

Tie Dye T-Shirts with Sharpie Markers! By: Jackie Patton

Tie Dye has been around for centuries in cultures all over the world. For Americans it has a pop culture significance rooted in the hippie movement of the 1960's. The bright psychedelic colors became symbolic of this youth movement promoting peace, love and anti-war expressions. It gave a bright free spirited, happy vibe that caught on in popularity very quickly as rock stars, artists, and hippies clothed themselves in these fabric works of art. Now when we think of tie dye in America images of the Hippie Movement of the 60's come to mind. Here are a few examples.



For this project we will create a simple and fast kid-friendly tie dye effect using Sharpie markers.



Materials Needed:

*Approximate time: 1-2 hours

- Pre-washed white or light colored t-shirt (cotton takes color great)
- Rubbing Alcohol (Note: mine was 91%. Lower percentages may not work as well)
- Liquid dropper (we used an old medicine dropper)
- Small plastic cups
- Rubber bands
- Variety of colored Sharpies (we stuck to color wheel colors, no brown or black)

**** Extra Embellishment: (fabric, scissors, iron on paper, and an iron) - we made a sparkley peace sign to iron on in the center of the shirt after the tie dye process was complete.



My super helper, ready to get creative!



1. Choose a spot to start and put your cup in right side up and secure a rubber band around the cup rim holding the shirt tightly in place.
2. Pick your colors and create a small design in the center of the stretched circle. We kept our designs to the size of a quarter or half dollar because the alcohol will make the colors spread out a lot.
3. P.S. remember that complimentary colors will turn brown when they mix (ex. using blue and orange together)



9. Using your dropper drip approximately 10 drops of rubbing alcohol in the center of your design and watch the colors spread.
10. One thing we added: we put a couple more dots and lines of color on the outer edges of the circle and added alcohol drops to them just before removing our rubber band.... then we blew on the area to speed the drying and make the colors mix and bleed together in an irregular circle design



Note: I had a piece of plexiglass that we put inside the shirt while working to prevent color bleeding through to the back side (cardboard would work too)

I love the instant results of this project!



We made a bunch of designs going up the shirt (looked almost like a funky caterpillar at first)
Then we started filling in different areas with more circles and overlapping some of them.
We did not do the back of the shirt and we did leave white areas on purpose.
The fun of it is that you can do it any way you want! And it's so easy!



* You will definitely want to heat set the colors by tossing the shirt in the dryer for a while before wearing. To keep colors vibrant wash inside out in cold water and lay flat to dry.

Our last extra (optional) step was to create this glitzy peace sign using fabric and no sew iron on paper. Any premade iron on designs could be applied if desired. Or simply enjoy the brilliant tie dye colors.

