

Batik

The word "Batik" comes from Indonesia and means "wax writing." It is a resist dyeing process, meaning the dye resists coloring parts of the fabric that you have applied wax to. The Indonesians are famous for their beautiful batik fabrics. They make intricate pattern blocks using metal and wood for their repeating patterns. You can do batik using metal cookie cutters and old candles! This project uses hot, melted wax, so ask your trusty, crafty grown-up to help.

Materials:

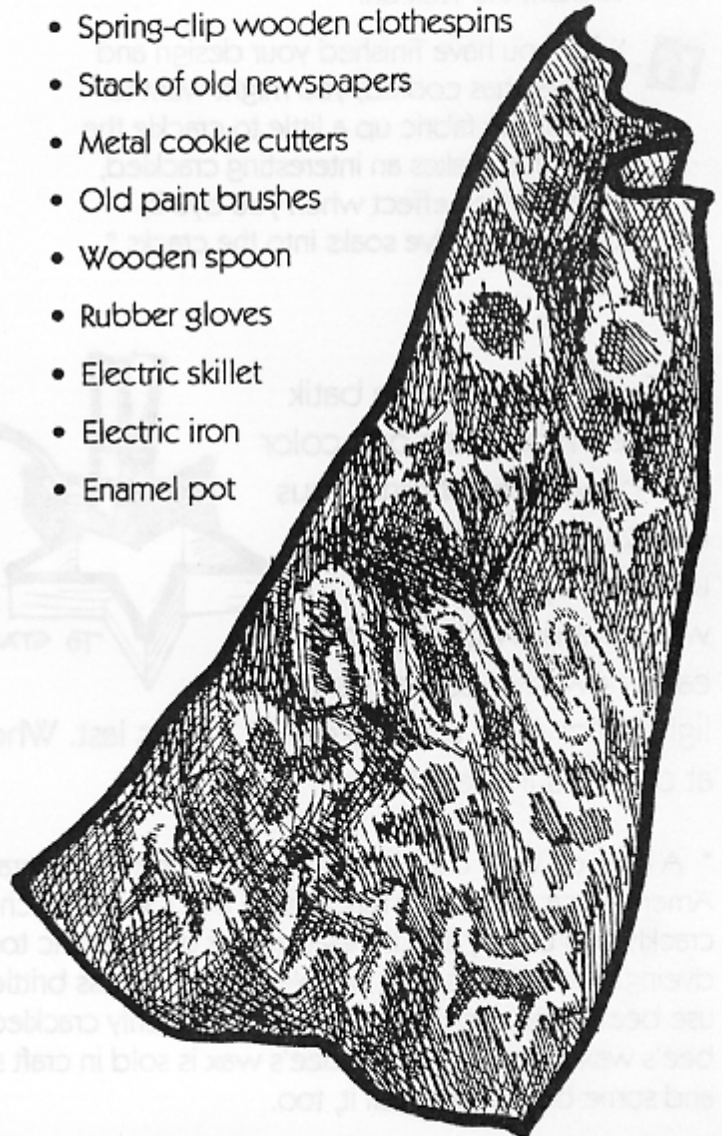
- Cold water dye
- Fabric for dyeing — preferably cotton (pre-washed)
- Old wax candles, broken into small chunks
- Old broken crayons, or bee's wax (optional)

Instructions:

- 1** Plug in the electric skillet. Pour water in the bottom of the skillet until it is about an inch deep, then turn the skillet on medium heat.
- 2** Put the broken candle pieces into the muffin tin or into the small cans. You can melt crayons into them if you want color in your wax — it will show on your batik later, even after it is dyed. Allow the wax to melt. After the wax has melted, turn the skillet heat down to low.
- 3** Place the fabric you will be batiking on a stack of newspapers. **Tip:** If you are batiking a T-shirt or other clothes, remember to put a thick layer of newspaper **inside** the shirt, to absorb the wax which soaks through. Otherwise, you will design both front and back at once (and the second side doesn't look as neat!)

Tools:

- Old muffin tin or clean empty metal tuna or pet food cans
- Spring-clip wooden clothespins
- Stack of old newspapers
- Metal cookie cutters
- Old paint brushes
- Wooden spoon
- Rubber gloves
- Electric skillet
- Electric iron
- Enamel pot



Continued on back