

Dyeing Cotton/Cellulose Yarn

with Cindy Walker of Stony Hill

www.stonyhillfiberarts.com

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YOU NEED: Uninterrupted time, curiosity, hanks of cotton yarn: 6 oz per baggie, cat litter tray, 2 half gallon jugs, 5 gallon bucket, empty canister (like a coffee or flour canister) measuring cups and spoons, funnel, dish soap, gallon zip lock baggies, gloves (optional), *dye, soda ash, plain salt.



- 1
- Fill 5 gallon bucket with 1.5 gal of warm water, mix in 1/3 cup soda ash until dissolved.
 - Drop in hanks of yarn. Soak for at least 15 minutes. This mixture will make the yarn a bit slippery and easier to dye.

You can put in a pound of yarn but will only want to dye 6 oz. of yarn in each gallon baggie. An inexpensive digital scale is very useful for weighing your dry hanks—they can be found in the kitchen section in many stores. Make sure your hanks are tied in several places.



- 2

Make Soda and Salt solutions in the half gallon jugs as follows:
Salt—2 C salt + 8 C warm water
Soda — 5TBS soda ash + 8 C warm water
Cap and shake the bottle to mix well



- 3

In 4 C container, mix 1 tsp dye powder with 1/3 C tepid water.



- 4

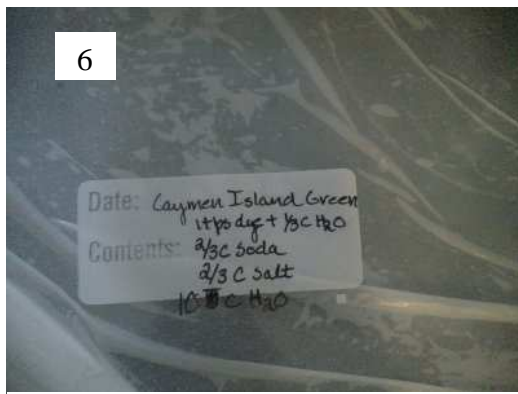
Add a squirt of dish soap.



- 5

Mix well, making sure dye is dissolved.

* **Dyes** used on cotton or cellulose fibers (from plants) are called fiber reactive dyes. You can buy them in some yarn shops and online at Dharma. **Soda Ash** is sodium carbonate—a natural water softener—also known as washing soda. You can also buy this at some shops and online or at swimming pool supply stores. **Plain salt** is non iodized and can be purchased in some grocery stores as pickling or canning salt (you can use the iodized salt if necessary)



6
Label bag ... if you ever want to see this color again!



7
Add 2/3 C Soda Solution + 2/3 C Salt Solution into the measuring cup then pour into gallon baggie that is down in canister.



8
Pour 5 C warm water into baggie. Zip closed and give a shake to mix well.



9
Wring out hangs lightly and put them into the baggie.

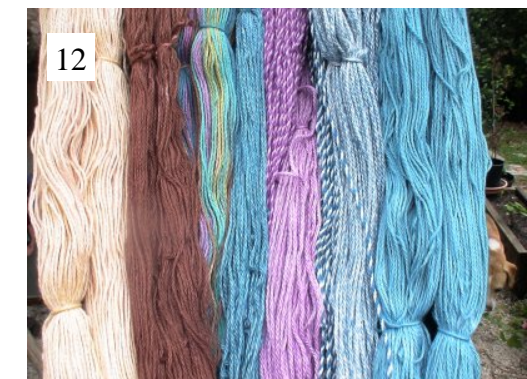


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Flip baggie with dye and yarn many times making sure that yarn and dye are mixed well. I usually keep doing this every ten minutes or so for the first hour.



11
Leave baggie in litter tray for 5 or 6 hours or overnight. Flip and mix bag whenever you pass by the project.

After 5 or 6 hours (or overnight) pour remaining dye out of baggie and rinse yarn in sink. I sometimes use Synthropol detergent. I squirt just a bit into the yarn and let it soak for 10 minutes, rinse again, then let it soak in a little laundry detergent. Rinse one final time then hang to dry outside.



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