

Dye Colouring Plastic Parts

By
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This is just a guide of one way to dye colour targets - either old original targets to freshen up the look or freshly professionally printed targets using the SLS Printing Process. You will need some gear similar to these items:

- portable hot plate (2200 watt is what was used)
- Stainless steel pot with chip basket or similar
- Spare bucket
- Multiple meter with temperature probe or a temperature gauge
- Soup spoon (which will also be colour affected - so do not steal your wife's good spoon from the kitchen)



Then you will need to have your items to dye colour and also your dye. Through various testing I have found **Rit - DyeMore Synthetic** to be very effective. There is a Bit - Dye but is better suited to t-shirts / materials and not hard plastic.



Now fill up your pot with water just from your tap / hose and bring to a boil and once boiled pour into your spare bucket. This is needed to slowly cool you freshly dye parts - placing freshly dyed parts straight into cold water affects the dye quality and the plastic structure after being boiled.



Now fill up your pot 2/3 full and bring to a boil once again - this will be your dye colour batch and then let to simmer down to 92-95 degrees C.



Now pour in the dye - I tend to pour the whole bottle and in this case purchased the Red Dye just for this guide.



Now place the chip basket or equivalent into the pot.

Note: turn the portable cooker down as with at least my chip basket it boils up quick and it is important to simmer around the 92 degrees C.



Now lower your items into the chip basket and stir constantly for just **2 Minutes** but check at the 1minute as you might want to not go a dark - different colours can be a different concentration in colour..



Once happy with the colour, turn off the portable cooker and lift the chip basket out of the pot and scoop the plastic parts carefully as they will be very hot and put into you still hot water in the spare bucket and let them sit there for another 15 minutes.



Then after 15 minutes remove one at a time and wash clean with a hose or at a sink and then I also use compressed air to blow off the water off the target face as they can get droplet stains if just left on a drying rack / saw horse after hose rinsing.



For SLS printed parts leave for a day to thoroughly dry and then your parts are ready to use.



The professional print companies use a very similar process except for a more specific and very expensive dye and dye baths but while this is a very DIY home approach it can be very effective.

Hope this helps

Cheers

Swinks.

PS - Please take care with power, boiling water and we do not accept any responsibility rather just wanted to share a how to guide to help others.