Indigo Quick Start Instructions

(see Instruction Manual for detailed instructions)

Setting up the indigo vat:

1. Fill a 5 gal/18.93 L bucket with 4 gal/15.14 L hot/warm tap water.
2. Empty the Soda ash packet first, then Pre-reduced Indigo Dye, and finally the reducing agent (Sodium Hydrosulfite) into the water.
3. Stir the vat slowly to avoid getting air/bubbles into the bath. Once each component is dissolved, cover the vat with a lid and allow to settle while you tie and fold your fabric (about 15 minutes to1/2 hour). The liquid will become a yellow-green color.



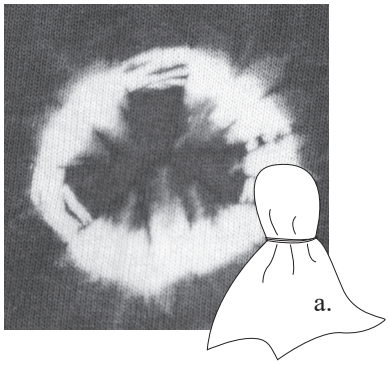
Stirring the indigo dye vat

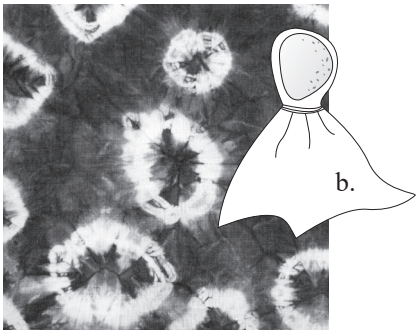
Dyeing:

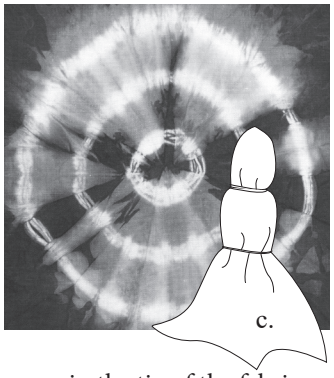
1. Fold, tie, or bind your garment or fiber (See "Pattern Ideas" below). There is plenty of dye in the vat if you want to experiment on some scrap pieces first. Wet the fabric thoroughly and squeeze out excess water before dipping.
2. Remove the cover from the vat. The top of the dye bath may be covered with a thin blue skin (rather than the traditional foamy 'flower'). Wearing gloves, gently move it to the side.
3. While squeezing excess water and air out of your fabric, slowly submerge the item into the dye vat. Once submerged, gently manipulate the item for 30 sec to 1 minute.
4. As you remove the item from the vat it will slowly begin to turn from green to blue as it is exposed to oxygen in the air. Let it oxidize for 20 minutes. Turn or flip pieces to make sure all areas are exposed to oxygen.
5. For darker shades, repeat steps 2 – 4. Once the desired depth of shade is achieved, untie and rinse followed by a wash with mild detergent and warm water.
6. When finished dyeing, gently stir, and then place lid back onto vat. The vat will keep for several days and can be used again.
7. When ready to dispose of the vat, empty contents down the drain. Clean up bucket and utensils with a powdered cleanser or soap.

Pattern ideas (for more pattern ideas see Instruction Manual)

Circles or Spots:



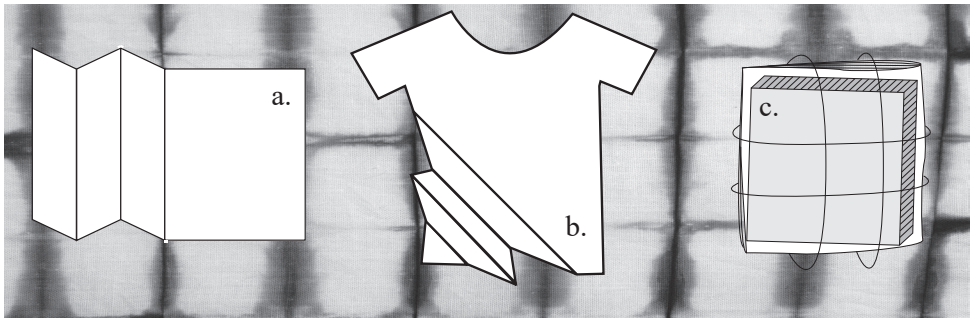


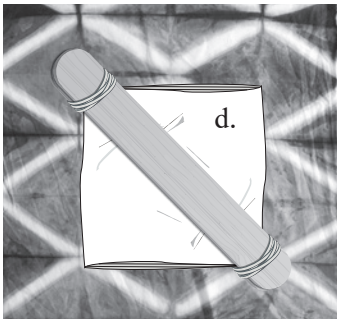


Pull up the fabric at a point and put a rubber band around it (a) or place a small pebble, bean or popcorn in the tip of the fabric and the bind placed just under it (b). For concentric circles, (c) place more than one rubber band on the pulled up area.

Basic accordion fold:

This simple back forth fold can be done many ways such as starting from the side or from a corner (a & b). Clamp folded fabric between your wood blocks and rubber bands (c). With slight variations you can get endless patterns (d).





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