

# Product Sheet

CLARIANT



SANODAL®  
GOLD 4N



## INORGANIC DYE FOR GOLD SHADES OF HIGH FASTNESS ON ANODIZED ALUMINUM

Sanodal Gold 4N is a water-soluble product based on ferrioxalate for the chemical dyeing of artificially produced oxide films on aluminum in gold shades of high fastness.

This technical information bulletin contains the following information on the features and application of Sanodal 4N:

- PROPERTIES
- OPTIMUM APPLICATION AND WORKING METHOD
- MAINTENANCE OF DYEBAHTHS
- ANALYTICAL METHODS OF BATH MONITORING
- INFLUENCE OF PROCESSING PARAMETERS AND DYEING CONDITIONS
- FACTORS IMPAIRING BATH STABILITY

### 1. BRIEF CHARACTERIZATION

Sanodal Gold 4N is a ferrioxalate-based preparation in powder form. This Sanodal product is for attaining gold shades of high fastness on artificially produced aluminum oxide films. Compared to conventional ammonium ferrioxalate, Sanodal Gold 4N is distinguished by higher photochemical stability in solutions.

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## 2. POPERTIES

Commercial form:	greenish yellow powder
Storage stability:	10 years. Protect product from effects of light and moisture. Any lumps that may form have no influence on the product's dyeing properties.
Solubility:	At 25° C → 430 g/l water At 65° C → 750 g/l water
Bulk density:	550 g/l
pH of product:	4.0 ± 0.5 at 30 g/l
Ecotoxicological data:	See safety data sheet

## 3. SCOPE OF APPLICATION AND COLOUR SCALE

Aqueous Sanodal® Gold 4N solutions can be used to produce gold shades of high fastness to light, weather, corrosion and heat on chemically or - preferably - anodically produced oxide films on aluminium and its alloys. The dyeings are produced by the hydrolytic incorporation of inorganic hydrated iron oxide colour pigments in the oxide film.

The colour scale depends on the working method and ranges from new silver to pale brass to gold tones of extremely varied degrees, even to brownish orange. The colour scale can be extended even to attractive browns by overdyeing aluminium sections that have been electrolytically precoloured in bronze tones.

Sanodal® Gold 4N solutions can also be used to decolourize difficult-to-remove adsorption-dyed shades.

Thanks to their high resistance, Sanodal® Gold 4N-dyed aluminium sections can be used in a wide variety of industrial applications, e.g. the finishing of audiovisual equipment, jewellery, signs and nameplates, household articles and, in the framework of the Sanodal System, also for facade elements in the construction industry.

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#### 4. APPLICATION

- **SUBSTRATE:**  
Chemically or - preferably - anodically produced unsealed oxide films on aluminium or its alloys (whether uncoloured or electrolytically precoloured).
- **APPLICATION TECHNIQUE:**  
Immersion in aqueous solutions with bath agitation, or by spraying.
- **WATER QUALITY:**  
It is recommended to use deionized water.
- **APPLICATION AMOUNTS:**

SHADES	SANODAL® GOLD 4N
pale	10 - 20 g/l
medium to deep	20 - 30 g/l

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- **DYEING TEMPERATURE:**  
40-55°C, for pale shades also 30-40°C
- **PH OF BATHS:**  
between 4.0 and 5.0  
as acid use sulfuric acid only!
- **DYEING TIME:**  
0.5 - 20 min, depending on desired shade, but preferably for 2-10 min
- **SEALING:**  
The dyed oxide films must afterwards be sealed according to the guidelines for anodized aluminium. It is recommended to seal in boiled water with 2 ml/l Anodal® SH-1 Liquid.

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#### 5. DYE SOLUTIONS - SETTING, APPLICATION, MAINTENANCE

##### 5.1 DYEBAH AND FEED TANKS

The ideal material for the dyeing tanks and feed equipment is acid-resistant high-grade steel based on Cr, Ni or Mo. Tanks made of normal steel and aluminium with acid-resistant, inorganic or organic-based linings (enamel, rubber, polyester, polyvinyl chloride, etc.) are also suitable. However, it should be borne in mind that even tiny leakages can result in an impairment of the dyeing process.

##### 5.2 SETTING AND REINFORCING DYEBAHS

Before being added to the bath, Sanodal® Gold 4N must be dissolved in at least three times the amount of water, which should be as hot as possible.

### **5.3 WATER QUALITY**

Deionized or very soft water should be used. If no such water is available, it is essential to add 2-5 g/l oxalic acid.

### **5.4 BATH CIRCULATION**

For high uniformity of dyeings, the dyebath must be kept in moderate agitation shortly before and during the dyeing process, e.g. by blowing in air through pipes or with a circulation pump.

