



Itajime: Subtractions and Additions

Elin Noble

In this class we will explore what happens when color is repeatedly added and removed through sequential itajime shibori steps. Itajime shibori, or clamp-resist dyeing, is based on wooden boards held on either side of accordion folded cloth before the cloth is dyed. This class is an in-depth exploration of how the different folds, and the location, shape, and size of the boards, influence the overall pattern. At least fifteen different folds will be demonstrated. We will use Procion MX fiber reactive dyes on cellulose cloth (cotton, rayon, Tencel, hemp, and linen) and acid dyes on silk, and we will selectively remove color using Thiox. True magic happens when color is removed and another color is put in its place. The end result will be cloth filled with luminosity, displaying sophisticated color nuances, as well as visual complexity.

- Scissors and/or thread snips
- 1 permanent black marker, such as “Sharpie” or “Rub-A-Dub” for name marking
- thimble (if you like to use one)
- Hand sewing needles - I like Millinery size 9, Quilt Basting size 7, and Doll Making needles (*I will bring the thread for hand stitching and a selection of needles to share*)
- seam ripper
- Rubber gloves, a couple pair – Casabella or Playtex-type household gloves that are at least 4-5” above your wrist. I also use glove liners, from outdoor sport or fishing supply stores, to wear under the rubber gloves for insulation, and protection of your hands from the hot discharge and dye baths.
- A few pair of disposable gloves
- 4-6 clamping devices you wish to bring (c-clamps, bulldog, paper clips, squeeze/spring clamps, bag clips, hair clips, etc.) When looking for spring clamps – choose the plastic ones, instead of the ones that are mostly metal (I use 6” and 9” the most). The folded fabric and shaped blocks need to fit between the jaws of the clamps. *I will bring extra clamps to share.*
- Shapes for clamping: jar lids, wood or plexi blocks (Tap Plastic in Seattle area) to clamp fabric in between. Bring round, square, rectangle, or asymmetrical shapes. You need pairs of each shape. You can cut your own out of Plexiglas or any type of wood, even plywood, or get them as shapes at JoAnn Fabrics or Michaels. *I will bring a selection of shapes for everyone to use.*
- smock/apron, work clothes, even old shoes
- Questions, ideas, desires, and any troubleshooting fabric pieces you’ve dyed that stump you.

Vapor respirator Fitted with acid/gas cartridges. Many of the new cartridges come with both dust/mist and acid/gas (or organic vapors), in one cartridge. Most new respirators have a silicone face piece that is very flexible. I can comfortably wear it for a long time without my glasses fogging up and without fitting problems.

Also, Google search “respirator with acid/gas cartridge” to find sources (I use a size SMALL – they are sized with men in mind). Recently I have found them in the painting department of many hardware stores. If you don’t wear glasses and want to invest in a comfortable mask, consider a full face mask. You can comfortably wear this style for hours if you DO NOT wear glasses. Please contact me, elin@elinnoble.com or 508-287-6258, with any questions.

Fabric

8-12 yards total of washed with Synthrapol and soda ash, or a free & clear laundry detergent, and dried fabric. Do not use dryer sheets or fabric softener. No need to iron the fabric.

Bring mostly medium to dark solid color commercially dyed or hand-dyed fabric, and ½ yard of white PFD fabric. Cut 1/2 yard of white fabric and 1/2 yard of a dark fabric into fat quarters (approximately 18"x22" for a total of 4 fat quarters).

Choose a cellulose fiber such as: cotton*, ramie, linen, hemp, rayon, tencel or any combination of these. Bring silk along if you'd like, but not as your only fabric. Base how much fabric you bring on your speed, need for variety, project size, and ability to transport. Large amounts of any one fabric are not necessary. You may want to try different types of fabric, some good choices include: lawn, twill, broadcloth, sateen, challis, gauze, chiffon, organza, voile, velvet, velveteen and duck. Feel free to bring scarves, socks, shirts, or other clothing to dye.

*Mercerized cotton will dye darker than unmercerized cotton. It will say on the label if it is mercerized.

Some fabric sources:

www.thaisilks.com

www.testfabrics.com

www.dharmatrading.com

www.prochemicalanddye.com

Convenient things to have - only if you are driving, have it, and have room, bring it. Don't purchase these things if you don't already own them. *I will these items to share with the class and if you are flying, let me know and I will make sure I bring extras.*

- Soft pencil, chalk, or disappearing marker
- Bring as many tubs or totes as is convenient: any size, from a plastic shoe box to a large storage tote. Look for a vessel that is larger in diameter than it is tall. This is the dye bath container. No buckets. *I will bring extra tubs for everyone to use.*
- 4 or more pair of bamboo chop sticks - the kind you get in a Chinese restaurant.
- Box of T-pins to hang your work on the wall
- Spray bottle, such as a plant mister
- *3-in-1 Color Tool* by Joen Wolfrom to use as a color mixing reference guide
- *Dyes & Paints* book to use as a reference guide
- If you have a dye color-mixing reference notebook (such as a sample/formula notebook that you have developed or have produced in workshops) for MX Fiber Reactive dyes, you might enjoy using it for this class.
- Some of your work to share, show and tell.

Don't hesitate to text (preferred) or call, 508-287-6258, or email, elin@elinnoble.com, if you have any questions about the supply list.