

Dharma Trading Co



by Sulfiati Harris

Tie-dve is an exciting craft that is completely versatile. You can get all kinds

of effects depending on how you manipulate the fabric and the range of colors that you use. Every creation is unique and it is always exciting to unwrap your project, rinse it out and see what you find. Tie-dye is an adventure every time.

#### Soda Ash Fixative Formula:

- 1 cup Soda Ash
- 1 gallon warm water Thoroughly dissolved

#### Dye Formula:

- 8 oz (1 cup) tepid water (~105°)
- 2 8 tsp dye\* \*see Dye label Colors with no \*=2 tsp Colors with \*=4 tsp Colors with \*\*=8 tsp)
- 1 Tbsp Urea (dissolve in a little hot water first)

#### Optional:

- 1/4 tsp water softener if needed
- Sodium Alginate thickener (a little to slow spreading and control color, if desired)

For blacks, use up to 4 times as much dye(1 tsp/oz water) and a Tbsp of SALT and don't forget the Urea!

Use a dust mask when mixing all powders.

Multiply this recipe like a cookie recipe to make as much dye as you need. It takes about 4 oz of liquid dye to dve one wet adult T-shirt. 3 - 2oz jars of dye with no \* on the

color is enough to dye about 40 - 50 adult T-shirts.

#### **Tools & Supplies**

- Dyes Soda ash Urea
- Synthrapol detergent Rubber Bands • Dust Mask • Plastic wrap
- Paper towels Squeeze bottles
- · Salt (optional) · Garments or fabrics (natural fiber) Plastic apron . Scissors . Plastic to cover work surface . Latex or rubber gloves . Plastic buckets or tubs for fixer solution and rinsing



Dyes - The dyes used in this book are Fiber-Reactive cold water dyes that yield brilliant colors with excellent resistance to fading. These dyes chemically react with garment fibers. The garment will need no special care and the color will not fade even if washed with hot water and strong detergent. Avoid bleach and bleach detergents. Dyes must be used with fixer which is the Soda Ash. The simplest way to start is with a tie-dye kit which includes dyes, necessary chemicals, applicator bottles, gloves, rubber bands and a dust mask. Dharma Trading Company has kits that dye anywhere from 6 to 100 sharts ready made. For larger parties, you can use the 100 shirt kit as a guide on how much to order.

Fabric or Garments - Fiber-reactive dyes work best on cotton, rayon or hemp They also work on silk but the colors will shift or sometimes be lighter. Blends of half cotton and half polyester dye lighter with a 'heathered' effect, because polyester fibers do not take dye. New cotton sheets do not dye well because of permanent press or starch, but used 100% cotton sheets, jersey cotton sheets and cotton flour sack towels dye well. As a rule of thumb, when you buy cotton yardage, make sure that it wrinkles when you crush it. If it does not wrinkle much, it may contain some other fiber or be treated even though it is marked 100% cotton. If you are dyeing a big fabric project, it is a good idea to dye a smaller piece first and see how well it takes dye. Dharma has clothing and fabrics that are guaranteed to dye.

Fixer & Urea - Soda Ash Fixer is a mildly alkaline white powder that is dissolved in water to make a fixative solution for the dyes. Urea is the small white 'balls' used to help dissolve the dye and also keeps the fabric wet longer during curing to yield brighter colors. Common plain salt can help yield darker blacks, etc.

Items to Bind Fabric - Rubber bands are used to bind fabric. Size 24 is a good

TIP - Many kinds of dye are on the market. Common household dyes do not yield brilliant colors, will fade and will not work well with these instructions. Some fabric 'dyes' are thinned fabric paint that must be heat set and will fade when washed.

For a color catalog featuring more than 200 terrific 'How-To' books, visit www.d-originals.com

COPY PERMISSION - You may copy or photocopy patterns in this book for personal use or to make items to sell for 'pin money'. You do not have permission to sell the patterns. When you employ help making items or make more than 12 to sell, you have exceeded this permission.

