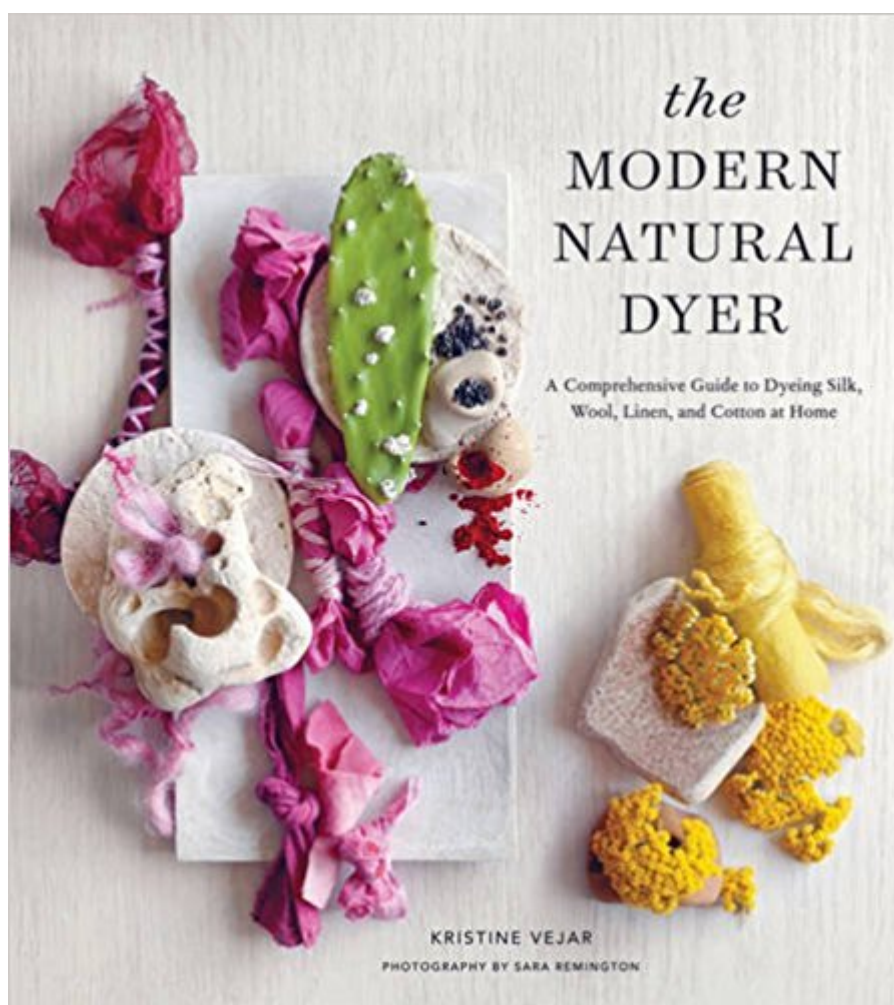


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# The Modern Natural Dyer: A Comprehensive Guide To Dyeing Silk, Wool, Linen And Cotton At Home



## Synopsis

Thousands of natural materials can produce glorious color—the insect cochineal produces pink, maroon, and purple, and more than 500 species of plants produce indigo blue. Now, in *The Modern Natural Dyer*, expert Kristine Vejar shares the most user-friendly techniques for dyeing yarn, fabric, and finished goods at home with foraged and garden-raised dyestuffs as well as with convenient natural dye extracts. Demystifying the "magic," Vejar explains in explicit, easy-to-follow detail how to produce consistent, long-lasting color. With stunning photography of the dyes themselves, the dyeing process, and 20 projects for home and wardrobe (some to knit, some to sew, and some just a matter of submerging a finished piece in a prepared bath), *The Modern Natural Dyer* is a complete resource for aspiring and experienced dye artisans.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“This book is an amazing resource for hand-dyeing using natural materials and crafting with the results. If you’ve never dyed before it will give you the bug, and if you’ve tried some dyeing projects in the past you will definitely want this book on your shelf for reference and inspiration. (About.com (5 stars))”  
“Kristine’s book breaks down natural dyeing from both a scientific and creative perspective, making the process (which has always seemed intimidating to me) feel as approachable as it is beautiful. I love the projects in the book because, in addition to learning basic dye formulas and techniques, the DIY ideas are a nice

balance of classic and contemporary. From cool, blousy shirts (that would look at home in any hip boutique) to table linens and pillows, *The Modern Natural Dyer* is a great way to dive into the world of dyeing. (Design\*Sponge) "The Modern Natural Dyer is a terrific primer for anyone new to the technique. Kristine walks you through the ins and outs of the process, from defining what scouring and mordanting mean to helping you learn how best to achieve desired colors. (DIY Network) "Vejar's lovely book is very sophisticated and detailed. (Library Journal (starred review))

Kristine Vejar is the owner of A Verb for Keeping Warm, a popular yarn store and natural dye studio in Oakland, California. A Fulbright scholar, she began her intensive study and practice of natural dyeing nearly two decades ago in India.

