Simply Batik

Create original batik effects using Dylon Cold Water Dyes with traditional hot wax or Dylon Easy Batik

What is Batik?
Batik is the art of creating coloured designs on fabric with a combination of dyed and dye-resistant areas of fabric. Before dyeing, areas of fabric are covered with a ‘resist’ to prevent the dye colour from being absorbed.

The process can be repeated for a second dye colour - covering new areas of fabric with a ‘resist’ and so creating a unique and colourful design.

Batik is a versatile method that can be used to customise interior soft furnishings like cushions, as well as fashion items such as T-shirts and scarves.

Dylon Easy Batik is an easy alternative to the traditional hot wax method, because it is a ready-to-use liquid that creates a crackle-free resist to the dye.

Before you start . . .

- Check the table below for things you will need

- Choose your colours
  Dylon offer a wide range of vibrant colours in Cold Water Dyes. Use with Dylon Cold Dye Fix to make your finished design colourfast. Remember the colour mixing rules: blue dye on yellow fabric gives a green result.

- Prepare the dye solution
  Follow detailed instructions in each pack
  1. Wearing rubber gloves, dissolve the dye powder in 500ml/1 pint of hottest tap water. Stir well and pour into an old plastic bowl.
  2. Dissolve 125g/4oz of salt and 1 sachet of Dylon Cold Dye Fix in hottest tap water, add to solution in bowl and stir. (For Black only, use 250g/8oz salt and 2 sachets of Dylon Cold Dye Fix).
  3. Immerse damp, unfolded fabric in dye solution for 1 hour (3 hours for Black). Agitate gently from time to time, keeping fabric submerged.

1. ‘Resist’ outline on white fabric remains white when fabric is dyed yellow.
2. A second coat of ‘resist’ is applied, filling in original outline.
3. Fabric is dyed a second colour (red) and areas coated with ‘resist’ remain in original colours.

Refer to the following methods for applying a ‘resist’ and dyeing fabric.

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<td>An electric iron</td>
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*Contact Dylon for your nearest stockist of batik equipment
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**Traditional Hot Wax Batik**

Children should be closely supervised when working with hot wax.

**How to apply hot wax to fabric**

1. Gently heat batik wax so that when it is applied onto fabric, the fabric appears translucent. Maintain wax at a constant temperature whilst working. Stretch pre-washed fabric tightly over a batik frame or hoop, fixing it firmly. Draw design onto the fabric using a soft pencil.
2. Using a brush or tjanting tool, apply hot wax to areas of fabric that you wish to remain the original colour. Allow wax to cool.
3. Wearing rubber gloves, prepare first colour of dye solution, following instructions in the pack. Remove fabric from batik frame or hoop. Crackle if desired. Immerse fabric in dye solution for one hour, agitating gently from time to time.
4. Rinse fabric thoroughly in cold water and leave to drip dry. Re-pin to frame and repeat waxing and dyeing processes for second and third dye colours, if required.
5. To remove wax, place fabric between sheets of absorbent paper. Iron on a hot setting, changing the paper frequently to absorb melted wax; continue until the paper remains clean. Alternatively, remove wax, immerse fabric in simmering water for a few minutes. Carefully remove fabric and strain solidified wax from water once cold.
6. Wash your finished design in usual detergent. Rinse thoroughly and allow to drip dry.

**Techniques using Hot Wax**

**Crackle effect** *(skill level: Beginners)*

Crackle can be used on its own, or with other patterns, to give a final finish to batik decorated fabrics. Paint hot wax over the area to be decorated using a brush and allow to cool. Crush the fabric into a ball to “crack” the wax.

Open out the fabric and follow steps 3 to 6 (opposite).

**Sgraffito effect** *(skill level: Advanced)*

Completely cover the area to be decorated with hot wax and allow to cool. Place fabric on a flat surface and using a knitting or darning needle, scrape away wax on both sides of fabric where you wish the dye to absorb. Ensure wax has been removed well enough to allow dye to penetrate.

Open out the fabric and follow steps 3 to 6 (opposite).

**Patterned backgrounds** *(skill level: Intermediate)*

Using checked or patterned fabric (e.g. tie-dyed), apply wax onto areas of fabric where you wish the background colour to remain. Dye to a darker colour to contrast with the pattern.

Open out the fabric and follow steps 3 to 6 (opposite).

**Painting dye onto fabric** *(skill level: Advanced)*

A concentrated solution of dye can be painted onto fabric instead of immersing in dye, to achieve complex designs using a number of colours. Dissolve each colour of Cold Water Dye with one sachet of Cold Fix and 60g/2oz salt in 500ml/1 pint of warm water. Using hot wax as a resist, paint dye colours onto the unwaxed areas of your design with a brush. Leave fabric on the frame and place into a plastic bag, seal and leave overnight. Follow steps 4 to 6 (opposite).
Easy Batik is a quick and easy way of creating batik-style effects, ideal for children and beginners.

**How to use Dylon Easy Batik**


2. Prepare dye solution using Dylon Cold Water Dye, Dylon Cold Fix and salt. Place unfolded, dry fabric into the bowl and agitate gently. Dye for 30 minutes for best resist effects.

3. Rinse thoroughly, then wash (by hand or machine). Dry away from direct heat and sunlight. If dyeing more than one colour, apply Easy Batik to areas where original colours are to be retained.

*Please refer to the full instructions on the back of the Easy Batik pack.*

**Techniques using Easy Batik**

- **Freehand drawing**
  Paint Easy Batik straight onto the fabric with the brush provided.

- **Stamping**
  Use potatoes cut into various shapes with a sharp knife. Pour Easy Batik into a saucer and dip the printing stamp into the liquid. Carefully position the stamp shape-down on the fabric, press firmly and lift off. Avoid twisting as you lift. Repeat to make a pattern or random design.

- **Sponging**
  Use pieces of sponge. Pour Easy Batik into a saucer and dip sponge lightly into the liquid. Dab sponge onto your fabric.

- **Stencilling**
  Paint Easy Batik through a stencil using the brush provided.

- **Tie-dyeing**
  Apply Easy Batik using any of the techniques above, then tie the fabric with string or rubber bands before dyeing.