

TEÑIR CON QUERIDOS AMIGOS

*The natural dyeing process as taught by Mujeres
Que Tejen in Teotitlan del Valle Oaxaca*

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Chapter One

PREPARING MATERIALS

WOOL



Clean the wool:

1. In a wicker basket, scrup the wool with water to remove debris
2. Place cleaned wool and basket in a sunny place for 2 to 3 days

Card the wool:

3. Use a device called a Carder - this is a wooden paddle with small wire needles aligned in rows
4. Brush the fibers back and forth in the same direction to align the fibers

Spin the yarn:

5. Take a small piece of carded wool and wrap it around the bobbin of a spindle
6. Spin the wheel while holding tight to the wool
7. Add small pieces of wool to the end of the piece of yarn while the wheel is spinning until a large length of yarn is create
8. Spin the wheel in the opposite direction to wrap the spun yarn around the bobbin

DRY INGREDIENTS



Gather:

1. *Cochinilla (Cochineal): cut paddles from infected nopal plants and set them in a place to dry out for 3 to 4 months before removing insects from the paddles*
2. *Indigo rocks: boil anil plant to remove pigment before adding to water and oxydizing by stirring consistently. Allow mixture to turn to a paste and dry*
3. *Alum: Used as a mordant*

Refine:

4. *Place a petate mat on the ground behind a metate grinder*
5. *With the metate stone between your knees on the ground, use the mano to grind the dry materials by rocking the stone back and forth*
6. *Place all materials into dry, cool bags that can be sealed*

Chapter Two

PRIMARY COLORS



ROJO



Ingredients and Supplies:

- » 1 kilo of prepared white wool (page 3)
- » 500 grams alum powder
- » 50 grams cream of tartar
- » 100 grams cochinita powder
- » about 8 Liters of rain water
- » aluminum pot
- » enamel pot
- » small pot

Ready the wool:

1. Place enamel pot with about 4 Liters of water over a fire
2. Mix in alum, cream of tartar, and wool while still cool
3. Bring pot to a boil, then remove from fire

Ready the dye bath:

4. Put about 4 Liters of cool water into the aluminum pot
5. Place pot over the fire
6. In a smaller pot on a stove put 4-5 cups of water and cochinita powder - the amount of water can change based on how well the cochinita desolves
7. Bring small pot to the same temperature as the aluminum pot before transferring the cochinita mixture into the larger pot
8. Bring this final dye bath to a boil
9. For pinker tones, add baking soda

Dye the wool:

10. Using a long dowel or stick, dip the wool into the dye bath while both are hot
11. Wool should only stay in the bath for 20 seconds on the first dip
12. All dips after are between 1 and 2 minutes to achieve desired darkness

To finish:

13. Wash dye with a pH neutral detergent and allow to dry fully before weaving

AMARILLO



Ingredients and Supplies:

- » 1 kilo of prepared white wool (page 3)
- » 150 grams alum powder
- » 50 grams cream of tartar
- » 1 kilo of fresh pericon or 2 kilos of dried perricon
- » about 8 Liters of rain water
- » aluminum pot
- » enamel pot

Ready the wool:

1. Place enamel pot with about 4 Liters of water over a fire
2. Mix in alum, cream of tartar, and wool while still cool
3. Bring pot to a boil, then remove from fire and allow to cool completely

Ready the dye bath:

4. Put about 4 Liters of cool water and pericon into the aluminum pot
5. Place pot over the fire
6. Bring this final dye bath to a boil and remove once water is a brown/yellow
7. Allow to cool completely

Dye the wool:

8. Using a long dowel or stick, dip the wool into the dye bath when both are
9. The first few dips should be left between 20 seconds and 2 minutes
10. All other dips will be left for 10 minutes before removing

To finish:

11. Wash dye with a pH neutral detergent and allow to dry fully before weaving

AZUL



Ingredients and Supplies:

- » 1 kilo of prepared white wool (page 3)
- » 100 grams anil (indigo) powder
- » about 8 Liters of rain water
- » 200 grams sodium bicarbonate
- » 3 tablespoons of clear alcohol
- » enamel pot
- » lid
- » rug
- » bricks

Ready the wool:

1. Place enamel pot with about 4 Liters of water over a fire
2. Mix in alum, cream of tartar, and wool while still cool
3. Bring pot to a boil, then remove from fire and allow to cool slightly

