

Introduction to dyeing with Ashford wool dyes



Prepare your primary colours in concentrate form ready to use first.

You will need:

- 10gm Ashford wool dye each of blue, hot pink, yellow and black
- 600ml of white vinegar
- Four 1 litre (1 $\frac{3}{4}$ pt) containers
- Plastic or glass container for soaking yarn (or fibre)
- Large plastic syringes or paint brushes
- Plastic cling film (Glad Wrap)
- Measuring cup, Rubber gloves
- Microwave (used only for dyeing), jars or cups for mixing additional colours



In a 1 litre container mix 10gm dye powder with sufficient hot water to dissolve.

Add 10 tablespoons of white vinegar.

Fill the container with cold water. Do this for all four colours.

Each 10gm of dye powder will make enough dye solution to dye 1kg of yarn (or fibre). From these four dye solutions you can create all the colours of the rainbow and more! Note: We use Hot Pink for our Red primary.

From your concentrates make up the colours you are going to use. Choose a colour recipe. See the colour theory and some suggested recipes on the following pages. Measure the correct amount of each dye solution into clean jars. Plastic syringes work extremely well to measure accurately. You can mix any colour combinations. Add water for paler colours and black for darker colours.

Dyeing your yarn or fibre

Prepare a container of warm water with $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of dishwashing detergent. Add skein of yarn (or fibre) and soak for 30 minutes. Place plastic cling film onto a flat surface. Ensure you have enough to cover the yarn. Squeeze out excess water from the yarn and lay onto the cling film. Using a paint brush, plastic syringe, or just pour, apply dye mix in the colour sequence or patterns as you wish. If you are wanting solid colours ensure that the yarn is well covered with the dye. Wearing gloves, use your hands to squish the dye into the yarn. Or when doing multi colours to squish the colours together.

Wrap the yarn into a parcel with the cling wrap Place in a microwave proof container and microwave on high. Microwave for 2 to 6 minutes (do 2 minutes at a time) depending on your microwaves power. Check after each 2 minutes to see if the dyes are fully absorbed (exhausted).

Allow the yarn to cool a little and then remove from the wrap. Rinse in warm water, then in cooler water. Spread the yarn out on a towel or sheet and leave to dry in the shade.

For additional dyeing methods and techniques visit our website

www.ashford.co.nz/tutorials/dyeing-tutorials

More information: For safety information and more ways to use the Ashford dyes please go to the website www.ashford.co.nz



Describing colour



The 12 hues of the colour wheel

Hue

A wedge of colour on the colour wheel. Can be called Hue Family or Colour Family. Can be any variation within that family.

Saturation

Intensity/vibrancy of a colour.

Value

Lightness or darkness of a colour.

Colour harmonies

Primary colours

Red, yellow and blue are the three primary colours from which all other colours are made.

Secondary colours

When two primary colours are mixed together they form a secondary colour:

Yellow + blue	= green
Blue + red	= violet
Red + yellow	= orange

Tertiary colours

When one primary colour and its adjacent secondary colour are mixed together they form a tertiary colour:

Yellow + orange	= yellow-orange
Yellow + green	= yellow-green
Blue + green	= blue-green
Blue + violet	= blue-violet
Red + violet	= red-violet
Red + orange	= red-orange

Complementary colours

Lie directly opposite each other on the colour wheel.

Analogous colours

Found close together on the colour wheel, usually within one quarter of the wheel.

Warm/cool colours

One half of the colour wheel has warm colours and the other half cool:

Warm: Yellow-green through orange to red inclusive

Cool: Red-violet through blue to green inclusive

Tints, tones and shades

White + colour	= tint
Grey + colour	= tone
Black + colour	= shade

Neutrals

Black, white, greys and browns.

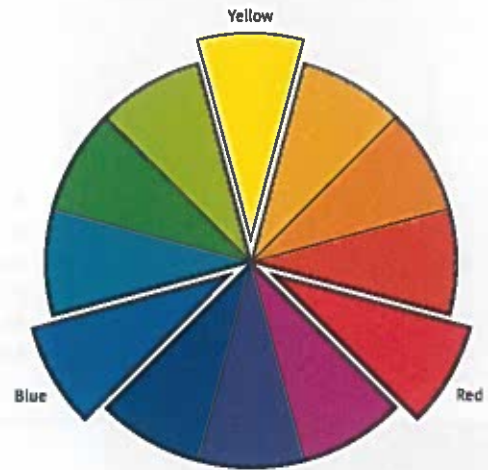
Monochromatic colours

Mono = one, chroma = colour

Monochromatic colours are the various tints, tones and shades of a particular hue.

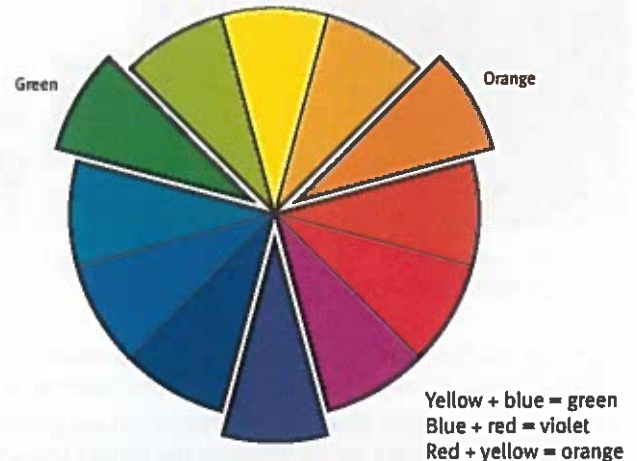
Primary colours

The colour wheel has three primary colours – yellow, red, blue – from which all other colours are mixed.