INFORMATION - All book rights are reserved. No portions of patterns, designs, projects or written instructions may be reproduced in any form. Design Originals, Suzanne McNeill, Designers, and/or Authors disclaim any and all liability for unsatisfactory results. Mention of a product by a trade name is a record of the author's practice and does not constitute a recommendation for its use. All information in this book has been tested and is presented in good faith, but no warranty is given, nor results guaranteed. It must be emphasized that the proper use of any product requires following the explicit instructions of its manufacturer. WARNING: Due to the components used in this craft, children under 8 years of age should not have access to materials or supplies. Under rare circumstances components of projects could cause serious or fatal injury. Neither Design Originals, Suzanne McNeill, the product manufacturer or the sumplier is responsible. inals, Suzanne McNeill, the product manufacturer or the supplier is responsible.

© 2010 DESIGN ORIGINALS by Suzanne McNeill, 2425 Cullen Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76107, U.S.A., 817-877-0067 • www.d-originals.com

all purpose size. Use smaller rubber bands like size 16 to bind very small circles.

Synthetic Sinew is also used. To make very regular circles, bind fabric around dried beans or marbles. Designs can also be bound with chopsticks or sewn with thread. Shibori designs can be bound around a 24" length of 2" to 4" diameter PVC pipe.

Items to Mark Fabric - For some designs, guideline marks need to be made on fabric. Use a pencil, piece of chalk or a special marker which makes lines that later wash out. Paper, scissors and a ruler may also be needed.

Optional Equipment. A dyeing pad or rack can keep dye colors from pooling and mixing under the garments. Use paper towels or old newspapers with large groups. For small projects, use an old plastic dish rack with the tray underneath to catch excess dye. Do not re-use the excess, as it is no longer 'active'. Synthetic Sinew is preferred by some over rubber bands, as the dye lines are sharper, and more complex and precise designs are possible.

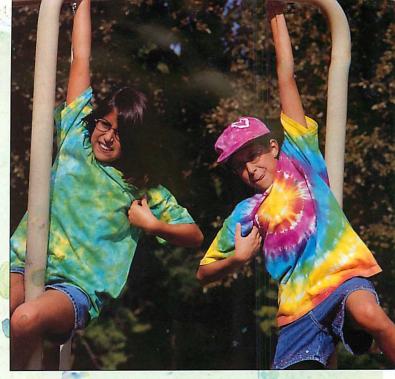
Measuring cups & spoons, funnel Reduran hand cleaner!

**Bind Garment** following each project instructions. Wet garment with plain water before binding to make a sharper design.

Soak Garment in Soda Ash Fixer Solution. Soda Ash is mildly caustic, so wear gloves and protect eyes. Wear a dust mask to avoid breathing Soda Ash powders. 1 cup per gallon of water gives brighter colors but could be too harsh for delicate fabric or delicate skin. Use lower concentrations when working with children and delicate fabrics, especially silk.

Mix Dyes - To dissolve dye completely, so you don't end up with 'freckles', paste it up (mash up with the back of a spoon and a little water) first in another container. Dissolve the Urea in a little hot water, then add some cold water to make 8 oz. of tepid water. Add this water slowly to the dye powder while mashing it with a spoon to make a paste. Gradually add the rest of the Urea water while stirring. Use a funnel to fill squeeze bottles. Adding a little plain salt to the mix can help yield darker colors, 1 tsp per 8 oz of dye mixture. Add last, as salt inhibits the dye dissolving.

Prepare Dyeing Area. The key to a neat, streamlined experience with dye is to set up your work place ahead of time. Cover table with plastic and wear a plastic apron. For multi-color projects, make a dyeing pad. Place a piece of plastic wrap on table, then fold 10 paper towels into quarters and place on wrap in same shape as tied garment. The paper towels will act as blot-



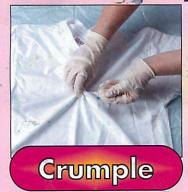
ters to keep colors from becoming muddy. Have extra folded paper towels ready when you turn garment over to dye reverse side. If you are dyeing a project all one color or 2 colors to be mixed together, use a shallow plastic tub or bucket.

Apply Dye - Be sure to follow instructions for each project. Be sure to apply dye down into folds if you want saturated color or are making a shaped design. If you want more white showing, apply dye on top of folds only. Using a tiny bit of thickener will give crisper lines as it keeps the dye from bleeding into the white or other colors.

