

Basic Blueprinting on Fabric

Your fabric is sensitive to light, so work in lowlight conditions until it is exposed, rinsed, and dried.

Fasten image (plant, lace, negative, etc.) to fabric secured to foam board. Arrange so shadows of pins will not show.

Cover with cardboard or dark bag and position outside in sun, placing board so it is perpendicular to sun. Remove cover to begin exposure. Motion will blur image.

Time image: ideal temp. is 65--75 degrees from six to twelve minutes. Experiment.

Again cover fabric and take back inside to rinse, still in lowest light possible. Remove images and place fabric in clean waters to rinse, continuing until water is clean. Use rubber gloves and be sure no contaminants are in sink.

Gently squeeze out water and lay out to dry, or hang out. If blue stain is on towels under print, immediately rinse more. You may use a dryer or hair-dryer.

Once the print is dry, it will no longer react to light. If you need to wash it, use a liquid, non-phosphate soap, or it will turn brown. Soda, borax, chlorine, or peroxide will also discolor the print.

I must warn you that this is so much fun, it is possibly as addictive as gardening!

My reference source is the book Blueprints on Fabric, innovatives uses for cyanotype by Barbara Hewitt. It is out of print, but you can find copies on the internet.

Pre-treated fabric or chemicals to treat fabric may be ordered from www.blueprintsonfabrics.com. They have t-shirts, silk, cottons of various colors, scarves, paper, etc. My experiences with them have all been very positive, and they are happy to speak with you on the phone as well as email.

If you have questions or discoveries you would like to share, give me a call--

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