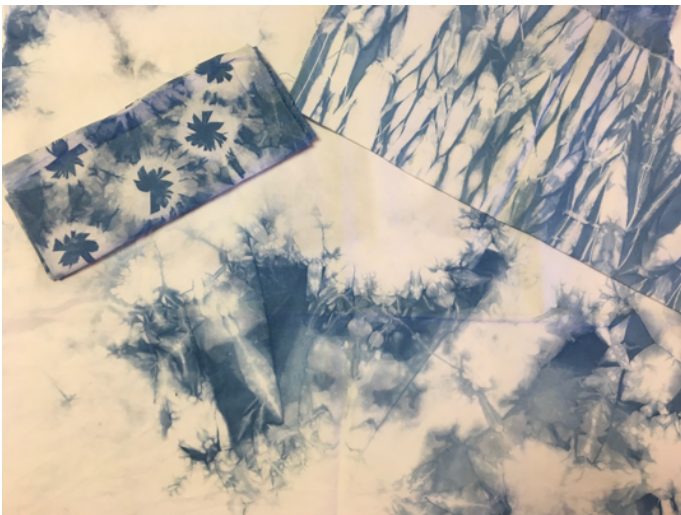


January 2019 was about colouring your fabrics yourself. Thanks Terry Sonnenburg for sharing your gorgeous blossom piece. And your expertise in using InkTense pencils. The guild has a set of 72 pencils along with the clear aloe vera gel needed to activate the inks, and some small paintbrushes. [This link](#) from the maker of InkTense gives you all you need to use these permanent fabric pencils. Terry passed around some iStencils and you can find them [here](#).

We started the indigo dipping next. Indigo dyeing has been simplified by Michel Garcia's 1-2-3 method. And now you can buy kits with the exact amount of each ingredient needed. We used a kit from my daughter, Julie, and Julie has given us a [discount code](#) if you want to buy your own kit. <https://www.juliesinden.com/discount/TWILIGHT> so your kit would be \$21.99 total. You have to go all the way through checkout to see the discount. The coupon also gives you 20% off any of the other dyestuffs in Julie's Love of Colour store. You can dye silk and wool with indigo also.

You get darker colour with your indigo by dipping your fabric into the vat more times. We only had an hour, so our colours are light. I like the scrunched fabric best but the marble and the wrapped bottle ones are also lovely.



The first photo is our indigo fabric scrunches, bottle wrapping and marbles. The second photo is our ice dyed fabric and our purple baggie. You can see on the purple one that the fabric was folded a little. Just think of possibilities if you tried folding like a mandala!

You need Procion MX dyes for dyeing on cotton and other cellulose fibres like bamboo. You will also hear them called fibre reactive dyes. You can buy online from G & S Dyes in Toronto. [Here](#) is a link to their colours. They are also available from [maiwa.com](http://maiwa.com) in BC and Dharma Trading.

To make the soda ash dye fixing solution, we used a 4L (or 1 gallon) jug and added 1 cup of soda ash and 1/2 cup regular table salt. The soda ash fixes the dye to the fabric and the salt will brighten the colours. You need to be sure to buy sodium carbonate. Not sodium bicarbonate which is baking soda and not 20 Mule Team Borax (although you can use the

borax and laundry detergent to wash your fabrics thoroughly before dyeing). We used Arm & Hammer So Clean Super Washing Soda which I bought at Home Hardware in Port Dover for \$8. You can also buy something like pH Up from a pool supply company. Just check that it is sodium carbonate.

We had soaked our fabric in soda ash solution for at least 20 minutes and we placed the loosely scrunched fabric on a rack in a container with 2-3" space underneath for the dye drippings. Cover completely with ice and sprinkled dye all over. For this example we used about 1/2 teaspoonful of both Blue Violet and Purple Procion MX dye. You can also use snow instead of cubes, but the irregular surface of the ice cubes does add something to the finished results. You can also just skip the whole ice thing and just sprinkle the dye onto soaked fabric.

The chemical reaction between the dye and the soda ash dye fix solution happens mostly in the first hour. But try to let it sit for about 4 hours. Hand rinse with mild soap and water and then run through a normal cycle in your washing machine, on hot. It should be colourfast if you have followed all these steps. I used the dripping from the ice dyeing and got some lighter shades of purple and blue. You need to add a little more soda ash water if the dye has sat for more than 4 hours as the chemical reaction will make the dye inactive after 4 hours or so. You should also warm up the dye solution. I used a microwave that I use for dyeing but you could also have the dye in an old jar and heat it in a water bath.

For our baggie dyeing, we had about 1/2 teaspoonful of dye again in a baggie with soda ash water to cover it. Squeeze the air out of the baggie and close it up. Squeeze the baggie moving the fabric around every 20 minutes or so for the first hour. If you use a mixed dye like purple, the red and the blue dye particles in the mixture will strike the fabric at different rates. If you want more of a solid colour, use lots of dye solution, don't scrunch your fabric much and agitate often for more even results. And if you don't like the results you can always over-dye it (dye again with the same dye or a different dye).

Let your baggies sit for 4 hours and then rinse. If there was a lot of colour left in the baggie, I would add more soda ash water and more washed fabric. Each batch will be lighter, although with the Blue Violet dye, the second or third batch was powder blue! All the red/purple dye was exhausted by then.

## **Simplified Step By Step Directions for Procion MX Dyes**

1. Prewash your fabric with hot soapy water.
2. Mix your Soda Ash Dye Fixer using 4L warm water, 1 cup sodium carbonate and 1/2 cup common table salt (salt for brightness only so it can be omitted)
3. Soak your fabric in soda ash water for 20 minutes or place dry fabric in container (baggie) and cover with soda ash water.
4. Sprinkle dye onto fabric or add to container.
5. Let sit for 1-4 hours.
6. Rinse with hot soapy water.