caution : after addition of the fixative, pot life is of 6-10 H only.

OR

From powdered plant pigments (blue or black shades) :

- 1- Weigh the indicated quantity of powdered plant pigment (indigo or charcoal);
- 2- Weigh the indicated quantity of Aquatex C medium;
- 3- Add the indicated quantity of powdered pigment to the Aquatex C medium and homogenize;
- 4- Add the indicated quantity of thinner and homogenize (this will prevent a too thick ink);
- 5- For very good wash fastnesses, add 2% of fixative to the paste (3 % with the white opaque printing medium) –
Caution : after addition of the fixative, pot life is of 6-10 H only.

Lower quantities of plant colours will provide lighter shades, greys...

The inks can be mixed after preparation (but they will provide lighter shades).

Your experience will help to develop your own recipe and create infinite shades.

Application, drying and fixation

- A- Apply on fabric with your favourite technique (screen, brush, stencils, stamps...);
- D- Allow the printed pattern to dry for 30-40 min (a hair dryer may be helpful and faster);
- F- If you do not wish to use the synthetic fixative, you may get a good fixation in hot air (2-3 min in an oven at 130-150 °C e.g. 260-300 °F for instance). – Always after the step D – do not put in oven humid printed fabrics.

Washing instructions

It is recommended to wash all printed textiles at max 40°C (100°F).