

Painting or Sun Dyeing with MX Procion Dyes

MX Procion Reactive Dye usually requires chemicals and a curing time to “fix” to 100% cotton fabric, but there are also other methods that work too.

I have spent some time reading information on the yahoo.group.com website for dyeing yarns (Dyehappy) and although the processes do not always translate to quilting needs, one method piqued my interest. Some of the members discussed fixing water colour pigments using soy milk. The protein acts as a fixative for the pigment. I have done some experimenting with MX Dyes and this is what I have found:

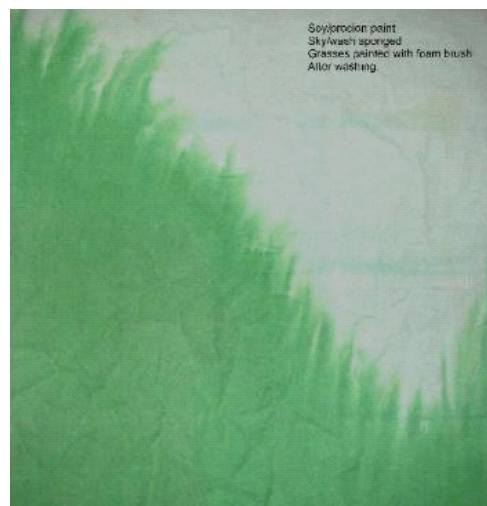
Pre-soak 100% cotton fabric in 1/4 cup soda ash to 1 gallon hot water for 15 minutes then paint with the following mixture:
1/2 to 1 tsp of MX Procion dye (depending on intensity desired)
1/2 cup warm soy milk (I am using a 7gm protein soy "beverage" but you can boil and strain your own!)

Paint or sponge on your design.

Rinse and heat set in dryer on hottest setting for 30 minutes.

Quite by accident, I discovered this soy mixture could also be used for “Sunpainting”. A leaf fell on one of my pieces drying in the sun. It left a beautiful imprint and thus... further experiments began!

This sample shows the background sponged on for sky, then the front grasses brushed on with a foam brush. It has been washed. It is intended as a background for flower applique.



The leaves are pressed into the wet paint then left in the sun to dry.



"Helio" technique - also known as SUNPAINTING.

I have been delighted with the results using the same recipe above.

The first example (left) shows painted fabric with a variety of leaves placed on the surface. I placed it in the sun and let it dry. When the leaves are removed the areas that were covered are quite light.

The second example (below) shows painted fabric that is then "scrunched" and placed in the sun. The areas that were covered or shaded are lighter than the folds on the top.

I use old laminated calendars, coroplast, styrafoam or any other backing that will wash off easily. I place the fabric on it, paint then place leaves etc. on. Then I quickly carry it out to the sun.



To check out a few more ideas, go to <http://www.harmonyhanddyes.com/InstructProcionpainting.html>



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