

Kim Victoria's Tie-dye Technique

This Tips & Techniques column is a follow-up on the Shirt-Shape Challenge artwork featured in the Spring issue. Kim Victoria's shirt was a tie-dye special, reminiscent of "groovy" Flower Power days in the 60s and 70s. This column explains how that shirt was created. For the original shirt, see page 34 in the Spring issue (#199).

Step 1: Draw a T-shirt or get the A2 envelope size and a 5x6.5-inch shirt template for free from www.HighlanderCelticStamps.com/t-shirt-card.

Step 2: Fold a piece of cardstock in half and crease the fold with a bone folder. Place the shoulders of the template on the fold, trace around the template with pencil and cut out both layers at the same time making sure not to cut off the folded parts.

Step 3: To determine where to apply color, place the shirt template under a craft or rubber sheet and trace around it with a watercolor marker. Remove the template. If you plan to emboss an image on the shirt, slip a stamping of the image under the craft or rubber sheet in the location it will appear on the shirt—this assists in knowing where to place the yellow center described in Step 4.

Step 4: Using the lightest color marker (yellow), draw a random spiral in the center of the shirt outlined on the rubber or craft or rubber sheet. Leave a wide white space between the yellow spiral for the other colors. Lay down the next color (pink) by "scrubbing" in an irregular, back-and-forth motion into the yellow. Add the third color (blue) the same way. Ensure that there's plenty of ink within the shirt outline on the craft or rubber sheet.

Step 5: The next step is somewhat tricky. Hold a water mister well away from the inked surface and spray lightly over the surface, but not directly on it. The surface should be evenly moist, but not runny so the colors are able to merge together.

Step 6: Carefully line up the folded shirt card over the outline on the sheet. Lay it down into the ink in a single motion. Lay a sheet of scrap paper over the top and firmly brayer over it to transfer the ink to the folded card.

Step 7: Place the shirt on a clean surface to air dry or use a heat gun on low to speed up the drying process. Gently coax the paper flat should it curl while drying.

Step 8: Add stitching lines along the hem, sleeve and neck edges using a

Materials

T-Shirt template
matte cardstock or mixed-media paper
watercolor markers
large craft or rubber sheet—a rubber sheet could be the reverse side of a large, unmounted background stamp (Kim used a rubber product from Alexstamping no longer available)
fine spray water mister
brayer, scissors, pencil, bone folder, black felt-tip marker

fine black felt-tip marker. Stamp and heat-emboss a design on the top.

Additional tips:

- Experiment with the technique using small pieces of cardstock first. Victoria favors heavy-weight cardstock or mixed media paper.

- Victoria obtained good results with yellow, pink, turquoise and light blue Crayola markers—she found that the ink from Tombow markers beads up on a craft sheet, but doesn't bead up on a rubber sheet.



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