

**THE SECRETS
OF ICE DYEING**

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Ice Dyeing Secrets

By
Cheryl Kuczek of Paradiso Designs

The Breakdown of Ice Dyeing

I started dyeing using a what I call a layered method. Dipping the project into a light background color, then a 2nd dip in a darker complementing color. I LOVED it.

But then I learned about ice dyeing. I believe the effects are more organic. It is a completely different look from other dyeing techniques. And the more I dye in this method the more I learn about how dye is mixed and made!!!

The cool element of ice dyeing is the way the dye is applied. The dye is applied in a powder form. This allows the dye components to float on the ice as it melts. Those components can then blend or separate as it makes its way to the fabric. Sometimes an unknown color component is produced for a lovely surprised!

Through my dyeing journey I have come to embrace this method. And have learned to create dye combos that work well together to create complementary textiles.

And that is one of my goals to create my own fabrics to design and make my own clothing, accessories, and handbags.

And it is a great way to bring new life to items that may have stains or can be revived with new colors.

I hope that you enjoy this and want to take on more dyeing adventures!!

RESOURCES

Dharma Trading Company
Dharmatradings.com

for

Soda Ash, Professional Textile Detergent,
Fiber Reactive Dyes,

And so much more.

Dharma has wonderful customer service &
I highly recommend them for all your dyeing needs

Your local Thrift Store

Give new life to items that are in good shape

Think Sheets, Comforters, Table Cloths

Ice Dye Set-up

- **Fabric OR an item to dye** Using this set up for ice dyeing has allowed me to layer 2 items to dye. If your set up is big enough you should be able to do a yard of fabric. Once you get the hang of this you will be able to do larger pieces or more fabric.
- **Professional/Industrial Textile Laundry Soap** Your item to dye needs to be scrubbed of anything like spray starch, dirt, oils or stains. This soap is perfect to prepare your item to accept the dye!
- **Soda Ash** After you have scrubbed the item with industrial laundry soap, the item needs to soak in soda ash to open the fabric pores. Soak if needed overnight, but at least for 2 hours.
- **A Plastic Bin** A plastic bin will catch the melted ice and dye. It is easy to wipe or rinse dye residue off the plastic easily. If a spot is missed, the dried dye residue, whips off easily. And if this is something you would like to get into, then making sure it is clean is essential, so that your next dye project will not be marred by leftover dye residue. My favorite bins to use are by Rubbermaid. Ten-gallon bins by Rubbermaid are a perfect size.

- A Rack

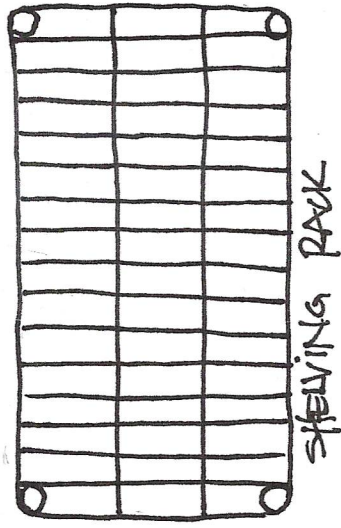
A rack lays on top of the bin and must hold the weight of your item to dye and ice too. I have actually purchased small shelving units, I have used baking cooling racks. Generally, some sort of metal rack that has a plastic coating. It is important that the rack is bigger than the bin, so it can easily rest on top of the bin.

- **Ice** or if you are lucky and have **snow** which works too.

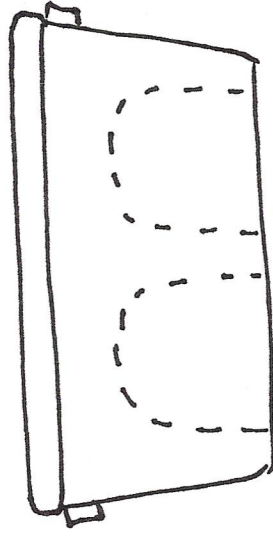
- Fiber Reactive Powder Dye

I love dye from Darma Trading, but Rit works well too!

- **Spice shakers** that holds the powder dye and makes application easy. I can be super precise with the dye, and not use too much. My kits include the dyes in shakers!

