



INDIGO BLUES

*Fold, wrap, and dip fabrics to make
stunning dyed accents for your home.*

PROJECTS **CATHY KRAMER** PHOTOGRAPHS **JAY WILDE** WORDS **HEIDI PALKOVIC**



before you begin Indigo dye uses oxidation to turn the fabric blue. With creative shibori-style folding and tying of fabric and inserting objects between layers, you can create striking resist patterns. For our projects, including the artwork, *below*, we used the Indigo Tie Dye Kit from Jacquard Products. To prepare the dye, wear rubber gloves and add hot water to a lidded container. Add indigo packet to the water; stir with a paint stick (A). Stir in soda ash and reducing agent (B); place lid on container. Let sit for 15–60 minutes. Remove lid and gently remove the bloom from the mixture (C) before submerging fabric.





how to make the artwork

MATERIALS

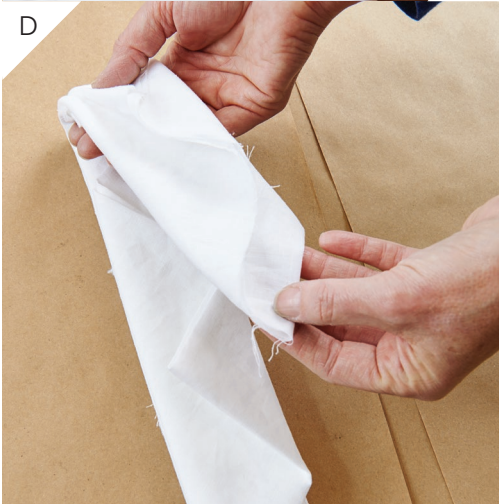
- Basic dyeing supplies (see opposite)
- Large square of natural-fiber fabric
- Rubber bands
- Artists canvas
- Staple gun

Step 1 Prepare indigo dye in plastic container. Let mixture set according to manufacturer's instructions. Fold one-third of fabric. Fold one-third of adjacent side to create a square (A). Beginning at double folded corner, accordion-fold the fabric until you reach the center (B).

Step 2 Bring opposite corner into center (C). Continue accordion-folding the strip across remaining fabric. Fold strip in half crosswise (D). Wrap strip in rubber bands (E).

Step 3 Soak fabric in water; squeeze out excess. Dip long edges of fabric in dye mixture (F). Fabric will turn from green to blue as it oxidizes.

Step 4 Rinse fabric in water; remove bands (G). Unfold fabric (H, I, J) and heat-set in dryer. Mount fabric on artists canvas using a staple gun.





ON THE GRID

Indigo tie-dyeing produces imperfect, yet striking, results. To get the grid resist pattern on the chair fabric, pieces of wood were placed on top of the accordion-folded fabric. The tote bag and petals on the flower embellishment are simply dipped in a container of dye.



A



B



C

how to make the chair seat

MATERIALS

- Indigo Tie Dye Kit
- Basic dyeing supplies (see page 53)
- Natural-fiber fabric
- Two 2¾x3½-inch pieces of wood
- Rubber bands
- Chair with upholstered seat
- Staple gun

Step 1 Gather materials (A). Prepare dye and let mixture set according to manufacturer's instructions. Lay fabric flat. Fold one fabric edge, using a piece of wood as a guide for width (B). Accordion-fold fabric.

Step 2 Accordion-fold fabric along length of strip (C). Place piece of wood on top and bottom of folds (D); secure with rubber bands (E).

Step 3 Soak fabric in water; squeeze to remove excess. Submerge fabric in dye mixture (F); remove. Fabric will turn from green to blue as it oxidizes (G). Rinse fabric.

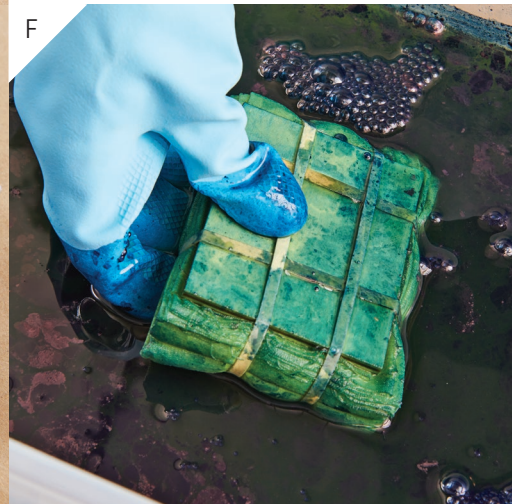
Step 4 Remove bands and wood (H); unfold (I). Wash, dry, and press fabric. Wrap fabric around chair seat and staple edges to back.