### **5.5 STANDING TIME AND SERVICE LIFE OF DYEBAHTHS, CONSUMPTION OF PRODUCT**

With careful adherence to our recommendations, dye solutions can be used almost indefinitely. In our experience, the service life of dyebaths, with normal throughput and minimal maintenance expenditure, lasts from 6 months to 2 years.

Depending on the depth of shade, the consumption of the product for pigmentation is between 0.1 and 10 g/m<sup>2</sup> Sanodal® Gold 4N.

The drag-out loss ranges from 1.5-5 g/m<sup>2</sup>. Depending on the shade depth, the guide value for overall consumption, including bath renewal is 20-30 g/m<sup>2</sup> Sanodal® Gold 4N.

### **5.6 STORAGE OF DYE SOLUTIONS**

When not in use, the Sanodal® Gold 4N solution should be immediately protected as far as possible from light and air by covering the dyeing tank or storage in a closed tank.

### **5.7 DISPOSAL**

Disposal of spent dyebaths must be carried out in accordance with local wastewater regulations according to the recommendations given in our technical information entitled "Anodal® WT-1 Liquid".

### **5.8 CONTROL AND REINFORCING OF THE DYEBAHTH**

For dyebath maintenance, in addition to constant monitoring of the dyeing properties, the control operations and correctional measures described below must be used. It is recommended to carry these out periodically using experiential values, especially when problems occur and after prolonged non-use of the bath.

- SANODAL® GOLD 4N CONCENTRATION  
This measurement is carried out as described in Section 6.1. If the concentration is found to be inadequate, add the calculated amount of Sanodal® Gold 4N in concentrated form.
- RELATIVE OXALATE CONCENTRATION  
This is also determined as described in Section 6.1. The actual oxalate content must correspond at least to the concentration calculated on the composition of Sanodal® Gold 4N (= 100%). This has been found to range from 110 to 140%. If the measured value is less than 110%, add 2-5 g/l oxalic acid.

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- PH  
The pH of the dyeing solution can be measured with the aid of a pH meter. For a quick measurement, pH indicator paper can also be used.  
In case of deviation from the recommended pH range between 4.0 and 5.0, the pH is corrected with dilute sulphuric acid, or else with dilute caustic soda solution or ammonia. **Do not use acetic acid!**
- APPEARANCE OF SEPARATED DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS  
Sanodal® Gold 4N forms clear, greenish yellow solutions; these characterize an excellent condition of the bath. When the greenish tinge disappears, the colour shifts to brown or cloudiness occurs and decomposition as described in Section 8 is present.

## 6. ANALYTICAL MONITORING OF SANODAL® GOLD 4N BATHS

### 6.1 TITRIMETRIC ANALYSIS

Reagents:

- 0.2 N-KMnO<sub>4</sub> (POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE)  
In a measuring flask, dilute a normal concentrate (e.g. Tritrisol+ Merck No. 9935) adjusted for the preparation of 1 litre of a 0.1 N solution, to 500 ml.  
Concentration: 6.32 g potassium permanganate in 1000 ml solution.
- M-EDTA (ETHYLENE DIAMINE TETRAACETIC ACID)  
In a measuring flask, dilute a normal concentrate (Titriplex+ III Merck No. 9992) adjusted for the preparation of 1 litre of a 0.1 N solution, to 1000 ml.  
Concentration: 37.2 g ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid, disodium salt, MW 372, in 1000 ml solution.
- BUFFER/INDICATOR SOLUTION  
164 g sodium acetate anhydrous p.a. (MW 82)  
100 g chloracetic acid cryst. pure (MW 94.5) and  
10 g 5-sulphosalicylic acid pure (MW 254.2) as indicator have to be dissolved in deionized water, and diluted to 1000 ml in a measuring flask .
- SULPHURIC ACID 20%.

Analysis procedure:

Take a sample from the production dyebath and clarify by filtration, e.g. through a folded paper filter, discarding any cloudy first runnings. Using a transfer pipette, take 20 ml of the clear filtrate and, while heating and stirring, add this to 100 ml deionized water and 10 ml sulphuric acid 20%. When this solution

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reaches 50-60°C add dropwise from a burette 0.2 N-KMnO<sub>4</sub> until the yellowish solution takes on a steady pale pink coloration.

Consumption: a ml 0.2 N-KMnO<sub>4</sub> (ca. 25 ml with 30 g/l Sanodal® Gold 4N).

At the same temperatuare, now add 20 ml buffer/indicator solution. Add dropwise from another burette 0.1 M-EDTA to this cloudy red mixture until the red colour disappears.

