

Example #3: Gwyneddh's Locs and Two-Step Black



Gwyneddh has dark brown hair braided into locs. She prefers that her locs be blue-black, so she has her hair dyed with the two step henna-indigo process every six months or so, when her natural Brunette has begun to show. Ancient Sunrise® henna will make her locs stronger and glossier; they will weather and break less so they'll grow longer.

Gwyneddh will need about 600g of Ancient Sunrise® Henna for African Hair powder mixed into paste, and 600g of Ancient Sunrise® Zekhara Indigo powder.¹ These two products are more finely sifted than the other powders, so they will wash out more easily. Coarsely sifted henna leaves plant residue that is very difficult to rinse from locs.

Since blue-black henna-indigo is a two-step process, Gwyneddh will have to spend one very long day with her stylist, or she'll have to come in two consecutive days. Blue-black is the most difficult color to accomplish with an entirely chemical-free henna-indigo dyeing processes, but the results are safe and beautiful!

¹ For a complete description of preparing cassia, see Chapter 7, Mixing and Testing Your Henna Mix

The amount of henna and indigo paste required to dye Gwyneddh long locs weighs more than two pounds. That is a lot of weight to have on one's head for the several hours dyeing process. Gwyneddh will need to make sure she has a comfortable place to lie down and take a nap so she doesn't have a sore neck and a headache.



Ancient Sunrise® henna helps Gwyneddh's locs grow rapidly and long. It's been a while since she last dyed her hair with Ancient Sunrise® henna and indigo; the hair near her roots is more brunette, and the tips which have been dyed before are glossier and blacker.

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Melissa mixes Ancient Sunrise® henna the night before Gwynedd² comes in for her first of two sessions. Since Gwynedd has her locs tightened every month, sectioning is simple: the sections are already there! Melissa pulls out a few locs at a time, and pushes henna into the locs, down to the scalp, and out to the tips.



² For a complete description of preparing cassia, see Chapter 7, Mixing and Testing Your Henna Mix



Melissa continues to apply paste to Gwyneddh’s locs, making sure that every loc is completely saturated with henna paste. Neither henna nor indigo leave a dark or long lasting stain on foreheads and ears; just wipe away the excess paste with a wet washrag.





Melissa continues to apply henna to all of Gwyneddh's locs, then wraps plastic wrap around her mound of locs to keep the henna paste moist. The henna paste is kept in the locs for four hours, then shampooed and rinsed completely clean. The hennaed locs had auburn highlights.





The next day, Melissa prepares Ancient Sunrise® indigo paste to apply to Gwynedd's locs. She mixes 100g of Ancient Sunrise® Zekhara indigo at a time with water, so the paste will not oxidize as she works.³ Indigo is ready as soon as it's mixed; indigo may lose its ability to stain in twenty minutes when exposed to the air.

Melissa applies indigo paste exactly the same way as she applied the henna, working through the locs, from scalp to tips, pushing and pressing indigo paste into every loc. This will require a total of 600g of dry indigo powder, mixed with water. When every loc is completely covered, Melissa wraps all of Gwynedd's locs with plastic wrap.



After letting the indigo paste sit in her hair for two hours, Gwynedd's hair is shampooed and rinsed.

³ For complete instructions about mixing Ancient Sunrise® indigo, see chapter 7

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Now Gwyneddh's hair is perfect blue-black and beautiful.

At present, Gwyneddh does the henna-indigo two-step process every six months, roots to tip because her roots are not very visible. When she begins to go gray, she may decide to do her roots more frequently and the full length only once a year.

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