

Dyeing

Fabric is fully immersed in water containing the dye which changes the fabric's colour.

Natural dyes work well on natural fibres but synthetic fibres need chemical dyes.

Dyes need to include a mordant e.g., salt, to ensure the dye fixes to the fabric permanently.

- ◆ Piece – a length of fabric is dyed one colour.
- ◆ Dip – part of the fabric is dyed leading to a graduated effect.
- ◆ Random – small sections of the fabric or yarn are dyed or coloured. No regularity to the design.
- ◆ Tie and dye – fabric is tied or knotted and secured with string or elastic to prevent or **resist** dye penetrating to all parts of the fabric.
- ◆ Batik – hot melted wax is applied in a pattern to fabric and then immersed in dye. The wax **resists** the dye to leave a pattern on the fabric.

Painting

- ◆ Felt tip – specialist felt pens to draw directly on fabric. Needs to be heat fixed.
- ◆ Fabric paint – specialist paints used directly on fabric. Needs to be heat fixed for permanency.
- ◆ Silk paints – paints for silk fabrics, which give a watery effect. Can be used with a gutta outliner which creates a barrier that the paint cannot pass through.
- ◆ Dimensional – paint applied through a piping tube to give a raised effect.

Printing

Printing is about applying patterns or images to textile materials.

- ◆ Screen printing involves the use of screens to apply a pattern to fabric. These can be flat or cylindrical with each screen applying a different colour to the fabric.
- ◆ Roller printing is similar to screen printing, but the circular rollers are engraved with a design leaving an imprint on fabric.
- ◆ Discharge printing works with screen printing but a bleaching agent is used to destroy some colour leading to a paler design on the fabric.
- ◆ Block printing uses a relief block to stamp a print onto fabric.
- ◆ Stencilling requires a design to be cut from card or acetate with paint or dye pushed through the holes to create a design on fabric.
- ◆ Digital printing works with a CAD program where the design is sent directly to print on fabric.
- ◆ Inkjet transfer also referred to as heat transfer printing and is used to transfer an image onto fabric. Works in the same way as an ordinary printer but with specialist paper.



The background on the cushion has been splattered painted with fabric paint. Fabric felt pens are used to colour the cow.

Embroidery

- ◆ Hand embroidery requires skill to apply each stitch to material. Different stitch types exist.
- ◆ Machine embroidery takes different forms:
 - ◇ decorative stitches, on most machines
 - ◇ embroidered motifs, on computerised machines
 - ◇ free machine embroidery.
- ◆ Appliqué consists of fabric pieces stitched onto a background fabric. Designs can be built up with colours, patterns and textures as shown in the picture of the puffin opposite.
- ◆ Patchwork is made up of several pieces of fabric sewn together to form larger pieces. Designs can form an organised pattern or be more random. This is a good way of using up scraps of material.
- ◆ Beadwork includes stitching beads, sequins and diamanté onto fabric as shown in the picture opposite. Beadwork can enhance plain products or can be used to further embellish other decorative work.
- ◆ Laser engraving is used in conjunction with a design program to transfer a design onto fabric. The laser burns the design into fabric but does not cut it.

