

Monoprinting with Acid/ Reactive dyes

Monoprinting literally means one print. As the name suggests it is often a one off design that is unlikely to be replicated or repeated. It is possible to Monoprint with reactive and acid dyes, depending on your chosen fabric, and the appropriate corresponding thickener.

Reactive dyes give bright colour and are **mainly used to print onto cotton, linen and other cellulose (plant) fibres** but will also dye some silks and wool.

Acid dyes give bright colour and are **mainly used to print onto protein (silk, wool) and polyamide (nylon) fabric fibres**.

Recipe:

1. 1 – 5% grams of either Reactive or Acid dye powder.
2. 99 – 95 % mls water.
3. Acid Thickener OR Reactive Thickener, depending on substrate and dye stuffs.

Method:

1. Gather your dye powder, mixing pot, measuring cylinder and stirrer.
2. Switch on the extraction, positioning in line with your mixing pot.
3. Measure out your water ratio – this will depend on the depth of shade that you wish to paint at – 95 – 99 % mls.
4. Measure out your dye powder – remember that 1 gram of dye powder will create a paler depth of shade compared to 5 grams of dye powder – adding to your measured water and stirring well to ensure the mixture is dissolved.
5. Hand paint Reactive OR Acid dye solution directly onto a clean silk screen. Wet dyes will obviously bleed into each other, so you may wish to leave sections dry when butting colours up to each other.
6. Release your design onto fabric using **either** the pre-made Reactive or Acid thickener, depending on the dye stuff that you have used to paint with. You should need no more than 1 – 2 pulls of thickener to do this to ensure your design doesn't blur. It is sometimes possible to print one or two copies of the print, but the image will be paler from the first print (exhaustion prints).
7. Dry.
8. Steam for 20 minutes in the atmospheric star steamer.

Wash:

1. Rinse in cold water until the water runs clear.
2. Rinse in a hot wash at 60°C with Metapex 26 detergent for 10 mins until the water runs clear.
3. Rinse in cold water to remove the detergent.
4. Dry and press.