Secondary colours

When two primary colours are mixed together, they create a secondary colour:



Yellow + blue = green
Blue + red = violet
Red + yellow = orange

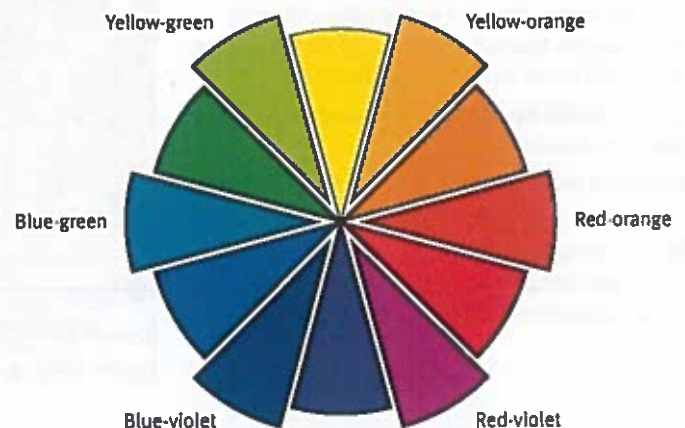
Tertiary colours

When a secondary colour and its adjacent primary are mixed, they create a tertiary colour. You can make exciting and rich blends because you get to use a minimum of six colours, every second colour on the wheel.

Primary + Secondary = Tertiary

Blue + violet	= blue-violet
Blue + green	= blue-green
Yellow + green	= yellow-green
Yellow + orange	= yellow-orange
Red + orange	= red-orange
Red + violet	= red-violet

In multi-coloured dyeings, cool colours recede and warm colours come forward.



Complementary colours

A complementary blend uses two hues that lie directly opposite. You only have to step out into the garden to be inspired by nature's perfection at using this harmony.



Analogous colours

Analogous colours are those which are close to each other on the colour wheel, usually including three hues.

Recipes for 12 hues of the colour wheel

-  Yellow
-  Yellow-Orange
-  Orange
-  Red-Orange
-  Red (Hot Pink)
-  Red-Violet
-  Violet
-  Blue-Violet
-  Blue
-  Blue-Green
-  Green
-  Green-Yellow

Yellow Dye (ml)	Red (Hot Pink) Dye (ml)	Blue Dye (ml)
108		
90	12	
72	36	
36	54	
	108	
	54	18
	36	36
	18	54
		108
36		54
72		36
90		12

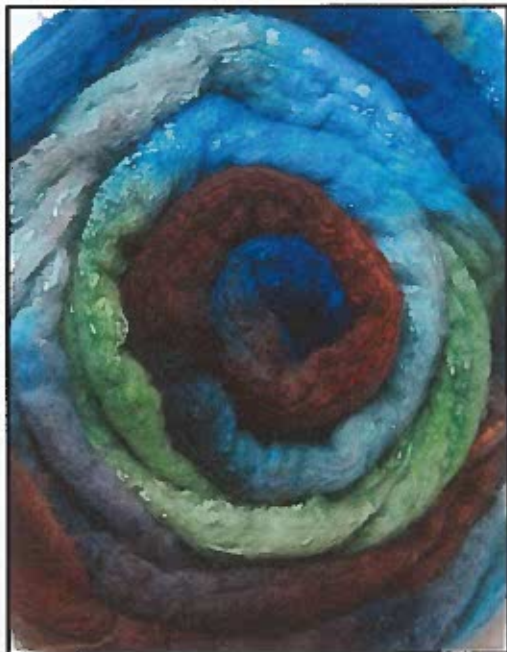
Other combination suggestions



Autumn



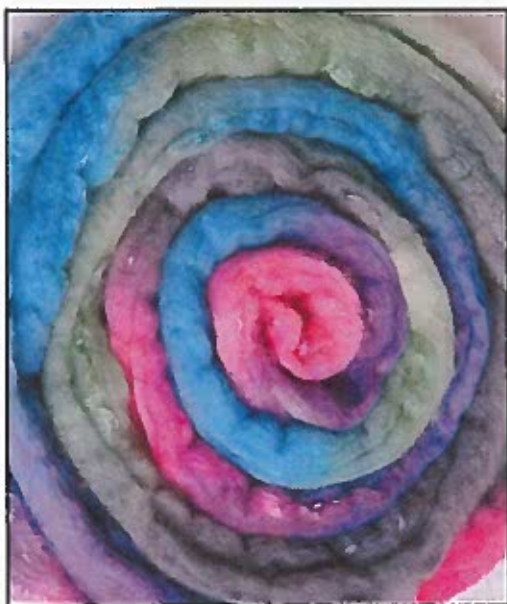
Water	Black	Blue	Hot Pink	Yellow	Colour solution
	1ml		30ml	30ml	
		1ml	2ml	60ml	
	5ml		30ml	30ml	
		10ml	20ml	40ml	
	8ml			60ml	



Ocean



Water	Black	Blue	Hot Pink	Yellow	Colour solution
40ml		40ml	2ml		
		10ml	20ml	40ml	
	2ml	10ml	20ml	40ml	
60ml			6ml	3ml	
60ml					2ml
60ml		30ml		60ml	2ml



Pastels



Water	Black	Blue	Hot Pink	Yellow	Colour solution
60ml			2ml		
		30ml	30ml		
60ml					2ml
60ml		2ml			
		30ml		60ml	
60ml					2ml
60ml	1ml				