

Supplies for Handwork conference

August 14, 21, 28

NOTE: we are including links to websites in the supplies list, NOT that we recommend buying from them, but so you can see what we are trying to describe ("A picture is worth a thousand words")

For August 14:

Wet Felted Earth Ball Supplies:

For wet felting fiber we recommend using a less expensive white / undyed batting as your core. You will then only need a small amount of colored wool to lay on top of the white. As you are looking for wet felting fiber we recommend Corriedale or Merino wool as they both felt easily.

You will need: 4 or 5 ounces total of wool will be enough to make 3 or 4 felt balls • 1 ping pong ball or plastic practice golf ball or large wood sphere for center

Carding and spinning

Spinning Supplies:

- 1 set of hand carders - alternatively, 2 dog brushes with fine teeth

You can choose to purchase a drop spindle or you can make your own. To make a drop spindle you will need the following supplies:

Drop Spindle Making You may be able to find these supplies in a local craft supply store / woodworking shop

- One 3"x ¾" wood toy wheel, for example:

http://www.caseyswood.com/shoppingcart/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=220_24&products_id=79

- 3/8" diameter x 36" long birch wood dowel rods. This dowel must fit tightly through the hole in the center of the toy wheel. (We will cut this down to 12" long for 1 spindle) for example:

http://www.caseyswood.com/shoppingcart/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=346_146&products_id=1707

- Optional: Brass Cup Hook ¼" hole

http://www.caseyswood.com/shoppingcart/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=231_57&products_id=747

Spinning Fibers: We will learn to spin 2 fibers in the conference, wool (animal fiber) and flax (plant fiber). Alternatively to flax you may choose hemp, nettle, or other similar "baste" fibers. If you would



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enjoy adding in bonus fibers consider including silk, cotton, bamboo, alpaca, etc. The Woolery has an excellent selection of spinning fibers and we have included some helpful links here. We do not recommend choosing cotton for your first time learning to spin as it has a VERY short staple (fiber length) and can be quite challenging. But once you get the hang of spinning the simpler fibers you can easily advance to cotton.

For Wool: If you are able to access wool, look for raw wool "fleece". We are not looking for "roving" or "top" because we want to prepare the wool ourselves. Here are a couple options for reference. There are so many choices out there so choose what is most available to you. <https://woolery.com/scoured-carriedale-fleece.html> <https://woolery.com/black-cormo-fleece.html>

For Flax: You are looking for flax "TOP" or "Sliver" not Flax "TOW" If you choose hemp, nettle or another "long staple bast fiber", you are looking for Hemp "Sliver", Nettle "Sliver", "Top", etc. Flax Top <https://woolery.com/flax-top.html> <https://woolery.com/rosies-hemp-sliver.html>

For August 21:

Plant dyes (Onion skins is our focus)

Onion Skin Plant Dye Supplies

- Yellow onion skins & red onion skins (keep in separate containers) They can readily be collected from your local grocery store, just ask the produce manager. The color from onion skins will vary greatly depending on onion variety, growing conditions, soil, climate, etc. The type of fiber you are dyeing will greatly vary the results as well (wool, silk, cotton, flax, hemp, etc.) Play with different fibers and watch the beauty unfold! Or overdye your fiber by starting with yellow onion skins and then dipping into the red onion skin bath.

Some recipes call for 30% of dry weight of fiber (30 grams onion skins for 100 grams of fiber). Other recipes call for 100% to 200% (100 to 200 grams of onion skins for 100 grams of fiber). The more onion skins you use the deeper your colors will be.

- Fiber to dye – choose 100% natural fibers (wool, silk, cotton, flax, hemp, etc.) You may choose to dye yarn, silks, or cloth. Whatever you choose you will need to weigh out your DRY FIBER so you know how much dye to make.

After Baths / Color Modifiers

Rust Liquor – Iron Bath In a quart size mason jar place a handful of rusty nails (or other rusty metal) and add 2-parts water / 1-part white vinegar. Loosely place lid on jar and store FAR AWAY from children and pets. Let the rusty nails soak for 1-2 weeks. We will use this rust liquor for our iron after bath. You



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don't have a handful of rusty nails lying around? Neither did I! Watch this video for an easy way to make rust quickly! <https://vimeo.com/561992248>

Iron Bath will be 2 Tablespoons of iron liquor to 3 gallons water

Baking Soda Bath - 1 cup of baking soda to 3 gallons water •

Vinegar Bath - 5 pints of white vinegar to 3 gallons water

You will also need:

- 2 large dye pots (preferably stainless steel - NOT aluminum). One pot for the yellow onion skins and one pot for the red onion skins. If you are careful and ONLY put the onions in this pot and do NOT put the fiber back in the pot after you have dipped in the iron, you can use these pots again for food. If you dip in the iron and then back in the pot you cannot use these pots for food again.
- A good rule of thumb is your pot size should be 4-5 gallons per pound of dry fiber you intend to dye.
- 3 large buckets – 1 for the iron bath, 1 for the baking soda bath, and 1 for the vinegar bath.
- A pair of rubber gloves & an apron
- A stove to heat the dye pot on - We recommend that you work with your dyes outside for maximum ventilation
- A large bin for rinsing (a clean empty trash bin works well)

