

The Ultimate Indigo Vat

The simplest, purest and most ancient use of Indigo. Still standard in Scandinavia, the “Sig” or urine vat is so easy! Drawbacks are: it is slow, and can be stinky.

For those who are squeamish about using pee, please note:

- * urine from a healthy person exits the body completely sterile!*
- * Urea = urine is a standard in virtually ALL cosmetics. In olden times high class ladies regularly washed their hands and faces with their saved night urine, as it is a skin health and beauty aid.*
- * Soldiers today pee on their feet to prevent and treat athlete's foot, a skin fungus.*

Mind that the urine you save is that of someone who is a vegan or vegetarian, as meat makes pee smell awful.

PROCEDURES FOR THE ULTRA INDIGO VAT

Chose a pot that will be large enough for you to work your projects. It must have a close fitting lid. Plastic is fine. I like the recycled food grade tubs that are about 5 gallons and are free for the taking at the back door of any restaurant. Wash well.

Gradually fill with saved urine to about 2” from the top (leaving room to work your textile). Let the full tub of urine age for at least one week. You may want to keep it outside, as it can get stinky.

Add Indigo. I'd start with 4 oz. The finer the grind the better. It will tend to float on the top, so stir in gradually over several days. Stir gently as the idea is to mix in the Indigo, but not to add any air to the mixture. Keep the lid on tight when not stirring or dyeing.

Let sit another week, with gentle daily stirring. When the lovely coppery sheen appears across the top, the vat is ready.

Dye as usual, (see regular Indigo vat procedures), leaving the textile in the vat for a while, then airing it for 20 minutes before another “dip”.

After final airing, rinse well and air dry.