



Love and Let's Dye

Bundle Dyeing Workshop

Bundle Dyeing Process we will do today:

The process of bundle dyeing is simply laying out fabric, placing dye stuff on the fabric, rolling into a bundle, and then steaming. The fabrics and dye materials will merge, and natural prints will occur on the fabric.

These are the basic steps we will do in this workshop to create the naturally hand dyed bandana:

- 1) Dip the Bandana in White vinegar and lay out on table.
- 2) Place dye materials onto the fabric and arrange in your desired pattern.
- 3) Create your bundle by folding and rolling the fabric. Bind with rubber bands. Dip the bundle in vinegar
- 4) Steam for 1 hour and allow the bundle to cool.
- 5) Reveal in class and then do steps 9 through 11 below once you get home.

Detailed process of bundle dyeing and modifications you can apply at home.

The process of preparing your fabric, dyeing, and finishing includes these steps. The mordanting and scouring is different for protein (animal based) and cellulose (plant based) fibers. There are many resources and differences in the below steps. You will find your own process that works for you and creates the colors you like.

1) **Scour your fabric:** This is essentially deep cleaning your fabric. You want to strip the previous detergents, dirt, and other gum, etc. from the fibers.

Silk - I soak and wash in warm to hot water with a detergent called Synthrapol or a natural laundry soap. There are other recommendations from the resources below.

Cotton - I simmer for 1.5 hours with a tablespoon of Soda Ash and Castile soap.

2) **Mordant your fabric:** This is a process to prepare the fibers for the dye. It also sets the pH for your desired colors. Botanicalcolors.com can assist with the exact measurements for your fiber weight as well as detailed preparation instructions. Use caution around the chemicals - wear mask when measuring the powder and gloves when working with the fabric.

Silk - Its recommended to mordant silk with Aluminum Potassium Sulfate. Use 1 Tablespoon aluminum potassium sulfate (for each 100 grams of fiber) dissolved in enough hot water to create a free flowing bath. Let sit for a couple hours. I do not always mordant silk it depends on the colors that I'm trying to achieve.

Cotton - I have mordanted Cotton with Soy milk, or with a two-step process of Aluminum Acetate and then Calcium Carbonate.

1) Use 2-4 teaspoons of Aluminum Acetate (for each 100 grams of dry fiber) dissolved in very hot water and let sit overnight.

2) Then wring out and place in a bath of hot water with 1 rounded teaspoons of calcium carbonate (for each 100 grams of fiber). Let soak for at least one hour. In either case you can dye your fabrics while they are wet or let them dry and use in the future.

I have then also left them in the baths for a day or two until I'm ready to dye them.

3) **Prepare your workspace** and cover it to protect it from dyes. I use disposable table clothes, old table clothes, shower curtains, paint drip clothes...anything that you do not mind getting colored. I wash and reuse the items.

4) **Place your dye materials** - Choose your pre-mordanted fabric dip in vinegar if its silk and water if its cotton, lay it flat. Place your dye materials in your desired pattern.

5) **Roll up the bundle** and tie with string or rubber bands.

6) **Steam for 1 hour** and let cool in the steaming pot. Depending on the materials and your desired outcome you can let it sit overnight if you want more saturated color. Sometimes you don't want the colors to bleed or change (like in the case if you are using iron) so you might want to reveal right away.

7) **Reveal** your bundle!

8) **Peel off the plant materials and pigments**. Shake out in garden or lawn. The plant materials can be composted.

9) **Hang to dry in shade**. Some people rinse the fabric before hanging. Do not hang in direct sunlight.

10) **Optional step** - iron the fabric to set in the colors. This step is optional, but I recommend it.

11) **Hand wash** to get residual colors out of the fabric. Use a pH friendly natural soap. For the cotton you can go ahead and wash in a washing machine alone or with like colors. But I like to rinse off the dye materials before washing with other clothes.

Natural Dyeing at home

Dye Stuffs we used today + items you may have at home

Dried Marigold, Rose and Hibiscus petals

Cochineal - bug that makes pink or red dye depending on the pH

Fresh Red Roses and flowers – dahlias make yellow orange

Brown and Red Onion Skins

Turmeric and Red Cabbage

I gather perishable items and place them in bags in the freezer. I keep avocado pits, red cabbage leaves that are not edible and fresh flowers in the freezer. You can also dry the flowers, but I like using frozen because the colors are more vibrant.

Tools and materials you will need at home:

Equipment: large stainless-steel pot, stainless steel tongs, long handled wooden or stainless-steel spoon, stove or electric burner, steaming baskets (one for iron and one for non-iron dyeing), other pots and or buckets for mordanting and scouring.

Rubber bands or cotton twine for tying the bundles.

Fabric scouring supplies: Synthrapol for silk, Castile soap and Soda Ash for Cotton.

Mordant materials as described above see step 2

Resources for future inspiration and knowledge

My inspiration:

- ☀ **India Flint** @prophet_of_bloom
The creator of the ecoprint -
Books: Eco Colour, Second Skin
- ☀ **Cara Marie Piazza** - @caramariepiazza
My first class was with Cara in Los Angeles. I took the class for fun and became incredibly fascinated by the process. Cara is a bundle dyeing expert.
- ☀ **Liz Spencer** - The Dogwood Dyer @thedogwooddyer
I met Liz at a class in Topanga Canyon. She was teaching the art of Dye pots and Shibori techniques. Her Instagram page is very inspirational, and I love how she applies natural dying in her art and to her home life. Her feed is beautiful and educational for someone learning about the process. She is always willing to help others.
<http://www.thedogwooddyer.com/>
- ☀ **Sasha Duerr** - @sashaduerr - very knowledgeable about natural dying and recently created a book which is like the pantone catalog of natural dye colors. I also have her book Natural Colors. This is a great reference for plant dyes as well as fabric scouring and mordanting.
- ☀ **Louise Upshall** - @Gumnutmagic
Many tutorials for leaf prints on fabric and paper. I took an online class with her. She has many ebooks and online classes to learn eco printing and leaf prints.
- ☀ **Rebecca Desnos** @rebeccadesnos
Many inspiring ebooks and paper books. Truly knowledgeable and forth coming about techniques. Her books incorporate other ways of using natural dyes and plants.
- ☀ Check out the hashtag #naturaldyersofinstagram

Resources for fabrics, clothing, dying materials and information:

DharmaTrading.com
Maiwa.com
BotanicalColors.com
Themazi.com

And feel free to reach out to me! bobbi@couleurdelavie.com

Thank you for attending this workshop!