Direct Application of Procion MX Dyes
For screen-printing or painting dye on fabric

*Always wear a dust mask or respirator when working with dry dye powder. Wear gloves at all times when working with dry or wet dye.
*All fabric should be pre-washed or scoured prior to dyeing to remove dirt or sizing in the fabric. This step is unnecessary if the fabric is labeled PFD or PFP.

Step 1: Sodium Alginate Thickener (or print paste)
Makes 1 quart (scale up or down based on your needs)
Start with 1 quart warm water
Add 1 tsp metaphos and _ cup urea, stir well to dissolve
In a dry mixing cup, measure 4 Tbsp of Sodium Alginate SH
Cover the powder with rubbing alcohol* and mix so that it looks like wet sand
Gradually mix the wet sodium alginate into the urea water using a whisk or electric hand mixer. The sodium alginate will thicken as it is mixed and will smooth out after a few hours.
*If you do not have any rubbing alcohol or the smell bother you, slowly pour the dry sodium alginate into the urea water while mixing with an electric hand mixer.

Step 2: Dye Solution (for one cup of thickened dye)
Dissolve the desired amount of dye (from the amounts below) in a small amount of water (1 or 2 Tbsp.) then stir into 1 cup of prepared print paste

Pale = _ to _ tsp
Medium = _ to 1 tsp
Dark = 2 – 3 tsp
Black = 4 to 6 tsp

Step 3: Activate the Dye

Option 1: Add soda ash to dye
When you are ready to begin printing or painting your fabric, add 1 tsp soda ash per cup of thickened dye and stir well to dissolve. Thickened dye with soda ash will last about 4 to 6 hours. After this amount of time it will start to exhaust and should be discarded.

Option 2: Soda Soak Solution
Alternatively you can soak your fabric in soda soak solution. This method conserves dye because instead of adding soda ash to the dye, you are adding it to the fabric before it is dyed. Dissolve _ cup soda ash in 1 gallon
of warm water. Soak fabric 15 minutes, gently wring out excess (do not rinse) and hang fabric to dry. Soda soak solution can be saved and used again. Once fabric is dry it can be ironed and it is ready to be painted or printed.

Step 4: Set the Dye (see reverse)

Option 1: Batching (long method)
1. Lay damp painted or printed fabric flat on a large sheet of plastic.
2. Cover the fabric with newspaper, newsprint, or an old sheet. Mist with water to dampen. It is important that the fabric stays damp while batching, so make sure the paper is wet but not soaking.
3. Gently roll up the bundle and allow it to stay in a warm place for a minimum of 4 hours. For darker colors 24 hours is preferable. If left for too long (a few days or more) the fabric may begin to mold.
4. Rinse fabric in cold water to get rid of excess dye. Then wash in warm water and synthrapol until the water runs clear.
5. Wash any dye off the plastic and hang to dry.

Option 2: Steaming (fast method)
1. After painting or printing with thickened dye allow it to dry on the fabric.
2. *For small amounts of fabric (less than 1 yard) put newspaper, newsprint, or an old sheet on either side of the fabric and gently roll it up. Then roll into a cinnamon roll shape and secure with thread or a safety pin.
3. Place a steamer basket or upside down colander into a large stainless steel or enamel pot. Add water to just below the bottom of the steamer basket or colander.
4. Wrap a large towel around the lid of the pot and secure with clothespins (this will keep condensation from dripping onto your fabric). Place the lid on the pot. Bring water to a boil.
5. Once the water is boiling and you see steam coming out the top of the pot, place your fabric bundle on top of the steamer basket or colander. Put the lid back on and steam for 15 minutes. Make sure there is plenty of water in the pot and never leave unattended!
6. Allow fabric to cool, unwrap, and wash as usual.
7. *For larger amounts of fabric (more than 1 yard) or heavy fabric lay the fabric face down over newsprint, muslin, or an old sheet and roll both layers over the mesh tube in the kitchen.
8. Roll the large steamer over the burners and fill with water until you can see it in the round window. Turn on all of the burners to medium.
9. Once you see steam coming out of the steamer, place your fabric roll over the long wooden pole (the one with a flat edge) and place into the steamer. The pole should fit into the notches on the sides of the steamer. Steam for 15 minutes.
10. Remove fabric roll from steamer, turn off burners, roll the steamer back to its position behind the stove.
11. Once fabric is cool wash as usual.