D



E

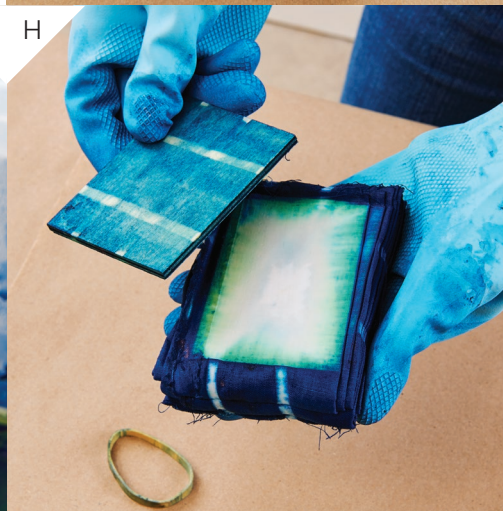


F

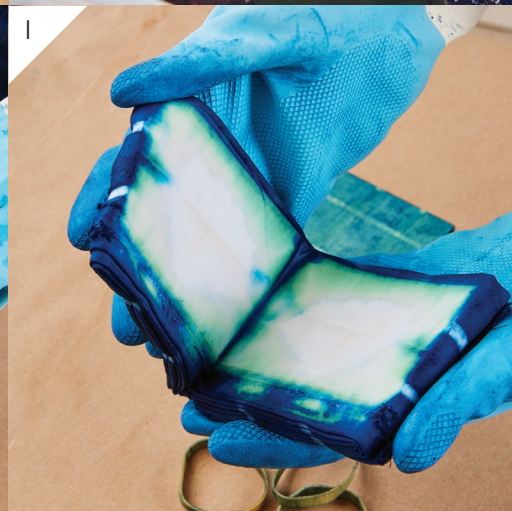
IDEAS TO DYE FOR
SMALL PIECES OF WOOD
PLACED ON THE FABRIC
PREVENT THE DYE FROM
PENETRATING THOSE
AREAS. ITEMS SUCH AS
COINS, FLAT ROCKS,
AND WASHERS
YIELD OTHER
EFFECTS.



G



H



I

FEELING BLUE

A dyed throw and pillow wrap make a personal statement. When working with large pieces of fabric, such as the throw, fold the fabric into a manageable size and use a clamp-style hanger to hold it while dipping the fabric into the dye. To make the pillow wrap, fray the edges of a fabric rectangle and accordion-fold the rectangle on a diagonal before putting it in the dye.



how to dip dye

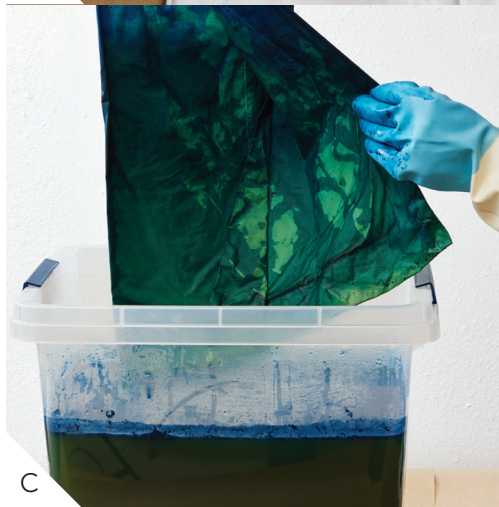
MATERIALS

- Indigo Tie Dye Kit
- Basic dyeing supplies (see page 53)
- Natural-fiber pillowcase or throw
- Clamp-style pants hanger
- Plastic trash bag

Step 1 Gather materials (A). Prepare indigo dye and let mixture set according to manufacturer's instructions. Spread plastic trash bag on surface where the wet fabric will hang to drip.

Step 2 Soak fabric in water, squeeze to remove excess, and fold fabric to fit in hanger (B). Dip a portion of the fabric into dye (C). Lift and lower the fabric in the dye until satisfied with dyed edge and intensity of color (D). If desired, use a paint stick to help the dye wick up the fabric, creating an uneven dye line.

Step 3 Rinse fabric, unfold, and hang. Let dye drip off onto trash bag. Heat-set in a dryer.



FLOWER POWER Give your dyed bedroom scene the golden touch by adding a gilded stenciled flower to a dipped pillow sham. Simply Spray stencil paint is specially formulated for fabric and creates a silk-screen effect. The paint is permanent, fast-drying, and machine-washable.



FOR RESOURCES SEE PAGE 108.