

# Batik Instructions, cont'd.

**4** Clamp the clothespin onto a cookie cutter as shown.

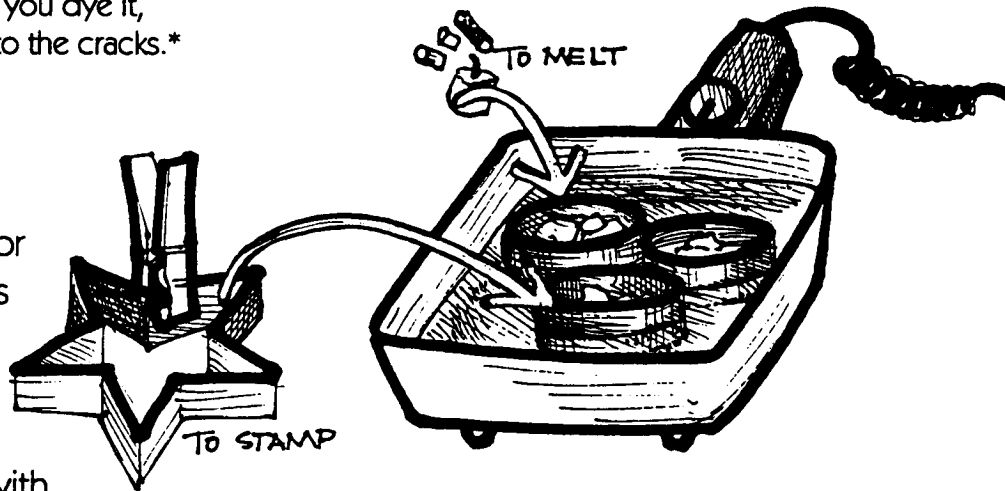
**5** Using the clothespin as a handle, carefully dip the cookie cutter into the melted wax. Use the waxed cutter as a **stamp** to press the wax design into the fabric. **Neat-o Thing To Know:** The Indonesian batik craftspeople call their printing blocks "Tjap" tools. To say it, drop the "T" and use a short "a" to rhyme with "nap." Your cookie cutter has just been transformed into a Tjap tool! You can also dip an old brush or even a cotton swab into the wax to paint the wax on.

**6** After you have finished your design and the wax has cooled, you might want to crunch the fabric up a little to crackle the wax. That makes an interesting crackled, web-looking effect when you dye it, because the dye soaks into the cracks.\*

**7** To prepare the dye bath, follow the manufacturer's instructions. Use cold water dye, so that the wax doesn't melt. Don't forget to wear rubber gloves or you will be dyed, too!

**8** Hang your project up to dry. If you are hanging it inside, be sure to put plenty of newspapers down to catch the colorful drips before they dye the floor.

**9** Now you are ready to iron your wax out. Just use an electric iron on a low setting on your batik, sandwiched between newspapers to blot out the melting wax. Keep replacing the newspapers as they become wet with wax with more newspapers, so that they keep blotting until most of the wax is out of the fabric. Wow! It's beautiful!



**I**f you want to do a batik and use more than one color dye on your **next** ambitious endeavor, you must wait until the dye dries and wax on a new design for each new dye color. Start with light color dyes and do darker colors last. When you are finished, iron out all of the wax at once, as in step #9.

\* A note on wax: candles are usually made from paraffin, which is a petroleum product. The early American candles were made from bee's wax, which is a honeybee hive melted down. Paraffin is crackly and brittle, and it may peel off of the fabric too easily when you try to crack the surface for dyeing. Bee's wax is very flexible and much less brittle, so if you don't want as much of a crackled look, use bee's wax. A perfect, smooth, but evenly crackled effect is often achieved by using paraffin and bee's wax melted together. Bee's wax is sold in craft stores and sewing stores (to strengthen thread) and some beekeepers sell it, too.