



Tie Dye Party! Learn to Tie Dye!

by [doodlecraft](#) on August 13, 2014

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Author: **doodlecraft** Doodlecraft

Hi! My name is Natalie! I have an awesome husband that lets me be a Play-at-home mom of 3! We homeschool and do projects daily! Check out my blog Doodlecraft for more awesomeness!

Intro: Tie Dye Party! Learn to Tie Dye!

Would you believe that I have never tie dyed before?

Raise your hand if you have NEVER tie dyed before...I see some hands!

Tulip tie dye is great! It's one step process makes it so easy to use!
Dyes are permanent and color-fast...so they wont fade in the wash!

This was my first go at it...and you know what? I love it and I am completely obsessed.
Just watch out...anything and everything that is white is soon to be tie dyed!

Tie dying is a fun family activity!

Great for all ages too. Some set up in advance, and even the

littlest toddler could make their own shirt!





Step 1: Supplies!

You will need:

White 100% cotton T-shirts

One step Tie Dye (and warm water)

Rubber bands and zip ties

Washable marker

Plastic bag covered table (on the patio was great)

Baking/cooling rack

Disposable gloves

Plastic bags (grocery type bags)

And some eager helpers!

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Tie-Dye-Party-Learn-to-Tie-Dye/>

I had enough dye rated for "65 projects". (they are counting small projects like socks or bandanas...) Because we did large child and large adult shirts it ended up making 40 shirts total.

(hopefully this helps when you are planning ahead for your party!)

I wrapped the table with garbage bags, so the clean up would be easy.

I had a basket of already washed and wet t-shirts.

We used baking racks to keep the dye from pooling under the shirts...

Washable markers were used for tracing out shapes or patterns to follow.

I also had a large supply of latex gloves and plastic grocery bags for wrapping later.



Step 2: Rainbow!

Let's start with a rainbow!

I drew a curved line on the shirt with a washable marker...

Then...wearing gloves, gather the shirt along that line...
so the blue marker line matches up in a straight line.

Then use a zip tie to tie off that blue marker line.
This gathering will make the arch on the shirt...

Now, just add zip ties down the shirt,
keeping the gathering the same as the first time.

Until you have enough for the colors you want!

Place on top of your baking rack.

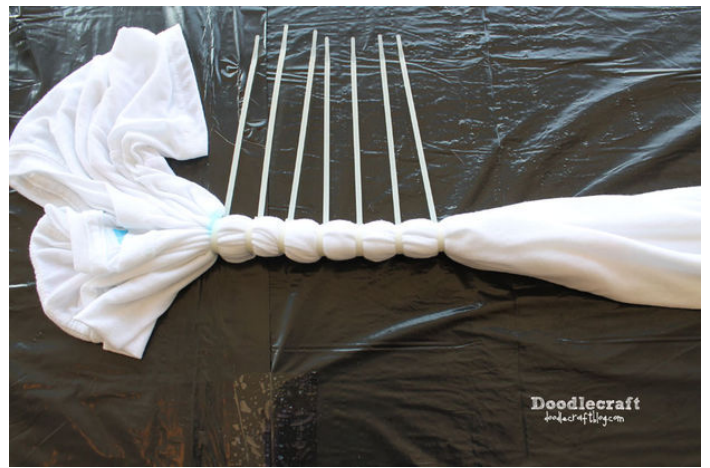
Use the dye according to directions.
Squirt the colors you want on the shirt.

There will most likely be some bleeding...

I added 2 shades of blue sky!

See how excess dye can just pool up on the plastic table instead
of turning your shirt into a muddy mess?...yes, do this!







Step 3: Plastic Wrapping and Waiting!

Next, take the shirt and wrap it in plastic.
I used plastic wrap...

You need to make sure the shirt isn't overlapping other colors or they will bleed together still.

I overlapped the blues...no big deal.

Then I put it in a grocery bag.

Wrap it carefully and let it sit for 6-8 hours.

We waited overnight.



Step 4: Rinsing and Washing!

Take it out of the wrapping...and rinse in the sink.

I rinsed a few minutes...then remove the zip ties carefully with scissors.

Then continue to rinse until the water runs clear.

This is the BEST part! You finally get to see how your shirt turned out!

(note: the shirt in the sink is not the rainbow shirt...but you get the idea)

Then throw it in the washing machine and run a regular cycle.

I even used soap!

It will fade out a little...but as long as you use 100% cotton shirts...

You will have a fantastic shirt!



Step 5: More Patterns!

Here's how to do some of the other fun patterns!

Heart!

(same technique as the rainbow...fold shirt in half, draw half heart, scrunch the line so it all lines up...zip tie and dye!)

Target or bullseye!

(Just grab the shirt where you want the center of the target to be. Then zip tie it and repeat for as many rings as you want!)

Rainbow

(full explanation above)

Pie shaped swirl

(Grab the center of the shirt and twist it in a spiral until it's all wound up.

Add a few rubber bands...color each "pie" section a different color)

Multiple Bullseye!

(Same as the target or bullseye, but smaller and in different spots on the shirt)

Messy Spiral!

