

## TIE DYE PATTERN FOLDING

ELNORE A. GROW

(1) **SPIRAL**- This is perhaps the easiest and most common tie dye fold. Spread shirt on table front side up. Grasp shirt where you want your spiral and twist until shirt would fit into a pie plate circle. Place 3 rubber bands on circle to bind. Squirt your dye on like pie pieces. 3 rubber bands would make 6 triangles and you could use 6 different colors or use 3 colors, opposite each other. If you want no white on the shirt, make sure you look between the folds and fill in with dye. Turn shirt over and repeat so you have placed colors on both sides. Keep this spiral together for 24 hours or more.

(2) **DIAGONAL STRIPES**-Fold shirt in half lengthwise with front side out. Start making pleats 45 degree angles from neck. Continue to make pleats all the way down the shirt. Bind with rubber bands. Place one color of dye on the furrows and one on the fallows. Or you can place colors on in strips as wide as you like. Do not use purple next to yellow. Be sure to do it on back.

(3) **DIAMOND**-Fold shirt in half lengthwise with front side out. Take a pencil and draw a half diamond shape on half of the shirt. Make small pleats perpendicular to the pencil line. Tease the entire shirt around and be sure to turn corner at point of diamond. Bind with rubber bands. Place desired color in central diamond, then alternate colors as you radiate out.

(4) **STAR**-Fold shirt in 1/2 lengthwise with front side out. Now take shirt and fold back again so shirt is in 1/4s (looks like a zigzag if looked from end). Fold sleeves back and you will have a long rectangle with shirt folded in quarters. Now do a flag fold and notice that all edges are not accessible for dye. So take apart and do a reverse flag fold so all edges are available. You will end up with a triangle. Place ONE color on 3 corners, and another color on 3 edges. You will have a lot of white in the center, so if you want more color, open up and squirt dye in center of each triangle. Be sure you get dye on all folds.

(5) **BE WILLING TO TAKE A RISK!** Try a pattern. It does not work well to write a name on a shirt as after 24 hours, the dye spreads and is not readable. Also the back side will have it backwards unless you place paper or plastic in middle. If you want a pattern only in front, make sure you place plastic between front and back. **HAVE FUN!**

Also make sure you have plenty of dye on shirt.

Have the kids make up patterns. They always ask if they can print their name on the shirt. There are some problems with this. The dye spreads so what might be a nice print to start with may not be great later. Also if you print on the front it will come through on the back unless you place a piece of plastic between the front and the back.