

# DEVORE

# BURN-OUT

# MAIWA

604538

\$1.00

*en français v: devorer (to devour)*



The word devore describes the fascinating textile process of etching a pattern into cloth using a paste which burns away specific fibres. Sensuous cloth reminiscent of antique velvet, lace and cut work can be obtained, along with dynamic contemporary creations. The devore paste discussed in this data sheet will burn away cellulose fibres (plant fibres such as cotton, linen, hemp, rayon etc.) leaving protein fibres (animal fibres such as silk and wool) and synthetic fibres (polyester, acrylic, nylon) untouched.

## test & experiment

### CHOOSING FABRIC

Testing is the only way to tell if a fabric will respond effectively to the devore paste. When choosing fabrics for burn-out, it is important to pick a suitable base cloth for a successful project. Knowledge of fibre content and the manner in which the cloth has been constructed is necessary to achieve the results you desire. If the paste is applied to a cloth made of 100% cotton a hole will result. This can be used to your advantage - creating a fabric that simulates cut work. If the paste is applied to a cloth made of 100% silk the burn out paste will wash off without eating away any of the fibres. Combination fabrics woven with cellulose thread in its warp and protein or synthetic thread

in its weft create floating patterns held together by the paste resistant fibres. One of the most popular combination fabrics is silk/rayon velvet. The fluffy pile is rayon and the gauze backing is silk - the burn out paste will eat away the cellulose pile and the gauze will be left intact resulting in an intricate cut velvet look. Some other interesting combination fabrics for devore are; cotton/polyester blends, silk/rayon satin, wool/cellulose blends and fabrics woven with azeta, a polyester thread wrapped in cotton.

### SCOURING

Scouring the fabric is very important and will remove impurities from the cloth preparing it for the burn out process and future dyeing or discharging. Textile finishes and treatments left in store bought fabrics may cause fumes and react negatively when the devore paste and heat are applied.

In a bucket or washing machine soak fabric in appropriate ingredients with warm water for ten minutes. Then complete a full cycle in the washing machine or in the bucket agitate for fifteen minutes. Rinse until the water is clear.

- Cellulose fibres: 3Tbsp soda ash + 1tsp synthrapol detergent per pound of fibre.
- Protein fibres: 2 Tbsp orvus paste per pound of fabric.
- Synthetic fibres: 1tsp synthrapol detergent per pound of fibre

*TREAT COMBINATION FABRICS AS YOU WOULD THE HIGHER OF THE COMBINATION. eg. 35% SILK/ 65% RAYON VELVET SHOULD BE SCOURED AS A CELLULOSE FIBRE.*

#### \* HANDLE CHEMICALS WITH CARE \*

Wear Rubber Gloves and dust or vapour mask.  
Work in a well ventilated space.  
Keep out of reach of children  
MSDS sheets available upon request.

# FORMULA FOR DEVORE PASTE: yeilds approximately 3cups

**STEP 1. THICKENER:** 65grm (6.5Tbsp) P4 thickener (also called locust bean gum)  
750ml (3 cups) warm water

Place 500ml of the water into a studio blender. Add P4 powder and lightly blend. Add the remaining 250ml of water and blend thoroughly. Let stand several hours or overnight to allow the mixture to become smooth.

**STEP 2. BURN OUT MIXTURE:** 62.5ml (1/4cup) warm water  
45ml (3Tbsp) glycerine  
170gm (8Tbsp) sodium bisulphate

In a studio blender combine water, glycerine and sodium bisulphate, and blend lightly. Slowly add the premixed thickener and blend. If this mixture becomes too thick for the blender transfer it to a large bowl and finish blending by hand - making certain that ingredients are thouroughly combined.

Paste may be kept in the refrigerator for approximately one month and any crystals that may form will disappear when the formula is returned to room temperature. If mixture becomes thin over time, adjust

your application technique to suit, **do not add more thickener** (this will dilute the potency of the formula). All chemical ingredients are available at **Maiwa Handprints** on Granville Island or through our website [www.maiwa.com](http://www.maiwa.com) except glycerine which can be found at most drug stores.

create

## APPLYING THE PASTE

By taking extra care to control the amount of paste applied to the fabric surface, you will produce successful devore. Silkscreening the paste onto cloth is by far the most reliable technique for achieving even application (See Maiwa Handprints' Silkscreening data sheet). Block printing, stenciling and hand painting are effective applications as long as the paste is applied with consistent and regular marks. Heavy areas or areas where paste has pooled may cause a hole in the fabric, conversely, areas with too little paste may not burn away at all.

On fabrics like velvet and satin with an obvious face (right side) apply paste to the back of the cloth so the paste reaches the connecting points between the two fibre types. Allow paste to dry completely before moving on to the next step. Do not store cloth with paste applied, prolonged contact will deteriorate all fibre types.

## IRONING

**The process of heating the paste causes the burn-out action of cellulose fibres to occur.** If a mistake has been made when applying the paste it is possible at this stage, prior to ironing, to rinse it off with water and begin again. The same is true if the paste has found it's way onto the clothes you're wearing. Simply wash it off with water.

Once the paste is completely dry, iron the pasted areas, using the appropriate heat setting for the fabric you are working with, until a medium caramel colour appears (note: A light cloth can be used between iron and project but will make the shift in color harder to monitor). This colour shift can be difficult to detect if a coloured fabric is being used, so **test before embarking on a large project.** If paste has been evenly applied this colour will emerge uniformly, if not, some areas will darken quickly while other areas will remain pale. Heat should be directed to areas with heavy coverage. Be careful, too much heat may cause a hole in the fabric and too little will not be enough to cause the burn out. Once the whole fabric has been ironed, immerse fabric in warm water to prevent the burnt-out fibres from becoming air-born, then with your fingers gently rub off excess fibres and paste.

The devored fabric is now ready for drying or dyeing procedures (See: Maiwa Handprints dyeing data sheets).

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