Set & Rinse. Remove garment from dyeing pad, wrap in plastic wrap to keep damp (or put in a zip-lock baggie or cover with a plastic tarp). Let set for 4 to 24 hours to allow dye to fix in fibers. Longer setting time produces deeper colors, especially for Turquoise. Rinse in several changes of warm water, removing rubber bands partway through rinsing process. TIP: If you can, rinsing in running water during and after untying is the best technique.

To Remove All Remaining Loose Dye, wash with HOT water and Synthrapol detergent, <sup>1</sup>/4 cup per washing machine load. Have machine prefilled and add the garments right out of the rinse. Never stack wet garments on each other. Machine or line dry.

Easy Steps to Tie-Dye - Have Fun!



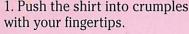






### Crumple-Dye







2. Apply dye in squiggles with a spout applicator bottle.

Crumple-dyeing is an easy way to dye fabric with subtle color changes and interesting visual texture. It is also the easiest technique and a great place to start. After soaking shirt in fixer, spread on table and crumple with fingers into a flat pancake shape. Place in a plastic tub or flat glass baking dish. Apply dye with applicator in an all over squiggle motion. Turn shirt over, keeping crumples and apply dye on back in same way. Place shirt on table, flatten and crumple bringing areas without dye to top. Dilute dye remaining in applicator bottle by refilling bottle with water and repeat crumple-dye process. Let set and rinse.

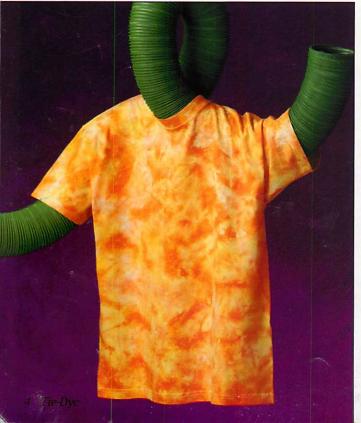
To get even more interesting effects, dye a second time with a different color and a third time with a mixture of 2 colors or with diluted dye. Or use 3 different colors of dye.

An interesting variation is achieved by shaking on dye. Do not cut off tip of applicator spout. A small opening is necessary for this technique. Crumple fabric as usual and then apply dye by holding bottle in a slanted position and shaking on dve.









Yellow & Green Crumple -Yellow, Green and Turquoise dye Dye Yellow, then Turquoise and diluted Turquoise.

A simple technique... dazzling results! Crumple-dyed garments are filled with brilliant color. Add fun to your wardrobe. It's fast and easy.



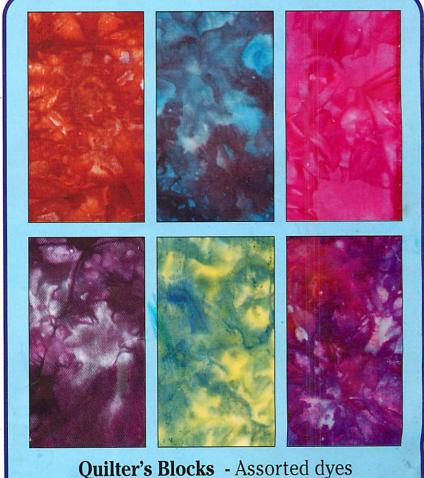
**Speckle Effect.** Hold dye bottle on diagonal and shake on dye, as though you were salting shirt with color. Open and crumple shirt several times until you have desired effect.

Pink & Orange Speckle
Fuchsia and Orange dye
Dye with diluted Fuchsia
and then diluted Orange.



**Blue & Purple** - Blue, Turquoise and Purple dye Open and re-crumple shirt between each color application.





Crumple fabric. Dye with one color, then add diluted color. Or dye with several colors for the desired effect.

### Sunbursts & Circles

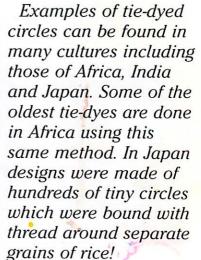


1. Pinch center of shirt and bind

with a rubber band about 2"

down. TIP: Center is on a line with bottom of armholes, not at

actual center of shirt.





Rainbow Sunburst - Fuchsia, Yellow and Turquoise dye

Yellow & Orange Sunburst - Fuchsia, Yellow and Turquoise dye Dye Yellow down folds and then dye Orange on edges.



