

# **SHIBORI DYEING WORKSHOP ~ WITH ELLEN DALEY**

**YALDEZ QUILT FESTIVAL 2012 CLASS #506 – FRI., SEP 7, 2012 at 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**CLASS MATERIALS SUPPLY LIST:**

**email me with questions ([edaLEY@acsalaska.net](mailto:edaLEY@acsalaska.net))**

## **REQUIRED**

- **Fabric** – between 5 and 10 yards of white 100% cotton. You can buy prepared for dyeing (PFD) fabric or wash/scour regular fabric to remove surface finishes that may impede dyeing – see scouring instructions at the end of the supply list. Most fabric shops stock PFD cotton fabric or it can be ordered from Dharma Trading Post, ProChem, or other online retailers. Personally, I don't use Kona PFD because its hand is not as smooth as I like. In a pinch you can buy muslin from JoAnns, but if you like the hand of commercial batiks you may not be happy with the quality of the fabric. You may also bring other natural fiber cloth to dye – linen, silk, bamboo, and rayon all dye beautifully. However, these dyes do not work on wool. If you would like to dye a t-shirt or some socks or (ssshh!! undies), prewash them and bring 'em along!
- **Containers** that you can transport wet/damp fabric in. These could be Ziploc baggies (quart or gallon), or plastic containers with lids that seal reasonably well (e.g., recycled yogurt containers), etc. Your fabric will at least be rinsed well before you take it home (assuming we don't have access to a washer/dryer), but there may still be some residual dye that you will not want to get on other stuff! Once washed properly, the dye will be permanent and not bleed.
- **Synthetic rope**, 1 inch diameter (more or less), 2 or 3 pieces, each approx. 24-30 inches long (not natural fiber because it will take up dye and release it on your cloth in subsequent uses)
- **Dental floss** – the waxed kind works best – one container
- **Miscellaneous notions** - Thimble (if you use one for hand sewing), scissors, a handful of rubber bands of various sizes (from the tiny ones for hair, to the size used to band asparagus), 1 permanent fabric marking pen
- **Selection of hand sewing needles** with eyes that will accommodate upholstery thread
- **Strong nylon upholstery thread** – I prefer Coats and Clark upholstery thread – any color except white.
- **Optional - Pair of dishwashing gloves** that are dedicated to dyeing (don't use them in your kitchen later!)
- **Wear old clothes that you don't mind getting dye splatters on...** Or bring an apron to cover your clothes

**BRING THE FOLLOWING IF YOU HAVE THEM ON HAND AND CAN TRANSPORT THEM TO YALDEZ:**

- **Plastic 5-gallon bucket(s) as many as you have and can transport**
- large binder clips, c-clamps or spring-loaded clamps that can open at least 2 inches
- Objects you can clamp fabric between such as rigid plastic, metal, or wooden shapes, metal washers (large), etc.
- **PVC pipe in approx. 2-foot sections,** (not the perforated kind) any diameter

### **I WILL PROVIDE:**

- All dyes and chemicals to dye as much fabric as we have time for!
- Disposable Latex gloves – I'll try to also bring non-latex ones in case someone is allergic.
- Pattern for stitch-resist shibori piece to stitch
- Dyeing equipment, and as many PVC poles and lengths of rope as I can get my hands on!
- Some clamps and objects to clamp (see above)
- **NOTE:** There will be a materials fee of \$10.00 per student payable to the instructor on the day of class.

**Scouring Fabric prior to dyeing** (taken from Paula Burch (<http://www.pburch.net>) who is an expert in fabric dyeing.)

"The purpose of the scouring step is to clean your fabric before dyeing. It helps in removing invisible sizing or other finishes that can interfere with dyeing. . . .The very best way to pre-scour fabric, before dyeing, is to boil the fabric on the stovetop. This is more effective than pre-scouring at the cooler temperatures that are all you can manage in a washing machine. You should not use an aluminum pot for this step, because aluminum reacts badly with soda ash. A stainless steel or enameled pot is ideal. . . .

If you don't want to use a cooking pot for your scouring, just use your utility tub, a sink, or a large bucket, with the hottest water you can get. . . . You will need to stir or agitate the fabric repeatedly in the water, along with the soda ash and Synthrapol. If you're going to get your hands in the water, be sure to wear rubber gloves, such as the ones used for dishwashing, that are a long enough to protect your wrists, because you don't want to get soda ash on your hands unnecessarily, and, ideally, the water should be scalding hot anyway. . . .

PRO Chemical & Dye says to use half a teaspoon (2 gm) of soda ash and half a teaspoon (2.5 ml) of Synthrapol for scouring each pound of fabric; they don't specify how much water to use, but it should be a large enough amount that the fabric can move freely in it. It's really not critical exactly how much soda ash you use. . . .After scouring your fabric, drain off the water . . . and rinse with clean water."

*That being said,* I rarely use non-PFD fabric, but when I do, I have never yet scoured it as in the above instructions. So far, I have had good results. I do pre-wash all non-PFD fabric (including t-shirts, etc. that I plan to dye) in hot water with Synthrapol or dishwashing liquid but without soda ash. If you want to scour as above and have no soda ash on hand (!!) use washing soda (Arm and Hammer sold in the laundry aisle) but use 3-4 times as much as called for in the instructions, since "washing soda" is weaker than soda ash.