(same start as the pie swirl above...but add some of each color in each section)

I have plans for a whole Autumn/Halloween theme of tie dying too!

I'll post instructions for the Jack-o-Lantern, Skull and Eyeball then!

(If you get the concept of the rainbow and the heart, the others are easy enough to figure out!)





Step 6: Enjoy and Vote!

Hope you enjoyed this instructable!

Hopefully it gave you the confidence to crank out a bunch of hippie shirts!

Check out my blog Doodlecraft for more fun!

And don't forget to vote!

Which shirt is your favorite?





Related Instructables



How to tie dye an old white shirt! by stinkymum



Transforming a boring old black t-shirt using bleach! by stinkymum



Tie Dye Drop Cloth Shoes by CondoBlues



Rainbow Loom Collection by 105415



Candle lit Skull Chandelier, Halloween Decorations by jzuwala motts



Marbelized Tie-Dye With Shaving Cream by iamjenperkins

Comments

23 comments [Add Comment](#)

smckillip says:

How do you do pumpkin tie dye

Aug 14, 2014. 1:38 PM [REPLY](#)



Monsterhigh2003 says:

wow those are beautiful

Aug 14, 2014. 10:12 AM [REPLY](#)

mholcomb1 says:

OUTSTANDING! So many times I read instructions for tie dyed shirts & they would be confusing or there's no picture. Finally I can do this with confidence. Thank you so much! Can't wait for your next seasons artwork :)

Aug 14, 2014. 8:05 AM [REPLY](#)



jennace says:

Awesome Instructible Doodlecraft!! Thanks! I can't wait for the Halloween patterns U got my vote for this one :)

Aug 13, 2014. 10:47 PM [REPLY](#)



doodlecraft says:

Thank you! :)

Aug 14, 2014. 5:58 AM [REPLY](#)



blissful2015 says:

great tutorial natalie!! i always want to make a pair of pants with these patterns!

Aug 13, 2014. 7:18 PM [REPLY](#)



doodlecraft says:

Thank you! I have been tie dying all summer and love it! :)

Aug 14, 2014. 5:57 AM [REPLY](#)



b15h0p32123 says:

how did you do the American flag one?

Aug 13, 2014. 10:25 AM [REPLY](#)



doodlecraft says:

I love the flag one! It's the same technique as the bullseye, just start gathering it at the bottom corner, and work your way up to the sleeve. Then alternate red and white and finish off with one wider blue section. Easy! :)

Aug 13, 2014. 12:30 PM [REPLY](#)



b15h0p32123 says:

One other question, where did you get the dye from?

Aug 13, 2014. 1:33 PM [REPLY](#)



doodlecraft says:

Tulip one step dyes are at any craft store...even Walmart. The large pack of 12 dyes is around \$30. (there are some knock off brands that come in squeeze bottles and they seem to work just as well)

Aug 13, 2014. 1:48 PM [REPLY](#)



b15h0p32123 says:

Thank you this helps a lot! I will have to do this. :)

Aug 13, 2014. 2:07 PM [REPLY](#)



watchmeflyy says:

Very helpful and instructive!

Aug 13, 2014. 12:31 PM [REPLY](#)



doodlecraft says:

Thanks! :)

Aug 13, 2014. 1:50 PM [REPLY](#)



jreece says:

Nvm I understand now

Aug 13, 2014. 12:38 PM [REPLY](#)



doodlecraft says:

I'm glad if it made sense...I need to start making videos as well! :) Let me know if you have any other specific questions! :)

Aug 13, 2014. 1:50 PM [REPLY](#)



jreece says:

I don't know how u fold it u should've shown steps I don't understand at all

Aug 13, 2014. 12:35 PM [REPLY](#)



jmyers1 says:

Cool! I like it! So much fun.

Aug 13, 2014. 11:41 AM [REPLY](#)



doodlecraft says:

Thanks! :)

Aug 13, 2014. 12:31 PM [REPLY](#)



Danger is my middle name says:

I love the eyeball! So cool!

Aug 13, 2014. 10:47 AM [REPLY](#)



doodlecraft says:

Thanks! :)

Aug 13, 2014. 12:31 PM [REPLY](#)

dgee5 says:

Aug 13, 2014. 11:31 AM [REPLY](#)

Best tie-dye instructions I've seen yet! Few bits of advice...If I may...

It's best if you soak your shirts or other cotton garments in soda ash(sodium carbonate). This has 2 purposes. First it'll remove some of the starch and second it will "loosen" the cotton fibers to better the dying process. Darker color unless you want the pastels.

The longer they sit the darker the color...normally. Depends on the dye used. I usually go 24+ hours.

After the rinse, wash the shirts with synthropol or an industrial detergent so the next wash won't have any running dye.

If you have an old microwave, dye'em and cook'em. The dye will burn a little creating a really cool darker color pattern inside the folds. Caveat, they get super hot!!!!



doodlecraft says:

Thank you! And, great advice too! :)

Aug 13, 2014. 12:31 PM [REPLY](#)