



# Halcyon Yarn

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## Dyeing on Bamboo Using Procion MX Reactive Dyes

Please read directions thoroughly before starting.

### Immersion Technique:

For Batik and Solid Shade dyeing on Bamboo as well as Cotton, Linen, Rayon and Silk. These directions are based on dyeing one pound (454 grams) of fiber. Please increase or decrease the amounts proportionately for different quantities of fiber. Always do test samples before working on a large project.

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

### Supplies

Procion MX Dye  
Synthrapol  
Soda Ash (washing soda)  
Common Salt (un-iodized)  
Metaphos (water softener) option for hard water areas

### Procedure:

**Scour the yarn** or fabric by machine washing in HOT 140° F (60° C) water or by hand in a pot on the stove with 1/2 tsp (2 gm) Soda Ash and 1/2 tsp (2.5 ml) Synthrapol per pound of fiber or fabric (454 gm or 3/ to 4 yards of cotton muslin weight or 8 yards china silk weight or 3 medium T-shirts). Rinse thoroughly. This step does not add the dye fixative to the fabric; it prepare the fiber for dyeing by removing dirt, oil or sizing.

**2. Dissolve the dye.** Measure the desired amount of dye powder, from the following chart. Dissolve the dye powder with 2 cups (500ml) of room temperature water 75° -95° F (24° -35° C) water. Stir thoroughly and set aside.

For each pound (454 gm) of bamboo use

	Pale	Medium	Dark	Black
Dye Powder	1 tsp (2.5 gm)	3 tsp (7.5 gm)	6 tsp (15 gm)	12 tsp (30 gm)
Salt	1 lb (454 gm)	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> lb (680 gm)	2 lb (900 gm)	2 lb (900 gm)
Soda Ash	5 Tbl (45 gm)	5 Tbl (45 gm)	7 Tbl (65 gm)	7 Tbl (65 gm)

**3. Prepare the dye bath** by pouring 2.5 gallons (10 liters) of room temperature water 75° -95° F (24° -35° C) into a large plastic or stainless steel, unreactive metal or unchipped enamel pot. The pot should be large enough to allow the fiber to move freely without spilling the dye bath.

**4. Add the salt.** (see chart above) and 1 tsp (7 gm) Metaphos (optional water softener) to the dye bath and stir until dissolved. Add dissolved dye and stir. Add washed and damp fiber. Stir continuously for even results for 10 to 15 minutes, or for a mottled result, do not stir.

**5. Completely dissolve Soda Ash** (see chart above) in 21 cups (500 ml) warm water 95° F (35° C) water. While wearing rubber gloves remove the fiber from dye bath and pour in the dissolve Soda Ash. Give it a stir and return the fiber to the bath. Stir continuously for the first 5 minutes. Then give a stir every 5 minutes for the next 60 minutes. This will insure maximum permanence and depth of shade.

For even results, stir constantly during the first 30 minutes

To achieve a Deep Black, extend the dyeing to 90 minutes after adding the Soda Ash.

**6. Rinse & wash.** After 60 minutes (90 for black), dyeing is complete. Remove the fiber/yarn from the dye vessel and pour the exhausted dye down the drain. Rinse thoroughly in a bucket of room temperature water. Change the rinse water 3 to 4 times. Wash in HOT 140° F (60° C) water adding 1/2 tsp (2 gm) Synthrapol per pound of fiber. Rinse well and dry. Dark colors may need a second HOT Synthrapol wash. If the rinse water is not clear then wash again in HOT water with Synthrapol.

#### Technical Notes

Dye baths cannot be stored or reused after Soda Ash has been added.

If your water is hard, include Metaphos in dye bath.

It is important to make sure the dye powder is dissolved thoroughly before adding to the dye bath. If necessary use additional water to dissolve the dye powder and strain the solution through layers of nylon stockings or cheesecloth., Dye that is not dissolved before adding to the dye bath will not continue to dissolve after being added.

Non-iodized Salt is recommended. In most situations, salt with iodine can be used though without altering the dye results.

Increase or decrease quantities in the above chart for larger or smaller amounts of fabric.

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