

Monoprinting

using PRO MX Reactive Dyes

Please read directions carefully before starting.

Use PRO MX Reactive Dyes to monoprint your cotton or silk fabric, creating one of a kind designs. Always do test samples before working on a large project. For additional information, visit our website at www.prochemicalanddye.com.

- ✘ Wear rubber gloves, apron or old clothes.
- ✘ Utensils used for dyeing should never be used for food preparation.

Supplies

PRO MX Reactive Dye - 2 or 3 colors
PRO Print paste Mix SH
PRO Dye Activator or Soda Ash
Baking soda

Equipment

4 ml or heavier plastic
Brushes
Masking tape
Newspaper
Contact paper/freezer paper (optional)

Procedure

- 1. Cover work surface** to protect from dye stains.
- 2. Tape fabric**, face up, on clean area of work surface.
- 3. Lay out the plastic sheet**, cut to the size of fabric you are monoprinting.
- 4. Make the Print Paste.** Measure 5½ level Tbl (55 gm) of PRO Print Paste Mix SH into a dry container. Measure 1 cup (250 ml) of warm 110°F (44°C) water into a container. Sprinkle PRO Print Paste Mix SH into the water while stirring rapidly. Continue stirring until a smooth paste is obtained. Let stand 1 hour or overnight for smoothest results. Unused paste should be kept in closed container. Store prepared print paste without dye up to six months, normally without refrigeration.
NOTE: Thin the prepared Print Paste Mix with Urea solution if necessary.
Urea solution = 9 Tbl (108 gm) /quart (liter) water.
- 5. Measure about 2 Tbl (30 gm) of prepared Print Past Mix** into small cup.
- 6. Add dry dye to** attain desired shade. Mix well.
- 7. Add ⅛ tsp (0.3 gm) of mixed alkali** and mix well.
(Mixed Alkali = 4 parts baking soda + 1 part PRO Dye Activator or Soda Ash)
- 8. With brush apply dye paste** to surface of plastic sheet.
- 9. Manipulate dye paste** to form design using various tools such as brushes, combs. gloved fingers, etc. CAUTION: Dye on gloves will stain fabric & spoil design.

10. When satisfied with design, carefully lift plastic sheet and lay face down on the fabric.

11. With the flat of your hands, gently press the plastic against the fabric to transfer the dye paste pattern to the fabric.

12. Without sliding the plastic, slowly separate the plastic from the fabric.

13. You may stop here, or you may overlay a second, third or even a fourth layer.

14. At completion of design, allow the fabric to cure by covering with plastic for a minimum of 4 hours. When dyeing dark colors or Turquoise let cure for 24 hours. Room temperature must be above 70°F (22°C).

15. Rinse the fabric. After setting the dye, rinse fabric thoroughly in a bucket of room temperature 75°F to 95°F (24°C to 35°C) water. Change the rinse water 3 to 4 times. Then wash with very HOT 140°F (60°C) water adding ½ tsp (2 ml) Synthrapol per pound (454 gm) of fabric. Rinse well and dry. Black and very dark colors may need a second HOT Synthrapol wash.

NOTES:

a. Shapes cut from masking tape, plastic-backed freezer paper or contact paper applied to the fabric before applying designed plastic will act as a resist or stencil.

b. Applique shapes or designs using paper-backed "Wonder Under" cut from Mono-Print fabrics. The fabric receiving the applique should be the same weight or heavier as lighter fabrics will not drape well.

c. Working temperature is important. Best results are obtained when dyes are mixed, applied and "cured" at temperatures between 70°F and 95°F (24°C to 35°C).

d. To prevent mixing of colors on the fabric and to avoid back-staining, the rinse after curing is done several changes of plain between 70°F and 95°F (24°C to 35°C). This is followed by the HOT Synthrapol wash and warm rinses.

e. When applying one design over another, do not allow the first design to dry. The alginate in the dye paste may act as a resist and not allow the subsequent applications to react with the underlying colors.

f. The consistency of the dye paste should be similar to that of honey.

g. It may be necessary to wash new plastic sheets before the first use to remove oils or lubricants applied during manufacture. These will interfere with the flow of the dye paste on the plastic.

h. The addition of one or two drops of Synthrapol to the dye paste mix will make paste flow better on plastic sheet.