

# Potato and Corn Dextrin Resist

Please read the directions before beginning.

*Potato and Corn Dextrin are versatile, easy and fun paste resists to use with the MX and Sabracron F Reactive Dyes. Produce spectacular lacelike patterns and crackle lines, similar to batik, using potato dextrin. For solid areas and lines, the corn dextrin works best. Explore many ways to apply the resist with a squeegee, rubber stamps, stencils, spatulas, or drawing with a squeeze bottle. Potato and Corn Dextrin are not intended for immersion dye baths, as they are water soluble. It is important to sample before working on large projects. For additional information visit our web site at [www.prochemicalanddye.com](http://www.prochemicalanddye.com).*

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

## Supplies

Potato or Corn Dextrin  
Synthrapol  
PRO Dye Activator or Soda Ash

## Equipment

Sifter  
Wire whisk or electric mixer  
Spoon

## Procedure

**1. Scour fabric** by washing in the machine on HOT cycle, minimum temperature of 140°F (60°C), 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 China silk, or 3 Medium T-shirts, or 1 sweatshirt).

### Make Potato Dextrin paste

**2. Heat water till boiling.** This can also be done in a microwave. Measure 2 cups (500 ml) of boiling water into a microwave safe container.

**3. Measure 2 1/2 cups (250 gm) of potato dextrin.** Slowly sift the dextrin into the water while stirring constantly with a whisk or electric mixer.

**4. Let mixture cool.** There may be some foam from the constant whisking, just skim it off the surface. As the mixture cools it becomes translucent and is the consistency of a thick soup. Optimum temperature to apply paste to fabric is 80°F (26°C).

**5. Store unused mixture in an air tight container in the refrigerator.** It will last approximately one month. When you are ready to use it again, it must be reheated to a thick soup consistency. Reheat mixture in a double boiler or in a microwave set on high, for approximately one minute.

#### **Application of Potato Dextrin paste resist**

**6. Stretch your fabric** on a print table, which is covered with a drop cloth, topped with a thin piece of plastic. Place pins every ½ inch. Cover the pins with masking tape so you can squeegee the paste smoothly over the fabric.

**7. Squeegee a smooth layer of paste on the fabric.** The paste thickness determines the amount of crackle. In general, the thinner the paste, the finer the crackle; the thicker the paste - the larger the crackle. Do several samples to see what thickness produces the amount of crackle you want on the cloth.

**8. Allow the cloth to dry completely while it is still stretched.** The fabric needs to stay very tight, so you may have to reposition some of your pins as the fabric dries. Crackling takes place as the fabric dries. Depending upon the thickness, this can take up to two days.

**9. Apply dye paint.** Once the paste is completely dry, use a foam brush to paint a thin layer of *dye paint* that is the consistency of honey, over the dry paste resist. Refer to the PRO MX or Sabracron F Reactive Dye *Direct Application* directions to prepare *dye paint*.

**10. Cover the fabric loosely with plastic,** once the dye is applied.

**11. Allow the covered fabric to cure/batch** for 24 hours.

**12. Rinse** in 3 to 4 changes of room temperature water 75° to 95°F (24° to 35°C). Then wash HOT, above 140°F (60°C) adding ½ tsp. Synthrapol per pound (454 gm) of fabric. Rinse well and dry.

#### **Make Corn Dextrin paste**

**2. Heat water till boiling.** This can also be done in a microwave. Measure 2 cups (500 ml) of boiling water into a microwave safe container.

**3. Measure 3 cups (500 gm) of corn dextrin.** Slowly sift the dextrin into the water while stirring constantly with a whisk or electric mixer.

**4. Let mixture cool.** As the mixture cools it becomes thicker and is the consistency of a thick soup. Optimum temperature to apply paste to fabric is 80°F (26°C).

**5. Store the unused mixture in an air tight container in the refrigerator.** It will last approximately one month. When you are ready to use it again, it must be reheated to a thick soup consistency. Reheat mixture in a double boiler or in a microwave set on high, for approximately one minute.

## Application of Corn Dextrin paste resist

**6. Stretch your fabric** on a print table, which is covered with a drop cloth, topped with a thin piece of plastic. Place pins every ½ inch. Cover the pins with masking tape.

**7. Make solid areas, lines and dots with a squeeze bottle filled with paste resist.** Create patterned areas with rubber stamps, stencils, spatulas, bristle brushes or any tool that makes a mark.

**8. Allow the cloth to dry completely while it is still stretched.** The fabric needs to stay very tight as the fabric dries.

**9. Apply dye paint.** Once the paste is completely dry, use a foam brush to paint a layer of *thin dye paint* around the areas of dry paste resist. Refer to the PRO MX or Sabracron F Reactive Dye *Direct Application* directions to prepare *dye paint*.

**10. Cover the fabric loosely with plastic,** once the dye is applied.

**11. Allow the covered fabric to cure/batch** for 24 hours.

**12. Rinse** in 3 to 4 changes of room temperature water 75° to 95F (24° to 35°C). Then wash HOT, above 140F (60°C) adding ½ tsp. Synthrapol per pound (454 gm) of fabric. Rinse well and dry.

### Notes

◆ Potato dextrin can differ in its density. Please use the amounts listed above as a starting point. When dissolved it should be just about the thickness of honey. Adjust appropriately.

◆ Mix a *dark* dye paste to apply to your fabric. This process prevents the dye paste from easily penetrating the fabric producing lighter than normal results.

◆ Explore the differences in the resulting patterned fabric when the potato or corn dextrin paste is applied warm versus cold, and thin versus a thicker layer.

◆ Explore sgraffito and hand stamping on the surface of partially dried potato and corn dextrin.

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