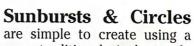
, 2. Bind shirt at 2" intervals.

3. After soaking in fixer, apply Yellow dye on tip of shirt and next section.





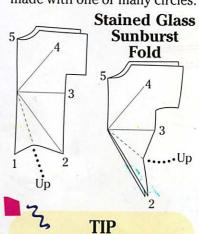
4. Apply Fuchsia dye on second. third and fourth sections. Then apply Turquoise dye on fourth, fifth and sixth sections. Continue layering colors to make Orange, Green and Purple.



very traditional tie-dye technique. Pinch up 1" to 2" of fabric and bind it tightly with a rubber band. Placing several rubber bands at 1" to 2" intervals will create a sunburst design. Placing just one rubber band will make a circle. To make a very regular circle, place a small round object like a dried bean in fabric, pinch and then bind. A design can be made with one or many circles.



6 Tie-Dye



When you dye a Sunburst design, be sure to inject dye down into thicker bound areas because a lot of fabric is hiding in the folds.



Christmas Cap & Socks - Green and Red dye





Folded Rainbow Hat. Fold crown of hat and secure with rubber bands. Apply dye to sections for the desired effect.



Tied Christmas Sock. Twist sock and fold in half, secure with rubber band. Dye top half Red and bottom half Green.

Tie-dye is a great community builder. Try it with your youth group or at a family reunion.

# Tricks of the Trade

#### PCS = Problem - Cause - Solution

**Problem** - Color is too light.

Cause - The fabric is part synthetic.

**Solution** - Only use natural fibers. Some yardage marked cotton does not dye as brightly as it should. It may be labeled wrong or may be treated in a way that repels dye.

Cause - Dyes were not strong enough.

**Solution** - Add more dye. Remember that dye looks about twice as dark when first applied than after rinsed and dried. Black is the hardest. Use up to 8 tsp per/8 oz water for Black. For other dark colors, double the dye (4 tsp per 8 oz water).

Cause - Fixer solution was not used or was not strong enough.

**Solution** - See directions for correct dilution. Stir each time before using solution.

**Cause** - Dyes were not allowed to set wet on fabric long enough.

**Solution** - Let dye set at least 4 to 8 hours, preferably 24. Keep damp! **Cause** - Dyes & water have been mixed over 2 weeks and lost potency.

**Solution** - Use dyes as soon as possible after mixing and keep in a cool place away from strong light.

Problem - Too much White.

**Cause** - Dye was not injected down into folds.

**Solution** - Pull folds apart with gloved fingers before you finish dyeing to check how much color is on garment. One way to avoid this problem is to dye folds first and then dye edges.

**Problem** - Colors are muddy and Whites are stained.

**Cause** - Garments not rinsed enough or crowded in washing machine. **Solution** - Rinse garment more thoroughly and change water frequently. Even if you have completed washing and drying you may still be able to get excess dye out by soaking it in very hot water and washing again. Do not let dyed items sit wet on other garments because there may still be excess dye that could transfer.

**Problem** - Stained hands, carpet and pavement

**Cause -** No gloves or a hole in gloves or spilled dye.

**Solution** - Dye will wear off your hands in a few days and will not hurt you. Or use Reduran hand cleaner. A diluted bleach solution will remove dye from countertops and pavement and from White clothes, but be aware that it will also remove other colors. Dye washes out of polyester carpets.

**Problem** - Wrong color dye spots on shirt.

**Cause** - Touching one color on shirt with gloves that have another color on fingertips, or squirting dye out too soon.

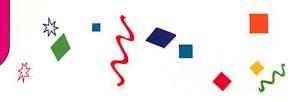
**Solution** - Immediately apply water to rinse off as much as possible and reapply color you want. Or rethink design to accommodate spot. Always keep a tub of water handy to keep fingers rinsed.

Problem - Grainy, uneven color or (commonly) red 'freckles'.

Cause - Undissolved dye powders. Colors with red in them need more work.

**Solution** - Mix dyes with warm water that has Urea dissolved in it. If adding salt, dissolve dyes in warm water first, then add a saltwater solution. Salt inhibits dyes from dissolving. When dyeing solid colors, paste up your dye carefully as we described earlier. You can even filter it in a large funnel through some very fine fabric.

