

# How-To Create Different Patterns with Tie Dye

by Laura Dulin

## Before you get started:

There are many tie dye kits that you can purchase that will come with everything you need. We suggest purchasing a kit.

You'll want to be wearing clothes that are old since you risk getting dye on your clothes while you do this. You also want to protect any surfaces that the tie dye items will touch since some of the dye could be absorbed.

## Get started:

1. Choose something you want to tie dye: it's best if the cloth is 100% cotton for absorption.
2. Soak cloth items in a water soda ash solution for 15 minutes. (soda ash will come with a kit.)
3. Wring water out of cloth items.

## To create a spiral pattern:

- Lay out cloth item on a flat surface.
- Put a fork in the middle of the item and start spinning the fork in one direction until your cloth item is bunched in a spiral pattern.
- Place rubber bands around the item to keep it in the spiral-bunched shape.
- Take the dyes that come with the kit and apply them to the front and back of your item as you'd like. Have fun experimenting with colors.

## To create a folding pattern:

- Use the same process for the spiral pattern, but instead of spinning the cloth into a spiral, ***fold the cloth like an accordion.***

## Tips:

- \*Place your cloth items in separate plastic bags and store anywhere from 24 hours to a week.
- \*Remove the items and the rubber bands.
- \*Rinse somewhere that the dye will not stain things around it. (bucket, outdoor sink)
- \*Some people like to soak the cloth in a water/vinegar mix for 30 minutes to set the dye.
- \*Rinse until the water runs more or less clear.
- \*Put in washer (with no other items), but don't add soap.
- \*You may want to run the washer one time empty (after taking out your washed tie dye items) to remove any excess dye so that it won't stain other clothes.