

Instructions for ice-dyeing and where to purchase dyes used in class – Susan Bowman

Ice dyeing Parfait – instructions

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These instructions are from an article by Carol Ludington, Issue 57, June/July, Quilting Arts Magazine 2012.

Precautions:

Always wear a face mask when dispensing dye powder. Do not inhale.

Wear gloves.

Wipe up stray dye powder with moist paper towel.

Supervise children when using these dyes.

All supplies should be dedicated for dye use only. Do not reuse for food preparation.

Follow manufacturer precautions as listed on the bottle.

Materials:

PRO MX Reactive dyes (powders of several colors - Available from PRO Chemical & Dye Company)

Also Procion MX Dye (available at some art supply stores). I have used them interchangeably.

These dyes are for natural fabrics and will not work on synthetic fabrics.

They come in 2 oz bottles for about \$2.95 to \$3.95. 2 oz size is actually a generous amount.

Cotton Fabric (Wash fabric in detergent to remove sizing)

Plastic drop cloth

Bucket(s) to soak in and to rinse in

Face mask (very important)

Rubber gloves

Soda Ash (Sodium Carbonate) I use Arm & Hammer Super Washing Soda from Walmart

Tall dyeing container (any plastic/glass container will work if only dyeing several small pieces)

Ice cubes

Plastic spoons or Popsicle sticks (do not reuse for food preparation)

1. Cover work space. Be prepared to wipe up stray bits of powder with moist paper towels.
2. Wear gloves and mix ½ cup of soda ash in one gallon of hot water. Add soda ash to water and stir quickly and thoroughly. You can use it even if clumps form in the bottom. Save left over soda ash solution for reuse. It is usable for several months.
3. Soak the fabric in soda ash for 30 minutes or longer. Soda ash is necessary to bind the dye to the fibers. Dye will not stay in the fabric without this soda ash soak.
4. Wear gloves and remove a piece of the fabric from the soda ash. Squeeze out the excess liquid and rumple it into the dyeing container. You may wish to rumple or fold your fabric before placing into the dyeing container. Make loose folds.
5. Completely cover the fabric with ice cubes. (Snow would also work).
6. Put on your mask! Always wear a mask when working with powdered dyes.
7. Gently tap, sprinkle or shake your dye powders onto the ice cubes. You do not need a lot of dye. Avoid sprinkling clumps or thick areas of dye powder onto your fabric. Three colors work very well. Choose complementary colors. A color wheel may be helpful. When using a plastic spoon or Popsicle stick, use a new one for each color.
8. Rinse your gloved hands between layers of fabric. Add additional layers of fabric and cover each with ice cubes followed by powdered dyes.
9. When fabric layering is finished, seal container with lid, plastic wrap, or a towel.
10. Allow to sit undisturbed for 24 hours. You may peek but don't touch.
11. Place container into another container to catch any overflow.
12. After 24 hours, put your gloves on and remove each fabric piece and rinse in cool water until water runs clear. Soak pieces in detergent (1-2 teaspoons of synthrapol in 1-2 gallons of hot water) for 10 minutes to remove soda ash. Machine wash and dry.
13. This fabric dyeing process does not require heat fixing. Iron if you wish and admire your work.
14. Since I am not working with large amounts of dye or soda ash, I pour the extra dye bath outside in the soil since it is mostly melted ice and dye powder. I allow some of the soda ash bath to go down the drain or add it to a load of clothes in the washer.

PRO MX Reactive dyes (powders of several colors - Available from PRO Chemical & Dye Company)

Also Procion MX Dye (available at some art supply stores). I have used them interchangeably.

These dye powders are “reactive” and bond with natural fibers that have been soaked in soda ash.

(They will not work on synthetic fabrics).

They are available in 2 ounce bottles and range from about \$2.95 to \$3.95. The 2 ounce size is actually a generous amount of dye powder.

The dyes we used in our dyeing class in the park in May:

These dyes are called “Color Concentrates” and must have a “fabric binder” mixed with them to adhere to the fibers. They will dye many different fabrics including cotton, silk and some blends.

Color Concentrates from PRO Chemical & Dye Company will have a CC (Color Concentrate) in front of the color number. They come as a liquid concentrate. They are available in 8 and 16 ounces. They range in cost from \$10 to \$20 per bottle. The fluorescent color concentrates are also helpful to make the other colors “pop” and will have a “Fluor and a CC” in with the color description.

The fabric binder required is “Lo Crock Binder” and is a concentrate that comes in a gallon for about \$70.

Prepare the binder using about 2 cups of binder concentrate in one gallon of water. Place into smaller bottles and add the color concentrate until the desired color is reached. Use these diluted prepared dyes within a month or two. They can spoil and smell dreadful.

Shipping charges are additional for these heavier dyes.