*Modern Natural Dyer* has an appealing cover and photographs. I wish it would have included a wider variety of dyestuffs. There are about 24 included. Another issue I had, and I should have anticipated this, was the amount of space used for the projects. It is my opinion that if you are at the point where you want to dye your own fabric and yarn, you either already have a project in mind or can figure it out. Pages exclusively dedicated to a picture of the project or knitting and sewing instructions are about 43 pages of a 192 page book. On the good side, specific weights and temperatures are provided, as well as a dye chart for cochineal, madder, quebracho red, catch, rhubarb, weld, fustic, pomegranate, and walnut, for both cellulose and protein, in different concentrations of dye as well as the chalk vs wheat soak for cellulose. If only the projects could be switched out in favor of more dye charts! The provided dyeing/scouring/mordanting instructions are clear, and make the information accessible to the beginner. So, I think this book will be great for some, and 'ok' for others. Try and look at a copy before you purchase.

I didn't know anything about this book or the author until I took her class on the Creative Bug website. I've been interested in using natural dyes for years and have a few books on knitters but the instructions/techniques were very limited. This is the very first book I have found where there is actually precise step by step instructions on how to dye yarn and fabric with a variety of natural dyes. I thought the video I watched was going to be sufficient to give this a try but ended up getting the book and was really glad I did. There is a lot more information and examples on the most common natural dyes (about 14) including a special section on how to create and dye with indigo with is different than other dyes. I've always wanted to hand dye some quilting cotton with indigo

using various resist techniques and she actually has a chapter on how to do this in the book! After having read through the book, I felt that it was lacking in more information on a wider variety of resist techniques, there are just a few, however, to be fair the major goal of the book is on how to color with dyes, not surface design. I also felt that while the information was thorough, it still felt like it was mostly intended for "beginners." Almost half the book was taken up with project ideas for knitting, sewing and quilting. Except for the quilt, and the baby onsie dyed with black tea, I wasn't very impressed with the other projects. I would have felt more satisfied if the project ideas were left out and to have had those pages dedicated to more extensive information on advanced techniques like mixing colors to create new colors, more information on various resist techniques etc. The photography for the color swatches and the natural plants used to make the dyes and their geographic and historical information was very beautiful and well written. This author went to India for a month to study the traditional methods of natural plant based dyeing and then won a Fulbright Scholarship to study there again for a year and a half, pretty impressive. As a quilter, I know from my quilt history books that India was the first country that learned how to dye and print on cotton fabrics, so I thought it was fantastic that she wanted to share her wealth of knowledge in a book. Unlike some cook books where they call for a pinch of this and a dash of that, she provides very precise measurements, and the instructions are very logical, well ordered, and extremely straight forward. There is even information on how to "fix" your dye bath when things go wrong. Maybe there will be a follow up book with more advanced techniques? Or maybe because she owns a professional dye studio to make and sell hand dyed yarn and cloth, those techniques are just something we need to figure out ourselves through our own experimentation?

I added this book to my wish list purely for it's gorgeously styled cover and then purchased it once I discovered the author on Instagram and fell in love with her informative feed. I caught the natural dyeing bug once the walnuts started falling in our yard and then took a field trip to forage goldenrod after realizing it was readily available in our region. Kristine's instructions for showing me the different steps I'd need to take depending on whether I was dyeing with wool or cotton yardage was helpful as well as the simple to follow steps from start to finish. It took that overwhelming feeling away that often comes with diving into a new medium and I ended up with beautifully dyed skeins of wool. I'm so thankful for her expertise in the field and how beautifully this book was written. Well done!

I am just getting into natural dyeing and have bought almost every book on the subject. This book is

one of my favorites. I love the color swatches and seeing how different mordants can expand your color offerings. The projects included are a nice touch so you can begin getting in the habit of envisioning what you are going to do with your dyed material. Natural dye extracts are included in addition to using plants directly. I am excited to get started dyeing my alpaca roving and yarn naturally!

This is a beautiful hard-cover book that not only walks you through the basics of dyeing with natural dyes, but also has projects that can inspire one to experiment. This book should be a part of every dyer's library!

This book is as beautiful as it is informational. The photos are lovely, and the instructions are clear and helpful. I've already dyed with several different plants using the recipes and steps and have gotten excellent results.

Interesting, informative, with a colorful format. Vejar knows her subject. The projects are easy to intense and the author also teaches what she writes.

Great book, chock full of wonderful ideas and recipes

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