



Where stitchers come for help with their crosses

## “Accent” your stitching with pre-treated threads

Environmental laws are changing daily. Dyers can no longer use products that have been used in past years to set their dyes & threads. Society strives to make our environment as safe as we can. Inconvenience is the cost we pay to make it safer. Pre-handling stitching fibers has become one of those matters in which we **MUST** pre-rinse our threads or suffer the consequences of not taking precautions.

The precautions below are printed from a “Laundering & Pressing” handout that ThreadworX (a US manufacturer of great overdyed thread colors) provides shops with the shipment of their fibers.

Due to the strict regulations imposed by the FDA on dye chemicals, no thread can be guaranteed 100% colorfast by specialty product manufacturers. The FDA, with the additional voice of the EPA, has removed many of the “setting” ingredients (such as lead) in dyes so now we must take special precaution with any colored fabric or thread.

We seldom have a problem with our colors running but we cannot guarantee complete colorfastness.



Specialty threads must be treated gently! The threads must first be unskined, put into a bathroom basin 1/2 filled with cold water with 2 tbs. table salt and 2 tbs. vinegar. Soak for 2-3 minutes, remove, blot with towel and let dry. This is recommended for any piece that will require washing.

Please Note: HOT WATER and using a STEAM IRON and/or a damp cloth when pressing completed project will reactivate dyes and cause bleeding.

If your work has been completed and the dyes have bled in washing, then you must soak the piece in ICE WATER until the color starts to bleed out. Remove from the water and run an ice cube over the problem area and then place back in fresh ice water to soak again. Repeat this process until the problem area is clear of dye. This may take continued effort, possibly over a few days, but it does work!

When you purchase threads, Accents recommends you take time to do a quick check of the color stability before storing the threads. A customer recently shared this technique with us:

*Wet a white paper towel and lay it on your counter. Snip 1-1/2 inch off each skein of floss. Lay snipped thread on the paper towel and cover with a second paper towel. Let dry. If any skein has bled, further pre-treatment is necessary.*

The above technique seems like it would be a good indicator of the dye stability—and doesn’t require waiting for an entire skein of floss to dry. Although it may take a bit of time, it’s certainly better than the regret experienced when you wash and/or iron your finished project and see color bleeding into the fabric.

When you discover that your thread has bled into your fabric, DMC suggests that, if the fibers and the fabric are cotton, you immerse the fabric into a basin of ice water. Yes, ice water, as with ice in the water. Soak the fabric until the bleed disappears. Change the water as it discolors and/or as the ice melts.

FYI: it is also a good idea to check the dye stability of your fabric, especially when you are using a dark fabric such as navy blue, green, red or black.

Wishing you many hours of joy-filled stitching and projects that don’t bleed when you iron them after the stitching is completed.

And, yes, stitchers. . .

**IRONING WHEN STITCHING IS DONE IS PART OF THE STITCHING PROCESS!**

. . . *gayle*

