**Intro: Quick Reverse Tie-Dye**

This could possibly be the fastest and easiest way to tie-dye a shirt ever.

I found these navy and black tees on sale and I loved the fit, but I thought that they were a little plain. I wanted to jazz them up a little, but in a subtle way, so that I could still wear them under a jacket or with jewelry.

Typically if you want to tie-dye something, you have to let the dye set for 6-8 hours. With this method, you can be done in less than ten minutes.

Using bleach in a spray bottle, I was able to control how much of the shirt was altered and how much color was removed.

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**Step 1: Supplies and stuff**

You will need:

- a clean dark tee shirt - the darker the better
- a spray bottle
- some rubber bands
- bleach
- a bleach-proof space

Put a little bleach in your spray bottle. Label the bottle so that you don't accidentally mistake it for hair spray some day.

Arrange your tee in your bleach-proof space. I have a plastic mannequin set up on my work table. But you can just lay it flat on some plastic bags.

These two instructables may give you some ideas for layouts:

http://www.instructables.com/id/Quick-Reverse-Tie-Dye/
1) Transforming a boring old black t-shirt using bleach!

2) Bleach Spritz Clothing

Image Notes
1. Boring tee shirt
Step 2: Don't you hate delayed gratification?

Now this is going to happen fast, so don't blink, or stop to check your email.

Gently mist your tee shirt. Like magic, every where that a drop of bleach touches, color is removed. Black turns brown and navy turns pink.

How does this happen? According to http://www.howstuffworks.com/question189.htm,

"When you buy a gallon of bleach at the grocery store, what you are buying is the chemical sodium hypochlorite mixed with water in a 5.25-percent solution. You're buying salt water that has been changed slightly by electricity.

"Natural stains (as well as dyes) produced by everything from mildew to grass come from chemical compounds called chromophores. Chromophores can absorb light at specific wavelengths and therefore cause colors. When chlorine reacts with water, it produces hydrochloric acid and atomic oxygen. The oxygen reacts easily with the chromophores to eliminate the portion of its structure that causes the color."

I understood that completely. Didn't you?

Anyway, the more bleach you use and the longer you leave on, the more color is removed. So, for subtle effects, mist lightly and go to the next step quickly.

On the example photos, I misted the black tee lightly and in an irregular pattern. For the navy blue tee, I went for a more dramatic tie-dye effect by tying rosettes into the fabric, using rubber bands. I also sprayed more heavily.
Step 3: And... you're done!

To stop the chemical reaction, rinse and wash your tee immediately.

I just dumped mine in the kitchen sink with a little dish soap.

Its ready to wear when dry.
Image Notes
1. This is where I really pulled the fabric tightly to make deep folds for the rosette.

2. Deep folds create more dramatic breaks in color

Related Instructables
- Transforming a boring old black t-shirt using bleach! by stinkymum
- How to tie dye an old white shirt! by stinkymum
- Dyeing Something by Stercus Fit
- Bleach Resist T-Shirt Project by woowho
- Easy T-Shirt Sketching by goosezilla
- Killer tye-die by prank

http://www.instructables.com/id/Quick-Reverse-Tie-Dye/
omicronicomron says:
Hi all
take care when mixing bleach with detergent or soap, like you said in your last step... this can be dangerous as toxic fumes can be released. I once did this by mistake (in larger quantities) and my dog ran to the front door and stuck his nose through the letter-box! I had to dash out too and it wasn't safe for a few hours. Bleach and soap don't mix.

CrystalDyes says:
Great technique but ...washing in water does not stop the damage the bleach will inflict on the fabric itself over time. When doing discharge dyeing the bleach has to be neutralized. Two ways to do this. One is to buy a product called Anti-Chlor or you can use white vinegar. Be sure to rinse the fabric well in plain water and then place it in the vinegar bath for about 15-20 minutes then wash as usual. The vinegar is not as effective as the Anti-Chlor but is better than nothing. You can also find a product in pet stores that is used for neutralizing the chlorine in a fish tank. That will work too. The main thing is to stop the bleach from eating the fabric over time. Whatever method you choose to use, the bleach should be rinsed out first before going to the neutralizing step.

In Discharge Dyeing classes, the bleach is never used full strength. The strongest we use is 50-50 with water. Many instructors go with a 30% bleach solution to 70% water.

Darth Maker says:
Hydrogen Peroxide is what is suggested in another reverse tie-dye instructable.

sitearm says:
@Bitsi; Brilliant! I love the pink on blue shirt. Both look great. :) Site

bohemianharmony says:
what a great idea!

l8nite says:
those spot remover pens with bleach are also great tools for subtly decorating clothing, I've also done a reverse tie-dyed look using a bleach and water solution ans tying the shirt/shorts like for regular tyedye but with a quicker soak and then washing.. thank you for sharing your method !

Bitsi says:
Hi --

Thanks.

Yes, I've tried the bleach pen thing too. You have a lot of control and I was able to draw a decent tree with it.

:-)

Bits

Scarlettred41816 says:
Very nice, gonna try this too!

susanrm says:
I like it!