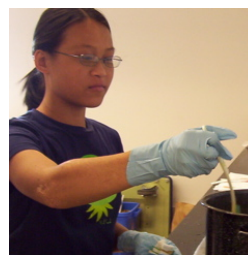




TOOLS:

Dye, Stencils, Paste



Successful dyeing depends on the proper preparation and safe use of the indigo vat, your primary “tool.” Add stencils and resists to your toolbox for creative designing. Physical resists such as wax, paste, or string prevent the dye from penetrating the fabric, producing a white design on a blue background. The stencil helps control paste application to make a specific design.

Time Required:

1-2 hours for dye, stencil, and paste preparation; 2-6 hours for dye to reduce.

Materials:

Indigo Dye

- Plastic cloth or newspaper
- Aprons (or wear old clothes)
- Safety glasses
- Dust/mist mask
- Rubber gloves
- Natural or synthetic indigo dye
- Salt
- Alkali
- Reducing Agent
- Stainless steel or porcelain pots
- Wooden spoons
- Hot plate or range

Stencils

- Pencil and ruler
- Poster board or linoleum
- Exacto knife

Resist Paste*

- Stainless steel container
- Heat-proof glass bowl
- Glass or metal stirrer
- 1 Tb plain white flour
- 1Tb rice flour
- ½ Tb powdered laundry starch
- Water

Tips:

Indigo Dye

- **DO NOT use utensils from your kitchen. LABEL dye utensils “for dyeing only.”**
- Purchase used equipment to reduce costs.
- Purchase safety glasses, aprons, and masks from garden stores.

Stencils

- Use Exacto knives with care.

Resist Paste

- *Recipe from Vivien Prideaux.
- See John Marshall's recipe at www.johnmarshall.to/5-EDx-RicePasteRecipe.html
- Check Internet sources for prepared Nori Rice Paste.

Instructions:

Indigo Dye

Many recipes exist for indigo dyeing. You can grow your own plants and ferment the leaves. You can purchase natural or synthetic indigo. You can choose different alkali and reducing agents. Go ahead and experiment with recipes, but remember that many of these chemicals are caustic so thoroughly research the ingredients, process, and safety recommendations before you begin. Most home dyers locate a dye source and then purchase the other chemicals as outlined in the dye manufacturer's instructions.

The safest and most widely available ingredients are indigo (dye), lye (alkali), and thiox (reducing agent).

These ingredients can be purchased individually or as a kit. They are available from:

- Pro Chemical, <<http://www.prochemical.com>>
- Dharma Trading Company <www.dharmatrading.com>

1. Read and follow all instructions.
2. Spread plastic and newspapers on tables and floors.
3. Don protective aprons, mask, and glasses.
4. Make stock solution.
5. Prepare dye vat.
6. Allow up to 6 hours for dye to properly reduce.
7. **IMPORTANT!** Read carefully the instructions for maintaining the dye vat. Do not introduce oxygen into dye vat!

Stencils

1. Cut a piece of poster board or linoleum a few inches larger than your design.
2. Trace or draw a design on the board.
3. Use an Exacto knife to cut out the stencil. . .you will remove the design, leaving a hole the shape of your design.

Resist Paste

1. Mix dry ingredients with a little cold water to make a smooth paste in the bowl.
2. Place the heat-proof bowl inside a stainless steel container with hot water (double boiler type arrangement). Heat the paste for 15 min. stirring constantly.