

Discharging: the process of removing dye from natural fibers with chemicals or bleach. You can use various methods - stamping, stenciling, tie-dye, spraying, shibori, etc.

Different fabrics give different results. Some dyes are difficult to discharge and some are very easy. Discharging rarely results in the original white - it can vary depending on the original dye colours.

Work in well-ventilated areas - discharging chemicals and bleach can give off chlorine fumes. I usually work OUTSIDE or in the garage with the door open.

The two methods I work with are:

- Bleach (try 1 part 5% bleach to 2 parts water)
- Palmolive Dishwasher Detergent gel in a small squirt bottle

And sometimes, I combine the two... 1 part Palmolive, 1 part bleach, 1 part water.

Equipment:

- "Plastic Cardboard", drop sheet
- Spray bottle
- Small Pins
- Pressed leaves or foam pre-cut shapes
- Foam paint brushes, stamps or stencils
- Bucket to mix "Bleach- Stop"
- Plastic mixing spoon
- Bucket of cool water for rinsing
- Bucket and rag to clean between uses
- Rubber gloves, mask, eye protection

Prepare Bleach-Stop before you begin discharging:

If you pre-wash your fabric, the lines will not be crisp. The bleach draws into the surrounding fabric and "blurs". If it is pre-washed & you need to "re-size" it, just spray starch it.

Prepare Bleach Stop:

1 oz Bleach Stop (1-1/2 to 2 Tablespoons) to 1 gallon hot water. Dissolve slowly to avoid heat buildup. Soak/agitate the bleached fabric for 15 minutes, then rinse in cold water.

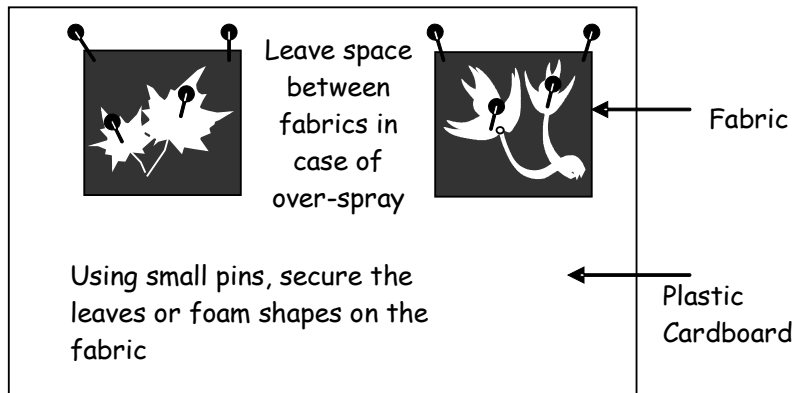
Spraying Bleach:

TREAT BLEACH LIKE IT'S BLEACH - A CORROSIVE!!

- Wear rubber gloves
- Old cloths - including shoes (gravity!)
- Mask and eye protection.

Wipe plastic backing between each use.

Rinse leaves or foam shapes between each use



For Spraying: stand the board upright, spray, then QUICKLY LAY THE BOARD DOWN SO THE BLEACH DOESN'T RUN DOWN THE FABRIC. Some fabrics require 1 to 2 minutes while some discharge instantly. Don't leave longer than necessary. Once the dye has discharged, the bleach will only eat the fabric so immediately take it and immerse and agitate in the Bleach-Stop solution. Let fabric soak 15 minutes then rinse in cold water. Hang to dry.

To use foam stamps, I like to dip a foam paint brush in the bleach mix then paint on to the foam stamp... then stamp fabric. When I tried to dip the stamps, I got some drips and splatter and couldn't control the amount of discharge very well. When using dishwashing gel, you can't see the discharging process through the gel so do some test scraps. It can take two minutes and longer for the gel to discharge depending on the fabric.

Bleach-Stop is a chemical - sodium thiosulfate. Exercise Caution:

- Avoid contact with eyes or skin. Wear eye protection and a NIOSH mask. If eye contact occurs flush with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes, then get medical attention.
- Avoid fumes, work in well ventilated area (I prefer outside)
- Wear rubber gloves
- If swallowed, induce vomiting and call a physician.
- KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND PETS.

