

DYING FEATHERS 101

Koolaid in the following flavors:

Black Cherry, Cherry/Fruit Punch, Orange, Lemon-Lime, Blue Raspberry, Grape, Tangerine.

Three bowls.

Have one bowl for washing/degreasing. In this bowl is water and joy liquid soap. Agitate the feathers in this and let sit while you prepare the other two bowls.

The next bowl is water and a dash of white vinegar with a couple of drops of joy soap.

The last bowl is a Pyrex 8" x 8" dish 1/3 full of water with a splash of vinegar, and a few drops of joy soap. Into this bowl dissolve two packets of koolaid.

Transfer the materials out of the degreasing bowl and into the water/vinegar bowl and let stand for 5 minutes.

Then transfer that material to the Koolaid dye Pyrex dish. Insert the dish in the microwave and nuke it for 2 minutes. Let it stand for two minutes, then nuke it again for two minutes.

Remove it from the microwave and set on a pot holder, examine the feather, if it is too light, let it stand longer. The koolaid acts as an acid dye, and it does not matter how much water you use. The dye in the koolaid will transfer from the water into the material. The water will actually get clearer as the material absorbs it. If you cannot get a dark enough shade, remove the feathers and add another packet of koolaid. And repeat the microwaving process. Once the desired shade is acquired, rinse well and dry the feathers.



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Tip Dying – For Aaron's Banksian sub

This is what we are trying to reproduce



The same steps for dying are followed, however there are multiple dye steps.

We are dying Amherst Pheasant center tail. First we split the tail pieces with a razor or other sharp knife. If we follow the groove in the stem with our knife it is fairly easy to split.



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We soak our feathers as before in preparation for dying as we prepare our first bath of orange.



After dying the whole feathers orange per our previous instructions, we prepare a second dye bath of Red.



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We're using a 9 inch square glass pyrex dish so we can edge (stem side) dye the feather. The moisture in from the previous bath holds the feather in place, and we can microwave the dye bath as before. We watch the edge dye and pull the feathers when they reach the proper color. Set them out to dry and the Banksian sub is complete.