### Folded Designs



Your dining room table will take on a whole new dimension when you dye napkins, bandannas, pillow tops and shirts in glowing colors. Every design will be a feast!

#### TIP

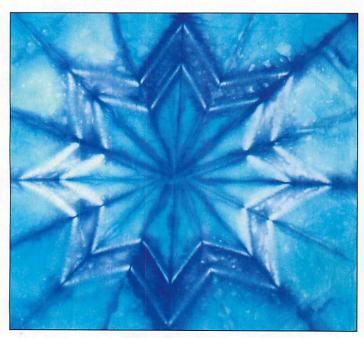
Try folded techniques on a paper towel first to see how the dye designs work.

Tie-dve can be much more than a bright Rainbow colored Tshirt. It is an ancient craft that has been used to decorate fabrics in countries around the world for thousands of years. Interesting geometric patterns can be created by folding fabric in squares or triangles and then binding it with chopsticks and rubber bands. Clothespins can be added on some folds to make rectangular spots.

Here we show fabrics dyed with these techniques. One is called a 'flag fold' because it is based on the way a flag is folded for storage. Create a star by folding fabric into a long triangle then binding it with chopsticks at a slant.

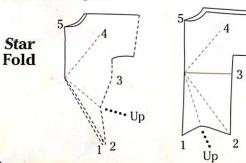
These designs work best on light to medium weight fabric. Folds should always be done accordion style so dye will be more evenly

NOTE: The pictured designs were done on 18" square napkins.



Star Fold - Dark Blue and Turquoise dye, Chopsticks Bind with 2 pairs of chopsticks and rubber bands. Place chopsticks on a slant to make points of star. Apply Turquoise dye to point of star and outer edges. Apply Dark Blue dye to space between chopsticks and on edges of folds.

Fold - Bring line 1 to line 2 and crease fold up on dotted line. To make second fold, bring line 2 to line 3 and crease up on dotted line. Repeat with remaining lines.



#### Star Fold



1. Soak napkin in fixer solu- 2. Mark lines on cloth with tion. Fold in half with right side out.



chopsticks or a disappearing ink pen referring to diagram above.



3. Bring lines together and fold napkin with creases up.



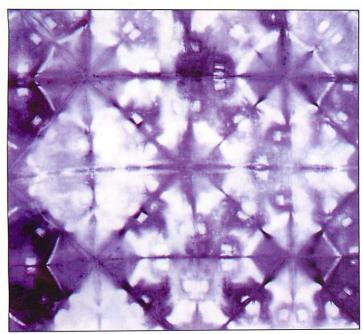
4. Bind with 2 pairs of chopsticks and rubber bands. Place chopsticks on a slant to make points of star.







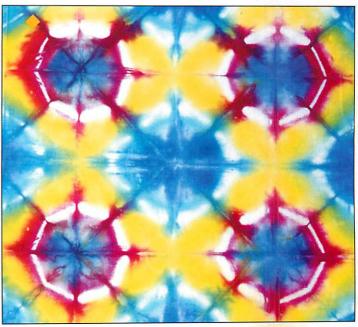




**Flag Fold - Purple -** Purple dye, Chopsticks, Clothespins Flag fold and apply dye to corners.

Flag Fold - Fiesta Rainbow Colors - Dark Blue, Turquoise, Yellow and Fuchsia dye, Chopsticks, Clothespins Apply Rainbow colors between chopsticks. Dye tips of triangle Dark Blue.

Flag Fold - Fiesta Fuchsia & Orange Colors - Fuchsia, Orange and Purple dye, Chopsticks, Clothespins Dye tips of triangle Fuchsia. Dye area between chopsticks Orange. Apply Purple dye on edges of folds.





### Flag Fold



1. Soak napkin in fixer solution. Fold napkin in half with right side in.



2. Fold one side down, turn over and fold the other side down as shown.



3. Fold into triangles, folding back and forth in an accordion style.



4. Clamp corners of triangle folds with chopsticks and rubber bands. Clamp on clothespins, using 2 clothespins in each location to accommodate thickness. Apply dye.