NOTE ON SAFETY: The iron bath can be toxic if ingested. So please, use common sense when handling these products. Wear gloves when handling solutions and wear a mask when there is danger of inhaling powders. Always work in a well-ventilated area (outdoors is best). DO NOT eat or drink while dyeing. DO NOT use utensils, pots, or pans that you will later use to cook food. KEEP IRON BATH OUT OF REACH of children and pets. To dispose of your iron bath, it is safe to pour onto the soil. Plants need iron and it is often sold as a soil conditioner, particularly for broad-leaved evergreens.

Crochet hat:

- Wool or Cotton Yarn Worsted weight (single ply yarn if possible) More than 1 color of your choice
- Size 5.5mm or 6mm crochet hook
- Yarn Sewing Needle



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For August 28:

Circle weaving supplies:

- 8" or 9" wooden embroidery hoop 8/4 Cotton warp yarn or twine (or fingering weight non-stretchy) Length should be 16 widths across your hoop (15 plus 1 extra - Measure your diameter and multiply by 16)
- Hand spun fibers for weft that we will spin together

Plant dyed paper/ folded box:

- Flowers (other than white) and leaves
- White paper (15cm x 15cm or 6" square): eight of them or more. Sketch paper is recommended. Sketch paper weighs 50-60 lb. (approx. 75-90 gsm). Regular xerox paper or regular weight origami are too flimsy to work with. Imagine you are folding a box that has nice crisp edges - papers need to have the weight and texture to be able to do that. Watercolor paper may work fine but they might be too heavy).
- Hammer and/ mallet and spoon
- Bath towel
- Strong flat surface to work on
- Magazine or thick book

Crochet net bag; potholders/ coasters; frisbee

NOTE: the basic pattern is the same for the potholder and the coaster. The potholder is larger, and made of cotton; the coaster is smaller, and made of wool and felted. We can discuss the advantages of each in person.

- Cotton Yarn medium or worsted weight (such as Sugar & Cream or similar) More than 1 color of your choice
- 5.0mm -5.5mm crochet hook
- Yarn Sewing Needle



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Dyeing with Indigo

Bonus extra: this is a more complicated, but truly magical process. We are sending this to you as an 'extra' hoping you will be inspired to take it on!

We understand from our friends around the world that some of these supplies may be difficult to source in different countries. We are offering this project as a bonus for you. If you are able to source these supplies, give it a try!

You may be able to source these supplies locally depending on where you live. The following links are given as examples.

Indigo Supplies from Dharma Trading Co:

2oz Indigo \$7.13

<https://www.dharmatrading.com/dyes/indigo.html>

2oz Color Remover \$2.99 (This is a reducing agent to remove the oxygen from the vat - also known as Thiourea Dioxide or Spectralite)

<https://www.dharmatrading.com/chemicals/dharmas-dyehouse-color-remover.html>

1 lb soda ash \$1.69 (this is an alkali agent. If you cannot source soda ash, lye will work too)

<https://www.dharmatrading.com/chemicals/soda-ash-fixer.html>

pH Test Strips \$10.39

<https://www.dharmatrading.com/tools/ph-test-paper.html>

You will also need:

A large dye pot (preferably stainless steel). Once you use this pot for dyeing with Indigo it will forever be your indigo pot! You cannot use it for food again. A good rule of thumb is your pot should be 4-5 gallons per pound of dry fiber you intend to dye.

White Vinegar (1 cup per dry pound of yarn)

A candy thermometer / jam thermometer - or other immersible thermometer that can reach 120 degrees Fahrenheit / 49 degrees Celsius



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A scale capable of weighing in grams

A pair of rubber gloves (the indigo will dye your hands blue)

A 3-gallon bucket handy for catching the drips when we pull the yarn out of the pot

A quart Mason jar plus 2-pint jars for mixing dyestuff and spoons to stir with.

A drying line or rack for hanging the dyed yarn

A stove to heat the dye pot on - We will be dyeing outside so if you do not have a stove or heating source you can use outdoors you may want to heat water in separate pots indoors and then carry out in small batches to the dye pot outside.

A large bin for rinsing the yarn (a clean empty trash bin works well)

Fiber to dye - natural fibers in cotton, wool, flax, silk, or other natural fibers

If you are dyeing yarn you will need extra scraps of any kind of yarn for prepping and tying the skeins to be dyed

NOTE ON SAFETY:

Some of the substances listed here, such as lye, are toxic. Others, such as finely ground indigo powder, can be irritating. So please, use common sense when handling these products. Wear gloves when handling solutions and wear a mask when there is danger of inhaling powders. Always work in a well-ventilated area (outdoors is best). Do not eat or drink while dyeing. DO NOT USE utensils, pots, or pans that you will later use for cooking. KEEP EVERYTHING out of reach of children and pets.

