

Thermachromic pigment printing

Thermachromic pigments and binders are a relatively new innovation within industry, reacting with changes in heat to either disappear (colourtherm pigment colour and binder only) or to change colour (when colourtherm pigment colour and binders are blended with regular concentrated pigment colours).

For example, when Colourtherm Magenta concentrated colour is mixed with ultramarine blue pigment, the resultant colour will be purple. However when exposed to changes in heat (touch, sunlight, etc.) the Colourtherm colour will disappear, leaving a blue effect.

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.

Recipe:

1. 1 – 10 % grams of Colourtherm concentrated pigment colour.
2. 1 – 5 % concentrated pigment colour *if creating colour blends*.
3. Make up to 100 grams with Colourtherm fabric binder.

Method:

1. Gather your concentrated Colourtherm and pigment colour, Colourtherm fabric binder, mixing pot, and a spatula.
2. Measure out your Colourtherm pigment colour, blending with concentrated pigment colour to create colour blends where desired – remember to use your colour wheel to develop interesting colour combinations and that the regular concentrated pigment colour can overwhelm the Colourtherm pigment colour very easily, so blend colours carefully.
3. Make up to 100 grams using pre-bought Colourtherm fabric binder, stirring thoroughly.
4. Print and dry.
5. Press at 150°C for 20 seconds on the heat transfer press to fix.

ALTERNATIVELY – for larger work

1. Bake at 150°C for 5 mins in the baker to fix.

Wash:

1. Rinse in cold water.
2. Dry and press.

