

Creating your Own Design on Fabric

4-H Clothing and Textiles Project



Part of the Family and Consumer Sciences 4-H Project Series

When we think of the clothes we wear, often we usually do not consider how the fabric is actually created or how the color or design on the fabric actually gets there. Take a look in your closet at your clothes. You should see some that are solid colors and some that contain different designs. In this activity you will explore what is called Applied Design, meaning the design that you see on the fabric is actually put there after the fabric is made using one of several processes.

DIRECT PRINTING: Direct printing is the process by which a pattern is created on fabric by applying the pattern right on the fabric. Have you ever used an ink stamp to stamp a date on a piece of paper? The concept is the same.

Now it's time for the fun to begin by creating your own design on fabric from items you have at home.

Here are some simple techniques you can use to create your own design.

Supplies needed:

1. Craft paint (preferably fabric paint) but whatever you have at home will do to use to experiment.
2. Foam brush or art paint brushes (if you don't have these you can cut up a sponge to use, be creative)
3. Fabric, preferably white or beige 100% cotton fabric. (you can also use card stock (heavy) paper to make a design and frame to decorate your room)
4. Materials to use for the design: this might include a potato, cookie cutters, jar rings, Styrofoam cup, craft stamps.

Making fabric design using a Potato:

1. Ask an adult to cut a **potato** into thick slices.
2. Draw a design you want to use on the potato.
3. Have an adult cut out the design.
4. Pat the **potato** dry **with** a paper towel.
5. **Use** a damp paintbrush to apply the paint to the stamp.
6. Firmly press the stamp onto a piece of fabric for about three seconds.
7. Slowly lift the **potato** from the fabric.
1. Repeat to **make a pattern**. Note: if you change colors, wash the brush and design medium you are using.
8. Check out your awesome print!

Examples:



Using Cookie Cutters, Jar Rings, Styrofoam Cups, Craft Stamps to make a Fabric Design

1. Plan your design based on the what you have by sketching it on a sheet of paper.
2. Use a paintbrush/sponge brush to apply the paint to the edge of what you are using to create the design. (Experiment with different objects you have around the house that are washable.) Note: The edges of what you use, (except for the craft stamp) will not absorb the paint so you will need to experiment to determine the amount of paint to put on in order to make your design.
3. Firmly press onto a piece of fabric for about three seconds.
4. Slowly lift up.
5. Repeat, loading paint,... to **make a pattern**. Note: if you change colors, wash the brush and design medium you are using.
6. Check out your awesome print!



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