



DYE Q & A

Sue Folts
Bra Builders

Dye Basics

You can use acid dyes to dye nylon bra fabrics

- Doesn't work on polyester
- Rit dye will work a bit on cotton

Use hot water

- Usually 160 - 180 degrees F
- Heat the water on the stove and move it off the stove to dye

Make sure your materials are thoroughly wet before dyeing

Keep your materials moving constantly as they dye

Two different sequences

- Hot water, dye, acid
- Hot water, acid, dye

Dyeing hardware

- Need heat which is sustained
- Doesn't always dye true to color
 - Have analog colors handy
 - Use your color wheel
- Very light colors need just a hint of dye
- Use a small vessel
- Need nylon-covered hardware

Natural Dyes

- It is possible to dye with natural dyes
 - Look for acid-type dyes
 - If it dyes silk, it will dye nylon
 - Not as color fast
- You often need to “mordant” the dye
 - Add a chemical to help the dye molecules get into the fabric
 - Can be more toxic than commercial dyes
 - Most common are Alum and Tartaric Acid
- There are commercial natural dyes available
 - Etsy
 - Dharma
- Look for specific instructions on your dye

Colorfastness

- In general, hand dyed items will have less colorfastness than commercially dyed items
- More time in the dye, the more colorfast
 - Less dye, more time
- Dye, rinse (hot water), dye, rinse (hot water), dye, rinse (cold water)
- Use agitation
- Use heat - hot dryer, hot iron



Color matching

- Start with something kind of close
- Use your color wheel to figure out what colors to add
- Use small pieces of fabric or elastic to test
- Get close with small vessel and small amounts of dye, then make a full dye bath and monitor proportions

Over dyeing

Yes, you can
overdye fabrics
and elastics

Test using the
dyed fabric

Use a color
wheel

Overdyeing
doesn't dye as
strongly as on
undyed fabric

- Dye sites are consumed with the first dye



Disposing of the Dye Bath

- Check out the Material Safety Data Sheet for environmental concerns
- Allow the water to cool
- Neutralize the bath with baking soda