

Knotty Lady YARN S

How to Dye Yarn Part 3!

So far we have covered the basic idea on how to dye yarn, supplies needed, and two basic acid-dye methods. It has also been said that there is no right or wrong way to dye yarn. To steal a phrase from a Knotty Lady team member, "there are as many ways to dye yarn as there are stitches". So to wrap up this series, I will leave you with a few natural and unique dyeing methods. Just remember to experiment and have fun! These dyeing methods are a little more pocket-book friendly and don't require specific materials. You can use supplies currently in your kitchen and still use it to cook your next meal.

One of the more popular and even kid-friendly options is using Kool-Aid as your dye. This method only works on animal fibers such as wool and alpaca.

Simply soak your yarn in hot water for 30 minutes.

Drain all but 1 inch of water.

Mix 1 packet of Kool-Aid per 1 Cup of water.

Gently pour onto the yarn (you can use multiple colors at once if you desire).

Carefully move the yarn around so the color covers all the yarn.

Simmer on low for 20 minutes or until no color is left in the water.

You can also do this in a microwave-safe glass dish and microwave on high in 1-minute intervals until all color is absorbed.

Let cool to room temperature then rinse with cold water and hang to dry completely.

Note that some Kool-Aid flavors have no dye in them or very little.



Want a more speckled Look?

Check out: fiberartsy.com/speckle-dye-yarn/

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And the fun doesn't stop there! You can use food coloring, easter egg dyes, skittles, sprinkles, many kinds of food scraps, and plants you can find in your own backyard. Using natural materials to dye yarn can get a bit more complex and have different results when it comes to the method and mordant of choice. Now mordants are used to help fix dyes to yarn or fabric such as vinegar in the acid dye method. Most importantly, the method and mordant of choice depend on the plant you wish to use. The same plant can produce several different colors. Finding a dyer and method that you are more familiar with and comfortable with wouldn't be a bad idea for this one. Here are some plants and the dye color they can make:

Dandelions Blooms - Yellow
Marigolds - Pale Yellow to Orange
Turmeric and Yellow Onion Skins - Orange
Spinach and Parsley - Greens
Black Beans - Grays, Green and blue
Red Cabbage - Purples
Madder Root - Reds
Beets - Pinks and Reds
Avocado Pit and Peel - Pale Pink
Hibiscus - Pink
Red Onion Skins - Amber/Brown
Dandelion Roots, Acorns, Black Walnuts - Brown

Note that these are just the general colors you can get from these basic natural sources. The intensity of the color will vary with the concentration of the dye-meaning how much natural source you use to make the dye. Also, the pH level of water when dyeing the yarn will also affect the color. Lastly, the fiber content will also determine the end result. Cotton can be more temperamental versus the trusty wool. It is amazing what normal products we generally toss or pull like dandelions, onion skins, and avocado pits and peels that can be used elsewhere in life. As dyeing yarn in general goes there are so many methods, techniques, and variables. With many great tutorials and videos by many quality dyers out there. We encourage you to do some research and find one that resonates with you. Just remember to have fun with it!