

Carolina™ Solution Sheets

# Indigo Carmine

Learn how to make indigo carmine solution and use it to stain chromosomes.

## Materials

Ethanol, 50% (item #861261)  
Water (item #858621)  
Indigo Carmine Salt (item #868550)  
Stir Bar  
Amber Bottle  
Magnetic Stir Plate (item #701023)  
Label

## Procedure

1. Dissolve 0.25 g indigo carmine in 100 mL or 50% ethanol, or dissolve 1 g indigo carmine in 100 mL of distilled water.
2. Prepare as needed; indigo carmine has a short shelf life.

## Notes

- Indigo carmine solution is also known as food blue no. 2 and indigo disulfonate.

## Label Information

Indigo Carmine
Date Prepared: _____
Initials of Preparer: _____
Health Risk: 1
Flammability: 1
Reactivity: 1

## Applications

Indigo carmine is a pH indicator, changing color from blue (11.6) to yellow (13.0).

## Reference

The University of Edinburgh, Chemical Connection. Indigo carmine—technician's notes. <http://www.chemicalconnection.org.uk/chemistry/experiments/indigo%20carmine/tech.pdf> (accessed June 6, 2014).