Consumption: b ml 0.1 M-EDTA (ca. 8 ml with 30 g/l Sanodal® Gold 4N).

**Calculation:**

Concentration of Sanodal® Gold 4N in g/l

$$C_{4N} = 3.6 * b$$

Relative concentration of the oxalate in % :

The relative concentration indicates the molar oxalate/iron ratio, where the ratio 3 moles of oxalate (264 g) to 1 mole of iron (55.9 g) is defined as 100%.

$$C_{ox} = 33.3 * \frac{a}{b}$$

	C <sub>ox</sub>
pure Sanodal® Gold 4N	= 100%
with excess oxalate	> 100%
with insufficient oxalate	< 100%
minimum value	= 110%
maximum value	= 140%

## 6.2 PROOF OF FERROOXALATE

**Reagents:**

- POTASSIUM FERRICYANIDE 5%  
Dissolve 5 g potassium ferricyanide (red prussiate of potash) in 100 ml deionized water. Store this reagent in the dark.
- SULPHURIC ACID 20%

**Identification reaction:**

To approx. 2 ml of the unfiltered dyeing solution, add 2 drops of sulphuric acid 20% and 2 drops potassium ferricyanide 5% and boil up for a short time. A blue-green colour indicates the presence

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of ferrooxalate, which is produced by the decomposition of Sanodal® Gold 4N under the effect of light or metal. The blue coloration must appear immediately.

### 6.3 PROOF OF HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

Reagents:

- POTASSIUM IODATE STARCH PAPER

Identification reaction:

On the reagent paper, place a drop of the acid dyeing solution to which H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> has been added for the purpose of regeneration. A violet coloration indicates the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.

Note: Make further additions of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> only in the case of a positive ferrooxalate and a negative H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> reaction.

## 7. NOTES ON DYEING

The final shade depth depends on the properties of the anodic film (thickness and porosity) and the dyeing conditions. The parameters are defined on the basis of laboratory trials or experiential values so that the film can achieve the required protective effect and the desired shade can be produced within the defined processing time. For high reproducibility, the parameters, once defined, must be adhered to as exactly as possible by monitoring the oxidation and dyeing process. Any deviations must be offset by adjusting the dyeing time (sampling by comparison with a standard dyeing sample).

### 7.1 SUBSTRATE

The shade depth increases along with increasing thickness and porosity of the anodic film. These two influential factors depend in turn on the alloy, anodizing time, temperature, current density and composition of the acid electrolyte.

### 7.2 SANODAL® GOLD 4N CONCENTRATION

The exact concentration of Sanodal® Gold 4N in the bath is not to be regarded as a critical factor, and normal fluctuations have practically no effect with short dyeing times (pale gold shades). It is recommended, however, especially in cases where the dyeing power deviates distinctly from the normal, to monitor the concentration of the dye in the bath.

### 7.3 pH

Owing to the drag-in of anodizing acid as well as film detachment and the effect of air and light, the pH value can change, despite its inherent buffering. As a rule, under production conditions a gradual rise in the pH is observed.

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At pH values below 4 the dyeing power diminishes rapidly, and at pH values over 6, hydrolysis takes place with the precipitation of ferrihydroxide.

#### **7.4 DYEING TEMPERATURE**

With rising temperature of the dyebath the rate of dyeing greatly increases. In order to achieve acceptable dyeing times, it is preferable to use the lower temperature range (30-40°C) for pale shades and the upper range (40-55°C) for deeper tones. Above 60°C the maximum attainable shade depth becomes progressively lower as a sealing effect sets in. Low dyeing temperatures can later facilitate any stripping of the dyeing which may become necessary.

#### **7.5 DYEING TIME**

By adjusting the dyeing time, a wide range of colours can be covered. The other operating parameters such as film structure, dyeing temperature and dyestuff concentration should be selected so that the desired shade is produced in a time span ranging from 30 s to 30 min, preferably within 2-5 min.

For reasons of shade uniformity, especially with large-surfaced aluminium parts, dyeing times of less than 30 s should be avoided.

Once the dyeing time is set, it should not be deviated from by more than 10 s for pale dyeings and 1 min with deep shades.

#### **7.6 ADDITIONS FOR STABILIZATION OF THE SOLUTION**

Sanodal® Gold 4N exhibits extremely high solution stability in the presence of oxygen and excess oxalate. For this reason it is recommended to add 2-5 g/l oxalic acid and to circulate air through the bath while it is in use.

The oxalate is used up due to the action of air and light. On the other hand, the dyeing power decreases with increasing oxalate concentration. For this reason it is essential to keep the oxalate concentration within the defined limits by periodically checking the relative oxalate concentration according to Section 6.1 and to supplement it as necessary.