1. Wrap the fabric around 2. Push ends to center. pipe smoothly.







3. Secure with rubber bands. 4. Apply diagonal lines of dye allowing the colors to mix together.



Shibori Pillow - Yellow, Fuchsia and diluted Fuchsia dye

Shibori Table Runner - Yellow, Dark Blue and Turquoise dve

### Pleats at the Yoke



lar. Draw a line to connect dots. Pleat on line and place a rubber about 3" down.



1. Mark dots about 4" from col- 2. Apply Yellow dye and then Fuchsia dye between rubber bands. Let colors overlap. band over line and another Apply Turquoise dye near collar section. Wrap Rainbow section with plastic wrap. Dye rest of shirt in a bowl with diluted Turquoise until color is smooth.



Rainbow Yoke - Fuchsia, Yellow and Turquoise dye

Tri-Color Stripes - Dark Blue, Green and Purple dye Soak shirt in fixer and arrange in vertical pleats. Bind a third of way down and two thirds of way down with several rubber bands. Dye center section Dark Blue, top a mixture of 4 parts Green and 1 part Dark Blue and bottom a mixture of 4 parts Purple and 1 part Dark Blue.

TIP: To make a wider line of White between colors, bind with 2 rubber bands about 1" apart and wrap area between rubber bands with plastic wrap.



Watermelon Yoke - Red and Green dye, Black fabric paint, Paintbrush

Follow instructions for Rainbow collar shirt, except place second rubber band about 1" away from first rubber band. Wrap in between with plastic wrap to make a big White band. Dye voke section Red and rest of shirt Green. After shirt is washed and dried, make 'seeds' with a fat brush and Black fabric paint.



### Stitched Designs



Personalize shirts with colorful designs you stitch then dye.

You'll love experimenting with different shapes, designs and color combinations.



Rainbow Heart -Turquoise, Fuchsia and Yellow dye

**Stitched Designs** - In most tie-dyed designs, fabric is bound with rubber bands. However a more controlled design can be achieved using stitching. A line is drawn, stitched and gathered. If possible rubber bands are added on top of stitching to bind fabric more tightly for a distinct design. The design should be symmetric and basically round when using rubber bands. For these designs use a large eye needle and dental floss which is stronger than ordinary thread. When you apply dye, be sure to get it down into folds of bound design.



**Heart Scarf** - Turquoise, Fuchsia and Yellow dye Stitch heart following instructions. Dye referring to photo.

Just what you've been waiting for!





1. Fold shirt in half lengthwise. Draw a half heart on shirt.



2. Stitch heart and pull thread to gather.



3. Place rubber band on gather line directly on top of stitching.



4. After soaking in fixer, apply Turquoise dye on heart section.



5. Apply Fuchsia dye on next section letting it overlap Turquoise to make Purple. Apply Yellow dye on next section forming large rays. Cover Rainbow section with plastic wrap. Place shirt in plastic bowl and dye rest of shirt with diluted Turquoise.



Two-Tone Blue Swirl - Dark Blue and Turquoise dye Dye 3 adjacent wedges Dark Blue and remaining 3 wedges Turquoise.

#### Graphic Swirl - Purple and Green dye Dye 2 wedges Purple and adjacent 2 wedges Green. Leave remaining wedges White.



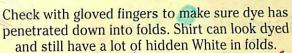
### When you Tie-Dye you're having a good time!

These fun and easy shirts swirl and burst with a rainbow of colors. Make one in every color combination to match all your moods.



Alternating Swirl - Fuchsia, Yellow and Turquoise dye Dye every other wedge Fuchsia then dye remaining wedges Yellow. Apply Turquoise to outside edges of folds.

#### TIP



### Random Pleats



**Pleated Designs** can be simple, loose unbound pleats for a subtle overall effect or they can be basis for a striking multi color design. Pleating along a curved or slanted line creates an interesting variation. Draw line with pencil or disappearing ink pen, then stack pleats carefully along line.



1. Soak shirt in fixer. Place flat and arrange in 2" horizontal pleats broken in the middle:



2. Fold pleated shirt in half and place on dyeing pad. Apply Dark Blue dye to edges leaving White areas for clouds. Dye both sides of shirt.

Blue Sky - Dark Blue dye

### Pleats across the Chest

Designing really unique shirts has never been easier. You can make almost any design your heart desires...brilliant stripes, icicles, decorative yokes, and even red, ripe watermelons.





