

# Basic Technique



## Dyed Batting

Ideal for crafting, dying your own cotton batting gives you full control on the colour, tone and weight. Each dyed piece will be uniquely yours as will the projects you choose to make.

*We have found, single colour dying's can be duplicated but may be slightly lighter or darker than the first.*

### What's Needed:

Purely Cotton or Natural Cotton Batting- Fairfield (see guide below)

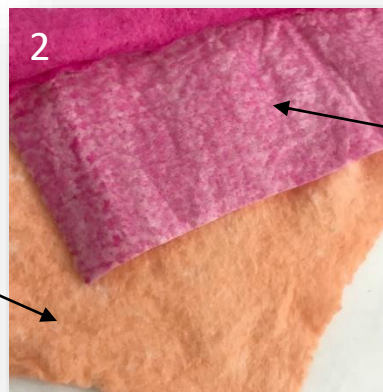
One-Step Tie Dye (fabric dye)-Tulip

Gallon Plastic Zipper Lock Bag

Cold Tap Water

Plastic Gloves and Drop Cloth- Optional

### Choosing A Cotton Batting:



When selecting a batting to dye choose a 100% cotton product. We use and recommend Purely Cotton and Natural Cotton Batting by Fairfield® for all our dyed batting projects.

1. Purely Cotton is a 100% cotton needle punched batting.

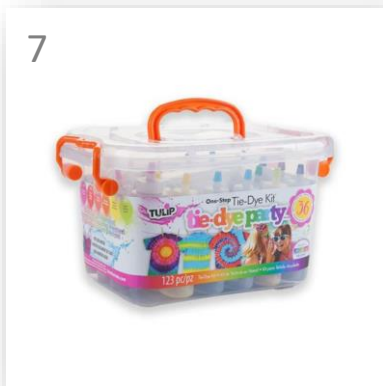
2. The orange batting is Purely Cotton. It dyes the same on each side as it is 100% cotton batting only. The rose batting is Natural Cotton. It dyes lighter on the back side due to the polyester scrim attached.

3. Natural Cotton is 100% cotton batting with a polyester scrim backer attached.



4. Purely Cotton Batting (*Orange*) is fluffy and can be separated by tearing. The tears created a beautiful wispy edge. Use in designs when a light natural fiber is desired.
5. Purely or Natural Cotton Battings can both be separated by tearing. Due to the scrum, the Natural has a harsher edge over the Purely and is a bit stiffer in feel.
6. The Natural Cotton (*Rose*) is perfect for cutting and shaping (the scrum supports shapes).

**Dyes:** We recommend and use the One-Step Tie-Dye products by Tulip. The dyes are super easy to work with and produce vibrant colours of batting.



- 7 & 8. The One-Step Tie Dye Party Kit is good for designing and will dye an 18" x 36" or slightly larger piece. The party kit is perfect for creating a colour palette of dyed batting, mixing and tone dyeing.
9. The One-Step Tie-Dye Kits are great for dyeing (2) 18" x 36" pieces at the same time.

**Mixing Dye:**



10

Green & Yellow Dye

10. To mix unique colours, select dyes to be used. Note- We mixed one bottle of yellow and green dye to create this greenish colour. Always pour lighter dye in bag followed by additional water then darker dye. Follow the dyeing instructions below.

**Toning Dye:**



11

Teal & Black Dye

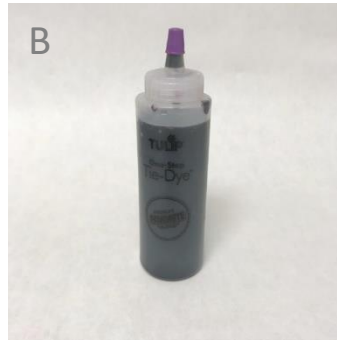
11. Select a dye colour for toning (black). Place freshly dyed batting in a plastic bag, following dyeing instructions below pour the tone or second dye colour (black) over batting. Repeat drying instructions. Note- Tone dyeing time will be determined by desired colour. 1/2 to 2 hours only. Check colour often.



## How To Dye The Cotton Batting:



A



B

A-Select a colour of dye.

B- Fill bottle with cold water to fill line provided on the bottle. Place cap on bottle and shake well (*till dye powered dissolved*). Let dye set.



C

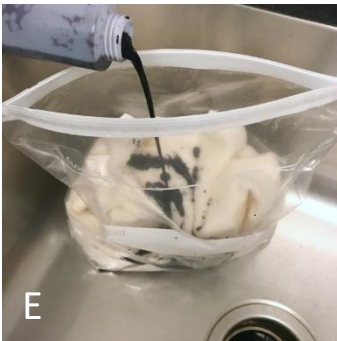


D

C- Cut batting into 18" X 36" pieces from the roll. Place batting in the plastic bag (max 2 piece per bag).

D- Place bag in (metal) sink. Fluff batting to remove folds.

Note: *To dye larger sizes of batting, increase bag size, use a second bottle of dye.*



E



F



G



H

E- Pour dye in bag over batting. Dye will run to the bottom.

F- Fill the bottle again with cold water.

G- Pour water in bag, repeat adding additional bottles of water 5 to 6 times (*for both dye bottles sizes*).

H- Water and dye should pool in the bottom of the bag. Carefully press air from bag, close.



I



J



K

I- Begin turning the bag around so dye can be absorbed into the batting. This take a few minutes.

J, K- Massage and press the batting, squeezing the dye out directing it to be absorbed in another area. Continue until batting is completely coloured.



Note: If batting has un-dyed areas, cover hands with plastic gloves, open bag and work the dye into the batting. This may be necessary when dyeing 2 pieces.

L- Once all dye is absorbed in the batting, set bag in sink and let rest 9 hours (we dye ours overnight to save time). Dyeing time directly affects the colours intensity. Less time lighter, longer darker. 9 hours perfect.



M- To rinse, open bag. Note: Gloves are optional as most dye will be removed before handling.

N- Remove batting from bag by flipping bag over. Dispose bag.

O- Run water over the batting (one at a time if dyeing 2 lots) until water turns clear.

P- Pick batting up, squeeze water out (do not wring), continue until all dye is removed and water turns clear.



Q- Open the bundle of batting up. Very lightly pull the ends out to remove wrinkles. Hang batting over line to dry.

R- Batting will dry lighter and become soft to the touch. Once dry, it is ready to be crafted.



- Small white specks may appear in the batting where the dye wasn't completely absorbed during the dyeing process. We embrace ours, working the specks into our designs as they assist in giving graded colour and highlights.
- Have fun and be creative with your dyed batting. There are several dyed batting technique projects throughout the Blu Arlan site to get you started.