

Two Color Gradation Dyeing in Six Steps using WashFast Acid Dyes

Please read directions carefully before starting.

Now you can dye your own gradation of color. For solid shade gradation dyeing on Wool, Silk and all other protein fibers. This easy recipe dyes six ounces of fiber. Each ounce of fiber is a different hue, moving from one color to another. You'll need to pull together a couple of things to make your dye session go smoothly, and you'll also need to set aside a 2-hour chunk of time. Always do test samples before working on a large project. For additional information, visit our web site at www.prochemicalanddye.com

- ✘ Wear rubber gloves, apron or old clothes.
- ✘ All utensils used for dyeing should not be used for food preparation.

Equipment

- 6 x 1 quart (1 liter) Ball glass canning jars
- Canning kettle to use for the hot water bath
- 2 x 250 ml or 500 ml glass measuring cups (clear glass measuring cups will be easier to work with)
- 1 set of measuring spoons
- Rubber gloves/disposable gloves

Supplies

- 6 ounces (180 grams) wool, silk or other animal fiber
- 2 colors of WashFast Acid Dye
- 6 grams of Citric Acid Crystals (or 66 ml of white distilled vinegar – total)
- 6 grams of common non-iodized salt
- Synthrapol

Procedure

- 1. Weigh out** 6 x 1 ounce pieces of wool or other animal fiber
- 2. Wet out the fiber** by measuring ½ tsp (2.5 ml) Synthrapol in 2½ gallons (10 liters) of warm 110°F (44°C) water. Soak for at least 30 minutes.
- 3. Make the dye baths.** Put a piece of masking tape on each jar and number the jars from 1 through 6. Line them up in numerical order. Measure 2 ½ cups (625 ml) of room temperature 75° to 95°F (24° to 35°C) water into each of the glass jars. Add ¼ + 1/8 teaspoon (1gm) each of citric acid crystals and salt. Stir until the citric acid crystals and salt are dissolved.
- 4. Make the dye concentrate** by dissolving ¼ + 1/8 tsp (1gm) WashFast Acid dye powder into a 1 cup measure. Dissolve this with one cup (250ml) of boiling water. Set aside to cool to room temperature. Then, measure the dye concentrate into dye baths as follows:

COLOR #1

- Dye Bath #1:* Measure ½ cup (125 ml) of the dye concentrate, pour it into the first dye bath and mix well.
Dye Bath #2: Refill the dye concentrate cup with room temperature water to the 1 cup (250 ml) mark. Measure ½ cup (125 ml) of this diluted dye concentrate, pour it into the second dye bath and mix well.
Dye Bath #3: Refill the dye concentrate cup with room temperature water to the 1 cup (250 ml) mark. Measure ½ cup (125 ml) of this diluted dye concentrate, pour it into the third dye bath and mix well.

Dye Bath #4: Refill the dye concentrate cup with room temperature water to the 1 cup (250 ml) mark. Measure ½ cup (125 ml) of this diluted dye concentrate, pour it into the fourth dye bath and mix well.

Dye Bath #5: Refill the dye concentrate cup with room temperature water to the 1 cup (250 ml) mark. Measure ½ cup (125 ml) of this diluted dye concentrate, pour it into the fifth dye bath and mix well.

Dye Bath #6: Refill the dye concentrate cup a final time with room temperature water to make 1 cup (250 ml). Measure ½ cup (125 ml) of this diluted dye concentrate, pour it into the sixth dye bath and mix well. Pour the remaining ½ cup (125 ml) of diluted dye concentrate down the drain.

COLOR #2

Make dye concentrate using the second color. Add dye concentrate to the dye baths in reverse order. Begin with *Dye Bath #6* and end with *Dye Bath #1*.

5. Add the wetted out fiber. Add one piece of fiber to each dye bath. Stir gently for 3 to 5 minutes to uniformly distribute the dye.

6. Put these 6 jars in a hot water bath in the canning kettle. Gradually raise the temperature to a boil so that the dye bath water in each jar is as close to 212°F as possible. Stir each jar intermittently for 60 minutes.

If you are dyeing silk, raise the temperature only to 185°F (85°C) and maintain this temperature for the 60 minutes. Do not go above 185°F (85°C) or you may ruin the luster of the silk.

7. After 60 minutes, check to see if the dye bath water is fairly clear or if it still has lots of color left in it. If it still has lots of color, slowly add 1/8 + 1/16 tsp (0.5 gm) of citric acid. Simmer for another 10-15 minutes, until the water is clear.

8. Removing the dye baths from the hot water bath and allow them to cool to room temperature after. Remove the fiber and rinse it well in warm water. Squeeze out the excess water and allow to air dry.

NOTE: If you are using white distilled vinegar instead of citric acid crystals, you need to use 11 times more vinegar (11 ml of vinegar instead of 1 gram of citric acid crystals).