

★ *Starr Laces & Ribbons* ★
★ *Online Store* ★
www.starrlace.com.au
★ *Ozecraft Dye Instructions* ★

YOU WILL NEED

A plastic container lid or plastic cutting board
A couple of different size brushes
Rubber gloves (optional)
Ice cube container
Eyedropper
Paper towels
A little time and imagination

Ozecraft dye is perfect for dyeing any type of laces, trims, yarns, motifs fabrics and dried flowers that are made from 100% natural fibres (eg. Rayon, cotton, silk, wool, mohair etc.) It is easily applied using a brush, or alternatively trims can be dunked in a container of dye. When dried correctly your finished product will be colourfast, but if it is to be on something that needs to be washed, treat it as a “delicate” i.e. cool hand wash. Your only problem is – what colours to use and how much to dilute them down (using ordinary tap water). There are 38 colours in the Ozecraft dye range. Before you start, give the bottle a good shake and have your lace right side up.

DILUTING THE DYE.

The dye is concentrated and can be applied “neat” however by diluting in water a lovely array of pastel shades can be created. Start at about 4 or 5 parts water to 1 part dye and try on a sample trim. You can then adjust your solution if necessary by adding more water or dye.

DRY LACE OR WET LACE.

If you wish to highlight a particular pattern in a lace so that the dye stays where you want it, use **dry** lace. You can also use a hairdryer to dry off the lace as you go, this will help stop the dye “bleeding” into another section or colour. Be careful when brushing on not to flood your lace with dye. Just use enough to soak through the fibre.

When applying the dye to **wet** lace – it will “bleed” through the lace so that you can create a variety of variegated looks using a few different colours. It is easier here to apply the dye by just dabbing the brush here and there, one colour at a time, washing your brush out in between colours. When you are finished with a colour, wash your brush out in water, then go to your next colour, and so on.

DYEING PROCESS

It is better to apply heat (for colourfastness) when drying your lace. Simply place your lace on a paper towel and put it in a microwave oven on high for about 40 seconds to one minute. Drying time will depend on the power of your microwave if your microwave is a high wattage you will need less time (i.e. 1000 watt to 1300 watt) also the thickness of your lace. (When demonstrating I use a 750 watt microwave which takes approximately one to 2 minutes) Always under do this process, as it is easy to just reheat the lace again for a few more seconds. Alternatively, you can use a hair dryer or clothes dryer if you wish. Remember, when the drying process is complete, your lace is “set”. There are no other setting agents involved – it’s that easy.

If you want your trim all the one colour you can either use one of the next three methods - remembering that when you heat the dye – it deepens the colour.

STOVE TOP METHOD

Place your dye and water if necessary in a pot on the stove. Solution is 1 cap of dye to 1 cup of water eg. 4 caps of dye to 1 litre of water (4 cups). Wet your lace and place it in the solution, making sure it is completely submerged. Bring it to a simmer for 4 to 5 minutes – continually stirring and watching. Carefully remove the lace and rinse in cold water until the water runs clear. Dry naturally, away from sunlight – or in a clothes dryer if applicable. For a deeper colour leave in the hot water solution longer.

MICROWAVE METHOD

Place the dye and water in a plastic container, 1 cap of dye to 1 cup of water. (a plastic 2 litre jug is ideal) Cover the container with a large plastic bag (shopping bag) secure the top and put a few small holes in the top of the bag to let the steam escape. Place in the microwave and heat on high for about 3 to 4 minutes. (Check the wattage of your microwave- the higher the wattage the less time you need to heat) Remove from the microwave and take care when opening the bag (because of the steam) Rinse until water runs clear, dry naturally. For both of these methods don’t throw away the dye as you can repeat the process if your lace is too light, or you can also re use the dye –just let it cool and pour into a bottle for further use. It will lose its intensity about 10% each time you use it but you can keep using until the colour diminishes or just refresh it with a cap of dye.

DIPPING METHOD

You can also make up your solution and just dip your article into the solution – spin dry in your washing machine and dry in your clothes dryer.

THE ANTIQUE LOOK

To create a wonderful “old world” look, after you have dyed and dried your lace, use a solution of the colour “Persian Gold”, diluted more than your original colours, i.e. if your original lace was dyed by diluting colours at 3 to 1 dilute the Persian Gold at about 5 to 1, as it can “overpower” your original colours. Simply brush the solution over the entire lace piece and dry as before. Or you can mix up a solution and keep it stored in a sealed container for future use.

A FEW MORE TIPS

When dyeing silk ribbon for a variegated look, wet your pieces of ribbon and scrunch up in your hand wearing a rubber glove. Simply dab a colour on using a small brush, rinse your brush out and go to your next colour and so on. Rub the ribbon around in your hand and release, let it dry naturally or use a hair dryer.

Dyeing fringe in variegated shades is best done when the fringe is wet. Fold the fringe over and over on top of itself and using a thick brush, dab on one colour at a time. For a two-tone look, wet the fringe and fold it over as before. Wearing rubber gloves dip the top half in a solution of dye and squeeze the excess out. Hold the fringe on the dyed end and dip the other end in your other solution and again squeeze the excess out. Dry on a paper towel in the microwave and brush your fringe if needed to remove tangles.

MIXING COLOURS

Don't be afraid to experiment with mixing colours. A couple of drops here and there can create many beautiful shades. Of course you can just use the 3 primary colours, yellow (SAFFRON) red (RED) and blue (KERMAN BLUE) to create your own colours if you wish. By mixing the primary colours RED + BLUE = Purple, BLUE + SAFFRON = Green, RED + SAFFRON = Orange. Black, Dark Grey or Linen can be used as a toner. By using a few drops of one of these colours a different shade can be made eg. Adding a few drops of Black to Regency Rose would tone the brightness down to a Dusty Pink shade.

COLOURS

Persian Gold, Golden Ash, Dusty Pink, Ashen Rose, Blush, Shiraz, Red, Fuchsia, Regency Rose, Edwardian Rose, Edwardian Pearl, Edwardian Red, Victorian Plum, Pansy, Violet, Wisteria, Lavender, Lilac, Gothic Grape, Green, Olive, Luscious Lime, Forest Green, Kerman Blue, Pale Blue, Seamist, Turquoise, Brown, Chocolate, Linen, Dark Grey, Black, Cream, Champagne, Southern Peach, Tuscany, Juicy Mandarin, Saffron. Check our website for the Colour Chart.

Remember Starr Laces and Ribbons is your premier supplier of quality 100% natural fibres and trims including a wide range of lace motifs, cotton and guipure laces. We also stock a large variety of ribbons, nylon laces and ric rac. You will find us in Sydney at:

- All major Craft Shows around Australia.
- On line at www.starrlace.com.au
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Starr Laces and Ribbons

Phone: (02) 4883 7440

Mobile: (Joy) 0413 040 633 or (Tom) 0417 448 040

Email: enquiry@starrlace.com.au Website: www.starrlace.com.au

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