

DYEING A SILK SCARF

Phyllis Jordan

The San Antonio Garden Center

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The techniques are from Suzanne Mc Neil and Sherrill Kahn.

Supplies:

Old clothes or apron, rubber or plastic gloves, plastic cover for table, freezer paper, paper towels, coffee filters, silk scarf (blank) ironed, Sharpie brand broad chisel tip permanent markers, rubbing alcohol in a spray bottle (I prefer 91%) and/or small drop bottles, and hair dryer.

Prepare surface with plastic covering and freezer paper shiny side up. This becomes your work surface.

The coffee filters are to "play" with the ink. The scarf is a blank silk scarf. The dye (ink) are your markers.

1. Play with color/rubbing alcohol on a paper coffee filter to see how the marker reacts to alcohol.
2. Think about the colors you want to use and make sure you do not use colors that will "muddy" up.
3. Begin working on the scarf, applying ink. Start in middle because usually this is not the most visible.
4. Work slowly and make marks...straight line, angles...circles...squares...letters...dots...thick and thin. If you leave white spaces the alcohol when applied will make the colors "bleed" or travel into those spaces.
5. Spray or drop alcohol on the colors on the silk scarf.
6. Mopping up the alcohol ink solution off the paper is a good way to completely cover the scarf with color.
7. Want a denser color, dry the scarf with hair dryer and repeat applying the ink and alcohol.

After scarf is dried you can use rubber stamps to stamp designs on your scarf. Sew or glue beads, ribbon on ends of scarf, be creative. Wash only with cold water. Iron to set the color.

This technique can be used on other fabrics, like T-shirts...remember to put either a paper or cardboard inside the shirt to use as a barrier for the front dye to not get on the back.

SUPPLIERS

Scarf blanks Dharma Trading Co. www.dharmatradingco.com 800-542-5227

Thai Silk www.thaisilk.com 800-722-7455

Books Creative Dyeing for Fabric Arts by Suzanne McNeill \$18.99

Magic with Markers by Sherrill Kahn \$12.99

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