

## Soy-wax Batik

Batik is an ancient form of fabric printing that relies on the resistant properties of melted wax to create designs. Wax is applied to fabric, then paint/dyes/inks are applied over the wax. No paint will penetrate the areas where the wax has been applied, creating designs and subdesigns on the textiles.

Originally, petroleum-based waxes were used for resists. Soy wax is a relative newcomer to the process. It is more environmentally friendly and has a lower melting point than regular wax. This lower melting point has some advantages, such as, being easier to remove after the process is completed and virtually no toxic fumes are output. Its disadvantage is that the waxed surface is less rigid when dried and less likely to crack which is the quality that allows the paint to flow into the cracks creating that characteristic batik effect. We will explore alternative ways to create background textures.

There are many methods for creating batiks. Today we will explore three different colorways and design methods.

Method 1: Creating all-over design using analogous colors.

Step 1: Apply base paint layer using light colors. If you want the final result to look as if “lit from within”, use yellow. It is not necessary to cover the entire surface if you want white to be present in the final product. Dry thoroughly.

Step 2: Apply wax. Do not overdo! If you wish to create a repeat pattern, create your repeats here. Wait for the wax to harden.

Step 3: Apply paint in medium value colors. Use a blend of several shades to create depth and interest. Dry.

Step 4: Apply wax, create additional repeat bridges if desired. Wait for the wax to harden.

Step 5: Apply paint in darkest values. Use a blend of shades. Dry.

Step 6: Remove wax by ironing fabric between layers of newspaper until wax is removed. Press between pressing sheets for additional heat setting of the paint.

Tips for creating fun and interesting fabrics:

1. Use similar motifs in varying sizes and density.
2. Overlap motifs across layers to create depth.
3. Apply a variety of hues and tints within the color range.
4. Choose an “ugly” color to add interest.