

Kool Aid -dyeing

By Misanja



With Kool-Aid drink mixes, you can easily try out yarn dyeing, even with kids. The dye is based on food coloring and there are lots of different colors. You can also mix them together and get new colors. Fun!

With one packet of Kool-Aid you can dye as much as 100 grams of yarn, but in this case the color is going to be light. You can also get nice variety to the shades by using different colored base yarns. The darker the yarn is, the darker is also the end result. The possibilities are almost endless.

The colour is mixed into a liquid and set to the yarn by heating it up. In this guide the heating happens in the microwave.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS

In addition to the yarn hank and the drink mix you also need a few cups or containers for the different colors, a microwave-safe container, gloves, and some kind of tongs with which you can turn the hot hanks. And of course, water and a microwave.

Soak the yarn hanks in room temperature water for some time. You can also try dyeing dry yarn but please note that when put in the microwave, the yarn has to be completely wet.

Protect your workspace. For example, you can wrap a cutting board in plastic wrap and work on top of it to make sure your table stays clean.

Mix the Kool-Aid powder to water. Notice that the color of the powder is not necessarily the color of the packet itself. Usually the actual color you are going to get, is the color on the drink shown on the bottom left of the packet.

DYEING

Spray or use a spoon to get the color solution on the yarn the way you prefer. Remember the other side of the yarn as well. If you twist the hank around itself, the result will be different. When finished, move the yarn into a microwave-safe dish and heat it on high power about a minute at a time. Do this until the water from the yarn is clear. If the yarn is popping in the microwave, take a break from the heating.

When the water is clear, take the container out using oven mitts. Let the yarn completely cool down on its own so that the color sets properly and the quality of the yarn doesn't suffer. Rinse the chilled yarn in cool water. Soap is not needed if the scent of the drink mix doesn't bother you. Squeeze out the extra water and hang up the yarns to dry.

I hope you have moments of joy and success with your yarn dyeing!