

BATIK



Introduction

- Batik is a traditional fabric dyeing technique that has been practiced for centuries in Sri Lanka and many other countries around the world. It involves using wax to create intricate designs on fabric, which are then dyed to create colorful patterns.
- Batik is not only a form of artistic expression but also holds cultural significance, often used in clothing, home decor, and ceremonial items. In this guide, we'll explore the steps to create your own batik fabric using traditional methods.

Materials

- Cotton fabric
- Beeswax or paraffin wax
- Batik waxing tool (tjanting) or a brush
- Dye-resistant wax (optional)
- Fabric dye or fabric paint
- Large basin or bucket for dyeing
- Wax melting pot or double boiler
- Iron
- Newspaper or protective covering
- Gloves (optional)

Step 1: Prepare Your Fabric

- Wash and dry the cotton fabric to remove any sizing or chemicals that may interfere with the dyeing process.
- Iron the fabric to ensure it is smooth and free of wrinkles.

Step 2: Design Your Batik Pattern

- Sketch your design directly onto the fabric using a pencil or washable fabric marker.
- Traditional batik designs often feature intricate patterns inspired by nature, folklore, or geometric motifs.

Step 3: Apply the Wax

- Melt the wax in a wax melting pot or double boiler until it becomes liquid.
- Using a batik waxing tool (tjanting) or a brush, apply the melted wax over the areas of the fabric that you want to remain undyed. The wax will act as a resist, preventing the dye from penetrating those areas

Step 4: Let the Wax Cool and Set

- Allow the wax to cool and harden completely before proceeding to the next step.
- You can speed up this process by placing the fabric in the refrigerator or freezer for a few minutes.

Step 5: Dye the Fabric

- Prepare the fabric dye according to the manufacturer's instructions in a large basin or bucket.
- Submerge the fabric in the dye bath, making sure it is fully saturated.
- Allow the fabric to soak in the dye for the recommended amount of time, stirring occasionally to ensure even color distribution.

Step 6: Remove the Wax

- Once the fabric has been dyed to your desired colour, remove it from the dye bath and rinse it thoroughly in cold water to remove excess dye.
- To remove the wax, place the fabric between layers of newspaper or absorbent paper towels and press with a hot iron. The heat will melt the wax, which will be absorbed by the paper.

Step 7: Final Touches

- Rinse the fabric again in cold water to remove any remaining wax residue.
- Allow the fabric to air dry completely before using or displaying your batik creation.