

Dye to Pigment...

It is possible to change a dye in to a pigment through a process known as laking. Laking is a process where a vessel is inserted in to a dye bath, which is dyed and removed resulting in a dyed solid. This can be ground and sieved to a pigment of sufficient size.

When Making a pigment from a dye I usually use three different vessels to extract the colour from the dye. These are ground egg shells, white ash and calcined oyster or mussel shells. When un washed these vessels contain different amounts of alkali and acid which will result in a change of the finishing colour.

Laking a Dye...

- 1—Submerge your dye material in water until a sufficient amount of colour has been extracted.*
- 2—Sieve this mixture so that you're left with just the dye.*
- 3—Separate this dye in to three separate containers.*
- 4—Add each of your laking vessels to each of your dyes. (The colour should change here depending on the alkali or acid present in the vessel)*
- 5—Sieve these mixtures through separate coffee filters.*
- 6—Either dry the coffee filter containing the pigment for later use or use the damp pigment straight away mixing it with a binder.*



Mushroom dyes being Laked