

MODULE TWO – DIRECT APPLICATION OF ALUMINUM ACETATE MORDANT

CLEANING THE BACKGROUNDS & RECAP

This 6 minute video shows how the un-mordanted areas of printed textiles can be lightened or “cleaned” by a treatment with wheat bran. We also recap what we’ve done in this module.

Recall that for permanent colour we need both a mordant and a dye. However, we have printed our mordant and so ... where there is no mordant, the colour will slowly (or quickly) fade.

To lighten the mordant-free areas right away, we can boil our pieces in a bran mixture. If you are cleaning the background of one colour at a time, you can re-use the same bran bath. Bran is a natural source of phosphates which clean the textile of any un-mordanted areas.

Cleaning the backgrounds is an optional step. The colour from certain dyes will linger on the cloth more so than others. For example, cutch is rich in tannin and binds to the cloth, leaving colour behind even after taking these steps to clean the background. We recommend playing with this and testing dyes you are interested in using.

CLEANING THE BACKGROUNDS

- 1 cup of wheat bran in a mesh bag

1. Add your mesh bag of wheat bran to a dyepot and cover with a few litres of water. Use enough water so that the textile can move freely.
2. Cook the wheat bran for about 10 minutes - squish the bag every so often.
3. Remove the wheat bran. Add the textiles and cook for another 10 minutes. After 10 minutes decide if you wish to cook longer or remove your work.

Not all dyes can be easily removed from the backgrounds. More substantive dyes, or dyes with a high amount of tannin in them will not be easily removed from the background.

