

# Natural Dye & Shibori

10 July 2013 by [Vanessa Brady](#) [4 Comments](#)

## NATURAL DYE AND SHIBORI A Tried & True Project





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A couple weeks ago I hosted a Natural Dye workshop in El Paso and learned about the amazing world of natural dyes and shibori! In case you are as clueless about shibori as I was:

**Shibori** (*Shiborizome*) is a Japanese term for several methods of dyeing cloth with a pattern by binding, stitching, folding, twisting, compressing it, or capping. Some of these methods are known in the West as tie-dye.

The process is really easy (but kinda messy!) and older kids would really enjoy it. It's like opening presents on Christmas Day every time you start unwrapping a dyed cloth! Don't forget to wear some gloves if you don't

want your hands to be dyed for days.

## Natural Dye & Shibori

### Materials:

- [Dried Hibiscus Flowers](#) (often found in Mexican grocery stores under the name *Jamica*)
- [Natural Fabric](#) (cotton, silk, wool, etc)
- [Alum](#)
- [Tub](#) (I got a plastic one at the dollar store)
- Random Wood Pieces ([Jumbo Craft Sticks](#), [Clothes Pins](#), [Decorative Pieces](#), [Squares](#), [Circles](#))
- [Rubber Bands](#) or [Hemp Twine](#)

### Instructions:

1. Place 2 cups of the [dried flowers](#) in 16 cups of water. Bring to a boil for a few minutes and then reduce to simmer for one hour. Remove from heat and add 6 tsp of [alum](#).



2. Place cloth in a hot bath of water to help the fibers accept the dye more. Leave them there until ready to fold, pulling one out at a time.



3. Assemble your shibori aids. The wonderful people at [Consumer Crafts](#) donated the supplies for the workshop and everyone was totally impressed with the quality of wood! Highly suggest them.



4. Strain flowers while pouring dye into plastic tub.



5. Start folding and wrapping your fabric. There are tons of different techniques you can google but really the sky's the limit!









6. Place folded fabric into dye bath and depending on shade of color you want, leave in for a minimum of 30 minutes. Don't forget that your color will be significantly darker before you rinse.



7. Remove from dye and rinse in clean water. Start unwrapping,/removing/unfolding your fabric from the wood/stone/bottle

and marvel at the little masterpiece you just created. Crazy, right?



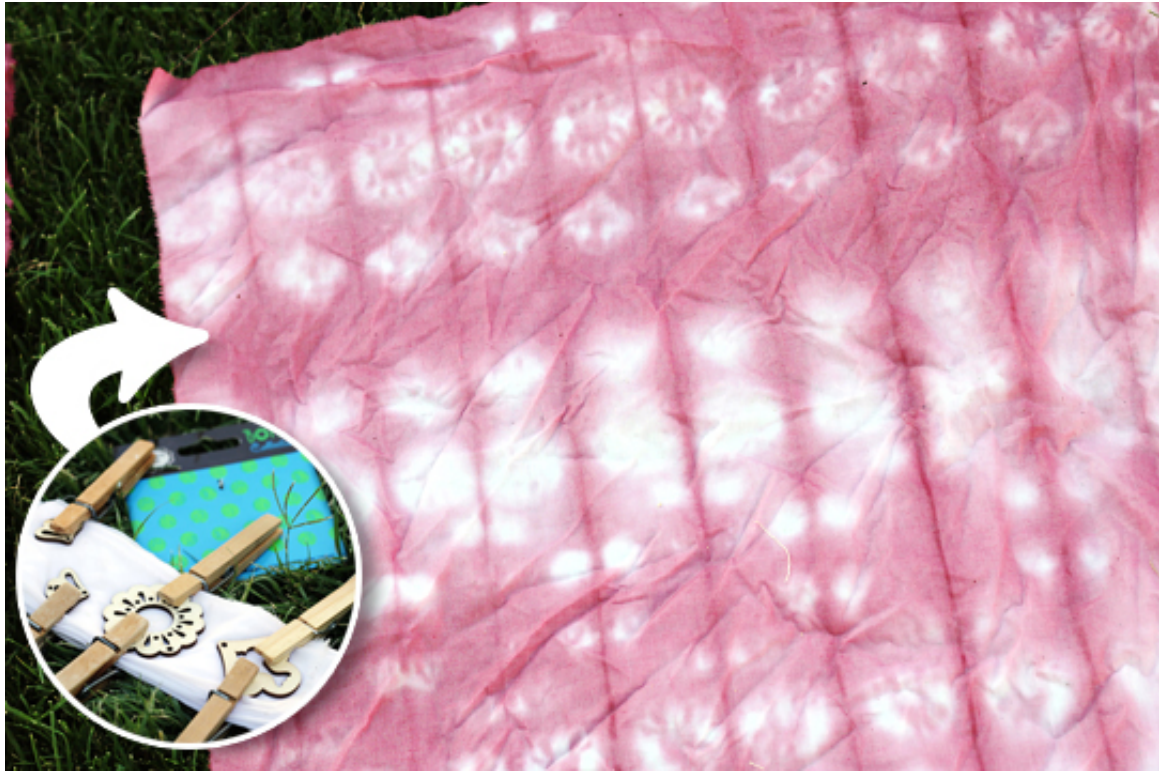
I really like how the one I wrapped around a recycled bottle turned out but would have wrapped it a little looser so that more of the fabric could have been dyed.



This one is my favorite! First I accordion folded the fabric four times into a long strip and then accordion folded that in a triangle (think paper football). I then sandwiched the fabric in between four popsicle sticks that were tightly bound at the end with rubber bands.



I wanted to experiment with how detailed I could get with the wood pieces and I was amazed with the results! With this piece, I accordion folded the fabric until it was about 1 1/2 wide. Then I accordion folded that strip in three and sandwiched it between matching wood pieces held in place with clothespins. Some of the detail was obviously lost in the middle but I love how the bird piece came out!



I hope you enjoyed this tutorial and give natural dye and shibori a try! It's really quite addictive. 😊

Thank you, once again, [Consumer Crafts](#) for donating to my Natural Dye Workshop and for supporting local arts!