

complexions, or Nordic and ash blondes. #2 Brunette: Used on complexions that are between blonde and brunette. #3 Brunette: Dark-haired individuals with true brunette complexions. In combination with #4 for complexions usually found in male Italian or other Latin races. #4 Latin: Darker Latin complexions. #5 Darker: African-Americans with very dark skin or white and Latin complexions deeply tanned by the sun. In combination with #4 Latin for African-Americans with average or medium skin.”

Dyes are intended to provide an adequate base for cosmetics. On occasion we may only need a liquid or transparent cream cosmetic for the lips, and for highlighting warm color areas. If cosmetics are required, it should appear as though none were applied.

Our goal is to give the family back their loved one ... looking well again. You the embalmer can do that for the family.



Dennis divides his time working in his Dodge sales territory in northeastern Massachusetts, and being in the office manning the technical support line, along with helping out with customer service.  
Dennis Daulton



Reprinted from the *Dodge Magazine*, Summer 2015

# Tissue Coloration

by Dennis Daulton

Families literally surrender their loved ones to our care. Those who want preparation and viewing expect us to give them back looking well again. No more, no less. It is an unspoken request.

I recall the day a lovely woman in our community called to request that she come into the funeral home to see her deceased husband long before his scheduled visitation. I greeted her at the door, took her hand, and escorted her into the visitation room. Sensing that she wanted to be left alone, I paused for a moment and then took leave.

I wasn't eavesdropping, but could clearly hear the words she spoke to her husband. "You are well again, Monty. You are well again." I never did muster the courage

## Published by

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to ask Mildred what she meant by those words. I didn't want her to know that I heard her. She has since died, but she would have told me if I had asked. We were friends. Was her husband well again because he was finally released from his sickly shell? Or was he well again because he no longer appeared ill? Perhaps it was both. Once again, viewing provided healing.

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It is never about the type of casket the deceased is in. It is all about how they look in whatever casket they are in. They must look well again, and natural if a family will consider embalming the next time they are faced with a death.

For those of us who have the skills to make folks look well again, or who have experienced the loss of someone

whose healthy appearance had been restored, we know the full impact this has on emotional healing and well-being in the months and years to come.

One product which greatly enhances the appearance of the properly and thoroughly embalmed dead human body is a tissue dye. All Dodge arterial chemicals, except "Introfiant OTC" (not to be confused with "Introfiant with Dynachrome") contain an active, staining dye which will impart color upon the tissue. However, these colors are subtle. If more color is needed to internally mask a jaundice condition (to re-stain from within), then our Icterine Color Concentrates or Inr-Tone Dyes should be added to the arterial solution. The original Introfiant OTC, or "old type color," has no color. This is helpful when using this higher index chemical in a waterless solution or in a high concentration when injecting into the head. The dye in Introfiant with Dynachrome might be too pronounced in these higher concentrations.

Jaundofiant Basic, which is the formaldehyde portion of this two part mixture, has no dye but does have a bleaching agent. Used in equal portions as recommended with Jaundofiant Control, the mixture does have a dye so to speak since the Control is the co-injection portion and it does contain an active staining dye.

As we may recall from our embalming school text books, there are active and inactive dyes. Active dyes internally impart color into the tissue. Inactive dyes merely differentiate one chemical from another and have no staining effect. The latter helps at 3 AM when reaching in the cabinet for a chemical of choice. Metaflow, a co-injection chemical, need not be pink. Permacav Fifty, a

cavity chemical, need not be green. The ingredients are actually clear. The different distinctive colors help us quickly tell them apart. However, this is no excuse not to read the label of all products before using. I know of several embalmers who actually used Metaflow thinking it was an arterial chemical.

The advantage of working in a relatively small town for many years is that we know most of the folks we ultimately care for when their days have come to an end. We know what they looked like, especially before a debilitating illness. The disadvantage is that often times we too grieve at their loss because we knew them. If we didn't know them, then it is important to have a photograph. If the embalming takes place before a photo can be secured, we can only use our best judgment in adding a dye. One would not add a suntan or tan dye to the embalming solution for a frail person who had been in a nursing home for several years and most likely had not been exposed to sunshine.

The Product Fact Sheet on our Icterines and Inr-Tones are available on the Technical Resources tab of our web store. If you have not already signed up to order online, go to [shop.dodgeco.com](http://shop.dodgeco.com) and follow the instructions for signing up. A registered user will have access to our catalogs, back issues of the Dodge Magazine, technical information and much more.

**Using a drain tube with intermittent drainage greatly aids in the even saturation of the tissue and the distribution of a dye.**

Icterines are available in the shades of Regular, Peach, Tan, and Suntan. Others may disagree, but I find Regular to be red and Peach to be pink. Icterines are sold in 16 oz. bottles and gallons. Inr-Tones are sold only in a 16 oz. bottle and are available in the colors of Blonde, Brownette, Brunette, Latin, and Darker.

We are often asked how much should be used. I recall the day when I was observing my wife baking and noticed that she added several ingredients to what she was preparing. I asked her how much she put in. Her reply was, "It was just a pinch. I don't always need to measure." This is probably how I add a concentrated dye to my embalming solution. After many years and various outcomes, we just get a feel for what is sufficient, just as a good cook does using various ingredients and spices.

We can add more dye as we go along. I recall only once in my over 50 years of embalming that I had to dump a mixture because the body was taking on too much of a red tone. I added more Icterine Regular than I should have. I'm grateful that my former late boss did not know of this. I was chastised early on for using too much suture thread and Webril. The irony of all of this is that I've become just like him. I now only use what I need, of all products. "Waste not, want not." Or otherwise stated, "Willful waste makes

woeful want."

Icterines are a more concentrated dye, whereas the Inr-Tones are less concentrated. You would use more of the latter to receive a similar concentration of stain compared to using the former. In recent years I have found that delaying adding dye works best for me. In my usual 2 - 2.5 gallon solution, I may not add dye until I have injected one gallon. Much of the blood has then been evacuated and the active dye in the arterial chemical will become apparent. I have also found that by mixing Plasdropake with Introfiant W/D, the dyes in these products give me adequate results and sometimes no added dyes are required, especially if I can delay aspiration. Also, using a drain tube with intermittent drainage greatly aids in the even saturation of the tissue and the distribution of a dye.

If time permits, try delaying aspiration. You will be astounded with the results. If I do not encounter a purge or stomach distention, leaving the arterial system intact gives the chemical time to push into the tissue, and diminishes the fading of color we often notice the next day. I've been able to delay aspiration anywhere from 8 to 36 hours. The results are quite noticeable. It stands to reason.

**If cosmetics are required, it should appear as though none were applied.**

Thoracic and abdominal aspiration breaks up the arterial system, allowing the chemical to drain back into the cavities. Therefore, their full capabilities of disinfecting, denaturing protein, and dispersing the dye evenly into the tissue are compromised.

The Icterine Product Fact Sheet states the following: "Regular is best for infants and light complexions. Tan is well suited for African-Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and other complexions with brown tones. Peach is useful for elderly cases, yellowish skin tones, and Asian complexions. Suntan has more pink in the undertones than tan for suntanned Caucasian skin. The shades may be mixed to produce a wide range of color values." In my opinion, a half ounce to no more than an ounce in a 2 gallon solution is often adequate to impart the desired color. For a more detailed explanation on using Icterine on jaundice cases, refer to the Product Fact Sheet or the article by Jack Adams in the summer 2012 edition of this magazine titled, "It's Yellow, It's Green, It's Jaundice."

The Inr-Tone dyes have different colors than the Icterines do. "#1 Blonde: Used on infants and younger children, elderly individuals with white hair and fair