



Dyeing wool with Patchwork-Pro PROCION MX Dyes



Preface:

These instructions cover animal wool/ wool fibers (e.g. virgin wool) with at least 50% wool in the yarn.

The less wool in the yarn the more you will see a mottled effect because only the wool takes on dye in this process. The other fibers will stay nearly non dyed.

The wool in the picture above contains 75% new wool and 25% Polyamid. As you can see there is no visible mottled effect.



Color samples with mixed wool:

Example: 50% Wool / 25% Cotton / 25% Polyamid has a mottled effect because the cotton does not take on the dye in the acid process. To dye the cotton fibers too you add a little Soda-Ash to the dye bath.



Advise: Please tie the strand loosely in several places. Tight binding will result in a batik effect.

Treat the wool with special care during rinsing, dyeing and squeezing so that nothing gets entangled.

The wool has to soak in lukewarm water for at least 30 minutes (longer is better). There is no vinegar required at this time.

Squeeze the wool out well before dyeing.

Materials needed:

- Patchwork-Pro Procion MX dyes
- Vinegar or concentrate/ alternatively citric acid for a better smell.
- Boiling/ Hot water
- Nitril Gloves
- Bowls for dyeing

Here is how it's done:

Water/ Dye/ Vinegar:

For strong colors use app. 1 to 2g of dye per 100g of wool. If you want to create pastel colors just use less dye in the bath.

Add 3 to 4 tbs of vinegar concentrate or citric acid to the dye bath. Regular strength vinegar requires 5 times the amount.

When dyeing wool the amount of dye in the bath determines the result, not the amount of water.

I personally prefer to dye smaller amounts of yarn in smaller containers.

The different dye colors can be intermixed to create new colors. Even mixing your old acid dyes with our Patchwork-Pro dyes has worked so far. We have not had any negative feedback of wool dyers that have used up their old expensive stock.

The wool dyeing Process:

Take the part of the strand you want to dye and dip it into the dye bath or lay it flat and pour the dye over the strand. Squeeze the excess dye out of that part and continue with the next color on the next part of the strand.

When the strand is dyed to your expectation squeeze well for a last time.

For smaller parts or strands just use a part of your dye mix and keep the rest for later. Because of the vinegar the dye solution stores several weeks in a screw top jar without refrigeration.

Fixation:

Wrap the strands into shrink wrap or put it into a microwave bowl with a lid. I am using Jena-Glass bowls.

Set the timer and microwave 2 times for 3 minutes with a short break in between

Alternative 1: Fixation in boiling water. Let the wool simmer for 1 hour. Be careful stirring that the wool does not tangle.

Alternative 2: Fixation in an oven. Let the wool rest for 1 hour at 90°C-120°C. It is of the essence that the wool stays moist at all time during fixation. A roasting bag or a bowl with a lid keeps the moisture in.

The last step:

No matter which process you chose to fixate the wool, let it cool down. Wash the wool with synthrapol or a special wool detergent to get the dye out that has not bonded to the fibers. Now the wool is done. Let it rest and dry.

Important Hints:

Do NOT use the spin cycle on wool. Do NOT dry it on a radiator!

Wool can usually be washed on the wool cycle at 30°C in a washing machine but a hand wash is always the better choice.

NEVER use softener on wool. Felted wool will be the unpleasant result!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Closing Words:

We wish you great excitement while trying new techniques and experimenting with new materials.

Be brave and take new steps into the unknown. You will be rewarded with great looking results from the world of colors.!



Enjoy the easy process to create great projects with our Procion MX Dyes.

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