



## Vat Dyes and Colored Discharge: In the Bath

Supply list (please label your supplies)

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This hands-on workshop focuses on the magic inherent in a little used class of dyes known as vat dyes. The color discharge process begins with laying a ground color on the cloth (cotton, linen, ramie, or hemp). Through shibori techniques (stitch, pole wrap, fold and clamp, and bound) color is removed and new patterns and colors are created. The interaction of reactive and vat dyes creates a characteristic halo when one color (the reactive dye) is removed and the other color (the vat dye) takes its place. We will discuss safety, color mixing, and fabric selection and preparation. It is a rare opportunity to work with vat dyes, don't miss it.

- Scissors and/or thread snips
- Seam ripper
- 1 permanent black marker, such as "Sharpie" or "Rub-A-Dub" for name marking
- thimble (if you like to use one)
- 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
- smock/apron, work clothes, even old shoes you don't mind getting dye on.
- 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 with any questions!

### Cloth

3-5 yards total of medium to dark commercially or hand-dyed cloth that is washed (with soda ash and synthrapol OR a "free & clear" laundry detergent) and dried. Do not "soda soak" (leave the soda ash in the cloth) and do not use dryer sheets or fabric softener. No need to iron the cloth.

Choose a cellulose fiber such as: cotton, ramie, linen, or hemp, or any combination of these. Rayon or tencel will degrade in the strong alkaline dye bath and silk will shred. It is best to stay away from these fibers or only bring a small amount to test. Base how much cloth you bring on your speed, need

for variety, project size, and ability to transport. Large amounts of any one cloth are not necessary. You may want to try different types of cloth, some good choices include: lawn, twill, broadcloth, sateen, velvet, velveteen and duck.

Some fabric sources:

[www.fabrics-store.com](http://www.fabrics-store.com)

[www.testfabrics.com](http://www.testfabrics.com)

[www.dharmatrading.com](http://www.dharmatrading.com)

[www.prochemicalanddye.com](http://www.prochemicalanddye.com)

**Convenient, but optional, things to have** - only if you are driving, have it, and/or have room, bring it.

- Hand sewing needles - I like Millinery size 9, Quilt Basting size 7, and Doll Making needles (*I will bring the thread for hand stitched shibori and a selection of needles to share*).
- Soft pencil, chalk, or disappearing marker.
- Cone/spool of cord and/or string: crochet cotton, cotton weaving warp, kitchen string, light-weight twine, various thicknesses are fine, if you want to do pole wrapping arashi shibori techniques.
- 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.
- Shapes for clamping: jar lids, wood or plexi shapes – to clamp fabric in-between. Bring round, square, rectangle, or asymmetrical shapes. You need pairs or multiples of each shape, they don’t need to be thick. You can cut your own from Plexiglas or any type of wood, even plywood, or get them as shapes at JoAnn Fabrics, Michaels, or The Dollar Store.
- PVC plumbing pipe: one or more 1-3 foot lengths of 1”-4” diameter PVC plumbing pipe – smaller diameter is okay. Do not bring any piece longer than 3 feet. The art center has a selection for us to use.
- One - 3’ to 4’ length of polypropylene or nylon braided or coiled rope, 1/2” or larger diameter (from boating supply stores and hardware stores).
- *Dyes & Paints* book to use as a reference guide.
- *3-in-1 Color Tool* by Joen Wolfrom to use as a color mixing 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 call or text (Pacific Time), 508-287-6258, or email, [elin@elinnoble.com](mailto:elin@elinnoble.com), if you have any questions about the supply list.