



SELF-MIXING OF COLOUR DYES



Some people are daunted by the mere mention of self-mixing colour dyes, whereas others may be more comfortable with the idea. Chances are, if you're reading this, then you're probably one of the latter.

Whether you're just starting out, or simply looking to improve your colour-mixing skills, we're put together some tips-of-the-trade to transform you into a colour-mixing master.

If you're just making your first foray into the world of colour-mixing, then start out with pigments we use in our mixes, and the white pigment can be used as a blanking primer to go from a dark shade to a light shade or to cover a dark mark on the leather. How to mix colours and alter colours effectively

To mix colours quickly and effectively, it's going to take some practice, and you're going to make a lot of mistakes. To help you along your way, however, the hints we have provided below should save you a little time in failed experiments.

Mixing cream, ivory and white dyes To mix cream, ivory or white coloured dyes, you will want to use white, light brown, tan and shading black pigments. Shading black and brown pigments are used when you want to dull the colour down, but these colours must be mixed in tiny increments and looked at from all angles before adding more, as side angles will tend to look darker. Blacks are generally better for making ivories, whereas brown is better for mixing cream colours.

Mixing black dyes

Mixing black may sound a little strange to some, but the truth is, blacks are rarely pure black. When you look carefully, especially from an angle, blacks often contain hints of other colours such as yellow or red. When mixing black dyes, start with deep black. If this is too dark, however, then start with shading black. Deep black can be darkened using purple, and if you're lightening with white, be sure to add the white in tiny increments.

Mixing brown and tan dyes Browns

These tans are often considered the most difficult colours to mix. For tans, start with a tan pigment base and use yellow, then darken carefully with black, if required. Solid browns primarily use tan, black, and sometimes yellow. Lightening browns should generally be done with yellow, as white can turn the colour grey and dark brown will make the colour milky. Carmine can add richness to darker shades of tans and browns.

Mixing pink dyes

Experiment with white, Turkey red and light brown, using brown and blue to darken. Carmine works with some shades, but flame red should be avoided.

Mixing burgundy and antique red dyes

Carmine is the best base for burgundy and blue should be used to darken rather than black (black turns carmine brown if too much is used). Burgundy can be toned down using tan or light brown. Antique red top coats are made using carmine and blue gloss pigments, as rubine will result in a brownish finish.

Mixing green dyes

To mix light greens such as lagoon green, use white, lemon and shading black, and perhaps a hint of blue. Brown will darken greens. To mix aqua or lichen greens, use light brown, white, shading black and blue pigments. To make turquoise, use lemon, white and bright green.

Mixing blue dyes Blues

Can be another tricky colour to mix, but the most common colours to use are blue, shading black, light brown and white for dull blues, whereas carmine should replace the light brown for lighter shades of blue. For even lighter shades including pale blues, you can include lemon. If the standard blue pigment is too blue, try adding some bright green to mellow it out a little.

Mixing grey dyes

The mostly widely used pigments for grey dyes are shading black, white and light brown, sometimes with a small amount of carmine. Blue can sometimes come out of the black when lightened, but you can try adding dark brown to remove the blue tint. To darken, use brown rather than black unless you want that blue tint. If you find your dye coming out with an unwanted yellow tint after using light brown, then try a little rubine or carmine, which will usually solve this problem.

Mixing red and orange dyes To make scarlet reds, try flame and light brown, then darken with blue, brown or carmine. To mix oranges, simply add a little more light brown or yellow, depending on the desired hue, but avoid darkening with black pigment.

Mixing yellow dyes Try using light brown and white to make yellows and add lemon to remove any pink tint. Shading black or brown can be used to darken, and sometime Turkey red. Keep in mind that any colour containing large amount of lemon will require a white base coat to cover damage.