THE CHEMISTRY OF HIGHLIGHTER COLOURS

HIGHLIGHTERS COME IN A RANGE OF COLOURS. THIS GRAPHIC SHOWS A SELECTION OF COMPOUNDS THAT CAN BE USED TO IMPART THESE COLOURS TO THE INK.

**Yellow**
- PYRANINE - SOLVENT GREEN 7 (Pyrene dye)
  - Pyranine, a pyrene dye, is the dye commonly used in yellow highlighters. Another compound that can be utilised is fluorescein. By mixing a pyrene dye with a triphenylmethane dye, a green ink can also be obtained.

**Blue**
- ACID BLUE 9 (Triphenylmethane dye)
  - A triphenylmethane dye such as Acid Blue 9 is commonly used to achieve a blue ink colour; it is used in combination with a colour-brightening compound, for example an anionic stilbene derivative.

**Orange**
- BASONYL RED 485 (TOP) & BASIC YELLOW 40 (Xanthene dye and Coumarin dye)
  - A mix of a xanthene dye and a coumarin dye is required to achieve an orange colour.

**Pink**
- SOLVENT RED 49 (Rhodamine dye)
  - A rhodamine dye can be used to impart a pink colour to the highlighter ink. A rhodamine dye can also be combined with a triphenylmethane dye in order to produce a purple-coloured highlighter.