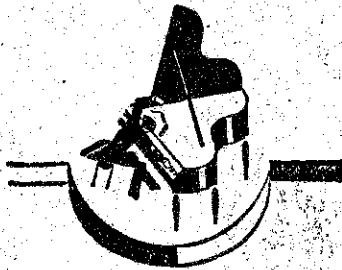


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"TIED DYEING"

Unusual Effects with String and Some Dye

IF you wish to get some pretty results in dyeing, try tied dyeing. This is not a new art, but an old handicraft revived. The Orientals have always been clever with their fingers, and used to do all their pattern dyeing by means of tying up material and dipping into various dyes. It is somewhat similar to batik work, but much simpler, being done entirely with string and dye.

If a number of strands of thick knitting cotton are wound round a piece of material (folded into four or eight) it will be found, after dipping in dye and untying, that where the cotton has been a white mark is left, which has been repeated in the same place in each fold, so that upon unfolding a complete conventional design will result. A floral pattern can be made in the same manner by tying in two places after folding the usual four times; so that the tied piece of material resembles a shut-in umbrella. The "ferrule" being the centre of the flower; and the second tie being made a little over half-way down the "handle," the remainder, below the second tie, is the portion to be dipped in the colour of the background.

If yellow dye is used for dipping up to the second tie from the centre, and purple for the background, a very effective pansy design will result, especially if the "ferrule" centre is dipped into the purple up to the first tie.

This combination will give a rich dark brown, and wherever the purple has mingled at all with the yellow, the pansy will be shaded with brown, giving much more character to the flower. This is a simple method of making patterns, and with very little practice original designs can be evolved in a few minutes.

Use any good household dye. Follow the directions on the dye packet as to the quantity of dye to use. Tints may be obtained by immersing the fabric, or certain parts of it, in the dye for a second only, so that the dye will not fully penetrate into the material, or entirely cover the foundation colour, thus resulting in lovely iridescent colours. The same dye may be used over and over again.

The great fascination of tied dyeing lies in experimenting with colours, and dyeing one colour over another. Extremely beautiful and unusual effects often result.

"Twisted dyeing" is also very effective for scarves and cushion covers. First fold the material as if you were pleating for knife pleats, then twist each end in the reverse direction until you can twist no more. Take the two ends and twist together like a skein of wool similar to those bought in shops for darning. Now dip quickly into a dark blue (blue, black, purple or brown will do) and you will discover a decorative twisted design like those seen on the popular black and white veined scarves. Interesting circles may be made by knotting the fabric on itself and then dyeing.