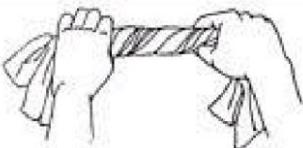


Tie-dye folding

Use these instructions to fold and tie your fabric patterns.



Knot tying



Hold the fabric at both ends and twist into a long rope form.

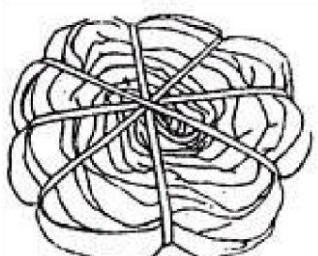


Tie the long rope into a knot and tighten as much as you can. It works best on long sleeves or lightweight material. Tie as many knots as you have room for and tie rubber bands or string over the knots to reinforce them.

Spirals

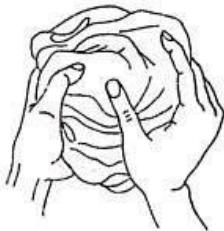


Lay your fabric flat on a surface. Put your thumb and a couple of fingers where you want the centre of the design to be. Start twisting, and after each twist, flatten the fabric with the palm of your hand to stop the folds from rising. With your other hand, bring the loose ends into the circle and keep twisting till it looks like a fat pancake!

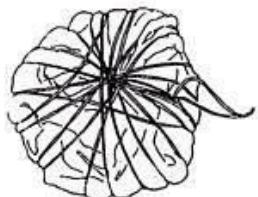


Take your string or rubber bands and slide them under the fabric so they cross over each other in the middle. Use enough so that it holds a circular shape. Set the fabric gently in your dye bath and don't stir it. For an interesting effect, don't submerge the cloth by using less water or use a prop to hold it out of the dye a little and sprinkle with another colour dye.

Electric balling

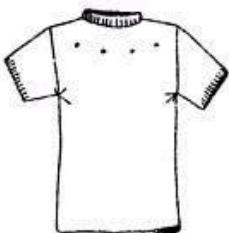


Gather fabric together in small bunches until it's shaped into a ball. Expose as much of the fabric to the surface as you can.

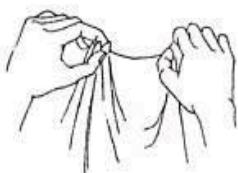


Wrap the string or rubber bands loosely around the ball in different directions to retain the ball shape and gently set it down into the dye. Don't stir it, just turn it over now and again.

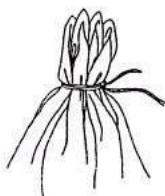
Rosettes



A 'rosette' is lots of little circles that touch or overlap each other. Use a pencil (or your imagination) to make a few dots on the fabric in any pattern. Each dot will be the centre of a small circle.

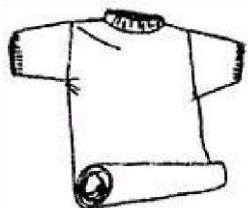


Use your thumb and forefinger to pick up dot after dot and transfer into one hand.



When you've gathered all the dots together, wrap string or rubber bands around the base of them. Make sure to tie it tight and wrap to the tip of the fabric and back.

Stripes



Roll the fabric very loosely, forming a long tube. Your stripes will be at right angles to the tube.

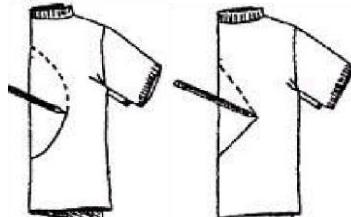


Tie your string or rubber bands at intervals along the fabric, depending on how far apart you want the stripes to run. Make sure to tie it very tight and immerse it in your dye.

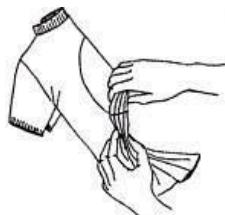
Diamonds, ovals and squares



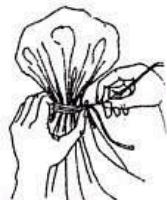
Fold your fabric along an imaginary line that'll run through your intended shape. Check out the options to the left, you could try hearts too.



Draw half of the design with a pencil (or your mind's eye), starting and ending on the crease.



Form pleats, starting at one end of your line. Keep that line in the centre between your hands while you're pleating, until you get to the end of the line.



Wrap string or rubber bands around your gathered pleats a few times and tie a secure knot. Now you can continue wrapping to the tip of the fabric and back, tie an electric ball or any other pattern.

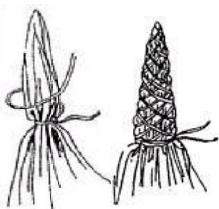
Circles



This is a relatively simple design to create. Just pick up the fabric with your thumb and forefinger at the point you want to be the centre of your circle.



With your other hand, try to arrange neat and evenly spaced pleats around the centre, like a closed umbrella. Smooth the fabric and hold it tightly at the base and then let go of the top.

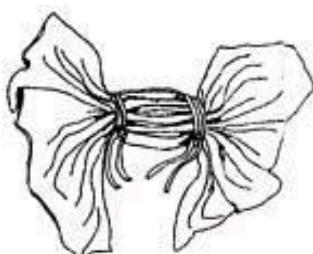


Use string or rubber bands to tie a strong knot around the base. Continue wrapping to the tip of the fabric and back, making sure it's tight and secured again at the base. You could try only tying part of the circle or tie it at set intervals.

Pleats



Lay the fabric on a flat surface and put both your thumbs together on the fabric. Put your fingers in front of your thumbs and pinch the fabric to raise a fold. Continue moving your fingers and pinch up more pleats until you reach the end of the fabric. You can change direction by gathering more material in one hand than the other.



Be careful not to lose any pleats and loop rubber bands or string tightly around all the pleats and knot. Use as many ties as you want. You can use this technique when you're tying ovals, squares, diamonds or other symmetrical shapes.