

Pigment Discharge

Pigment discharge printing is the removal (discharging), of dyestuffs from a printed or dyed fabric. Like acid discharge, pigment discharge allows us to print colours onto darker shades. The main advantage of a pigment discharge is its ability to work across a range of dyed and printed fabrics. The disadvantages of printing with pigment discharge are a stiffer handle and relatively poor resistance to rubbing.

It is important to note that not all dyed fabrics and print pastes are dischargeable, so it is important that you test your dyes and print pastes if they are not listed as dischargeable in the dye lab print and colour catalogues.

Discharge paste has a limited shelf life of approx. 24 hours, so it is important to print and steam your discharge work on the same day that it is mixed.

You are strongly advised and encouraged to keep thorough notes for any colour combinations and recipes you develop over your course of study, alongside a small fabric swatch, to help you establish your own colour reference library. You might use the page overleaf or invest in your own print/ dye notebook.

Recipe:

1. 1-5% Pigment Colour
2. 40% Pigment Binder
3. 40% Indalca thickener
4. 15% Decrolin

When using less than 5% pigment colour, adjust the amounts (equally) of pigment binder and Indalca thickener so the overall recipe remains at 100%

Method:

1. Gather your ingredients, mixing pot and stirrer.
2. Switch on the extraction, positioning in line with your mixing pot.
3. Weigh out indalca thickener into a clean pot
4. To the same pot weigh out your pigment binder
5. Weigh the decrolin into the same pot and carefully fold the ingredients together.
6. Finally weigh out your pigment colour, mix to form a smooth paste
7. Print and dry
8. Steam for 20 minutes then heatpress at 150°C for 20 seconds

Wash:

1. Rinse in cold water for 5 minutes
2. Wash in warm water for 10-15 minutes with metapex 26 detergent, until the water runs clear.
3. Final cold water rinse to remove detergent
4. Dry and press