


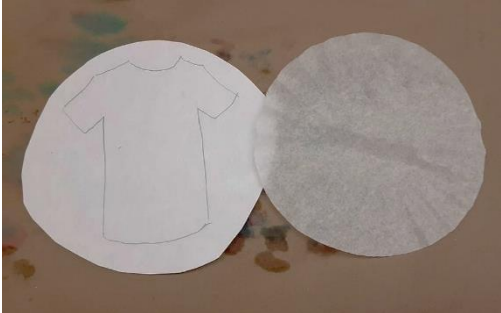
MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER TIE-DYED CLOTHESLINE T-SHIRT

(from the Creative Workshop of the Memorial Art Gallery)

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- 1 basket-type paper coffee filter - pressed flat overnight under a heavy book
- 2 sheets of non-porous white drawing paper - 8.5"x11" or 9"x12"
- A small selection of bright-colored water-based markers (omit black, brown and gray)
- 3 sheets of paper towels
- Scissors
- A pencil
- A small plastic cup of water
- A ruler
- Old towel (as a drying surface)
- A flat area where the projects can dry for an hour

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **With a sheet of paper towel beneath it** for blotting, fill one side of the coffee filter with solid areas of bright colors, (not lines) leaving as little white as possible. Working with only yellow, red and blue will create green, orange and purple in the finished art. However, working with all the bright colors will work just as well. Avoid attempting designs more complex than concentric circles, a spiral, radiating stripes, or adjacent areas of each color (see image at right). Set aside filter and paper towel.
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2. **Using the scissors** trim the sheets of paper to 8.5" or 8" squares. Draw a simple t-shirt shape outline on one of the squares, large enough that it takes up most of the paper. Cut the shirt shape out along the pencil outline.
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3. **Place the remaining sheet of paper on top** of the paper towel you used earlier as a blotter. On top of that place the cut-out shirt shape in the center. On top of that place the decorated coffee filter (it doesn't matter if it is face-down or face-up). The edges of the filter should cover all edges of the cut-out shirt shape.



4. Wad up one of the paper towels and dip it entirely in the cup of water. Gently wring out some of the water so the wadded towel is wet but not dripping water. Starting with an area of light color, such as yellow or red, begin dabbing the surface of the coffee filter firmly, moving along all areas

of that color. If the wadded paper towel becomes dry, dip again in water. Try not to shift the two pieces of paper underneath the coffee filter. After applying this to 2 or 3 of the colors, switch to a freshly wadded and dampened paper towel to avoid “muddying” the colors excessively.

- 5. Once completed, gently lift the stack of coffee filter, shirt shape, paper square and paper towel and place it on the flattened towel to dry.** Drying can take up to 45 minutes. Don't peek until the coffee filter appears faded and dry (doing so can spoil the color transfer). The result will be a t-shirt shape with a blended, soft color pattern, as well as a colorful outline of the shirt on the second sheet of paper.
- 6. Don't be discouraged if the first attempt** looks too pale or washed-out. Try again with a fresh coffee filter and apply the marker colors more densely this time. Concentric circle designs (as shown) tend to produce results most resembling tie-dyed fabric.
- 7. Variations on the above can include** cutting out a sun-dress shape of paper, drawing a few marks (or a name) on the cut-out shape with an oil pastel (white produces a nice surprise effect) prior to apply water to the coffee filter on top, leaving out the paper shape entirely and simply creating a complete circular design on paper (if you wish you can cut out the shirt shape after it dries). As you work, you might be inspired with your own applications of the basic techniques.



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8. If you are making the project with small children, they may need your hand-over hand assistance with holding the coffee filter for them as they color as well as with applying the water to the filter with the wadded paper towels. Making your own project alongside your child can be fun and productive for you both.

(NOTE: discard the dried coffee filter. Since it is extremely porous the remaining ink on the filter can temporarily stain fingertips if handled. If you wish to keep it, consider placing it in a clear sheet protector and hanging it in a window.)

HAVE FUN!