### **8. NOTES ON BATH MAINTENANCE**

Apart from the consumption related to processing, Sanodal® Gold 4N solutions exhibit only limited stability. This applies even more strongly to the usual commercial ammonium ferrioxalates. Observance of the following recommendations as well as those in Section 5 will ensure virtually unlimited service life of the dyeing solutions.

#### **8.1 ALKALIS**

If the pH exceeds the upper limit value, hydrolysis takes place and a gel-like, brown ferrioxide hydrate precipitates. This can be corrected, as described in Section 5.8.

#### **8.2 EFFECT OF AIR**

The effect of atmospheric oxygen results in oxidative degradation of the oxalate. On the other hand, oxygen counteracts the decomposition due to

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light described below in Section 8.3 by keeping the iron at the higher, "ferri" stage, which is effective for dyeing. For this reason it is recommended to introduce air into the bath during its exposure to light, i.e. while it is in use, or even to add hydrogen peroxide. However, this entails the periodical replacement of the degraded oxalate, as described in Section 5.8. Otherwise brown ferrioxide hydrate will precipitate, despite maintenance of a constant pH. Degradation of the oxalate involves a rise in the pH.

### **8.3 EFFECT OF LIGHT**

Due to the effect of light, the dissolved Sanodal® Gold 4N undergoes a photochemical, intramolecular reaction and decomposes into ferrooxalate, which is ineffective for dyeing purposes. This slowly precipitates as a fine crystalline, yellowish suspension. Oxygen and oxalate counteract this reaction. Any ferrooxalate which has formed can be converted back into Sanodal® Gold 4N by adding hydrogen peroxide and oxalate (see Section 5.8).

### **8.4 WATER HARDNESS**

Water hardness extracts the oxalate from Sanodal® Gold 4N and precipitates it in the form of a white suspension of earth alkali oxalates. The results correspond to the oxidative degradation of the oxalate described in Section 8.2.

### **8.5 CONTACT WITH BASE METALS**

On contact with base metals such as normal steel or non-anodized aluminium, ferrooxalate is formed. Its appearance and correction are described in Section 8.3 above.

### **8.6 BATH CONTAMINATION**

The state of the solution and the dyeing power are not greatly affected by the drag-in of anodizing acid (sulphates, aluminium). For this reason, no special requirements are demanded for the rinsing operation. However, the entrainment of other chemicals must be avoided, especially phosphates and hardness elements from degreasing, lustre or etching baths.

## **9. SUMMARY OF MEASURES TO BE TAKEN**

All the reactions mentioned in Sections 8.1 to 8.5 cause a reduction in the concentration of Sanodal® Gold 4N. This reduction is not critical and can be corrected by replenishing it, in the same manner as the consumption of the dye for processing. Precipitations visible to the eye do not affect the dyeing process and are not a disturbing factor. More serious, however, is the fact that sparingly soluble decomposition products in a colloidal transition stage can impair the uptake of Sanodal® Gold 4N - even when its solution is intact - by closing the pores of the film. As a result, due attention must be given to proper maintenance of the dyebath. If the dyebath continues to be used despite cloudiness, the restoration of the bath is made more difficult owing to the ageing of the precipitates.

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**SURVEY**

<b>ALTERATION</b>	<b>CAUSES</b>	<b>CORRECTIVE MEASURES</b>
Brown coloration, precipitation of gel - like ferrioxide hydrate	pH too high  Lack of oxalate due to - effect of air - water hardness	Correct the pH  Add oxalate, use deionized water, protect from effect of air when not in use.
Formation of ferrooxalate, yellowish precipitate	Effect of light, contact with base metals	Protect dyeing solution from effect of light and air. Add hydrogen peroxide, add oxalate.
Separation of white calcium oxalate	Water hardness	Use deionized water, add oxalate

The following recommendations can therefore be made for correct bath management:

- SANODAL® GOLD 4N CONCENTRATION  
Determine as described in Section 6.1 and  
Replenish as described in Sections 5.2 and 5.8
- RELATIVE OXALATE CONCENTRATION  
Determine as described in Section 6.1 and  
Replenish as described in Sections 5.2 and 5.8
- PH  
Determine and correct as described in Section 5.8
- DISCOLORATION AND CLOUDING OF DYE SOLUTION  
Correct as described in Sections 2 and 3.

If these measures are not adequate or if ferrooxalate is present in the bath (positive ferrooxalate identification as described in Section 6.2), add oxalate and hydrogen peroxide as described in Section 5.8.

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**Note**

These recommendations, especially the analysis specificatons, are based exclusively on the specific properties of Sanodal® Gold 4N and do not apply to normal commercial ammonium ferrioxalate.

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