

For 1 lb. of fiber or fabric you will need the following:

- ½ oz Indigo for light blue or 1-2 oz for darker blues.
- ½ oz Sodium Hydrosulfite
- ½ oz Soda Ash
- 2-3 gallons of water

1. Pour **powdered Indigo** into 1/4 cup **hot water**. Stir until dissolved.
2. Pour **dissolved Indigo** into a **large pot of water**.
3. In a separate jar, dissolve the **Soda Ash** in some **warm water**.
4. Add the **Soda Ash solution** to the **Indigo** and stir. This increases the PH of the dyebath (should be around 11 ph for cotton) to prepare for "reducing" the dye and making it soluble in water.
5. Add half (1/4 oz) of the **Sodium Hydrosulfite** to the dyebath and stir gently.
6. **Heat to between 120°F and 130°F** continuing to **stir gently**. The liquid should appear yellow or yellow-green and may even have a bit of a scummy appearance somewhat like a witch's cauldron; this is okay. **Let the mixture stand for 20 minutes.**
7. **If the water appears blue**, too much oxygen has entered the dye bath and you will have to add more **Sodium Hydrosulfite** into the bath and stir GENTLY to "reduce" the indigo.
8. **After the dye has steeped for 20 minutes** you may then add your fabric. The wet, pre-washed fabric can be compressed into a ball, lowered into the dye bath and then allowed to expand. **Avoid getting any air into the dyebath!**
9. Leave fabric in for a few minutes (to 10 minutes later on.) Remove, wait until blue. Put back in. **REPEAT** until you like the color then do three more dips.
10. Rinse your fabric piece in water. Start using cold water then progress to warmer water. Rinse until no pigment comes off.
11. Make an acidic bath using a tablespoon of citric acid per gallon of water. Soak the fabric for 20 minutes. Rinse.
12. Hand wash the fabric with neutral detergent such as synthrapol
13. Dry in shade