Harmony Hand Dyes

Kathy Tanner
Box 277, Tisdale, SK Canada S0E
1T0
info@harmonyhanddyes.com
306 873-5109

Discharge Thickener

You can use Sodium Alginate to thicken chlorine bleach for discharge;

Caution: DO NOT USE A MIXTURE WITH UREA.

The chlorine bleach will break down the gel so only mix as much as you will use. It does not store well and will break down to a liquid again if not used within a few hours.

Work in a well ventilated area like outdoors, or use a mask with acid gas cartridges if working indoors.

Prepare the Sodium Alginate thickener at least a day ahead:

½ cup of water.

1 to 1-1/2 teaspoons Sodium Alginate.

Slowly sprinkle the sodium alginate into the water while stirring. It will be lumpy but stir occasionally over the next 24 hours and it will become quite smooth.

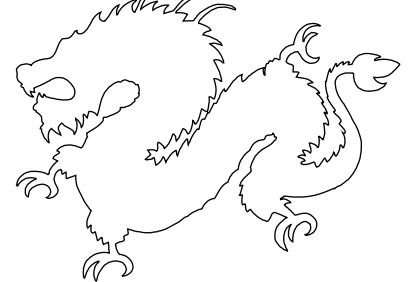
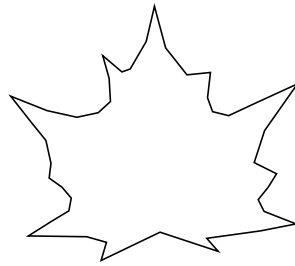
Every dye discharges differently. Some require stronger bleach concentrations and some discharge easily with a very weak concentration. You will have to experiment with a swatch of your fabric to see how much bleach you require. The fabric will rarely return to the original colour. Black can discharge to a rust colour, or green, or grey. Fuchsia may not discharge at all.

Have Bleach Stop prepared and ready before you begin mixing your bleach and thickener. You need to immerse the discharged fabric as soon as the desired amount of discharge has taken place.

I would start with about 1 Tablespoon of thickener to 1 Tablespoon of bleach. Do not breath in the fumes of the bleach at any time. Even though it is a common household product, respect the hazard.

Thickened bleach works very well with stencils. You can buy lots of precut stencil designs but you can easily draw your design on freezer paper and carefully cut it out with an exacto knife and cutting mat. Iron the freezer paper template on the fabric and paint on the thickened bleach inside your template. You can also use "contact paper" or adhesive shelf liner to create your stencils. You can paint on the thickened bleach with a foam brush.

Allow the mixture to work... the time depends on the type of dye in the fabric. Some dyes discharge quickly and some fabrics will never give up that dye. Once the fabric has discharged (perhaps 2 to 5 minutes... or more if it is a really stubborn dye), quickly immerse it in Bleach Stop so that the bleach does not continue to destroy the fiber. Stir about 15 minutes then rinse the fabric in cool water.



Foiling:

Jones Tones Foils are washable (with care) and easy to adhere to fabric. You need to place a layer of glue or adhesive on the fabric, then press the foil (shiny side up) on the fabric. I have tried a variety of glues and the only one I really like is the one created to use with the foils - Jones Tones Plexi-glue. It is flexible, permanent and the foil adheres to it simply by placing it over the dried glue and rubbing with your finger or "burnishing" the foil to the glue with the edge of a warm iron.

- You can use the Plexi-glue straight out of the bottle. Use it to outline silhouettes, draw or write.
- You can daub or sponge it on a rubber or wooden stamp and create a variety of prints.
- You can paint the glue on with a brush - fine or thicker
- You can iron on fusible web, peel off the paper and burnish foil to the design. Just place the foil on the fusible, run the edge of a warm iron over, count to 5 to let it cool, then peel off the foil. The advantage of this method is you don't have to wait for glue to dry.
- Bo-Nash 007 Bonding Agent (Adhesive Powder) and Write 'N Rub Pens work very well with Jones Tones foil as well.

WAIT UNTIL THE GLUE IS DRY - IT WILL BE CLEAR, then place the foil with the dull side down on the glued area and rub it with your finger (not the finger nail, just the pad of your finger) or burnish with the edge of an iron. Use the lowest heat setting on your iron.

When using the glue to do outlines, avoid getting too complex or detailed. You may find the glue spreads a bit more than you expect and one line may run into another if you put them too close together.

Do NOT dry-clean and avoid a hot dryer.