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Onion Dye



Introduction

In the fashion industry dyestuff plays an important role. People dye fabrics with natural dyestuffs that could be food and plants such as turmeric, blueberries, onion skin, red cabbage, black tea, coffee grounds, and etc. If there isn't any fresh produce then you can use black beans, flower petals, or dried herbs. Basically, I had many onion skins laying around in my kitchen so I planned on using those for my dye color. I followed every step from a tutorial video and completed my task. This project was very interesting and tricky at the same time. This project requires patience, timing, and effort.

History

Onion skin dye has been quite popular for many years in Azerbaijan, the Middle East, and Europe. Azerbaijan has been using dyestuff with natural herbs and unnatural in their whole life. The natural dyes that they have used are cochineal, onion skin, sarikok, saffron, walnut, dogwood, pomegranate, and many more. They have a holiday in spring called Novruz. They decorated their trays called khoncha with some sweets, nuts, fruits, and dyed eggs and got the dye color from onion skin. This tradition still goes on today. Onion skins are also used for other benefits such as hair strengthening, hair dye and etc. Onions skin dye has a broad range of colors. For wool, onion skin dye doesn't require a mordant. Mordant is needed to change the shade of colors of the dye. In an article, it says "yellow and brown colors were obtained from the bark, leaves, and berries of the black dogwood. In Lankaran, in order to get the yellow color, they used saffron- zafaran, sarikok, safflower, sumakh, rhubarb, karri turmeric, fustic, and onion peel. A broth of onion peels was used in Sheki for coloring the kalagai. In the Shamakhi province, they

used yellowed mulberry leaves, wild apple bark, and onion peel to produce a yellow dye. To produce the black dye, they used fresh nutshells, pomegranate peel, and the bark of walnut and oak trees. As for henna, it's an old orange dye. In order to produce the green color, they use indigo - blue with different types of yellow dyes. Sage and grape leaves were used to get yellow, light brown and greenish-gray colors. The eucalyptus was used to produce the red color, while quince, almond, blackberry, chestnut, pomegranate, chamomile, oak bark, onions, and saffron provided many shades of yellow. Walnut and thyme were used to get various shades of brown.”

In some countries, onion skins are expensive such as in Switzerland, where people buy bags of onion peels for egg dyeing on a holiday called Easter day. In an article, some supermarkets sell “85-gram bags of onion skins for 2.80 Swiss francs (\$2.84), which means that a kilogram adds up to 33 francs (\$33.5).” Onion skin was quite popular back then in Azerbaijan, the Middle East, and Europe. Onion skins were mostly used for holidays and later for fabrics and household items.

Process (Steps)

- 1) First, I got all my materials ready such as a collared t-shirt, pot, rubber bands, water, vinegar, red onion's skin, rubber gloves, one plastic bowl, detergent, soup spoon, and scissors.



(I collected all my materials from my kitchen)

- 2) Secondly, I added onions in a pot with 4 cups of water and put it on a medium flame for 1 hour. I kept stirring after 15 mins.



(Then I added the onion skins in the hot water pot and let it set in for one hour and kept stirring)

- 3) Thirdly, I did a shibori design that will create a spiral look. I took my collar t-shirt and held it from the middle and twirled it and it made a pie shape. Then I tightened it with some rubber bands.



The first picture is from the internet

(Then I took the collared t-shirt and tight it up with the design I want)

- 4) Fourthly, I took out the water from the pot and separated the onion's skin. I threw away the onion's skin. The dye of the red onions came out a mixture of an orange and dark red. I took a bowl and put the collared t-shirt in it and then added the dye color to it (half end and half out). Next, I let the collared t-shirt soak in the dye overnight for a darker color.



(Next, I added the hot onion skin dye to the collared t-shirt and let sit overnight)

- 5) In the morning, I added some vinegar in the collared t-shirt and after that, I cut the rubber bands.



(Finally removing those rubber bands)

- 6) Sixthly, I washed the collared t-shirt with detergent in cold water. Finally, I left it to dry for the whole day and then I ironed it.



(I just rinsed off the excess of the color and washed it with detergent)

- 7) The final step, I'm very happy with the results and here is me with a big smile with the collared t-shirt. Yay! The task is completed. I hope I get a good grade :)



(Then i finally presented the collared t-shirt)

Findings

My experience in the dyestuff project has been quite tricky and interesting at the same time. I lost hope at first because I thought I didn't tighten the collared t-shirt. I did my whole dye project based on the tutorial video that I saw on YouTube. For trying this for the first time the video really helped me out with the dyestuff and how to make the onion skins dye. My first attempt was successful in my opinion. It was that hard at first but got tricky later with the twisting and putting on the rubber bands. Overall, the video was very simple and it was her first time doing this experiment too and I guess we both accomplished.

Conclusion

My dyestuff lab project was based on onion skins. The good part was that I had all the materials at home. I did this whole experiment for the first time and followed a tutorial video on YouTube. The video helped me a lot, especially a person like me who can't follow simple instructions. Overall, the dyestuff project taught me a lot and now I can try making different dye colors with natural dyestuff and different design techniques.

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