

Weave to  
re-create  
the past



Weave to  
create for  
the future

# The Roving

December, 2016

## Presidents' Letter

Dear Members,

It is so hard to believe that another year is nearing its completion, and Christmas is around the corner.

This is a season of caring, giving, sharing and good will. Putting out holiday decorations makes me smile since many of the items are handwoven and created by friends and family. All of this adds to the festive atmosphere of the home.

On December 10, there will be a board meeting at 9 a.m. Following this we have our annual Christmas party which is always a great time for fellowship, wonderful food, and just plain fun. Please don't forget to bring your favorite pot luck, and gift (\$20 suggested limit) for the exchange if you are joining in. This is a lovely way to give a little of yourself and provide cheer for others.

Best wishes for wonderful holidays to all of you.

Toni and Leonora.

## December Meeting



**When:** December 10, 2016

**Where:** Exeter Memorial Building

**Time:** 10:00 AM (Board Meeting 9:00AM)

**Please bring items for our Christmas Pot-Luck**

**December Meeting Program:** See President's Letter for info.

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## **Fishing for Info**

by Lynda Bass

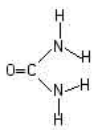


The holidays are just around the corner, and the Show and Sale has been put to bed for another year. I hear many of you had a prosperous Show and Sale experience. It is always a fabulous display of our guild's toil and talent. You all are truly a wonderful group!

One of our members sent me a question on dyeing cotton. I will share with you the question and what I have found on the subject.

If I add urea to my dye mixture, will it help the cotton absorb the dye better, so I won't have to wash it multiple times? If this doesn't help that issue, what else can I do? I found a wonderful site on dyeing, lots of information from a chemist/artist. Her name is Paula Burch. She gives complete and wonderful directions and has many topics on her site. I will copy the page I found and leave her blog site, so you can investigate her work and info.

### **Dyeing FAQ: What is urea for? Is it necessary?**



Urea is used in tie dyeing and other forms of direct application of dyes. It is usually not used in vat dyeing or low water immersion dyeing.

Urea has two purposes: it can make it possible to dissolve more dye in a given volume, for the strongest of colors, and it serves as a humectant, or water-attractor, to help keep fabric damp long enough for the reaction to occur. You can do without urea if your dye solutions are strong enough for your needs without it, and you keep your fabric damp in some other way,

such as by covering with plastic.

Too much urea can actually make it harder to dissolve some dyes, according to Craig Turner of Standard Dyes, who says that, if your dye (especially fuchsia, Procion red MX-8B) is not dissolving well, you may need to reduce the amount of urea you are using.

#### **Where does urea come from?**

Urea is the same chemical as is found in the urine of mammals, but the urea we buy is not obtained from urine. It is synthesized from natural gas.

#### **Is urea hazardous?**

No, urea is reasonably safe, compared to many other chemicals. It's a major ingredient in many skin moisturizers, due to its humectant properties.

Although you should avoid skin exposure to dyes or soda ash, skin exposure to urea is not a major safety issue. It may be irritating to the skin. Airborne urea, like most powders, is hazardous when inhaled.

#### **Does urea ever go bad?**

Yes, urea will, given enough time, break down to form ammonia. Your dyeing urea should have no particular odor. If it has a strong, unpleasant smell, discard it (you can use it as fertilizer), because you do not want to be using ammonia. Ammonia will increase the pH of solutions to which it is added, and is irritating to the user.

#### **Where to buy urea**

Any dye supplier should be able to sell you nice clean urea.

For buying in bulk, try a local feed store. Ask for "pure shotted urea" if available, or 46-0-0 fertilizer. Some grades of urea are nice and clean, while others are dirty, contaminated with bits of darker material. Look before buying, to see if the urea is clean enough to suit you.

## **Hand Dyeing - How to Do It**

### **Basic recipe for Procion MX dyes on cellulose or silk**

(See also the next three pages, [How to Tie Dye](#), [How to Batik](#), and [More Ways to Dye](#), as well as the [Dyeing Links](#) page, for additional instructions!)

**Ingredients:** appropriate cloth or clothing; water; [urea](#) (optional); Procion MX dyes or other [fiber reactive dyes](#); [sodium carbonate](#) (soda ash or "pH Up"). Rubber bands, synthetic sinew, or dental floss for tying (optional). Plastic bottles with which to hold the dye (4 to 8 ounces [125 to 250 ml] is a good size).

#### **Instructions:**

- 1 **Choose the right fabric**, first. Fabrics that are at least 80% cellulose fiber--cotton, rayon, linen, tencel, or hemp-- are best for dyeing. 100% is better. 50% cotton/50% polyester makes nice pastels. Cotton clothing is often sewn with non-cotton thread, which stays white, but this is not usually a problem. Avoid 100% polyester or nylon. Silk is the only

protein (animal) fiber that can be dyed with this recipe.