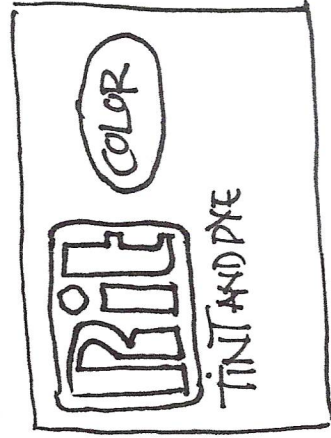
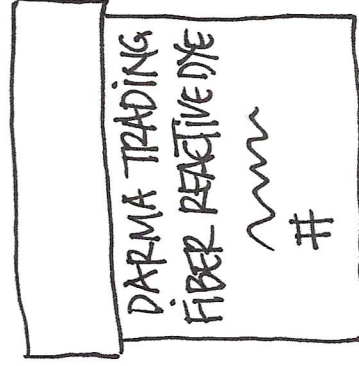


SHELVING RACK



10 GALLON

RUBBERMAID BIN



Your Dye Plan

-I make sure I have **ice on hand**. I generally buy a bag the day before and stash it in the freezer so it is there when I need it.

-I have **fabric or item ready to dye**. This may involve using a color remover. If this is part of my plan, I use Rit's dye/color remover.

-I have a dedicated huge pot for color removing, that will never have food cooked in it again. This can be a stinky process, so I have a countertop burner that I use in the garage or outside.

If we are dying early in the morning, this prep can be done the night before.

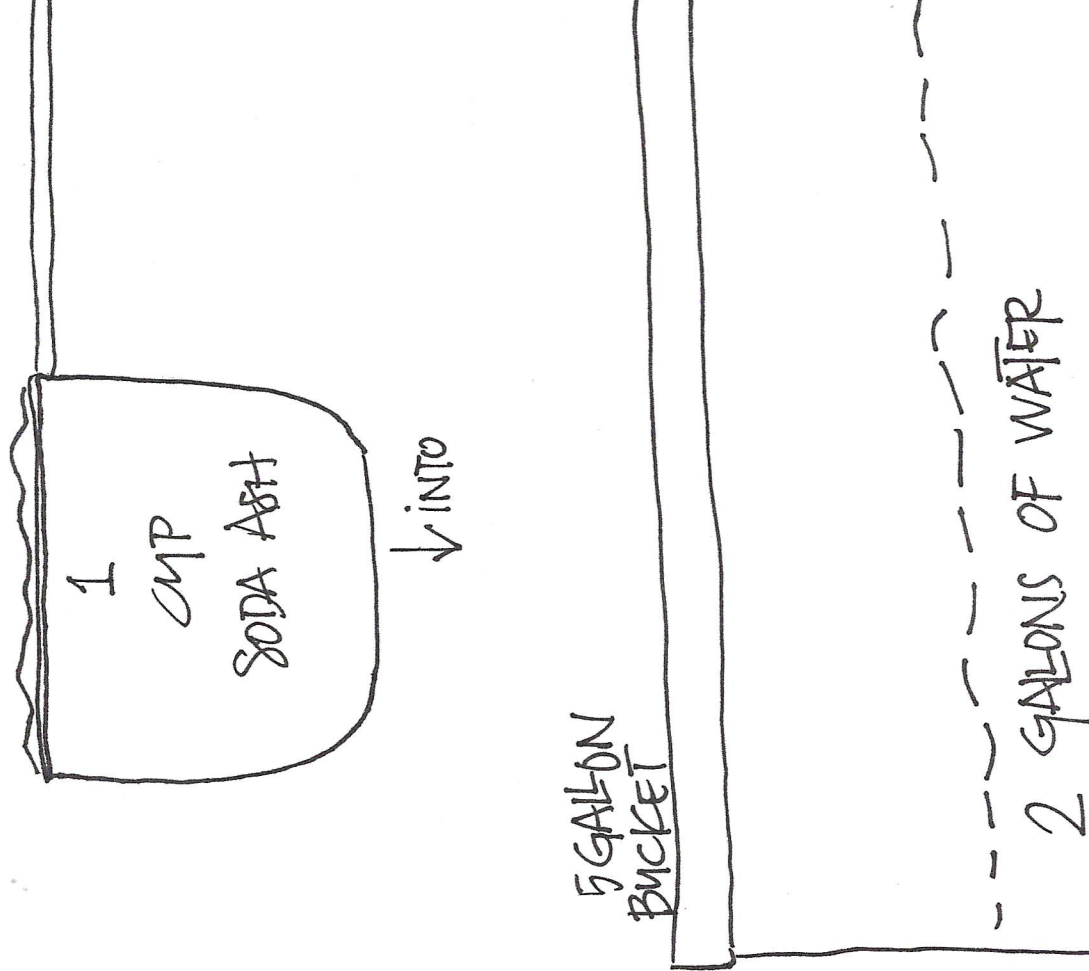
-**Use 1/2 oz., OR 1/2 of the Professional/Industrial Textile Laundry** Soap from my Ice Dye Kit to wash your item/fabric to dye. Use a warm wash cycle, and it can be a shorter cycle too.