Ready the dye bath:

4. Put about 4 Liters of cool water into the enamel pot
5. Place pot over the fire with a lid on (do not skip this step)
6. In a smaller pot on a stove put 4-5 cups of water, alcohol, and anil powder
7. Once anil is dissolved completely in small pot, remove both the small pot and large pot from heat

IMPORTANT NOTE: Neither pot should ever boil - remove at around 50°C

8. Add small anil mixture to the large pot, stirring gently - it is important to avoid agitating the water too much as it will cause oxidation
9. Add sodium bicarbonate into the pot before covering with a rug and lid with brick layed on top - allow to sit for 30-40 minutes

Dye the wool:

10. Using a long dowel or stick, dip the wool into the dye bath while both are hot
11. The first dip should be left in for 20 seconds before being removed
12. All following dips should be left between 1 and 2 minutes

To finish:

13. Wash dye with a pH neutral detergent and allow to dry fully before weaving

chapter Three

SECONDARY COLORS

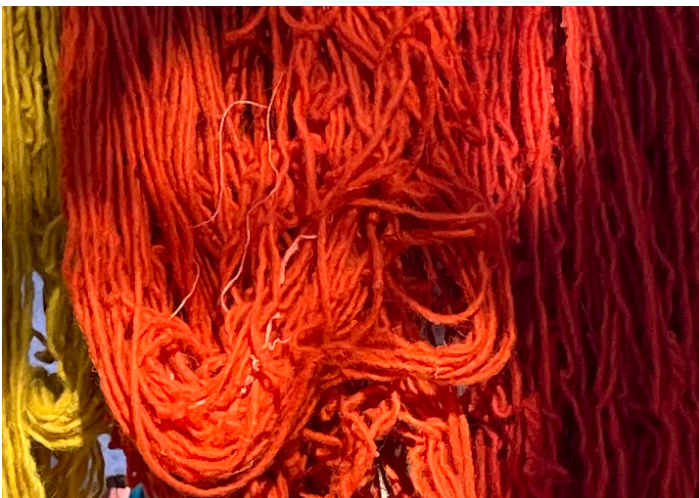


NARANJA



Version One:

1. Complete all steps 1 through 8 for making red wool
2. Add lime juice until the acidity of the water makes the dye bath a bright orange color
3. Complete steps 10 through 12 for making a normal red wool



Version Two:

1. Complete all steps 1 through 10 for making yellow wool
2. Soak wool in water for at least an hour to re-prepare for dyeing
3. Create red dye bath
4. Dip yellow dye for 1 to 2 minutes depending on desired darkness of green
5. Wash wool with pH neutral detergent

VERDE



Version One:

1. Complete all steps 1 through 10 for making yellow wool
2. Soak wool in water for at least an hour to re-prepare for dyeing
3. Create indigo dye bath
4. Dip yellow dye for 1 to 2 minutes depending on desired darkness of green
5. Wash wool with pH neutral detergent



Version Two:

1. Complete the wool preparation process with grey wool
2. Complete steps 1 through 11 to make yellow wool

MORADO



Version One:

1. Complete all steps 1 through 10 for making red wool
2. Soak wool in water for at least an hour to re-prepare for dyeing
3. Create indigo dye bath
4. Dip red dye for 1 minute
5. Wash wool with pH neutral detergent



Version Two:

1. Complete all steps 1 through 10 for making dark red wool
2. Soak wool in water for at least an hour to re-prepare for dyeing
3. Create indigo dye bath
4. Dip red dye for 2-5 minutes
5. Wash wool with pH neutral detergent



Chapter Four

VARIATIONS

FIBERS & DYES



Wools:

- » *White*
- » *Grey*
- » *Dark Grey*
- » *Brown*
- » *Black*
- » *Combination*

Darker wool will produce a deeper and more muted color as vibrance requires a lightly colored substrate. To achieve a black wool if a natural one is unavailable, dip brown or dark grey in an indigo bath for 10 minutes.

Fibers:

- » *Cotton*
- » *Dried agave*

Dye bath ingredients:

- » *Marigold variants: yellow*
- » *Fresh pomegranate skin: yellow*
- » *Dried pomegranate skin: ochre*
- » *Guava leaves: orange*
- » *El zacatlaxcalli: yellow*
- » *Zapote skin: brown*
- » *Fermented muiltle (pictured): purple*