

Learn to dye

one pot one colour yarn



Exploring colour with wool dyes

Dyeing your own fibre is fun and easy to do. Ashford wool dyes allow you to create every colour of the rainbow time after time using simple techniques.

Exhaust Dyeing

Exhaust dyeing means the dye reacts with the fibre, water and additives until it is fully absorbed by the fibre.

To test whether your dye liquor has exhausted use a teaspoon to press into the fibre: when the liquid on the teaspoon appears clear then the dye has exhausted. Ashford wool dyes are acid exhaust dyes and require heat to set the dye into the fibre. Ashford dyes are for use only on protein fibre such as wool and silk.

Terms used in exhaust dyeing:

Mordant (White Vinegar) – Assists the dye to fix to the fibre.

Wetting Agent (Liquid detergent) – This coats the fibre causing the dye molecules to move evenly around the fibre, to prevent patchy or uneven dyeing.

To make a 1% solution:

10gms of dye makes 1 litre

5gms of dye makes 500ml

2gms of dye makes 200ml

The easiest dye solution is:

In one 250ml jar (an old jam jar is good) use $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of white vinegar to 1 teaspoon of dye powder. Then fill with water.

This solution is most commonly used in our instructions for rainbow dyeing and for teaching purposes.

This easy formulation is using Ashford wool dyes:

Weight of Fibre

1 kilo
200gms
100gms
10gms
1gm

White Vinegar

10 tablespoons
2 tablespoons
1 tablespoon
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon

Dye Powder

10gms/5 level teaspoons
2gms/1 level teaspoon
1gm/ $\frac{1}{2}$ level teaspoon
2 - 4 dessertspoons of 1% solution
2 - 4 teaspoons of 1% solution

Remember that the stronger the dye powder, the more vinegar to be used

Dyeing with Ashford dyes

Safety Guidelines

It is important to follow these guidelines as dyeing can be hazardous.

Safety first. Always...

- Wear rubber or plastic gloves, when mixing and dyeing.
- Wear a face-mask when handling any powders or if you are in an enclosed area with the dye fumes.
- Cover all surfaces.
- Use dye equipment for dyeing only .
- Label and date all dyes and solutions.
- Lock away if possible.
- Neutralize all dye baths at the completion of dyeing and before disposal. Use baking soda to neutralize the acid in the water.

Handy Hints

- Avoid temperature shocks between soaking, dyeing or rinsing stages as this can damage or shrink the fibre. Handle fibres gently to prevent felting.
- Never put animal fibres into the tumble dryer, as this causes felting.
- The amount of dye used is always in ratio to the dry weight of fibre to be dyed. If the weight of fibre increases, the weight of dye increases proportionally to achieve the same dye shade. Always weigh the fibre first. If you have too much dye to the weight of the fibre, it will not exhaust.
- Always mix dye with hot water, as this dissolves the fine granules/powder.

Materials and equipment required

- Dyepot – needs to be large enough to hold fibre and sufficient water for dyeing. A lid is required to reduce condensation and exclude light. Stainless steel is ideal, because it does not react with the dye. Copper, brass and iron react with metal salts and “saddens” the dye.
- Stainless steel or plastic spoons to be used when stirring dye or mordant (wooden spoons or dowel stain and can transfer dye when wet).
- Rubber gloves protect hands from dyes.
- Face-masks are required for handling dry dye powder and avoiding breathing fumes.
- Cream cleanser neutralizes the dye and is excellent for removing stains from surfaces.
- Baking soda should always be used when discarding dye liquor down household systems as this neutralizes the solutions.
- Levellers or wetting agents are added to the dye bath to prevent patchy or uneven dyeing. Use a neutral liquid detergent as a leveller. To each litre of water add 1 ml of liquid detergent.

ONE POT ONE COLOUR DYEING YARN

You will need:

- 1gm wool dye
- 100gms of spun yarn (skein)
- Dishwashing liquid
- White vinegar
- Plastic cling film (Glad wrap)
- Measuring spoons
- Paint brush
- Rubber gloves
- Stirrers
- Bucket
- Face-mask
- Jar -250ml
- Heating element

01



Wind your yarn into a hank.

02



Prepare a bucket of warm water, add the yarn and soak for 30 minutes with a ½ teaspoon of dishwashing detergent.



03

Mix 1 teaspoon of dye powder with hot water to a paste in the jar and then add sufficient warm water in to dissolve. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of white vinegar and then fill jar with warm water.



04

Squeeze out excess water from yarn. Place yarn in dye pot.



05

Pour on the dye mixture evenly.



06

Press down yarn to soak up the dye.

07



Slowly bring to the boil with lid on.

08



Turn down heat and simmer until dye has exhausted (all the colour has been absorbed and the water is clear). Allow the dyebath to cool before handling.

09



Remove the yarn from the dyepot. Let the yarn cool then rinse in warm water then rinse with cooler water. Do not shock the yarn with a sudden change in temperature. Spread yarn out on a towel or sheet and leave to dry in the shade.

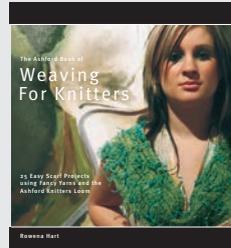
Books available from Ashford



The Ashford Book of Weaving for the Four Shaft Loom
By Anne Field



The Ashford Book of Rigid Heddle Weaving
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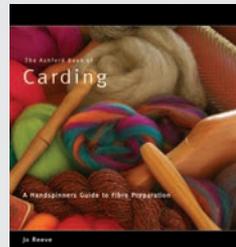
The Ashford Book of Weaving for Knitters
By Rowena Hart



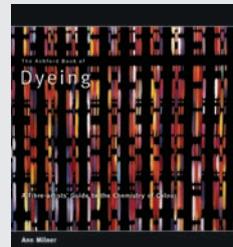
The Ashford Book of Projects



The Ashford Book of Projects for the Eight Shaft Loom
By Elsa Krogh



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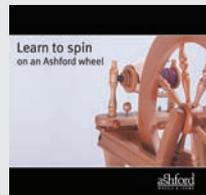
The Ashford Book of Dyeing
By Ann Milner



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Weaving on the Ashford Knitters Loom DVD



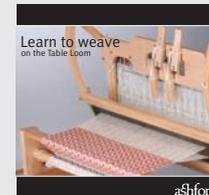
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Learn to Weave on the Table Loom

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