



Speckle Dyeing Yarn with Kool-Aid

This method of dyeing yarn offers a fun and accessible way to add vibrant colors to your projects. Perfect for crafters of all levels, Kool-Aid speckle dyeing requires minimal materials and is safe to do at home. Using 100% wool is crucial for dyeing as it absorbs the dye effectively, resulting in rich, lasting colors.

[Watch the full video tutorial on Creative Crochet Corner.](#)



Materials Needed

- 100% wool yarn (This can be a superwash or a non-superwash yarn. Superwash yarn often results in more brilliant colors.)
- Kool-Aid packets (various colors)
- Tools for dye application (basting brush, fork, saltshaker, or you can even sprinkle dye with your fingertips)
- A Large bowl or sink filled with water for soaking
- Small bowls or jars filled with an inch or so of water
- Small bowls for the Kool-Aid
- Larger microwave safe bowl or container
- Plastic wrap
- Newspaper, or grocery bags, or plastic disposable tablecloth to protect table from staining
- Microwave
- Rubber gloves (optional)

Kool-Aid Colors

Not all Kool-Aid packet colors match the drink color. For a better guess as to the color of the drink, look at the picture of the drink on the package- NOT the background color of the package. Experiment with different colors to find your desired shades. If the bright Kool-Aid colors are not your favorite, you can certainly mix your own colors! Colors can be mixed together in powder form. For muted shades, or earth tones, try mixing a tiny amount of the color opposite the color wheel to tone down the bright shades.

Process

To prepare your yarn for speckle dyeing, wind it into loose hanks. Secure the hanks loosely with ties to prevent tangling.

Soak the yarn in a mixture of water. Ideally you should soak the yarn for at least a few hours or overnight.

Cover the table with a layer of newspapers or grocery bags, or a plastic tablecloth to protect it from any spills. Spread out a long piece of plastic wrap on the table. This should be about 8-12" longer than your hank of yarn.

After yarn has finished soaking, squeeze out some of the water, leaving the yarn wet, but not dripping. Lay out the hank of yarn on the plastic wrap. Try to spread out the yarn a bit so that more surface area of the yarn is available for dyeing. You can use your fingers to make the yarn a bit wavy, in order to reduce the likelihood of color pooling.

Add each color of dry Kool-Aid to a bowl. If desired, mix different Kool-Aid packets together to create unique colors. You will need a separate bowl for each color you plan to use. Tone down bright colors by mixing them with complementary shades (colors across the color wheel from one another).

Dip basting brush or fork into the water, then dip it into the dry Kool-Aid dye to pick up a bit of dye. Transfer this to the damp yarn, making dots randomly on the surface of the yarn. Rinse basting brush or fork between colors. After you have used all the colors you plan to use, flip yarn over so that you can repeat the process for the other side.



When you are happy with the amount of speckles, consolidate the yarn and fold the short ends of the plastic wrap inward, then fold the plastic wrap the long way, to encase the yarn, and roll it into a long skinny “burrito” shape. Coil this up into a “cinnamon roll” shape and place into a microwave-safe bowl.



Now you will need to heat set the dye by steaming it in the microwave. This is a very quick way of setting the color.

Place the bowl/yarn in the microwave for 2 minutes. Pull this out and let it rest for two minutes, then use the back of a spoon or your basting brush to squish the yarn to release a bit of the water in the yarn to see what color the water is. If this appears clear, then you are finished. If it looks like there is still dye in the water, then microwave the yarn again for two more minutes, and repeat the process, until the water appears clear.

After dyeing, cool the yarn slowly to avoid shocking and felting the fibers. Allow it to cool naturally to room temperature. You can remove the plastic wrap when it is cool enough to the touch to allow it to cool a little bit faster, but do not rinse it until it reaches room temperature. Rinse yarn in room temperature water, being careful not to agitate or tangle it.



This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. In the bottom right corner, there is a dark brown rectangular box. Inside this box, the text "Creativity Lives at Crafts.com!" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below this box, the background transitions to a light tan color, which also contains some text.

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