Sarong Tie-Dye

Materials and Technique:

2 yards very fine muslin, about 59 inches wide
Clear rubber bands
Brown dye (instructions below)
Pink dye (instructions below)
A-clamp

1. Hem the raw cut edges of the muslin, and fold into quarters. Press flat. Pleat or "accordion" the fabric so your folds run from the folded end to the hemmed end. The pleats should be about 2 inches deep.

2. Wrap a rubber band around each end of your pleated fabric, about 2 inches in. Wrap a rubber band around the center. Wrap each rubber band around itself as many times as you can. For a pattern with more stripes, add more rubber bands, about every 2 inches; the portion of the fabric under the rubber band won’t absorb the dye.

3. Create the circle-design border along the ends of the sarong: Working a few inches from the hemmed side, pinch one of the pleats and secure the bunched fabric with a rubber band. Use another rubber band to tie off the next pleat, right next to the first rubber band. Repeat for all the pleats in that "row." To stagger your dots, flip fabric over and repeat the pinching technique in a row, an inch down from the first row.

4. Mix the dyes: For brown dye, combine 3 quarts warm, not hot, water, 1 cup table salt, and 1 (8-ounce) bottle dark brown fluid Rit dye #25 in a large nonreactive pot. For darker colors, add more dye. For pink dye, combine 3 quarts warm water, 1 cup table salt, 1 tablespoon mauve fluid Rit dye #19, and 1 teaspoon tan fluid Rit dye #16 in a large nonreactive pot. For more saturated colors, add more dye.

5. Place the folded end of your fabric in the pink dye bath. Using an A-clamp, secure the fabric to the edge of the pot and soak 5 to 10 minutes until desired shade is achieved. Be careful not to splash the dye on the other half of the white fabric. Rinse just the pink side in running cool water, squeezing from the middle to the end until water runs clear. Repeat the process with the brown dye on the other half of the sarong, don’t mix or splash the colors and dyes. Repeat rinsing process.

Sources:

Fabric
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