

UWTSD BLENDED COLOUR DYE LAB NOTES

Blending colour is a careful process that takes time and patience to appreciate, understand and perfect. It is a combination of head and heart, with technical testing strongly advised before embarking upon fabric lengths and/ or a volume of threads and years.

When blending colour in the dye lab, you need to consider the colour proportions you plan to test. Think of it like a pie chart or a cake; you get to choose how many slices of colour you are going to blend with and which colours will get what proportions of the overall dye value.



As well as your careful consideration of how you will blend proportions of colour, you might also consider the tonal value of your selection and whether you will need to desaturate colour by using its complimentary shade to “grey off”.

The following equations should remind you of how to weigh out each component for your Acid (protein fibres) or Direct dye bath (cellulose fibres). It is also helpful to have a calculator handy.

Dye Powder

$$\frac{0.1 - 5 \% \text{ Depth of shade}}{100} \times \text{weight of dry fabric} = \text{grams of dye powder required}$$

Auxiliaries

$$0.05 \times \text{weight of dry fabric} = \text{mls Acetic Acid @ 20\% strength (PROTEIN)}$$

$$0.2 \times \text{weight of dry fabric} = \text{grams of glaubers salt (PROTEIN/ CELLULOSE)}$$

Water

$$50 \times \text{weight of dry fabric} = \text{mls of water}$$