- 2 Next, **wash your fabric**. This can be done days in advance. Unwashed fabric may not dye well.
- 3 Next, if you're planning to tie-dye, **tie the dry garments in advance**. It's easiest that way. (Tying wet garments that contain soda ash is a total pain, because you should always wear gloves when handling soda ash, but gloves get caught in the string or rubber bands; it's okay to moisten the fabric with plain water to tie, and then soak in soda ash.) See the [next page](#) for more information on tying.
- 4 **Mixing the dyes** may be done up to one week in advance. (Longer storage requires refrigeration.)
  - 1 Dissolve urea in water....1 tablespoon (15 ml) per cup (250 ml). [Urea](#) is harmless, easy to measure, and it dissolves readily--a chemist's favorite. Make enough at one time for every color you're going to prepare. (Urea may be omitted in low water immersion dyeing.)
  - 2 Next, dissolve dye in urea solution. The best dye to use on cotton is a good [fiber reactive dye](#) such as Procion MX, Sabracron F, or Drimarene K (buy from one of the companies listed at [Sources for Supplies](#)). (**Do not use all-purpose dye such as Rit® brand dye in this type of dyeing!**) Use about 4 teaspoons of dye per cup...unless the dye is or contains turquoise MX-G, in which case you should double the amount for similar brightness, or black, in which case you must use 2 to 4 times as much. If you are mixing primaries to make other shades, note that the powder dissolves much more easily after it's been mixed in dry form. Put the dye solutions into squirt or spray bottles for applying the dye - buy plastic bottles specifically for this purpose. **Be careful when you measure out the dye...leave the jars open as short a time as possible, and use a face mask. Don't breathe dye! The stuff isn't very toxic, but you can become sensitized to it, which would put an end forever to your dyeing.**
- 5 **Pre-soaking the fabric**. Just before dyeing, pre-soak the fabric for fifteen minutes to one hour in a solution of [sodium carbonate](#), mixed one cup per gallon of water. This stuff is also known as soda ash, and is similar to, but three times as strong as, washing soda. The kind sold for swimming pools - one brand is "pH Up" - is excellent. (Do not use sodium bicarbonate, or baking soda!)
- 6 **Applying the dye**. I like to lay the fabric nearly flat, or pleated loosely, and drip with squeeze bottles directly onto the fabric, or spray it on with a spray bottle. This part is easy and fun, but always more tiring than I expect. **Be sure to wear gloves! The sodium carbonate is slightly caustic**

and must be washed or at least wiped off of your skin immediately after contact. (Not to mention that the dyes themselves look very odd on your hands for a couple of days afterwards--while a special hand cleaner, ReDuRan, is sold for cleaning up after dyes, it really doesn't work as well as you'd like, so you end up waiting two or three days to look normal again. Also, no fabric dye has been fully tested for safety when spilled on the skin.)

**7 Reaction time.** Make sure that the fabric stays wet, for the reaction to take place, no less than two hours, but preferably eight to twenty-four hours. The amount of time required depends on the temperature, which should be at least 70°F (21°C). In our humid climate here, we just leave the clothing outside, trusting the urea, a humectant, to keep our fabric sufficiently damp, but in drier climates you may need to use plastic wrap or plastic bags.

**8 Wash the clothing.** Many dyers prefer to use Synthrapol detergent in the wash water, to help prevent dyes from mixing in undesired ways. You still need to isolate very light colors (especially yellow/orange); the problem with transfer of unreacted dye from dark to light regions is reduced by waiting a full day or more before washing out, as dye which has not reacted with the fabric will tend to react with the water, if given enough time. I like to dump the dyed items directly into the washer without rinsing first, but many prefer to rinse by hand before machine-washing. I wash first in cold, once, then twice in the hottest water available, using Synthrapol in each wash, and end by double-rinsing. You may need to wash the clothes separately the first few wearings, but pretty soon they are 100% colorfast and safe to wash with anything, in my experience.

**9 Heat setting is NOT necessary** with Procion MX dyes. The only reason to use a hot water wash is to rid the cloth of the last bits of unreacted dye. It is important to use cold water before using hot water, as hot water may, in the presence of the sodium carbonate, encourage some excess dye to become a little too closely associated with the fabric, resulting in dye that gradually rinses out over the course of many washings.

Paula's site is <[paulaburch.net](http://paulaburch.net)>

I know there are many sites out there with great information, but I thought this one answered the question best. Also I found that using too much urea can cause the dye to bond with the water, so measure carefully and even use a bit less rather than more.

Hope this is helpful to all of you wishing to color your cotton yarns! Happy weaving!

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**Birthdays for December: – if we've missed you, please let us know.**

**Stacey Hungerford**

**Susan Jackson**

**Vanda McArthur**

**Charlotte Pavelko**

**Shari Pratt**

**This is your month, Ladies; have a wonderful Birthday!**

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**Squeekie Wheels: The latest news from our leader, Ann Belau:**

Good news!! History is repeating itself and we can still have our spin-in in Exeter on the third Friday of the month.

Most everybody wanted to remain in Exeter, so the hunt continued. We are going back to the East Meets West Restaurant. When the weather is nice, we can spin on the patio and when it is cold, we can move inside to the back dining room. I have committed to three months to see how it works for everyone.

We started Friday, Nov. 18 and had a good turn-out. The weather was great and the lunch even better! I don't know about you, but I have missed our spin-ins, the friendships, and all the sharing we do. As it was with Cappella's, there isn't a charge for the location as long as we eat our lunch there.

So there you have it. I hope you will dust off your spinning wheels and come join the fun. Park on the street behind the restaurant, or at the north end of the parking lot.....we don't want ruin our welcome by taking the parking spaces of their regular daily customers.

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**Kaweah Konnection:** Next meeting will be January 11, 2017. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Presbyterian Church Conference Room in Three Rivers. Contact Sharon Warren if you're interested. Instructional weaving/spinning DVD's are occasionally featured and "Show and Tell" is always interesting.

**Guild Dues:** \$25.00 per year for individuals; \$35 per year for families. Dues are payable January 1<sup>st</sup> and are in effect through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the same year. Membership cards will be issued to Guild members upon renewal.

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**Loom for Sale:**

45" weaving width 4 Harness 6T Herald Floor Loom plus Herald Loom Bench. I'm trying to make more room and find this great loom is not being used as much as it should be. \$500 OBO. Let me know if you're interested and I will furnish pics.

561-4265; Sophie Britten or [sophieab@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sophieab@sbcglobal.net)

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Items for the newsletter (items for sale, new items, announcements, etc.) need to be received by Sophie Britten by the 25th of each month.



