HOW TO DYE YOUR OWN YARN
PART 3 OF 3: PARTIAL IMMERSION, SPECKLE
By Nicole Clark of Hue Loco

MATERIALS

yarn (protein fiber only: wool, cashmere, silk, etc)
acid dyes (check out the Dharma Trading Company website for lots of options)
pot (stainless steel or enamel)
citric acid (amazon.com)
measuring tools
containers & spoon
gloves & mask (I know! You didn’t see me with one in the video but you should)
soak tub
wool wash
towel

CAUTION: Please use caution when dyeing yarn. Acid dye is most dangerous in its powder form. Once the dye has been mixed into water the particles are no longer at risk of becoming airborne and you can take off your mask. NEVER use your tools/pots for anything other than dyeing.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. Soak your fiber in water & citric acid for 10-15 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, fill up your stockpot with a couple inches of room temperature water. Add your citric acid to the pot, stir until dissolved.

3. Put on mask, predissolve acid dyes in containers. This method works best with concentrated color.

4. Carefully, lift fiber from the soak tub and place it into the dye bath. Be sure some of the yarn is sticking out of the water. Turn on the burner and wait for a steady simmer.

5. Once simmering, turn off the heat and add dyes. Be steady and careful not to disturb the yarn while pouring. Put on mask, speckle dry dye over the bath.

6. Once cool, grab the hank and transfer it into a tub of water and wool wash. Gently push the soap into your hank to remove any excess dye; there tends to be more excess with this technique. Once the water runs clear, ring it out gently and hang it to dry.
ONLY use a stainless steel or enamel pots

NEVER use tools/pots for anything other than dyeing, EVER!

To avoid massive, freak-out-worthy tangles take care when handling and transferring your fiber

ALWAYS start and end every process with room temperature water

Fiber absorbs the most dye once it hits a simmer. In other words, if you want your colors to stay separate do not add your dye until the bath heats up!

2TB citric acid = 1 pound of fiber (about 4.5 hanks in fingering)
Error on the side of more mordant

Wear a mask and gloves to limit your exposure to the acid dyes

Let your dyed bath cool ALL THE WAY down to ensure a good light and wash fast color

For solid dye baths, add both citric and acid dye to your pot before adding fiber

Let loose! Try something risky and you find yourself pleasantly surprised!

Disclaimer: All information and resources from the Hue Loco tutorials are based on the opinions of the author. By reading this, you acknowledge that you are responsible for your own decisions. Please be an advocate for your own health and well-being.
Sometimes it's hard to see a beautifully finished skein of yarn and figure out how it was created. My hope is that these side-by-side comparisons can demystify the process of hand-dying. You too can create amazing hand-dyed yarn!