1. Soak shirt in fixer, then arrange in vertical 2" pleats.



2. Apply Fuchsia and Orange dye on folds leaving rest of shirt White.



### **Group Tie Dye Instructions**

#### Tie Dyeing in Groups -No group is too large!

Basically, you want to follow the previous instructions en-mass, demonstrating the tying techniques and how to apply the dye. Have 'stations' set up for folks to tie garments, soak them in fixer, then to apply dye. Dharma Tie-Dye Kits have all the basics except clothing. Dharma also carries a huge selection of dye-able clothing at very reasonable discounted prices—everything from baby rompers to T-shirts!

To prepare, make sure you also have the following::

 Plastic covered tables for 'tying and dyeing stations' • Old Newspapers (at least 6-8 weeks old) to put under each item as it is being dyed . Bowls of water to rinse fingers between colors (2 per station) • Jugs with TIGHT lids to hold pre-mixed dyes (& funnels to fill squeeze bottles) . Large plastic buckets (5 gal) for the 'fixer stations' · Paper towels or rags for mess emergencies • Big garbage bag for trash . Waterproof disposable aprons (or have them wear really old clothes!) Zip-lock gallon bags if the attendees are taking the dyed items home to rinse and wash (this is by far the easiest, just make sure you give them printed instructions)

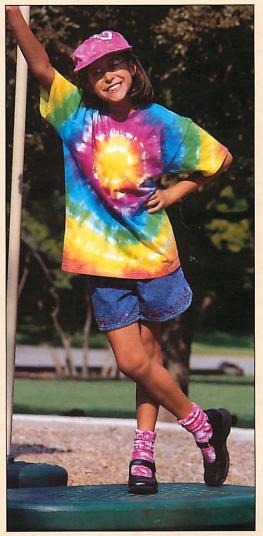


It is easiest to mix up the dye solutions the day before in leak-proof jugs and bring them to the event. To figure out how much dye solution you need, calculate about 4 oz of liquid mixed dye per adult T-shirt to completely color it, therefore 1 oz for an infant garment, 2 oz for a child's T-shirt, 8-12 oz for a dress, etc. Multiply these ounces by the number of garments in the group, and divide

by the number of colors you have, to see how many ounces of each color solution you must make. You can multiply our earlier recipe for 8 oz to get the right amount. (3 colors in 8 oz bottles of dye yields 6 adult shirts; 6 colors in 16 oz bottles of dye yields 24 adult shirts, etc.) If you want to have white areas, you will use less dye liquid. Cautious students hopefully will balance the ones who just pour it on!

For really big groups, you just need a calculator! Example – 500 adult T-shirts X 4 oz = 2000 oz = 15.625 gallons – round up to be safe (16 gal)! For each gallon of

## Make this Fabulous Rainbow Shirt!



# Family reunion, Scout troop, fund raiser!

dye, instead of measuring out teaspoons, use about a 1/2 cup of dye per gallon of water, and 1 cup Urea. 1/2 cup is roughly 4 dry oz of dye, but every color has a different density, so yield will vary. And of course, double to quadruple dye for colors with \* or \*\*. For pastels use less.

It is best to mix up the fixative at the event as it is too hard to transport that much liquid. Each 5 lbs soda ash will make up about 10 gallons of fixer, enough for about 50 adult T-shirts. Fill buckets about halfway to leave room for soaking the garments

Set up plastic covered 'tying and dyeing stations' for 5-10 people to work at a time. Have at least 1 squeeze bottle of each color at each station (more if you only have a few colors) and refill as needed. Also have available at each table the newspapers, rubber bands, finger rinse bowls, paper towels or rags & zip-lock baggies. Have 'fixer stations' set up for folks to come over and have their tied garment soaked in fixer by someone in heavier gloves. You can use the solution until it is gone. They then go back to their stations and apply the dye, bag their shirt, and clean up their spot for the next person.



For all TIE DYE supplies -Dyes, T-shirts for the whole family, Garment blanks for infants, kids, women, men and pets, contact

DHARMA TRADING COMPANY 1-800-542-5227 www.dharmatrading.com











### Design Originals



www.d-originals.com 2425 CULLEN STREET FORT WORTH, TX 76107