

Aniline Dyes

Aniline dyes are mixed with water to form brilliant, fade-resistant stains characterized by deep, even penetration and excellent clarity. The stains may be applied with a brush or a spray gun as well as with a cloth.

Powders should be stirred before mixing for even particle distribution. The usual proportion of powder to water is one ounce to one quart, and this mix can be diluted to the desired density of tint. Colors can be mixed to obtain any shade, but remember **never** to intermix stains of different bases. You can mix water stain with water stain, but not oil stain with water stain, and so on.

Use clean, soft water to mix your stain to minimize the effect of metal salts on the color. Distilled water is the safest; otherwise, soft rainwater is good. Heat the water, but **do not** boil it. Use a glass, earthenware or stainless-steel vessel, but **never** iron or aluminum containers. Stir the dye powder into the hot water, not vice versa. It should be completely dissolved in about 15 minutes. Allow the mix to cool.

If you saturate your stain solution and get precipitate settling out, add water. If the solution gets chilled and the powders crystallize, heat to re-dissolve the powder.

For best results when mixing color, avoid artificial light. Stain during daytime in good natural light, away from drafts or heat, and with good ventilation. Always test the color on a piece of scrap before applying it to a project.

The oils and resins in some softwoods will cause uneven stain penetration. Clean this wood first with wood alcohol.

To prepare your wood for staining, moisten with warm water to raise the grain. When it dries, sand with fine paper. You will get better results if you use new garnet paper and sand at a slight angle to the grain. This will cut off the fibers instead of just pressing them back down. Finish with strokes along the grain. Repeat the wetting and sanding as often as necessary to remove the fuzz, then clean the wood.

When applying the stain, special attention must be given to end grain, because this part of the wood will absorb more stain than the rest. To prevent this, you can apply a thin coat of lacquer or sealer over the bare end grain, and this will permit even absorption when you apply the color. Or, wet all of the end grain before you stain, and stain with the end grain wet. Wipe immediately and repeat if necessary to get your tint.

Sponge the other surfaces with a weak solution of the stain. Let it dry, then sand smooth, but not deep enough to cut through to the wood. Clean, then apply a regular coat of stain with a stiff, wide brush. Use long strokes, working until the color is even. Take the excess stain off the brush then go back over the work to pick up any surplus, again being careful not to streak the color. If spots will not take the stain as well as the rest of the surface, open the pores of the wood by rubbing with 3/0 steel wool when the stain is wet. Work over any drippings or else they will show when dry.

The stain dries for recoating in 12 hours. You may find the grain will still lift after applying the stain. A thin wash of shellac or lacquer applied after the stain has dried will make the fibers stiff and brittle so they can be sanded more readily. It will also help prevent cutting the stain on the edges and harder parts of the wood. Ammonia, bichromate of potash, or acetic acid (vinegar) is sometimes added to a stain solution to stiffen the fibers, but this is not necessary. Successively finer grits of sandpaper should be used with each sanding.

If needed, filler can be applied between stain coats and after shellac or lacquer. Apply filler, wipe with burlap or newspaper, and rub with boiled linseed oil to pack. Wipe off and allow 24 to 48 hours to dry, then apply a sanding sealer. Finish your piece as desired. For projects exposed to intense sunlight, apply a UV-inhibitor top coat (available at local hardware stores).

If you are using a water-based finish as a top coat, such as lacquer or urethane, a sealer should be applied first or the aniline color may bleed.

Aniline dye powders should be stored in airtight containers so they do not absorb moisture. Stain solutions should be mixed only in the amount needed for a project because the color will deteriorate over a long period of time. If you must store a water stain solution, use a glass container.

Warranty

We guarantee this preparation to be of the highest quality and if you are not satisfied with the product itself, your money will be promptly refunded. No warranty is made with respect to results from the use of this product, as proper use and application are beyond the control of the manufacturer and retailer.