



### **YOUR KIT INCLUDES:**

- Rubberbands
- 3 - bottles with dye
- pair of plastic gloves
- gallon ziploc bag
- Library tote bag to dye

### **NOTE:**

- If you would like to dye more than just the tote bag included, note that the dye works best on natural cotton fabrics.
- Read through the instructions first so you know what to expect

### **INSTRUCTIONS**



#### **STEP 1: FOLD YOUR TOTE BAG (OR SHIRT)**

First lay your bag or shirt out flat. If you are using your own shirt, it should be washed clean. It should also be a little damp when you fold it and add the dye.



Next, pinch the fabric somewhere in the middle and start twisting the fabric around. Keep twisting until the whole thing has been twisted into a disc. You should end up with a flat, twisty disc.



#### **STEP 2: RUBBER BAND DESIGN**

Secure your disc with rubber bands, string, or zip ties to hold in place. Carefully wrap rubber bands around the shirt. Put the rubber bands on so intersect over the center of the disc. Use at least bands, which will divide the disc into 6 segments.



#### **STEP 3: MIX AND APPLY DYES**

Prepare your work surface. To save on clean-up time, it's best to do this outside and using a plastic bin or disposable aluminum pan to contain most of the mess from the dye. You can use a basket or wire mesh inside a bin to create a place for excess dye to fall through.

Once your surface is ready, put on gloves and prep dyes. The dyes in this kit are already in squirt bottles and all you have to do is add water and shake them. Next, start squirting the dyes on your bag or shirt. This is the fun part!

To make the spiral pattern, you need to squirt the wedges between the rubber bands. Squirt both sides of the disc and open the folds of the fabric in places to make sure the dye is getting to the fabric in the middle too. If there is no dye in the middle, squirt a little in.

**Flip over and continue...**



#### **STEP 4: LET THE DYE SIT**

Once the bag and/or shirt is dyed, place them into plastic bags to the dyes set. You want them to remain damp, so sealing them in ziplock bags works well. Leave them inside the bag for 6-8 hours, or even overnight for best results.



#### **STEP 5: THE FUN PART, RISE AND UNTIE YOUR UNIQUE DESIGN**

After the dyes have set overnight (or for 6-8 hours), pull the rubber bands off your item and shake it out. Rinse it until the water runs clear. Then, it's time for the big reveal!



Wash the bag in the washing machine. Wash it by itself or with some clean rags. Don't add regular clothes for the first 3 or 4 washes.

### **What is the science behind tie-dye?**

When you introduce a typical piece of clothing made of cotton or linen to a colored dye, fiber reactive dyes attach to cellulose fibers using a covalent bond. The dye molecule actually becomes a part of the t-shirt cellulose molecule. The molecules hold a "chromophore," which absorbs different spectrums of light, allowing only certain spectrums to reflect.

Covalent bonds, which share electrons, are one of the most basic and strongest types of chemical reactions. After leaving the clothing alone for 24 hours, the bonding on the cellulose should be complete.