-**Mix the soda ash in 2 gallons of water** (use a 5 gallon container. Make sure it is dissolved. (Also keep the solution as it will last for a long time. I keep a plastic bag over my container, and add to it when it is low)

-**Put the washed items to dye into the Soda Ash** solution either the night before OR 2 hours before class.

-**Have your rack/bin ready to go**. I use a big trash bag as I floor protection. Cutting the trash bag at the side & bottom or at the sides will increase that floor protection if needed. (I tend to save these bags for the "next time").

-After the items have soaked at least 2 hours I **gently squeeze out as much soda ash solution** as possible. I do not wring the fabric.



-Time to lay out the item on the rack. I have dyed a yard of fabric, and that is much bigger than my rack. Just make sure it is centered, and tuck all the edges into place on the rack. Just make sure the fabric is over the bin so that when the ice melts it will drop into the bin!

Then I scrunch the fabric down to the size of the bin. Scrunching involves basically pinching the fabric into mounds to make it smaller.

Remember this is an organic process. Those scrunches do not need to be even.

-Now it is time to **apply the ice**. Ice is mounded onto the fabric. I try to make sure the fabric is covered with ice 1-2 layers. I will place ice by hand to make sure the fabric is covered. The ice is the magic here. As the ice melts it carries the dye to the fabric. There are curves and surfaces the dye floats on and lands in

