Ice Dying Basics

Mid-Cities Modern Quilters

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Definition

Ice dying is a technique which utilizes melting ice with dye powder to create colorful patterns on fabric.



Supplies

- Medium to heavy weight plastic sheeting to protect tables.
- Procion Fiber Reactive Dyes – available from Jacquard, Pro-Chemical and Dharma Trading Company.
- Soda Ash to bind the dye to the fabric.



Supplies cont.

- Fabric – use only natural fibers such as cotton and silk. Look for fabric labeled as PFD - Prepared for Dying.
- Dish pans, cat litter pans, plastic storage containers to contain the melted ice.
- Racks to keep the fabric above the melted ice.



Supplies cont.

- Permeable plastic bins to contain the ice.
- Ice
- Tievack (mailing envelopes) cut for labels and stapled to fabric.
- Sharpie pen for writing on tievack.



Supplies cont.

- Old towels, rubber bands or sinew to tie pleated/folded fabric.
- Water bottles for spraying or applying dye to fabric.



Process

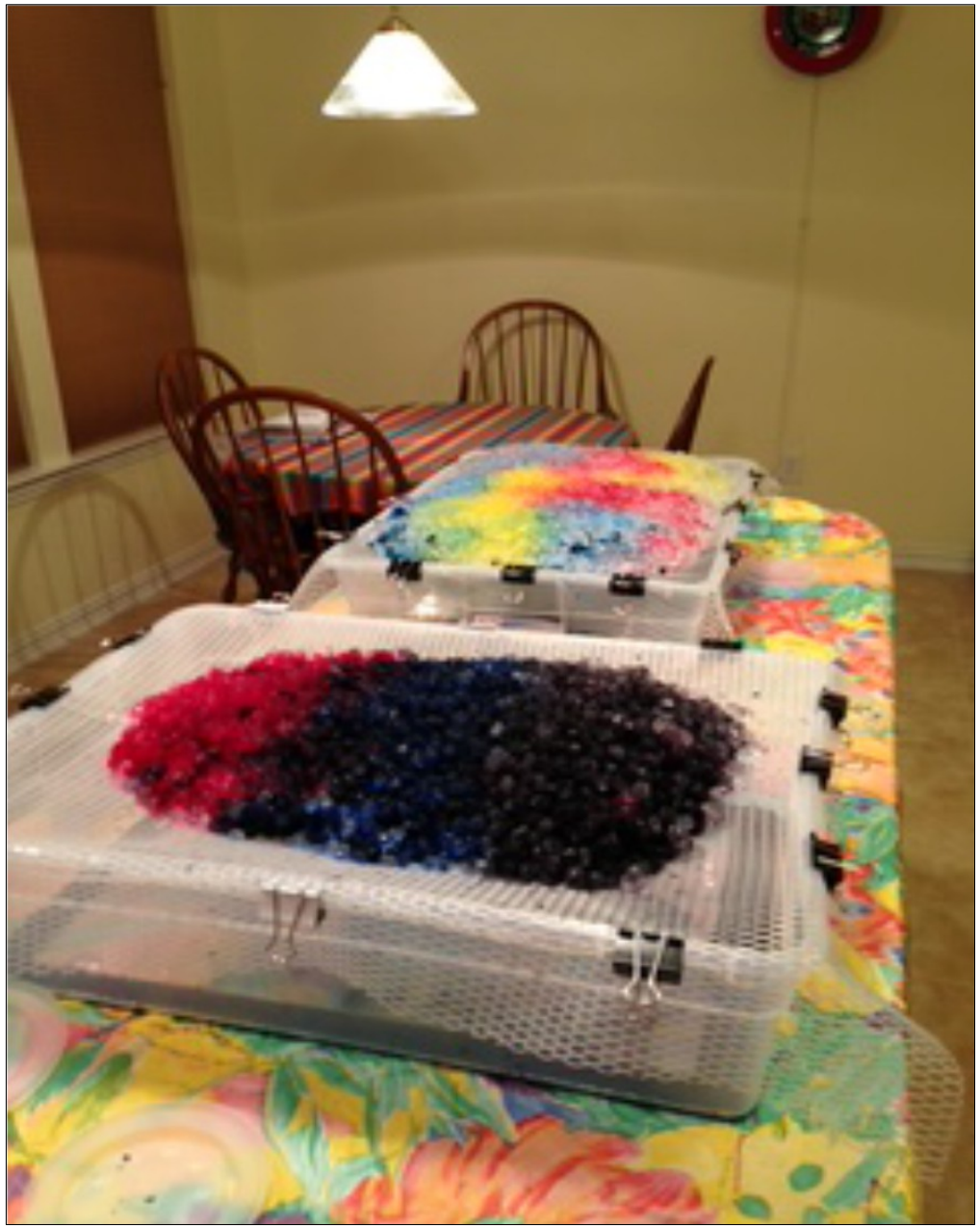
Prepare your fabric for dying. Wash your fabric and soak it in a solution of one cup of soda ash per gallon of warm water for a minimum of 15 – 30 minutes.(Don't soak it overnight.) After soaking, wring out the excess liquid using the heavy rubber gloves. but don't rinse it out. The soda ash helps the dye bond to the fibers.

