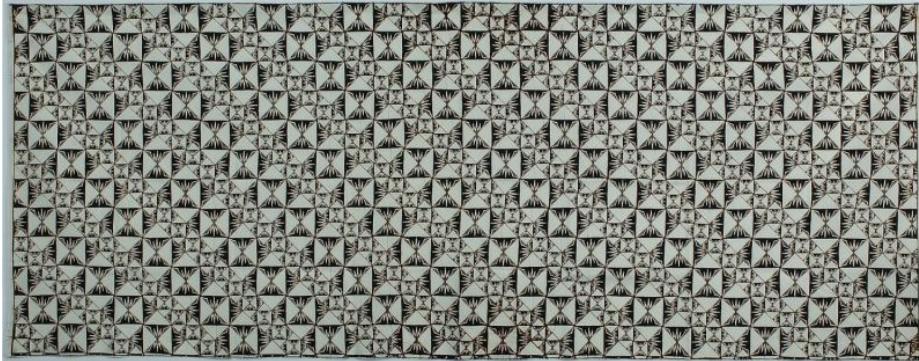


Teaching and Learning in Art Education 2nd Ed

Cultivating Students' Potential from Pre-K through High School

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Hot Wax Batik Directions (Page 1 of 2)



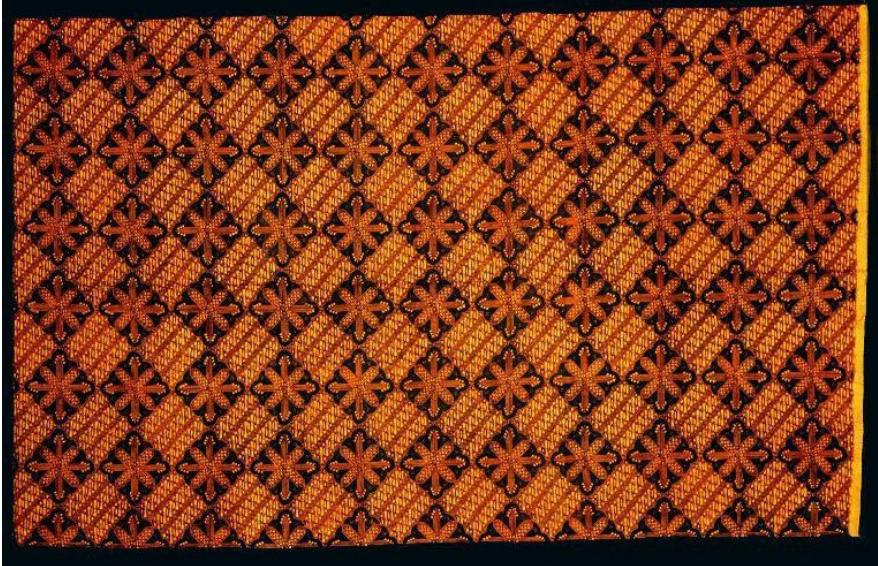
Procedures:

- Students will draw a pattern on a sheet of paper the size of the surface area of their planned batik that has two colors plus the white of the fabric to mimic the dye colors they will be using. (Batiks can have more than two colors, however, beginning students should start simple and then progress into more advanced color schemes.) Then, they will determine the proper order in which they will later apply the dyes, such as beginning with yellow dye and then adding green dye. Students will label the colored areas on their drawing from lightest to darkest by numbering the white areas with the number one, the second color sections on their paper with the number two (such as yellow), and the third color zones with the number three (such as green).
- On the batik day, the teacher will warm the batik wax in an electric skillet approximately 30 minutes before the start of the lesson. The teacher will review examples of quality batiks and introduce safety procedures for working with hot materials. Afterwards, the students will cover their work surfaces with newspaper and mix cold-water dyes according to package instruction. (The class will avoid hot water dyes as they cause the wax to melt during the dying process.)

Following the preparations, the students will:

- Tape their paper design tautly onto the piece of cardboard covered with aluminum foil to prevent sticking; tape down their fabric over their drawing; and, sketch an outline of their drawing with a yellow watercolor marker on the fabric. After marking the fabric, they will remove their paper drawing from underneath the fabric.
- Cover the white areas with the wax by dipping the tjanting tool into hot wax and drawing over the lines labeled #1. (The wax should be hot enough to penetrate the fabric. If it is too hot it will be runny.) Students may opt to fill in large areas of color with a paintbrush that they use specifically for applying wax.
- Allow the wax on the white areas to cool and harden before soaking the fabric in the lightest color dye bath. The dye bath will fill in the areas labeled #2.
- Put on rubber gloves and agitate the fabric in the dye with a wooden spoon or tongs to ensure even dying. The fabric should not be bunched up, but rather lie as smoothly as possible in the water.
- Remove the fabric from the dye bath once it is a shade darker than the desired color and let it dry completely.
- Add a layer of wax to the areas labeled #2 and repeat the dying process to color the sections labeled #3.

Hot Wax Batik Directions (Page 2 of 2)



After the students have added two colors of dye to their batik, the teacher (or mature and responsible students) will:

- Put on a pair of insulated rubber gloves and place students' batiks in a pot of boiling water to remove the wax. Once the wax has separated from the fabric, the teacher will remove the batiks from the hot water with tongs, and take out the hardened wax from the cooled pot. (They should not pour the wax down the sink as it will clog the sink.)
- Place a thick pile of newsprint on top of and underneath the dried batik to capture any remaining wax while ironing the fabric.

Materials

- Muslin or white cotton clothing item, tjanting pens, paint brushes, watercolor markers, cardboard, aluminum foil, masking tape, newspaper, newsprint, potholders, tongs, water, iron, rubber gloves, thread, and needles. Choose from the following waxes:
- **Beeswax** is a natural wax that does not crackle.
- **Paraffin** is a synthetic wax that produces a crackling effect; however, it can catch on fire more easily than beeswax.
- **Microcrystalline** wax is a synthetic wax that does not crackle or burn as readily as paraffin wax.
- **Batik wax** is a mixture of paraffin and microcrystalline waxes.

References

- Burch, P. E. (2011). *How to batik*. <http://www.pburch.net/dyeing/howtobatik.shtml>
- Light, D. (2004). *Batik: 21 beautiful projects using simple techniques*. Lark Books.
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