

Starburst Patterns on Silk & Cotton using PRO MX Reactive Dyes

Please read directions carefully before starting.

Beautiful "Starburst" effects are achieved on silk & cotton fabrics using the PRO MX Reactive Dyes. The whole simple procedure is carried out at room temperatures - 70 °F to 95 °F (24 °C to 35 °C). No steaming or heat setting is required. 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 Dyes
PRO Dye Activator or Soda Ash
Baking Soda
Synthrapol
Salt: common, kosher, or rock salt

Procedure

- 1. Scour the fabric** by machine washing in HOT 140°F (60°C) water, or by hand in a pot on the stove with ½ tsp (2 gm) PRO Dye Activator or Soda Ash and ½ tsp (2.5 ml) Synthrapol per pound of fabric (454 gm, or 3 to 4 yards cotton muslin, or 8 yards 8mm China Silk, or 3 Medium T-shirts, or 1 sweatshirt). Rinse thoroughly. This step does not add the dye fixative to the fabric; it prepares your fabric for dyeing by removing any dirt, oil or sizing.
- 2. Prepare Urea Water** by dissolving 9 Tbl (100 gm) Urea in 1 quart (liter) warm 110F (44C) water. Allow Urea Water to cool to room temperature before using. Store unused Urea Water at room temperature in a closed container. Discard it if you detect an ammonia smell.
- 3. Make the Dye Paint.** To 1 cup (250 ml) of the Urea Water, add 2 to 4 tsp (5-10 gm) PRO MX Reactive Dye. Stir to dissolve. Prepare Mixed Alkali by mixing together dry, 4 tsp (16 gm) of Baking soda (bicarbonate of soda) with 1 tsp (3 gm) of PRO Dye Activator or Soda Ash. When ready to use add 1 tsp (3 gm) of the Mixed Alkali. Mix thoroughly before using. Store the excess Mixed Alkali in a closed container for future use. Shelf life of "dye paint" is about 4 hours, once mixed alkali has been added. Without the alkali, "dye paint" may be stored in a closed container for 5 to 7 days.
- 4. Fabric may be pinned to a frame** or support that will keep fabric suspended or placed on a sheet of plastic. Try both ways.
- 5. Apply "dye paint"** with a sponge brush and sprinkle on the salt. Leave space between the individual salt crystals for more distinct patterning. Salt should be applied soon after applying the dye for best results. This may mean doing one color or one section at a time.

6. Fix the dye. Allow the fabric to cure by covering with plastic for a minimum of 4 hours. If dyeing dark colors or Turquoise let cure for 24 hours. Room temperature must be above 70°F (22°C).

7. 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:

Table salt will produce very fine patterns. The coarser the salt the more distinct the pattern. Uniform sized salt crystals will produce similar sized shapes. Rock salt with its various sized crystals will yield a variety of patterns.

Salt crystals maybe reused when dry. Store in tightly closed container.

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