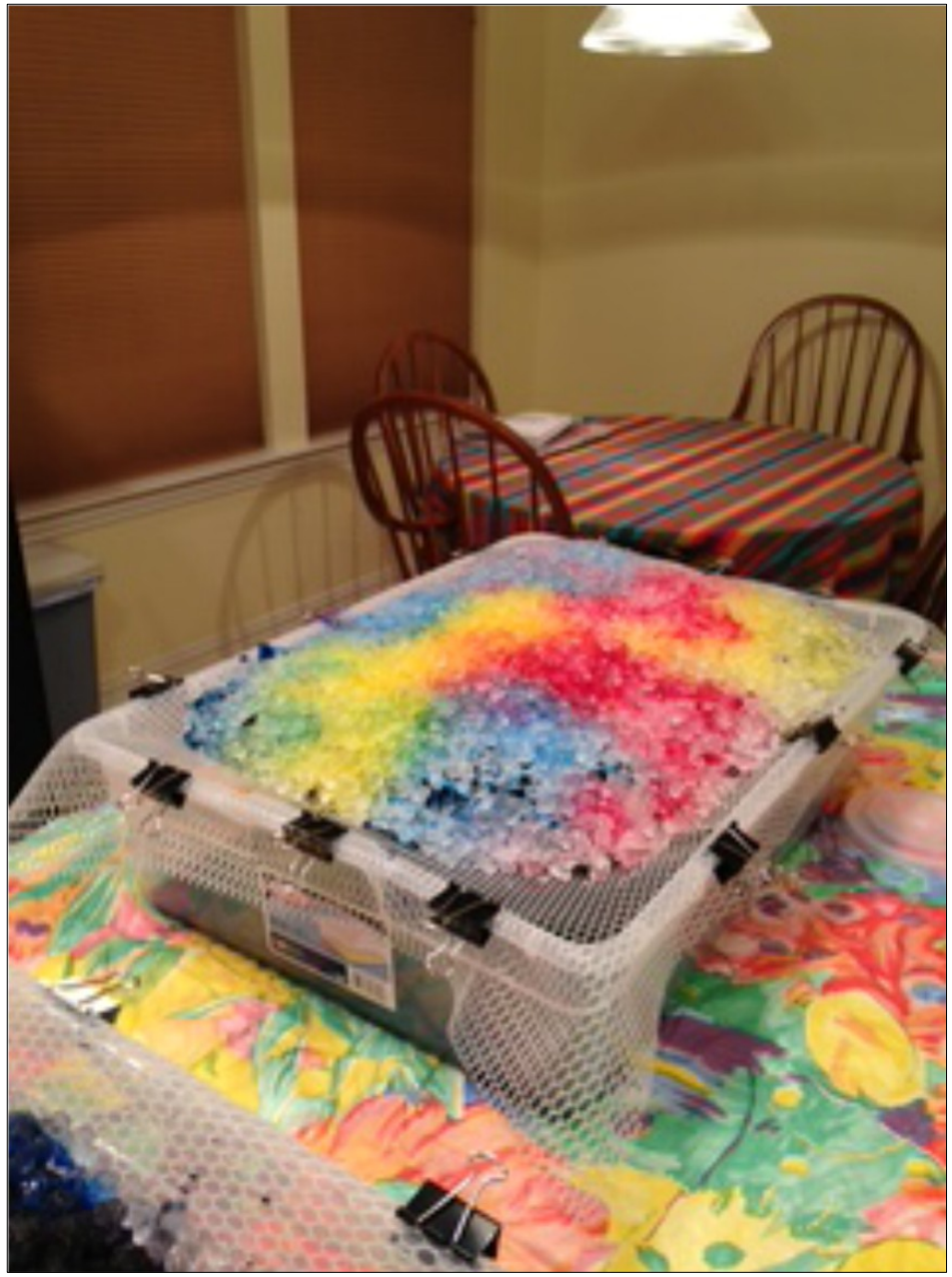


Process

Set Up Your Workspace
Cover your worktable with either the plastic sheeting or vinyl tablecloth.

Place the rack over the bin to catch the melting ice and dye runoff.







Process

Arrange the Fabric
Crumble/scrunch, twist, fold or pleat the fabric. This is when you would use the rubber bands or sinew to hold the folds/pleats in place.

Remember, the more you manipulate the fabric, the more interesting it will look.



Process

Add the Ice

Be sure the entirety of the fabric is covered with ice. Any areas without ice will not have any of the dye color.



Process

Add the Dye

There are several ways to do this.

- Dry dye over ice. (½ tsp per fat quarter). If using multiple colors, rinse spoon in water (in a separate container). Spritz water on any areas with dry dye to prevent the dye going airborne.



Process

Add the Dye cont.

- Dye under ice. Use ½ tsp dye per fat quarter and sprinkle directly on fabric. Then place ice on top of dye.
- Pouring dye water over ice. Use 7/8 tsp dye per 1.5 cups of water.

Regardless of technique, containers should be left alone for 24 hours to batch.



Process

Rinse and Wash

Once the ice has melted and the fabric has set for at least 24 hours, rinse the fabric thoroughly in cold water until the water runs clear. Increase the water temp from cool to warm to hot. Add blue Dawn dish soap to the tub and let the fabric soak for minimum of 30 minutes.



Process

Rinse and Wash cont.

Rinse fabric quickly in warm water. Wash the fabric in the washing machine using the hot cycle and two rinses.

Enjoy using your custom dyed fabric!



Color splits

When dying fabric using this method, some dyes will split into the separate colors which were mixed to create the color on the label of the dye container. Black is the best example of this phenomenon. Dharma Trading Co. sells dyes marketed specifically for ice dying because they are known to split when using this process.



Resources

Dharma Trading Company – online tutorials, fabric and clothing for dying. www.dharmatrading.com

ProChemical and Dye – online store for dying supplies. www.prochemicalanddye.com

Lynda Heines – fabric artist with tutorials on surface design of fabric. www.lyndaheines.com

Facebook group – The Process of Ice Dying