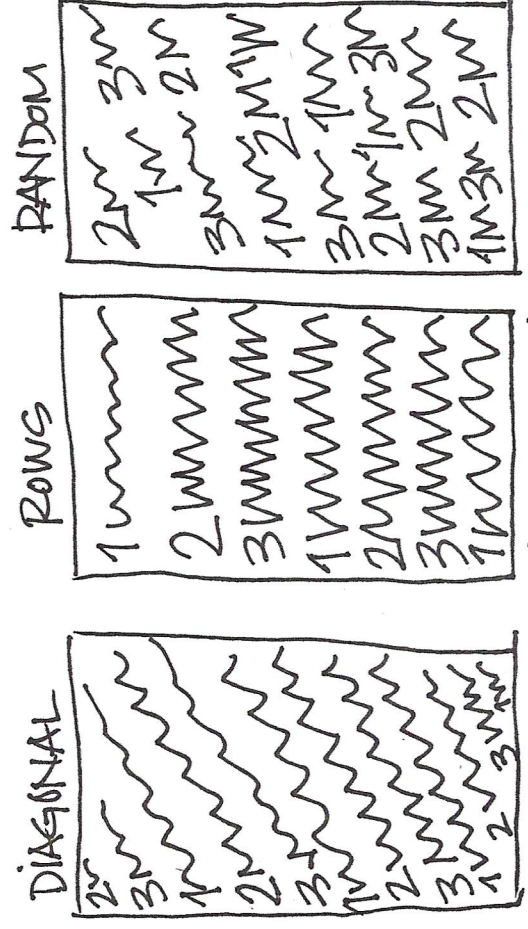
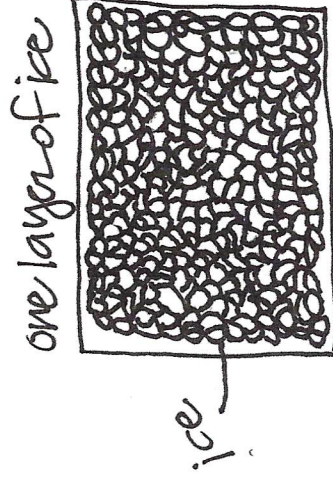
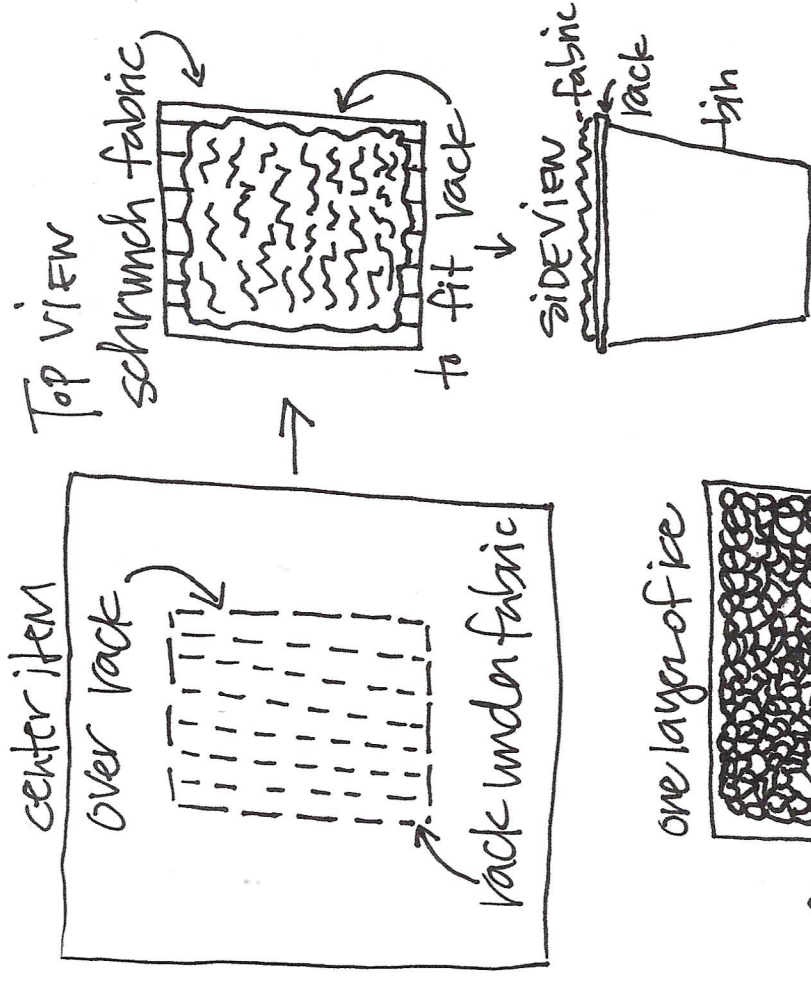
-Dye Time! I like to use 3 dyes that complement each other. Pick the lead/main color and that is applied first.

I like to do diagonal lines with the main dye to start off. Then I fill in with the other two colors. Kinda evenly, kinda not.

I also recently did a layered look with 7 different dye colors. I was inspired by a layered agate rock. It is amazing at how many different ones there are. Sunsets & sunrises are just as inspiring too.

I like the ice to look as if it is dusted with the dye. Start with a little and gently add more.

-Next I love to **take process photos** of the ice dyeing process. I take a photo as soon as I have finished applying the dye, then maybe every 30-60 minutes. Generally, the ice takes 3-4 hours to melt, but it may be quicker or longer. I do like to let it all completely melt, and take one last process shot.



DYE DIRECTIONAL APPLICATION

-I **take the entire bin** over to a sink and gently lift the entire piece into the sink. I like to use a corner and allow water to run onto it. I use the corner to squeeze out excess water. **Rinse until the water runs clear.** Squeeze out as much water as you can, but I avoid wringing the fabric.
-I use a bucket to transfer the item to the washer. Wash the item with 1 oz, or the rest of the industrial soap. I like to add a cup of salt to the wash too. The soap will rinse any loose dye residue, and the salt helps set the dye.

Hang your item/items to allow for air drying.

I have seen dyed pieces used in quilting.

I LOVE making handbags out of it.

I have given new life to denim jeans (I did remove color first)

Please send me pictures of your project if you will allow me to highlight it on my social media.

If you do post to social, you can tag with:

#paradisoicedye

And there you go!!

I wish you great joy with your creations!

Xo,

Cheryl

Paradisodesigns.com is my independent line of sewing patterns for handbags & women's clothing, pleather kits for handbag straps, handbag hardware and more!

Paradisodesigns.blogspot.com for tutorials

Paradiso Designs is on Facebook

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@cherylofparadiso to see my pup and me!!